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Conservator Margaret Saliske works on Olana ste Photo by Nelson Sterner, The Olana Partnership.







Recently reupholstered chairs in Olana's Court Hall. Photo by Carri Manchester, Olana State Historic Site.



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THE OLANA PARTNERSHIP YEAR-END REVIEW 2008

he projects outlined were accomplished through the combined efforts of Partnership staff and our colleagues employed by New York State. Our success is a result of the strength of our longstanding public-private partnership.

Curatorial: Considerable work was accomplished to restore the landing and create a changing gallery space in a suite of former guest rooms on the second floor of the main house. Wall-to-wall carpet was installed in the court hall and design work was started to recreate wallpaper for the second floor bedrooms. The stencils were stabilized, conserved and in-painted in the sitting room. The lighting project for enhanced light on the tour floor was started. The first phase, installation of new outlets to allow for additional lights to be placed in more strategic areas, was completed.

Farm Complex/Education in the Wagon House: The reconstruction of the wagon house and farm stable shed was completed in May. The education center began operation in mid-summer with the hiring of the new educator. Hundreds of children and their families have participated in weekend and afterschool programs. Particularly popular was the new Olana on the Move backpack program, allowing for self-guided tours of the landscape.

Landscape/Viewshed: The utility wires were brought underground in February and the utility poles throughout the site were removed with the last one ceremoniously taken away in July. Fiber optic cable was installed, allowing for improved telecommunications. The views from almost 3 acres on Ridge Road were restored, enabling for the first time in 100 years, views northward to Mount Merino. Work began on restoring the carriage drives. Forty trees were replanted in the orchard. A very successful Viewshed Tour with the goal of having people come away with a better understanding of the importance of Olana's viewshed was undertaken in November with the assistance of 12 local property owners, Cedar Grove, Scenic Hudson and Columbia Land Conservancy. 256 people participated in the day long event.

Programming: Significant work was accomplished by the curatorial department in preparing for the inaugural exhibition in the new Evelyn & Maurice Sharp gallery in the main house at Olana, including completing the catalogue, arranging for the conservation of the artwork and historic frames, selecting and ordering new frames, and helping to raise money to fund the exhibition. In addition, planning work was begun by the State staff on a joint symposium with the Thomas Cole House and Bard College in honor of the Quadricentennial. Special house tours and public programs on a variety of topics including geology, birds, and life in the pond, as well as dance and musical entertainment were presented throughout the year.

Visitor Experience: New directional signs were installed on Route 9G and throughout the property. Diseased and dying black pine trees and invasive ailanthus trees were removed from the parkland and around the house environs.

Fundraising: Fundraising goals were surpassed in several areas. The Frederic Edwin Church Award Gala honoring Alice Walton and John Wilmerding was a success, raising \$1.3 million including funds to establish the John Wilmerding Education Initiative. Over \$188,000 was raised towards our capital goals and our annual appeal exceeded goal by 130 %.

Community Relations: The Partnership hosted a grand opening celebration for the Wagon House Education Center and a Business After Hours event with the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, staff collaborated with the Cole House, Vassar College, Scenic Hudson and the Columbia Land Conservancy on events and programs.

Government Relations: State Senator Steve Saland provided a grant totaling \$35,000 for the signage project. Officials from Empire State Development and Columbia County Economic Development visited the site in 2008. An economic impact study was completed, which showed that Olana's impact on the local economy for 2008 was \$7.9 million dollars and the full-time equivalent of 267 jobs.

Visibility: Olana received significant regional and local press coverage of programs, special events and progress on restoration projects. Among those were live radio broadcasts on WDST, WAMC, WKZE and Talk Radio 1300, articles in the New York Times, Times Union, Register Star, Catskill Daily Mail, Independent, Freeman and news spots on Capital News 9 and News Channel 13. Another video was added to the Olana YouTube® site, a Facebook® site was created, and work began on Olana Second Life®.

SUPPORTERS MEMBERS & DONORS JANUARY 1, 2008 - FEBRUARY 15, 2009

While we make every effort to include every name, omissions are unfortunately inevitable. If we have omitted anything, or reported it incorrectly, please accept our apologies.

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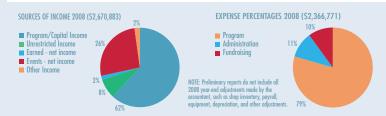
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Olana's dedicated volunteers make a huge difference to the operation of the site and we applaud their generosity of time and energy.



2009 and beyond: In celebration of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, Olana will open the Evelyn & Maurice Sharp Gallery with its inaugural exhibition, Glories of the Hudson: Frederic Edwin Church's Views from Olana A full schedule of programming for children, adults and families at the Wagon House Education Center will be realized. Planning to restore the historic Main Barn and the first phase of tree planting throughout the park will begin, and the Ridge Road restoration project and the project to restore Olana's five miles of carriage drives will be completed by year end.

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Children participating in The Journey try out the new Olana on the Move Backpack program. Photo by Cheryl O'Donnell, The Olana Partnership.

WAS A LANDMARK YEAR for The Olana Partnership and Olana with the culmination of **UU** many years work in the completion of two major projects at the site; the opening of the new Wagon House Education Center in the historic farm complex and the removal of the overhead utility wires and poles that, for years, have traversed Olana's historic landscape These two projects represent years of dedicated work and symbolize the spirit of our strong relationship with our New York State partners for the advancement of Olana. In addition to these, 2008 was filled with new and exciting programs for children and families in the Wagon House, as well as lectures, symposia, and major public events including our first Viewshed Tour

Yet, the coming year holds unknown challenges. Like many other nonprofits we are not yet sure what the impact of our national economy will be in the coming months. But we know we cannot allow the unknown to delay our progress.

We must move forward and continue our work. With great excitement, we are putting the final touches on the new Evelyn & Maurice Sharp Gallery on the second floor of the main house this spring. The inaugural exhibition, Glories of the Hudson, Frederic Edwin Church's Views from Olana, adds a new dimension to the visitor experience and affords a rare opportunity to view never-before-seen sketches by Church in a gallery setting. In addition, we are planning to expand educational programs offered in the Wagon House, complete a major project to restore the historic carriage drives, begin the planning for the restoration of the historic Main Barn and anticipate the completion of the first phase of view restoration on Ridge Road. There is much we hope to accomplish

Our principal challenge is to sustain our operating income through our annual fund-the vital unrestricted dollars that help to cover our staff and operating costs.

We have a national treasure to care for and we know you want to help us in our efforts. You can do that by contributing to the 2009 Annual Appeal for Olana. If you believe in the work of The Olana Partnership and want to ensure the continuation of our work through these troubled times—please complete and return the attached annual appeal card. Please know that your support-no matter how large or small-makes a major difference in our ability to keeping Olana's momentum moving forward.

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