Our Mission

To inspire the public by preserving and interpreting Olana, Frederic Church’s artistic masterpiece.

Our Vision

The fully restored Olana, vibrant with the activity of students, visitors, and scholars, will be the most widely recognized artist’s home and studio in the world.
Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to present The Olana Partnership’s annual report for 2013. We are grateful to all of our supporters who helped make 2013 a success. As you will see, it was a year that marked steady progress in the areas to which we have been devoted – restoration of the property, particularly that of the landscape, ever more acclaimed exhibitions, vigilance in preserving Olana’s viewshed, expanded educational offerings and improving the visitor’s experience. The results have been palpable – perhaps the most tangible being the 12% increase in visitation this year.

2013 was also the year that we renewed our planning efforts. For the first time, The Olana Partnership embarked on strategic planning for the organization, and initial steps were taken to update the 2002 Master Plan for Olana – a joint venture between New York State and The Olana Partnership.

We also began to plan for 2016 when we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the saving of Olana. What we find so exciting is that this story, which had us all at the edge of our seats when we read about it years ago, continues to amaze new generations. We think it is because it is part of such an important story—that era in the 60s, when so much of historical importance (Penn Station for example) was destroyed, and yet at the same time, a new sense of the importance in preserving our history was gaining force. This is a theme that continues to resonate today.

We hope that everything we do continues to resonate with the public, allowing us to fulfill our mission to “inspire the public.” None of this would be possible without the support and dedication of our board, our partners in New York State, our members, our donors, sponsors, volunteers and staff. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sara J. Griffen

*Washburn S. and Susan M. Oberwager President*
Restoration of the Main Barn
The Olana Partnership was awarded a $195,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) for planning and stabilization of the current structure. The project will begin upon fulfillment of the $65,000 match.

House Environs
The Olana Partnership was awarded a $365,000 grant from (EPF) for planting, restoration and stabilization of the landscaped areas around the main house. The project will begin upon fulfillment of the $114,000 match.

Opening Views from North Meadow
The Olana Partnership was awarded a $274,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) for restoration of the North Meadow, historically pasture land. The match has been fulfilled and restoration will begin in 2014.
Offering Education Programs
Several education programs are offered on site throughout the year and enrich the lives of adults and children alike. The world of Frederic Church comes alive through art, landscape, farming, architecture, history, views and decorative arts.

Restoring Views from Crown Hill
A major addition to the landscape at Olana during 2013 was the restoration of Crown Hill, the only view on the property that looks back at the property. This view had been covered by second growth and now provides spectacular views of Church’s farm complex, the main house, Cosy Cottage and Hudson.

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*As of December 31, 2013*
In 2013 The Olana Partnership experienced new levels of growth and achievement, marked by highly acclaimed exhibitions both at Olana and abroad, restoration projects that are transforming Olana’s landscape, and a focus on contemporary artistic responses to Olana and Frederic Church. 2013 was also marked by a robust educational program, new interpretive initiatives, and enhanced collaborations with local community organizations. The results show the Partnership continues to be true to its mission – to inspire the public, by restoring and interpreting Olana, Frederic Church’s masterpiece.

Exhibitions: Olana’s 2013 exhibition, *Maine Sublime: Frederic Edwin Church’s Landscapes of Mount Desert and Mount Katahdin*, opened in the Sharp Family Gallery to great public acclaim, including *The New York Times* and several leading art publications. Attendance at Olana increased by 12% in 2013, fueled in part by the publicity surrounding the exhibition, which was guest curated by John Wilmerding, the Christopher Binyon Sarofim Professor of American art, emeritus, at Princeton University. The exhibition will travel to the Cleveland Museum of Art in fall 2014 and then to the Society of the Four Arts in winter 2015-2016. The National Gallery, London, and The Scottish National Gallery borrowed thirteen works for the traveling exhibition *Through American Eyes: Frederic Church and the Landscape Oil Sketch*, again, to considerable public acclaim. The Museum Villa Stuck in Germany borrowed five works for the exhibition *In the Temple of the Self: The Artist’s Residence as a Total Work of Art*. Olana is one of twenty artist homes highlighted in the exhibition and one of only three representing the United States. The Olana Partnership collaborated with the Thomas Cole National Historic Site to create a joint exhibition at the Albany International Airport which will be up through 2014.
Restoration and Preservation: Several restoration projects transformed the landscape at Olana in 2013 and created opportunities to experience the main house at Olana in new ways. Enabled through a grant to the Partnership, the initiative to restore the views from Crown Hill as Church intended was completed in early 2013, providing magnificent new vistas of the main house, the farm complex, and the City of Hudson. Several grants obtained by the Partnership through the New York State Regional Economic Development Council enabled new projects to move forward; the design and construction documents phase for the North Meadow landscape project was completed by Nelson Byrd Woltz and the Environmental Protection Fund match was fulfilled, enabling construction to begin. The Main House Environs Project went through a joint discussion review with New York State; Nelson Byrd Woltz was retained and the design process began.

In the main house, several art works and decorative objects were added to the second floor master bedroom and Ombra room. The second floor continues to be a popular addition to the tour, now in its fourth year. In addition, the door to Church’s bathroom located in the studio was opened for the first time, further addressing the public’s interest in exploring the “hidden” spaces in the house.

Efforts to protect the viewshed continued with monitoring the proposed communications tower on Blue Hill. Members wrote letters, an Article 78 was filed, press was generated (including a front page article in the *Times Union*) and outreach was initiated. The issue continues to be unresolved.

Interpretation Initiatives: As Olana's landscape and buildings continue to be restored and views preserved, new interpretive opportunities are abounding. Preparations are in the works for electric vehicles to traverse the carriage roads. In addition, the Partnership applied for a grant from the NEH to reexamine the interpretation of the entire site. As an interim measure, New York State and The Olana Partnership staff worked together to create a list of major themes and statements that should be
included in every landscape and house tour, a tool now being used by all tour guides. Finally, the website for Olana is in the final stages of its own transformation, to be launched in 2014.

Projects and Programs: Providing opportunities for contemporary artists to react and respond to Olana is a growing initiative by The Olana Partnership. In 2013 Art Meets Art: Perspectives On and Beyond Olana was guest curated by Richard Roth and showcased thirty-five contemporary artists who live and work in the area around Hudson including Peter Aaron, Marina Abromovic, Carolyn Blackwood, R.O. Blechman, DJ Spooky, Makoto Fujimura and Annie Leibovitz. The exhibition displayed photographs, paintings, posters and multi-media works inspired by Olana and opened as a collaboration with the Hudson Opera House.

The Olana Partnership hosted Framing the Viewshed: Groundswell, a groundbreaking event featuring over a dozen artists reflecting and reacting to Olana through site-specific works in sound, text, installation, and movement. The event attracted nearly 500 guests and added a new audience and interpretative layer.

In another major acknowledgement of the ways contemporary artists and scholars are influenced by Church and the Hudson River School, the Partnership honored two heroes in the field. The 2013 Frederic Edwin Church award gala honored Betsy Broun, The Margaret and Terry Stent Director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and Stephen Hannock, painter, at the New York Public Library in New York City. This event attracted over 300 people, including Christo and Sting as presenters of the awards, and generous co-chairs including Jim Dicke, Louis Bacon, William Lauder and Tiger Williams. The Partnership was able to broaden its reach, increase visibility and honor two outstanding individuals who have contributed greatly to the art world.

Education: Educational programs at Olana continued to grow in 2013. Public and homeschool group visitation grew in 2013 and will increase as collaborations continue with local school districts. The Wagon House Education Center offered 43 programs serving 1,315 participants. Programs initiated by the Partnership’s educators included a Turkish music performance in the Court Hall of the main house, Panorama, Olana’s week-long summer arts program for children, Jazz under the Stars, Strings at Sunset, the Hudson River Ramblers, an international family dance workshop, and a Moroccan cooking class.

Community Outreach: A number of collaborative efforts took place during 2013 including a marketing initiative with the Thomas Cole House and collaborative programs with the Hudson Opera House, the Fenimore Museum, Glimmerglass
Opera, Columbia County Council on the Arts, Sylvia Center, WGXC, the Town of Germantown’s Apple Festival, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Teaching the Hudson Valley, Hudson Children’s Book Festival, and the Mid-Hudson Road Runners Club. In addition, the curatorial department worked with two interns from Bard, one who also served as a guide for *Maine Sublime* gallery-only tours offered on Saturdays throughout the summer.

**Support:** These varied initiatives would not have been possible without the support from government, foundations and individuals. For example, the Partnership was awarded a $195,000 grant to plan for the stabilization of the Main Barn through the New York State’s Regional Economic Development program. The Hudson River Bank and Trust Foundation (HRBT) provided a grant of $30,000 over the next three years for education. The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) awarded a grant of $45,000 for education and curatorial over the next three years. The Partnership ended the year with a $100,000 surplus, thanks to its highly successful gala and the generosity of its individual donors.

The Olana Partnership continues to thrive as one of the most successful public-private partnerships in the New York State Parks system. We are especially grateful to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senators Kristen Gillibrand and Charles Schumer, Congressman Chris Gibson, Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey, Deputy Commissioner and Deputy SHPO Ruth Pierpont, Acting Director, Bureau of Historic Sites and Park Services Mark Peckham, Taconic Regional Director Linda Cooper, and Chair of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, Patrick Grattan, for their leadership in support of Olana. We also wish to thank our New York State colleagues and friends at Olana: Kimberly Flook, historic site manager, Timothy Dodge, maintenance supervisor, Jack Keller and Frank Munz groundskeepers, and the many interpretation and security staff for their partnership.

The following pages acknowledge the tremendous support by our corporate, foundation and individual donors, led by an imaginative and passionate board of trustees.
Sources and Uses of Funding

The Olana Partnership 2013 Income
$976,078

- Contributions and Grants $398,081
- Events $389,621
- Membership $119,771
- Museum Shop $50,195
- Earned Income $18,410

The Olana Partnership 2013 Expense
$976,078

- Program $542,147
- Administration $207,625
- Development $200,143
- Marketing $26,163
The Board of Trustees and staff of The Olana Partnership would like to extend our sincerest thanks to everyone who made contributions to the Partnership in 2013. Reflected below are contributions received between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013. Every effort has been made to produce an accurate listing of supporters. If we have omitted anything, or reported it incorrectly, please accept our apologies.

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“Olana has given me the vehicle to give back to the community where I grew up and to honor the memory of my grandmother. I think she would be very happy knowing that I am involved with the Olana that meant so much to her. Olana is an irreplaceable connection with America’s aesthetic heritage and, specifically, it is a part of my very soul.”

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