

PROGRAM

9:00 AM BREAKFAST AND EXHIBIT HALL
9:30 AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

10:00 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS:
Break out presentations by your peers: choose one

A. Using Augmented Reality in a Photographic Exhibition

John Ansley, PhD, and Monish Singh, Marist College

Recently, the Marist College Archives and Special Collections experimented with Augmented Reality during a photographic exhibition featuring images from the Lowell Thomas Collection. The Aurasma App was used to enhance visitor experiences by allowing smart device users to bring the photos in the exhibit to life. This presentation will discuss how we selected photos with associated film footage from the Lowell Thomas Collection's 40,000 images and 4,200 reels of motion picture film, how we enabled the Aurasma App for the photo exhibition, and the simple way we were able to make it available to our visitors. Presentation audience members will have the opportunity to download the app and use it to make selected Lowell Thomas images "come to life" during this hands on presentation.

B. We Did It, You Can Too! How any museum can develop an interactive arts based program

Ashley Stever and Jamie Smith Quinn, FASNY Museum of Firefighting

The FASNY Museum of Firefighting will present a panel presentation about the museum's GHHN Award winning program, "Arts on Fire". During the "Arts on Fire" camp, students explore the museum's collection and learn in depth about various art mediums that were used to create objects in the collection and other museum collections, via A/V. Each week, a different artist also explores that particular art medium with the students. Students then create their own projects to take home, using the art medium that they learned about. The presentation will explain how the FASNY Museum of Firefighting developed this program, how FASNY created partnerships to facilitate the program, how the museum built relationships with local artisans, and how grant funding was obtained. After the presentation, the panel will field questions and help participants brainstorm ideas on how an interactive arts based program can be implemented using their collection.

C. Reflections in Tea: The CommuniTea

Michelle Brody, Bronx Museum of the Arts

The following proposal is to present a community-based, interactive project titled "Reflections in Tea," which engages the public in a multi-disciplinary, social-action program to preserve oral histories through the contemplative art of sharing Tea. The origin of "Reflections in Tea" is the ritual performance of preparing loose-leaf tea within special paper filters to be shared with individuals and groups during an Asian influenced tea ceremony. Each ceremony focuses on the sharing of stories and reminiscences about tea within the context and history of one's community. Participants preserve their memories by transcribing them onto sheets of tea stained notepapers made from the used filters that are hung together to create an ever-growing installation of fluttering paper quilts. From afar, these quilts form an overall composition of a craggy mountain range evocative of the mountain sides where tea is cultivated, while when read up close are seen to be pieced together with individual handwritten memoirs, reflections, poetry and drawings. "Reflections in Tea" also hosts a public event called a CommuniTea, which brings together participants with a wide range of collaborating artists to share tea and stories paired with healthy

meals while creating group poetry, dance, and musical performances. The culminating goal of these events and installation are to reflect back to the community an artistic experience of their collective memories. Where their variety of voices, languages, penmanship, drawings, and stories come together to create a unifying expression of the diversity that holds communities together.

D. Re-imagining Historic Native Life on the East End of Long Island

Georgette Grier-Key, Eastville Community Historical Society

This will be a visual presentation that illustrates the use of art and primary resources to develop an acclaimed exhibition. This exhibit, "Native American Life on the East End" covers the Paleo-Indian Period to the continued presence of Native Americans on the east end of Paumanok, the Native American name for Long Island. This exhibit evades the stereotypical imagery of Native Americans and showcases historic portraiture from the special collection of the Eastville Community Historical Society. The exhibition presents more than 60 artifacts, including tintypes, cabinet cards, vintage and modern photographs, and contemporary artwork from artist and Shinnecock Indian Reservation resident David Bunn Martine. As a result of this exhibition, a thematic summer art camp and lecture series was also developed on Native American Life. Public engagement, programming, and the arts help inform our past and secure our future.

**10:50 AM EXHIBIT HALL AND COFFEE BREAK
OFFICE HOURS WITH THE FUNDERS (ADVANCE SIGN UP REQUIRED)**

11:10 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Break out presentations by your peers: choose one

A. History Comics Club: Connecting Students to their Heritage One Panel at a Time

Emily Robinson and Susan Boudreau, Clermont State Historic Site

"History Comics Club" (HCC) is an after school program created by Clermont State Historic Site's Education Assistant Emily Robinson. HCC connects an underserved population with their local history by mentoring students as they make comics about local historical people of interest. Through research and art instruction, HCC helps students build an interest in art and writing and create a sense of place and personal investment in our historic site for students and their families in the community. Every student who finishes their comic on time goes home with their own professionally-printed comic book. Throughout the presentation, Emily and Site Director Susan Boudreau will talk about the history of the program, why comics and graphic novels are such a valuable teaching tool, and how an educational comics club is structured. After the presentation, there will be a Q&A and time for the audience to read examples of student work.

B. Intended and Accidental Beauty in the Archives

Maria Holden, New York State Archives and Geof Huth, New York State Unified Court System

By conscious effort or unintended consequence, beauty abounds even in archives that have little to do with art. Some records are deliberately pleasing, with flourishes of the pen added to everyday documents or small illustrations unnecessarily inserted onto maps or into volumes. Other instances of beauty come unintended by the record's creator, as the distance of time eventually makes another age's visual and linguistic process of writing alluring to those of us in the present. Even the course of aging and decay may create beauty. This session will provide, through a less-than-scholarly approach, a glimpse of such beauty as held by two archives at either end of the navigable reaches of the Hudson, the New York State Archives and the New York State Unified Court System, each responsible for over 300 years of documented history.

C. Who's the Expert? : Artists as Interpreters of Historic Sites

Amy Hufnagel, The Olana Partnership; Tom Lee, Master Storyteller and Artist

The Olana Partnership's Director of Education Amy Hufnagel will present with master storyteller and artist Tom Lee to share the ways in which contemporary working artists, creative non-fiction, fiction, and making the audience the *experts* can significantly enhance an historic site's tour experience for the visitor. Olana has implemented storytelling, the "Question Tour", and "Artists on Art Tours" at Olana as a means of constantly changing and expanding the interpretation of the 19th century home and landscape of painter Frederic Church. This presentation will include a general overview of the programs, their design and funding, and then case studies from the work. The session will layer the museum professional's point of view with the artist's point of view in this dynamic reinvention of historic tour models.

D. The Story Sculptures of New York Female Laborers during the Industrial Era

Haifa Bint-Kadi, Artist/Groundwork Hudson Valley

The City of Yonkers Mill Street Daylighting 3 Park is home to the Mill Street sculptures – which are a series of steel sculptures created from actual photographs. Together, they tell the story of female laborers in the City of Yonkers during the industrial era. In this session, artist Haifa Bint-Kadi shares the story of their creation - from searching various New York State archives for photographs of female workers to the invention of a new technology to capture the realistic and photographic images in core-ten steel.

12:00 PM LUNCHEON

12:30 PM OPTIONAL MONTGOMERY PLACE HOUSE & GROUNDS TOUR

Self-guided tours are available between 12:30 PM and 2:20 PM

Shuttle buses will leave at 12:30 PM and 1:20 PM from the Student Center, but you are more than welcome to drive yourself over to Montgomery Place – please see the Check-in desk for a map.

MONTGOMERY PLACE WALK AND TALK:

The Curse of the Picturesque: Maintenance Planning at Montgomery Place
Matt Alexander, OHR Preservation Services

Based on a recently completed condition assessment of the Montgomery Place mansion, this presentation will highlight some of the deleterious exterior conditions which have emerged during the transition period leading up to the estate's acquisition by Bard College. These observations are linked to the influence of the 'Picturesque' landscape design upon 19th-century American artistic and architectural interpretations. At the presentation's core is the following thesis: Specific characteristics of the Picturesque, as embodied in the A.J. Davis-designed architectural alterations at Montgomery Place, present uniquely severe challenges to long-term maintenance and stewardship. Suggestions are offered for collaborative maintenance efforts, which promote a cooperative preservation ethos among staff, specialists, and visitors alike.

12:40 PM OFFICE HOURS WITH THE FUNDERS (ADVANCE SIGN UP REQUIRED)

1:00 PM PRESENTATION OF THE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

1:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

Break out presentations by your peers: choose one

A. The Freedman's Lit! Think and Be, Live and Rise – Creating An Immersive Theater Experience

Zenzele Cooper, Weeksville Heritage Center

"The Freedman's Lit! Think and Be, Live and Rise" is an immersive theater experience based on the only surviving copy of The Freedman's Torchlight, the 19th century newspaper printed in Weeksville, Brooklyn in December 1866. During the experience at Weeksville, audience members participate in the reconstruction of the story by traveling with performing artists outside onto the grounds of the historic 19th century community, inside an historic Hunterfly Road home, and through the Weeksville Heritage Center. This session will explore the conception and direction of this immersive theater production.

B. Virginia Founding Fathers travel through the Hudson Valley

Kyle Jenks, James Madison Interpreter

This hybrid session is one part stage performance and one part conversation. Professional James Madison interpreter Kyle Jenks will treat us to an excerpt from his performance of "Virginia Founding Fathers travel through the Hudson Valley", which tells the story of James Madison and Thomas Jefferson's journey to the Northern states in 1791. Afterwards, Mr. Jenks will share with session attendees the research process that goes into creating an artistic expression that is also historically accurate.

C. Connecting Visitors with Nature and Art - User Friendly Programs at Weir Farm NHS

Jessica Kuhnen and Kristin Lessard, Weir Farm National Historic Site

Weir Farm National Historic Site was the summer home and artistic retreat of Julian Alden Weir, a turn of the century American artist and leading figure in American Impressionism. The Branchville, Connecticut farm is a key place in American art history as it directly influenced Weir's change from the Academic style of painting to American Impressionism. Weir's landscape is central to park interpretation and a number user friendly programs are designed for visitors to delve into the connection between art and nature. To break through barriers and make art accessible for all, these user friendly programs – all with slightly different focuses and goals – encourage and (gently) guide visitors to experience art in nature as part of the "Art in the Park" program. Programs to be discussed are "Take Part in Art", "Impressionist Painting Workshops" (including Night Painting), "Painting Sites & Installation Art", "View Poles", and "Explore Your Senses" Junior Ranger Program.

D. A Sculptor's Rain Garden: Honoring the Enslaved Africans of Philipse Manor Hall through the Arts

Vinnie Bagwell, Sculptor

The Enslaved Africans' Rain Garden is a public-art initiative commemorating the lives of enslaved Africans who lived at the Philipse Manor Hall in Yonkers – six of whom were the first to be manumitted by law in the United States in 1799. In this session, artist Vinnie Bagwell will discuss her vision for the project which focusing on remembering the lives, the feelings, and the legacy of men, women and children who were stripped of their human rights.

2:30 FEATURED SESSION: IS IT FUNDABLE? AN OPEN DISCUSSION WITH FUNDERS

Now that you have been inspired by the many ways the arts can be infused into your exhibitry and interpretative programming, the question remains – how will you fund it? Join us for an open discussion with representatives from the Arts Mid-Hudson, ArtsWestchester, Coby Foundation, Humanities New York, and the New York State Council on the Arts to discuss their funding opportunities for arts-based projects and programs. Bring your questions and be prepared to be inspired!

GREATER HUDSON HERITAGE NETWORK

Serving Heritage Keepers in New York State

3:20 PM EXHIBIT HALL AND COFFEE BREAK
OFFICE HOURS WITH THE FUNDERS (SIGN UP REQUIRED)

3:50 PM CLOSING ACTIVITY

4:30 PM SEND-OFF

10:50 AM – 3:45 PM OFFICE HOURS

This year, we are again offering office hours that give you the opportunity to speak directly with representatives from the following grant funding organizations: Arts Mid-Hudson, ArtsWestchester, Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (HRVNHA), Humanities New York (HNY), New York State Archives, New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), and the Preservation League of New York State. Office hours will be on-going throughout the Conference. Appointments are first come, first served. **Sign-Up sheets are located at the Check-In Desk.**