I am Pat Moran, from Pace Women's Justice Center.

On behalf of all of us at Pace and our clients, I want to thank you, County Legislators, for your past support, and hope that you will continue to support the much needed services we offer.

Briefly, funding from the County helps us provide a legal helpline that receives over 2000 calls a year, legal services for 100 elder abuse victims a year, and a walk-in clinic for abuse victims serving over 600 clients each year. We are also able to provide emergency legal services to victims of domestic violence in the 3 Westchester County Family courthouses. Over 700 hundred persons each year seek our courthouse assistance.

My job at Pace is to manage our three courthouse sites. Our main role at the courthouses is to represent clients seeking emergency orders of protection. But we do much more than that. We often draft custody and child support petitions along with the order of protection papers. We may set up a virtual meeting right at the Courthouse with our Walk-in Clinic, which provides consultations on divorce and other legal matters. We help the client get access to *non-legal* services, such as safety planning, counseling, and shelter. We connect the client with experienced domestic violence attorneys at Pace or Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for continued legal representation. Given our

courthouse presence and the quality of our services, it is not unusual for us to get a call from judge's chambers requesting us to get involved in a pro se case before them.

At Pace Women's Justice Center, our clients are men, women and non-binary people of all ages, ethnicities, cultures and immigration status. Domestic violence impacts people from all over our County. We partner with many County agencies, including Office for Women, Probation, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, the Domestic Violence High Risk Task Force and the DA's Office, who refer clients to us and vice versa. These partnerships enable each agency to maximize its effectiveness in protecting highly vulnerable County residents.

We are often a lifeline for those who have nowhere else to go. The staff and attorneys here spend countless hours providing free legal services to victims of domestic violence in our County and the need is endless. Our clients, the survivors, are people who need legal assistance to move forward and overcome the trauma they have had to endure.

We are so very appreciative of your continued support and ask that you please make sure to include continued funding for ~~PWJC~~ Pace in the budget for 2025 so we can continue the essential work we do.

Thank you all for spending time here with us tonight

My name is Dawn Meyerski and I am the Executive Director of Mount Kisco Child Care Center, the Co-President of the Westchester Early Childhood Directors Association, member of Empire State Campaign for Child Care and Non-Profit Westchester. and a Leadership Westchester Grad

I have been coming to these meetings for more than 25 years, first as a teacher, then a program director and now as executive director. My job has evolved over all those years and throughout it all, I have always been impressed by the commitment that Westchester makes to child care. My cohorts in other parts of the state, are also blown away by this commitment.

While I know that we are facing challenging times, I must ask that you hold on to that resolve.

The Alice Report released by the United Way this year states that the survival threshold for a family of 4 in Westchester is $101,000 annually. And while close to 40% of Mount Kisco residents fall under that threshold, there are many who are just above it.

We came here tonight prepared to ask you to add $250,000 to the Westchester Works budget. While that is something we continue to hope for, we have just been told that there is a looming cut. It is imperative that y~~ou restore the~~ $1.65 million ~~being cut from the~~ for Westchester works budget remains. This funding is a lifeline for the families who receive it.

Without the Westchester Works funding stream those families will simply not be able to meet the high cost of child care. Westchester works supports the EMERGING middle class. As they are finally beginning to rise out of poverty, the loss of this funding will cut them off at the knees and perpetuate the cycle we are working so hard to break. They will have less expendable income to spend in our towns and villages and will continue to struggle to survive.

There has been a lot of discussion about Child Care being on the precipice of collapse, and I can assure you that little has changed to solve this problem. The cost of care is beyond what parents can afford, we are pricing ourselves out of the market with high tuition and we can not recruit or retain staff because we cannot afford to pay the teachers what they are worth. Most are at or slightly above minimum wage. The minimum wage increase in January is going to cripple many Centers and is not nearly enough to retain teachers. We implore you to link arms with us to advocate for workforce compensation at the state level.

Thank you for your time.

Good evening. My name is Dylan Pyne and I'm the proud Senior Director of Development at Volunteer New York!. Volunteer New York!'s mission is to mobilize our community to address its greatest challenges.

We envision a community that is vibrant, resilient, and equitable and see volunteerism and civic engagement as essential strategies to achieving this vision.

We are also proud members of Nonprofit Westchester and the Westchester Women's Agenda.

We all know that Westchester County is full of generous individuals who give their time and talents, and nonprofits that fulfill critical needs. However, bringing them together can be challenging. For almost 75 years, we celebrate our 75th anniversary next year, Volunteer New York! has been creating the pathways that turn our communities' good intentions into action.

Last year, thanks to our generous supporters, including Westchester County, Volunteer New York! inspired over 35,000 volunteers who contributed 457,000 hours of service to support more than 300

local nonprofits at a value of over $16.9 million to our community.

Through all our programs, we connect individuals to causes, communities, and each other, fostering a sense of direction, purpose, and belonging. As the challenges facing our society become more complex, volunteerism serves as both a solution and a bridge—bringing together diverse individuals to address urgent needs in a way that strengthens the fabric of our community.

With your ongoing support, Volunteer New York! can continue to connect our neighbors with nonprofits who, through people power, can advance their mission and expand their impact, making it easier for individuals to get off the sidelines, get involved, and make a difference. I want to thank you for your support of this year's Budget and also urge you to consider adding your own additional support so that we can continue to invest in our community and in volunteerism. Help us continue to nurture the community's collective good.

Thank you.

Good Evening,

Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators,

My name is Monica Spears and I am the Director of Development for Girls Inc. of Westchester County.

Tonight, I stand before you on behalf of the Westchester Women's Agenda (WWA) representing our nearly 50-member nonprofit organizations and 100 individual members to request a vital 5% increase in the 2025 County budget allocation for WWA members. This funding increase is essential for sustaining the lifeline of services that provide care, support, and employment to thousands of Westchester residents, especially women and families in our County's under-resourced and marginalized communities.

We know the indispensable role these nonprofits play in protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our county. The member organizations of WWA address urgent needs spanning from domestic violence support, housing assistance, legal services, and healthcare access - to educational programs for youth, job training, and affordable childcare.

These nonprofits not only lift up your most vulnerable constituents, but their programs also strengthen our local economy by offering stable employment and services that enable women to thrive in the workforce.

This 5% increase is essential for several pressing reasons:

Growing Demand for Services: Community needs are rising. The aftermath of the pandemic has amplified social and economic inequities, creating unprecedented demand for these services. Rising living costs, increased housing instability, and persistent inflation have placed intense strain on nonprofits that are already stretched thin.

Rising Operational Costs: Nonprofits face soaring operational expenses, from rent and utilities to the fair wages needed to retain skilled, dedicated staff. This 5% increase is necessary to ensure the continuity of high-quality, impactful services.

Current funding levels are no longer enough to cover rising costs, and without additional support, many organizations may be forced to reduce or eliminate critical programs serving the people you represent.

Economic Stability and Community Resilience: Our member nonprofits are not just service providers; they are economic engines in Westchester County. By maintaining their sustainability, your 5% investment will help protect thousands of local jobs, ensuring steady, uninterrupted support for tens of thousands of County residents. Supporting these organizations means investing in the economic resilience and prosperity of our entire community.

We respectfully request that the Board of Legislators consider this 5% increase not as a simple budget adjustment, but as a necessary investment in the future stability and well-being of Westchester County. With this funding, our community's nonprofits can continue their mission of service, ensuring that our most vulnerable residents - and indeed, our entire county - receive the support they need to thrive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Before I go I would also like to say thank you to all of you and the Rest of our Counties legislators.
Those of us in the non-profit SPACE know that you work dilengently and tire for all of the counties Residents and on behalf ~~all~~ of all of the WWA member nonprofits - we would like to thank you for all you do on behalf of all the counties citizen

Good evening, I am Major Mike Sheridan, United States Army Retired. I am still a Citizen of this great Republic, I have never been convicted of felony, and I am considerably older than 21 years of age. When last I had the opportunity of addressing your ~~Lordships~~ HIGH NESSES, I was commenting on your ridiculous plan of further egregiously infringing on lawful firearm owners through your proposal to impose extortionate fees for those enjoying the exercise of their rights under the Constitution. Now I do realize you all may have been blinded by the dollar signs in your eyes, or deafened by the sound of a cash register, in your pursuit of the funds necessary to run your overly complex programs, so I'm here tonight to recommend your adoption of a revenue generating tax levy.

If you will recall, my earlier proposal had the short title of "Shall issue, for any law-abiding adult Citizen, for five bucks", which I still strongly recommend you to adopt. I now further suggest that you adopt a different proposal with a short title of "Fifty cents for Freedom". Fifty cents per month, per household. That's six dollars each year, per household in the County. And you would be assessing it against each and every household in which NOBODY in that house has one of your firearm permission slips.

The cost of administering such a levy should be minimal. Since every household in the County is theoretically only minutes away from a conscientiously patrolling peace officer, you could delegate the collection of the monthy fee to the local cops. That's right, send a cop around, knocking on each door, to collect fifty cents each month (or six dollars for a whole year), from each household where the citizens can not PROVE that they are willing to provide for some measure of their own safety.

I would think that folks would be happy to see the cops showing up on their doorsteps to collect a monthly fee. In any case, it is certainly no more insulting or impertinent or obnoxious or un-Constitutional than the lengthy intrusive paperwork and questioning that current firearm permission slip holders undergo. Of course, those householders who could produce one of your permission slips would be exempted. And since I know you folks love showing up for Veterans Day Parades, you could also exempt anyone who could produce a DD-214 form showing an Honorable Discharge, or alternatively, a military retiree ID Card.

With the flood of revenue this proposal will generate, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety could easily cover the supposedly extensive costs of running their current licensing circus. They would probably have enough left over to actually focus on "Public Safety" by offering free classes on topics such as "Firearm Handling and Storage" and "Why we as a County have militarized our Police Forces".

In summary, I again urge you to adopt my earlier proposal with the short title of "Shall Issue, for any law-abiding adult Citizen, for five bucks". With that in place, you might even win a lawsuit in front of the Supreme Court. I now further urge you to adopt my companion proposal in order to generate the funding you so desperately appear to be trying to extort. Adopt a measure along the lines of "Fifty cents for Freedom", and the good Citizens of the County who are unwilling to buy a firearms permission slip from you will at least be contributing SOMETHING towards their own safety and protection.

I'm still not clear on exactly WHY you still think I should feel an actual need to ask your permission to exercise a right I already have; but I will still offer you ten bucks to leave me alone for ten years. And if you're really still that hard up for cash, send the cops to collect fifty cents every month from everybody else.

You can continue to pretend that you're grudgingly granting me permission to exercise a right I already have, and I'll continue pretending that you're not already egregiously infringing on every law-abiding adult Citizen. Print me up a permission slip that's good for ten years, and go milk the folks who couldn't be bothered.

Thank you for your time.

Westchester County Board of Legislators

Public Hearing on License Fees

November 14th, 2024, 7:30pm

Caputo Community Center, Ossining, NY

Good evening. My name is Margaret Käufer, and I'm here today on behalf of The STEM Alliance to request continuation of funding - a $691,000 request - for Connect Westchester in the County 2025 budget. We ~~too~~ are also a WNA member and support the Budget Amend. requ

Westchester's digital divide impacts over 120,000 residents in our County. Our data shows that 92% of these individuals do not own a computer, 54% do not have affordable, reliable internet, and 58% lack basic digital skills, such as sending an email or completing online forms. This digital inequity prevents people from accessing essential services like telehealth, workforce development, online learning, and even applying for jobs.

To address this urgent need, Connect Westchester has deployed a team of trained Digital Navigators, providing wraparound digital inclusion services that have already reached 540 residents in 78% of all Westchester municipalities. Our program is countywide, and we are committed to serving every corner of Westchester, wherever the need arises.

The success of our work is clear. Our clients report the following impact: 78% of our clients use their new devices and skills to access reliable medical information, 74% are saving money by finding discounts on essential goods, 71% have improved their workforce skills, and 60% are starting or marketing small businesses. Our partnership model is built to multiply impact, as we collaborate with over 20 different locally based nonprofit partners, groups like Padres Hispanos, Lifting Up Westchester, and Mount Vernon Public Library, to integrate our digital equity services into their local programs.

Funding Connect Westchester doesn't just help The STEM Alliance — the work strengthens these organizations and allows them to better serve their communities with our specialized assistance. Furthermore, these continued investments will help position Westchester to leverage millions in federal and state funds that will be made available in 2025. Connect Westchester is a digital equity trailblazer - we need to keep capacity high so that our applications for these monies will be viewed favorably.

In 2025, we plan to provide computers and basic skills training to at least 640 residents, and expand internet access to an additional 160 clients. We will also continue partnering with county workforce programs like Launch1000 and the Healthcare Talent Pipeline Program with Westchester County Association.

Before closing, I want you to hear from your constituents. Here are 2 stories:

- *First, Gloria, Age 55 from YonkersI feel really comfortable using the Internet since I took the class. I'm able to go on and look up just about anything and I also purchase stuff. I'm very grateful for the class and also that ability to manage my doctor's appointments. It makes my life so much better. - Gloria, Yonkers, Age 55*
- *Second, hear from Stephen, age 39 in Somers - "The training provided by the program has been immensely beneficial. Currently, I am pursuing an online cybersecurity course offered by Coursera, which will result in a professional certification. This course has been a pivotal factor in my decision to engage in online learning. The use of my laptop has become an integral part of my daily life. I attribute a significant part of this positive change to the program's staff, whose support was instrumental in equipping me with the necessary confidence and tools to embrace new opportunities and strive for an improved quality of life. - Steven, Somers, Age 39*

Thank you for your consideration of this request. By supporting Connect Westchester, you are creating equal access to digital tools and skills - this is not charity; this is equity through urgently needed social services.. We look forward to continuing this critical work with your support.

Talking points for County Budget Hearing, 11/14/2024

- My name is _____ and I'm a board member of the Ossining Children's Center. I joined the board because I believe strongly that the care and education of our youngest children is crucial for a healthy community and – ulitimately -- a healthy economy.

- Our mission at the Ossining Children's center is to serve all working families in our diverse community.

- First – I want to thank you for supporting the Westchester Works Child Care Scholarships. This program has put Westchester on the map as a place that values and supports all working families.

- The Westchester Works Scholarship makes child care tuition assistance available to families who earn too much to qualify for a Department of Social Services child care subsidy, but who still can't afford the full cost of care.

- This scholarship program has been a great help to many working families; – without the scholarship they would have had to put their children in substandard care.

- We have learned that the Westchester Works Scholarship is going to be cut in half. The families on this program need it. If they lose their scholarships, as of January 1, they will have a heart-breaking decision to make – which unlicensed babysitter will they entrust their children to.

- The families on the Westchester Works Scholarship program need it. And there are even more working families in need of this program. We are asking that the County – not just maintain the Westchester Works Scholarship program at its present level – but ~~to~~ increase it by $250,000.

- We don't ask the County taxpayers to bear this responsibility alone. As the board of a not-for-profit child care center, we solicit donations from our very generous community to enable us to serve all working families. We work

very hard to raise hundreds of thousands of charitable dollars every year to meet the child care needs of our community. I don't see how we can work any harder, or how our donor community can dig any deeper.

- Many families want to relocate to Westchester, but they can't afford it because child care is so expensive. The average tuition for an infant in child care in Westchester is $20,000. Who can afford that on top of a mortgage payment, and all of the other normal household expenses?

- I urge you to renew the full funding of the Westchester Works Child Care Scholarship program, and to consider an increase of $250,000 to enable more working families to have their children in high quality child care.

Alcance Latino, Inc.
346 S. Lexington Ave.
White Plains, NY 10606
www.AlcanceLatinowp.com

November 1, 2024

Dear County Executive Latimer and County Board of Legislators:

Alcance Latino, Inc., a Domestic Not-For-Profit 501(c)(3) Corporation, is writing to request $270,000 in funding for the 2025 fiscal year to continue serving the critical needs of the Latino & Immigrant populations in Westchester County, while also providing emergency assistance to migrant families and individuals relocating to Westchester from the U.S. Southern Border. Our mission is to provide services and programs which enhance and sustain the quality of life for the migrant and marginalized populations in Westchester County. The English translation of "Alcance Latino" is "Latino Outreach".

In fiscal year 2025, more than 15,000 persons are projected to be recipients of Alcance Latino programs, services, and partnerships. This projection follows 13,000 persons served in 2024, and 10,000 persons served in 2023. To meet the needs of the growing Latino and Migrant populations in Westchester County, Alcance Latino Inc. has expanded to occupy the entire 12,000 square foot space of the St. Bernard Community Center building at 346 South Lexington Avenue, White Plains, New York, to carry out its office, educational, and charitable outreach programs. Community Partnerships with STEM Alliance, BOCES Southern Westchester, Feeding Westchester, Droste Mental Health Services, MVP Health Services, LUCA, and White Plains Hospital allow us to offer a vast spectrum of services that are vitally important to marginalized and migrant populations.

Over the past two years, Alcance Latino has served the needs of tens of thousands of migrants and marginalized persons largely through the efforts of community volunteers and limited budgets. As we move forward into 2025, Alcance Latino needs public funding from Westchester County to sustain our outreach services and maintain partnerships with the aforementioned not-for-profits organizations, who rely on our 12,000 square foot facility to offer their programs.

Alcance Latino ESL and Computer Educational Programs teach poor & under-served migrants to communicate in the English language and through computer technology, which facilitates the processes of assimilation and transition into a new life in Westchester County. After completing our programs, clients can apply to apply to college, create resumes, receive mental health counseling sessions via zoom, receive medical care, find employment/housing, and register to vote.

Through Alcance Latino, food provisions are distributed to over 700 families per month through a partnership with Feeding Westchester. Moreover, MVP Health Care Service Representatives and SNAP (Food Stamps) representatives meet weekly in our offices with low-income families and individuals who need financial assistance with health care and/or who struggle to feed their families on limited budgets.

To offset unemployment and poverty in Westchester County, Alcance Latino publishes a weekly listing of jobs and apartments to help migrants and unemployed persons secure work and adequate housing. Literally, hundreds of migrants visit our office every week to obtain these listings. We also manage a Thrift Shop onsite that sells furniture, household items, clothing, shoes, children's items, and toys at very affordable prices, so low-income families and migrants can obtain basic necessities for living. If it happens

that a family is not able to afford clothing and basic household items, Alcance Latino offers these items for free.

This past year, Alcance Latino launched a Summer Camp which provided recreational, creative, and educational opportunities for children in White Plains to offset the depression and isolation many children experience in the summer months when their parents work. Funding from Westchester County will enable Alcance Latino to offer 2025 Camp Scholarships to children whose parents cannot afford the tuition. Other child enrichment programs are offered throughout the year which include after-school tutoring programs, an Alcance Latino Girl Scout Troop, Chess Group, and Crochet group.

We urge you to include Alcance Latino in this year's County Budget. Without this assistance we will not be able to provide these critical programs and maintain our partnerships with other Not-For-Profit Organizations who also provide critical help to marginalized persons in Westchester County.

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert J. Morris
Executive Director

Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc.
INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

Westchester County Budget Hearing Testimony – October 14, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you tonight.

In the summer of 2021, we asked the Latimer Administration to fund a child care scholarship program because we wanted to help people get back to work, without big child care bills as a barrier.

With a $3.3 mil contract with Westchester DSS, the Council launched Westchester Works in 2022, now in its third year. Participation has steadily grown:

- 482 children in 2022, 565 in 2023 and 583 children as of yesterday
- Applications come in year round, with 155 applications processed last month
- There are close to 15,000 Westchester children with both parents working, who are income-eligible for Westchester Works
- Scholarships generally cover about half the cost, or $8,400 annually
- With center-based infant care averaging over $25k, parents still have a sizeable child care bill
- Recipients come from all over the County, parents work in a variety of industries, with healthcare at the top of the list.
- The mean income of two-person families with awards is around $79,000

Two years ago, the income cap for Child Care Assistance was 200% FPL. NYS raised the cap twice to get to the federal max, roughly 350% FPL. Westchester DSS is budgeting a record $78 mil for child care in 2025, as its Child Care Assistance program, funded by state and federal dollars, has grown exponentially, and that's great news, but not the proposed 50% cut to Westchester Works.

The Child Care Assistance income cap may work well in Chemung County, it doesn't work in Westchester. Without access to Westchester Works, a single parent with a child who earns $75,000 annually faces a child care bill approaching 25% of family income, all alone.

The problems with child care are national in scope and way beyond the means of Westchester County to fully address. That has never been our expectation. We believed that Westchester Works would be rendered obsolete by the eventual passage of President Biden's Build Back Better Bill, which promised child care assistance for families up to 250% of state median income. But that didn't happen and there is no expectation that the Trump administration will propose anything comparable. It is more and more difficult for young families to live here; Westchester Works delivers hope and help to young families that we need to keep.

We had actually requested an increase of $250k for next year to meet growing demand. We urge you tonight to restore funding to Westchester Works, as an investment not just in working families but also in our economy.

Regardless of the outcome of this particular budget, Westchester County remains a leader when it comes to child care. We thank both the Administration and the Board of Legislators for all you have done over the years.

From one 2024 Westchester Works recipient:
"Good day, my 2 children, Lina (3.5) and Orion (9 months) are both in daycare thanks to this Scholarship. Without the scholarship, there would be no way for myself, as a single mother, to both work and have my children watched out for. This scholarship allows me to be able to pay my mortgage, taxes, the balance of daycare and be able to feed my children at the end of the day. It's been life changing, life-saving and truly given us a second chance at a better life that we otherwise would not have had. Being a single mother is hard enough without having to worry about if, my child will be somewhere safe and taken care of. Thank you for making this scholarship possible!" – A single parent from Ossining who works at a law firm.

Westchester County Children Under Age 13 with Working Parents					
Source: ACS 1-Year Estimates Public Use Microdata Sample 2021 Weight used: PWGTP					
Employment status of parents (ESP) - All Available Parents Working for children Under Age 13	**300% to 400% FPL (Currently Eligible for Scholarship)**	**# Children 350% to 400% FPL**	**# Children 401% to 450% FPL**	**# Children 451% to 500% FPL**	**Total # Children 350% to 500% FPL**
-> Total -> Total Westchester County (Northwest) PUMA, New York	2,967	1,484	377	1,276	3,137
Living with two parents: Both parents in labor force	1,039	520	314	927	1,761
Living with father: In labor force	0	0	0	0	0
Living with mother: In labor force	0	0	0	51	51
-> Total -> Total Westchester County (Northeast) PUMA, New York	1,376	688	457	389	1,534
Living with two parents: Both parents in labor force	878	439	457	214	1,110
Living with father: In labor force	40	20	0	0	20
Living with mother: In labor force	392	196	0	0	196
-> Total -> Total Westchester County (Southeast) PUMA, New York	3,111	1,556	875	142	2,573
Living with two parents: Both parents in labor force	761	381	611	142	1,134
Living with father: In labor force	119	60	0	0	60
Living with mother: In labor force	205	103	0	0	103
-> Total -> Total Westchester County (Central)--White Plains City PUMA, New York	1,640	820	349	846	2,015
Living with two parents: Both parents in labor force	914	457	204	579	1,240
Living with father: In labor force	0	0	0	0	0
Living with mother: In labor force	278	139	0	113	252
-> Total -> Total Westchester County (Southwest)--Yonkers City PUMA, New York	3,461	1,731	293	2,361	4,385
Living with two parents: Both parents in labor force	2,047	1,024	53	1,270	2,347
Living with father: In labor force	310	155	0	971	1,126
Living with mother: In labor force	428	214	0	56	270
-> Total -> Total Westchester County (South Central)--New Rochelle & Mount Vernon Cities PUMA, New York	4,214	2,107	1,642	3,079	6,828
Living with two parents: Both parents in labor force	1,632	816	369	2,804	3,989
Living with father: In labor force	365	183	378	0	561
Living with mother: In labor force	1,186	593	0	0	593
Total Kids Under 13 with All Parents Working	**10,594**	**5,297**	**2,386**	**7,127**	**14,810**

Mt. Vernon United Tenants, Inc.
Mail: P. O. Box 2107 ~ Office: 2 Gramatan Avenue - Suite 304 ~ Mt. Vernon, N. Y. 10551
Phone (914) 699-1114 ~ Fax (914) 699-7449
Email: mvut@erols.com – Website: www.mvut.org

Westchester County Board of Legislators (W-BOL)

on Thursday November 14, 2024 by Dennis Hanratty, Executive Director of Mount Vernon United Tenants (MVUT)

Good evening, members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators (W-BOL) and others assembled here. My name is Dennis Hanratty and I am the Executive Director of Mount Vernon United Tenants (MVUT.) I believe it's important to state upfront that MVUT is the **ONLY** funded and staffed tenants' organization in Westchester County. MVUT has an over forty-year (40+) history of providing principled services to tenants in Mt. Vernon and throughout Westchester. While our office site in Mount Vernon makes us easily accessible for Mount Vernon tenants, for others throughout the County we're merely a telephone call away. Our long history has created a broad understanding of MVUT's ability to help to respond to, and to solve various landlord/tenant issues.

Our services fall under three (3) broad programmatic categories:

Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)
Under our HPP we engage in various activities to prevent tenants from becoming homeless. In addition, under our case management system we deal with hundreds of individual landlord/tenant cases on a wide variety of issues – building services; lease questions; landlord harassment.etc.

Tenant Action Project (TAP)
Through our TAP we assist tenants in learning their rights and forming effective tenant associations within their buildings.

(over)

Policy Advocacy (PA)

Through our PA we work with other organizations, coalitions and individuals to address public policy positions on tenants' rights and affordable housing.

All of our work is focused on improving the quality of life and affordability for tenants in Mount Vernon and throughout Westchester County. MVUT has always done all of its work and provided all of its valuable services on a "bare bones" budget. Westchester County has been an essential partner with MVUT in the delivery of our program services. This partnership must continue and should be increased to help us to reach, and assist even more deserving tenants. We're asking for a minimum of $130,000.00 in the upcoming budget. Westchester County's "investment" in MVUT sees a huge return in savings via a reduction in emergency shelter costs. This is both a major tax savings to Westchester County taxpayers, and just as, if not more importantly, a life-saving win for those tenants whose evictions are prevented ! They are spared the indignity of becoming homeless.

Housing affordability continues to be perhaps THE most intractable problem facing the County. MVUT works day-in, day-out addressing this problem on an individual and policy basis. It's more important than ever for you,the Westchester Board of Legislators to continue to strengthen that relationship, reduce homelessness and provide tenants throughout the County with the assistance they need and deserve. Support MVUT ! !

Thank you !

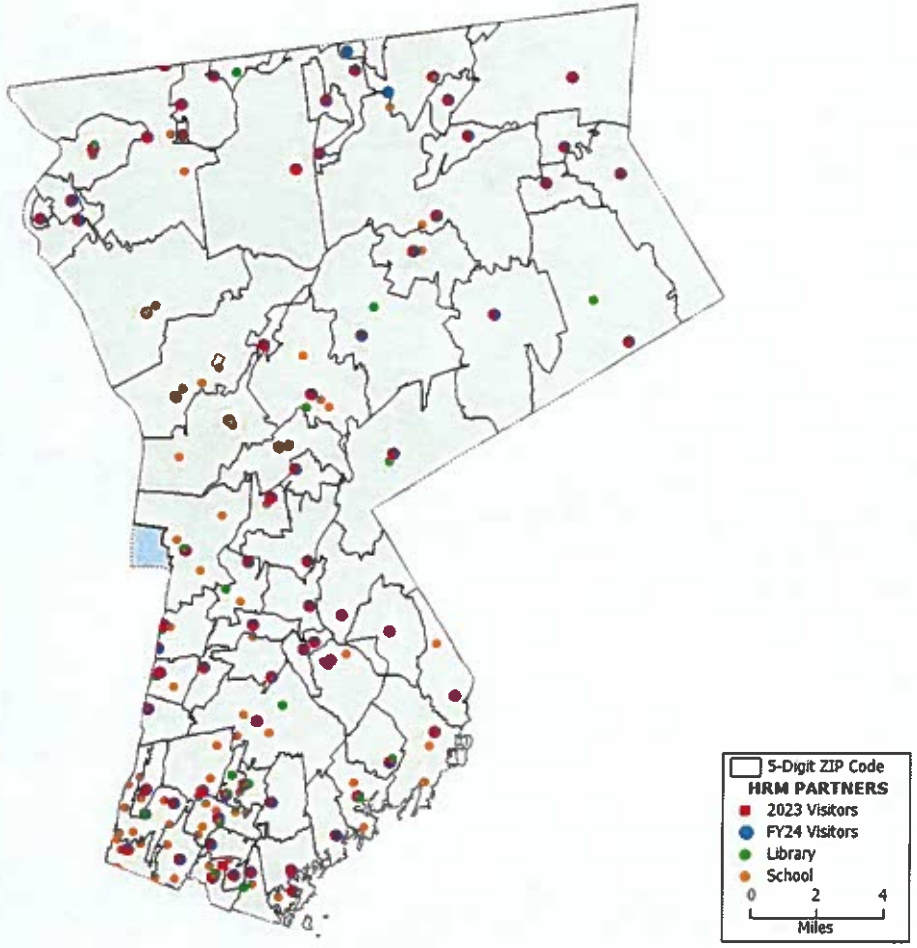
HUDSON
RIVER
MUSEUM

Scope of Service
Westchester County 2025
Addendum

Impact

Westchester County Visitors and Partners

Spread of Visitors across the County, as well as ninety-six Westchester School and Library Partners covering all seventeen County Legislative Districts.



Impact

Westchester County School and Library Partners by Legislative District

District 1—Colin Smith
Field Library
John C. Hart Memorial Library
Lincoln Titus Elementary School
Peekskill Middle School
Walter Panas High School

District 2—Erika Pierce
Bedford Hills
Bedford Hills Free Library
Increase Miller School
Katonah Elementary
Mount Kisco Public Library
Mouth to Hand Parent Association
Pound Ridge Library
Somers High School
Somers Intermediate School

District 3—Margaret Cunzio
Hawthorne Elementary School
Mount Pleasant Public Library
North Castle Public Library
Pleasantville High School
Pocantico Hills
W. L. Morse Elementary School

District 4—Vedat Gashi
Chappaqua Public Library
Graffin Elementary
Oak Lane Child Care Center
Roaring Brook Elementary School
Somers School

District 5—Benjamin Boykin II
Edgewood Elementary
Elizabeth Seton Children's School
Mamaroneck Elementary School
Scarsdale Public Library
District 6—Nancy Barr
Harrison Public Library
Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library
Ridge Street School

District 7—Catherine Parker
Mamaroneck Avenue School
Mamaroneck Public Library
Milton School
Resurrection School
Westchester Day School

District 8—Jewel Williams
Dixon Primary School
Greenburgh Public Library
Hackley School
Warner Library

District 9—Emiljana Ulaj
Briarcliff Manor Public Library
Brookside Elementary School
Clearview School
Croton Free Library
Ossining Public Library
Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School
Roosevelt Elementary School

District 10—Judah Holstein
Eastchester Public Library
New Rochelle Public Library
The Waverly School
Tuckahoe Public Library

District 11—Terry Clements
Colonial Elementary School
Jefferson Elementary School
Town of Pelham Public Library

District 12—David Imamura
Dobbs Ferry Public Library
Greenburgh Early Childhood Program
Hastings Public Library
Irvington Public Library
Main Street School
Seely Place School
Springhurst Elementary School

District 13—Tyrae Woodson-Samuels
Amani Public Charter School
Mount Vernon City School District (multiple schools)
Mount Vernon Public Library
Our Lady of Victory School

District 14—David Tubiolo
Homeschoolers Tribe of Westchester County
Sarah Lawrence College
School 17
School 30
St. John the Baptist School
Yonkers Montessori Academy

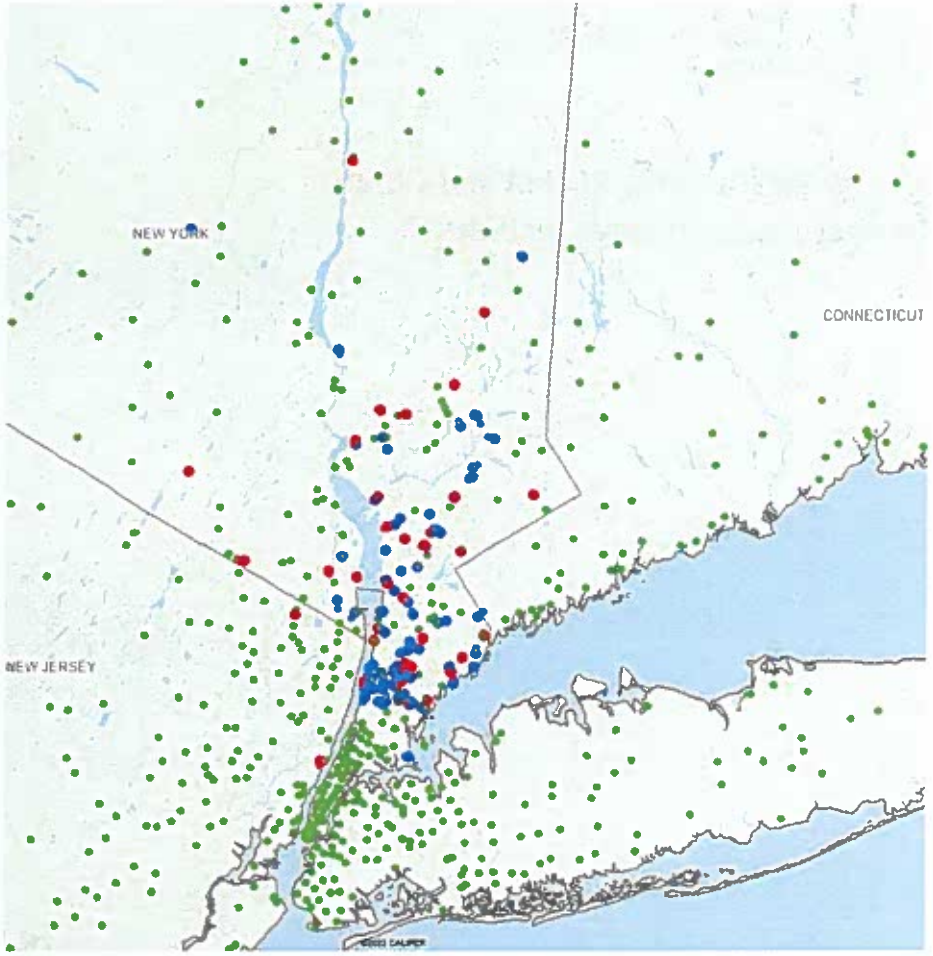
District 15—James Nolan
Bronxville Public Library
Casimir Pulaski School
Crestwood Library
Eliza Corwin Frost School
Kahlil Gibran School
Patricia DiChiaro School
Roosevelt High School
The Chapel School
Tuckahoe High School
Westchester Hills School 29
Yonkers Grinton I. Will Library

District 16—Shanae Williams
Charter School of Educational Excellence (CSEE)
Gorton High School
Museum School 25
Sacred Heart Grade School
Sacred Heart High School
School 16
School 5
VIVE in America
Yonkers Riverfront Library

District 17—José Alvarado
Enrico Fermi School
Hostos School
Pearls Hawthorne School
Yonkers Middle High School

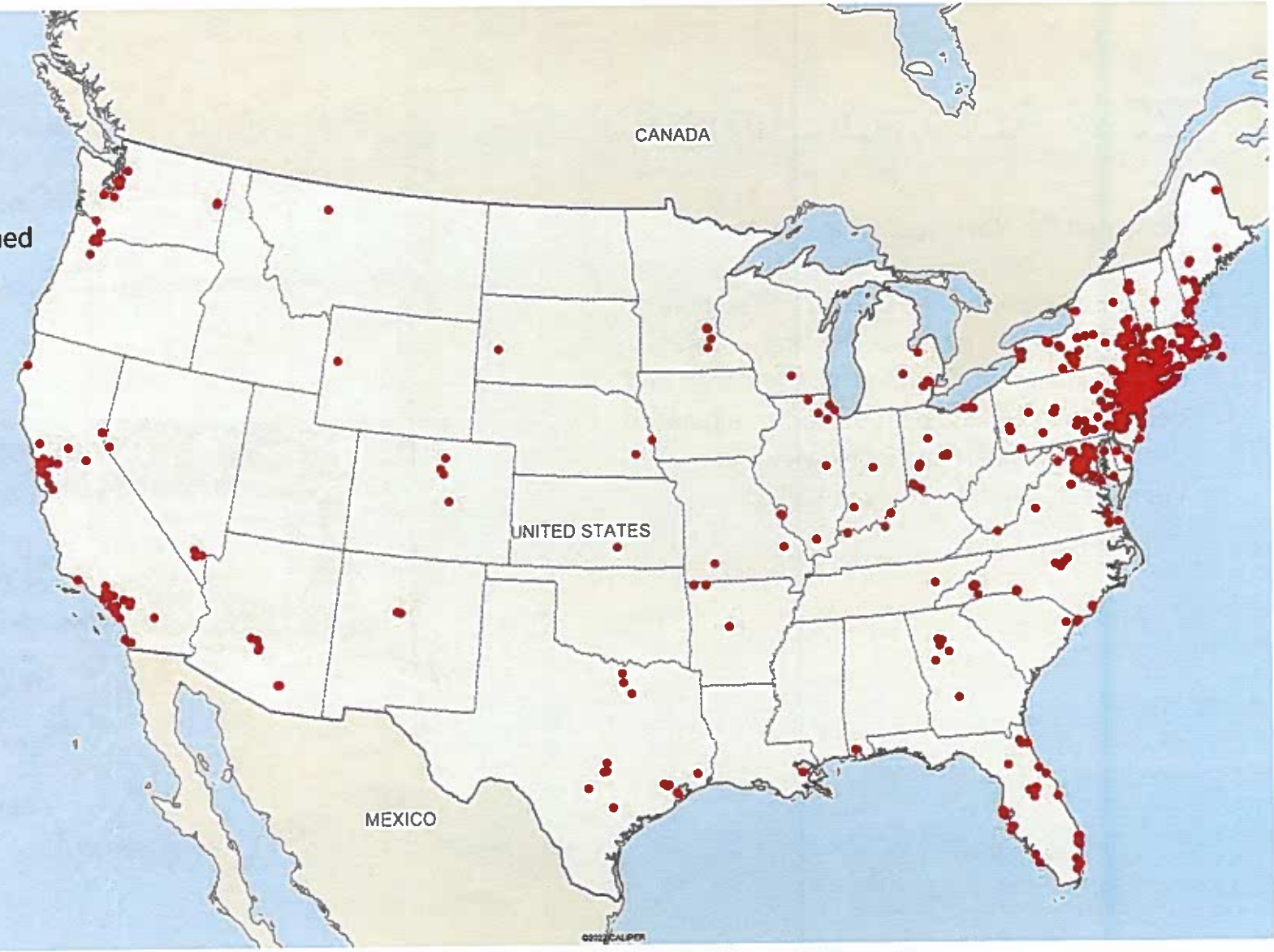
Impact

Partnering with **schools** and **libraries**, and welcoming **visitors**, from throughout the tri-state region.



Impact

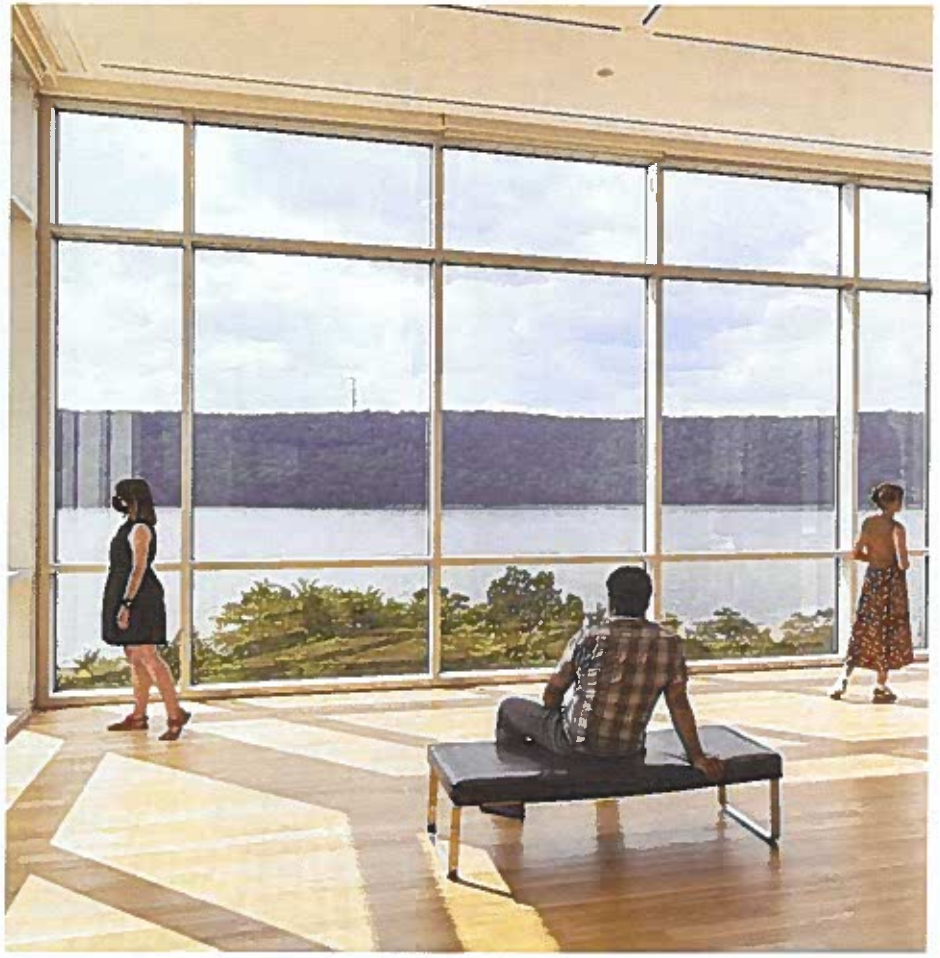
In 2023, the HRM welcomed more than 73,000 visitors from 43 states including 1,003 zip codes.



2024 Accomplishments

Activated the New West Wing

The unveiling of the West Wing has stimulated more than a 30% increase in visitation. This state-of-the-art building has strengthened and continues to expand our position as a place to see world-class art and iconic views in Westchester and the Hudson Valley!



2024 Accomplishments

Total Solar Eclipse

HRM brought the 2024 eclipse experience to Westchester! Yonkers native and former NASA astronaut Ron Garan, together with our planetarium programs, attracted 600+ visitors and was an inspiring moment for the HRM Junior Docents. In conjunction with MarketNY/ESD.

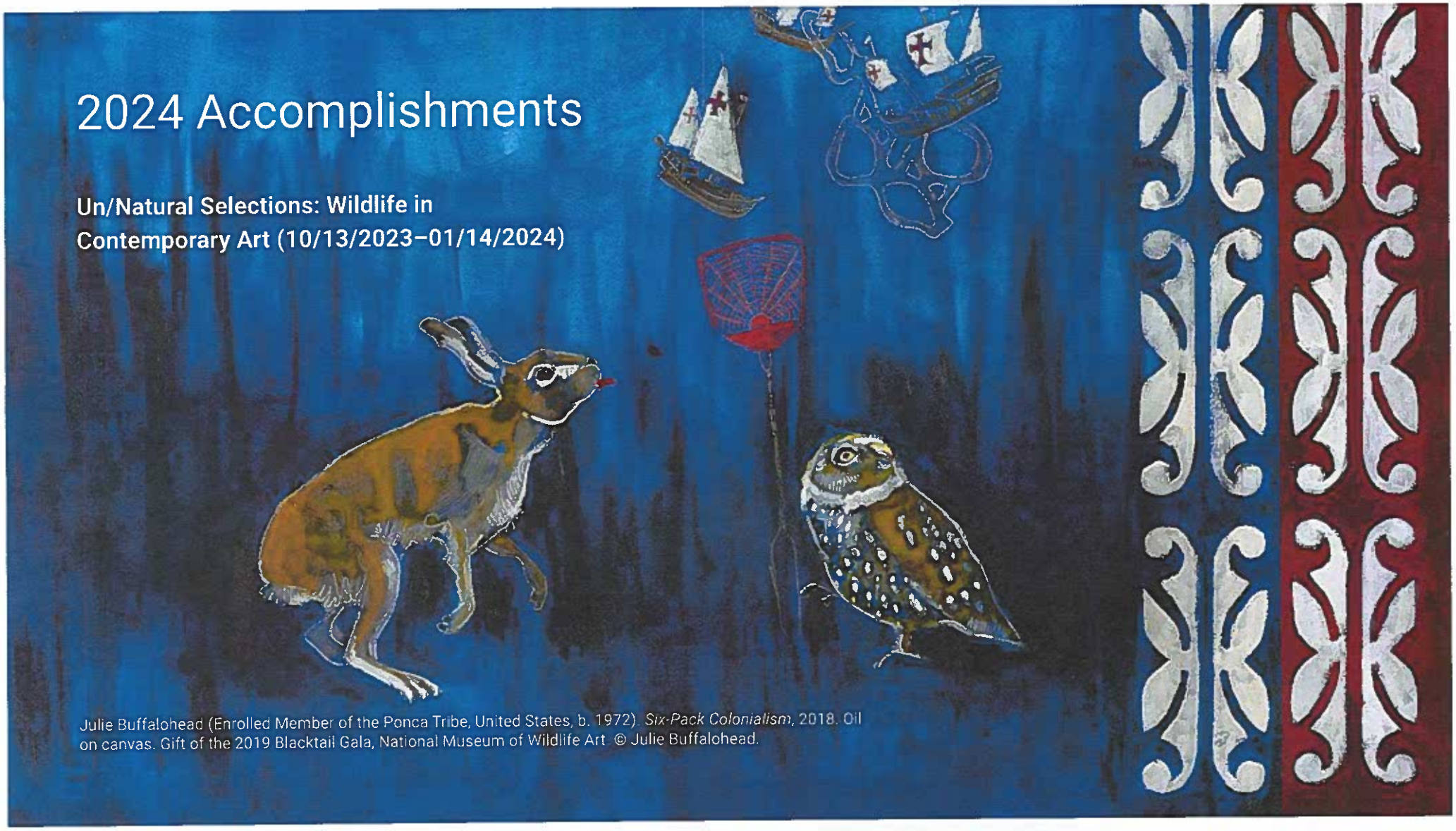
2024 Accomplishments

Collection Digitization

- $125,000 IMLS matching grant
- Correcting historical underrepresentation and erasure
- Ensuring that the history of our vibrant community is accurately documented
- By the end of 2025, the Museum will publish 8,000+ collection images on our website—a staggering 4,300% increase in accessibility.
- Raising private funds to match this grant.

2024 Accomplishments

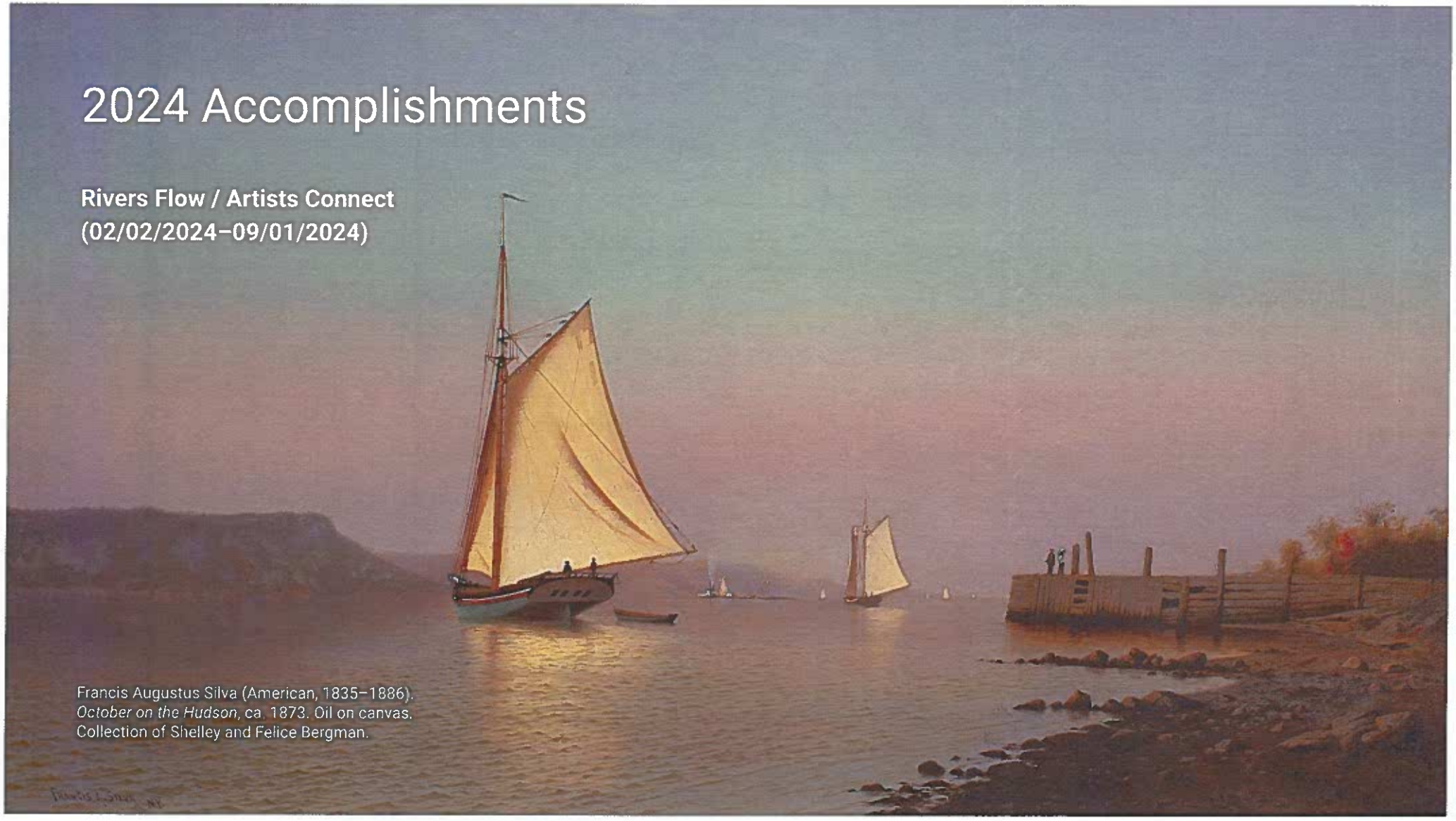
Un/Natural Selections: Wildlife in Contemporary Art (10/13/2023–01/14/2024)



Julie Buffalohead (Enrolled Member of the Ponca Tribe, United States, b. 1972). *Six-Pack Colonialism*, 2018. Oil on canvas. Gift of the 2019 Blacktail Gala, National Museum of Wildlife Art. © Julie Buffalohead.

2024 Accomplishments

Rivers Flow / Artists Connect
(02/02/2024–09/01/2024)



Francis Augustus Silva (American, 1835–1886).
October on the Hudson, ca. 1873. Oil on canvas.
Collection of Shelley and Felice Bergman.

2024 Accomplishments

Neighboring Visions: Westchester Artists Then and Now (06/07/2024–09/29/2024)

A first-time partnership with the Bronxville Historical Conservancy, the Mellon Foundation, and Sarah Lawrence College.

William Thomas Smedley (American, 1858–1920). *Seated Woman with Parasol*, early twentieth century. Oil on panel. Collection of the Bronxville Historical Conservancy.

2024 Accomplishments

No Bodies: Clothing as Disruptor
(09/20/2024–01/26/2025)

2025 Scope of Services

Smoke in Our Hair: Native Memory and Unsettled Time (02/14/2025–08/31/2025)

This will be the first exhibition in the Museum's 105-year history to explore memory and time through a uniquely contemporary Native lens. 51 artworks, made from 1965–2024, are drawn from acclaimed collections of Gochman Family Collection, Art Bridges, and the Forge Project.

Putting Westchester on the map!

Rachel Martin (Tlingit/Tsaagweidei, Killer Whale Clan, of the Yellow Cedar House (Xaai Hit') Eagle Moiety). *Love is a tide is a taste is a seed is a tree*, 2024. Archival colored pencil on archival paper, collage masks. Courtesy of the Gochman Family Collection.

2025 Scope of Services

30 Years of the Junior Docent Program

Recognized for excellence by the White House, HRM celebrates 30 years of nurturing young leaders of the future. 100% of our graduates from the program have gone on to college. This year, Junior Docents from across the country will reunite at HRM to share college and career advice with a new generation.

2025 Scope of Services

Cultural Celebrations That Welcome All

Lunar New Year
Music, dance, art, and crafts
735 visitors in one day

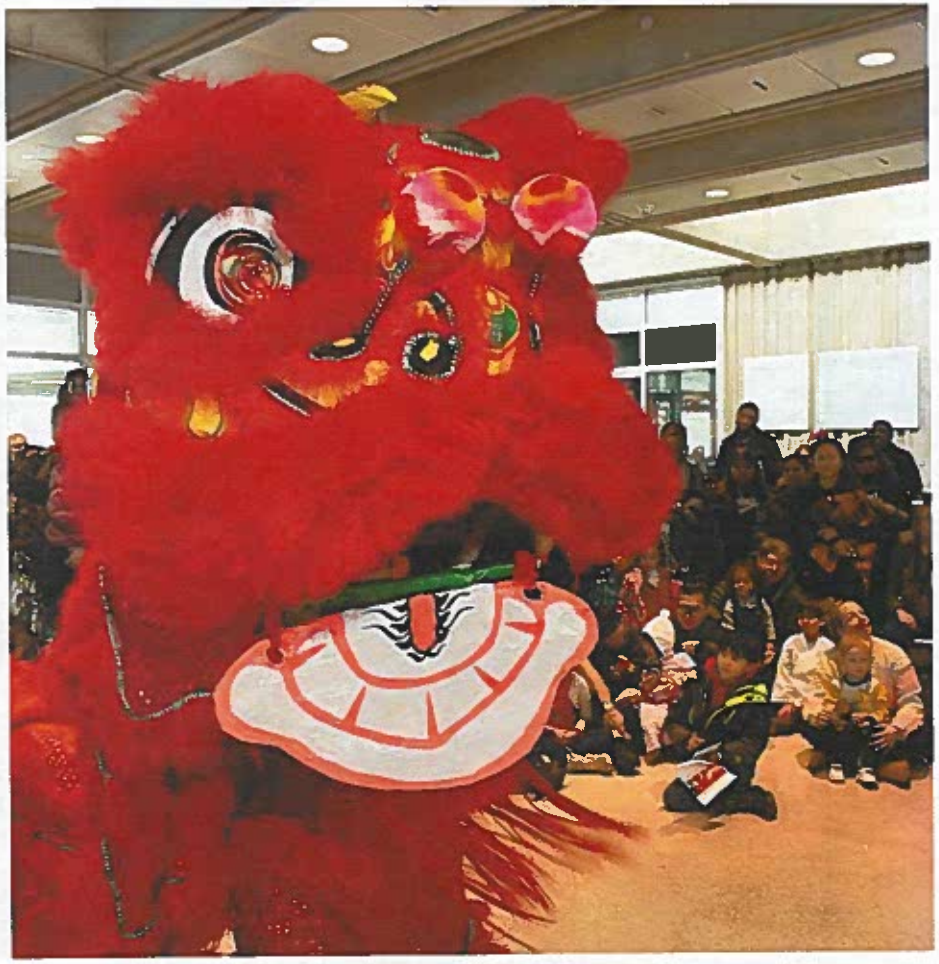
Native American History Month
Social dances representing tribes from across America

Hispanic Heritage Month
Rhythmic musical traditions

Black History Month
Spoken word and jazz

Women's History
Women-led Ballet company immersed audiences in movement, music, and art

Pride Month
Joyful entertainment and artful celebration of our LGBTQ+ community



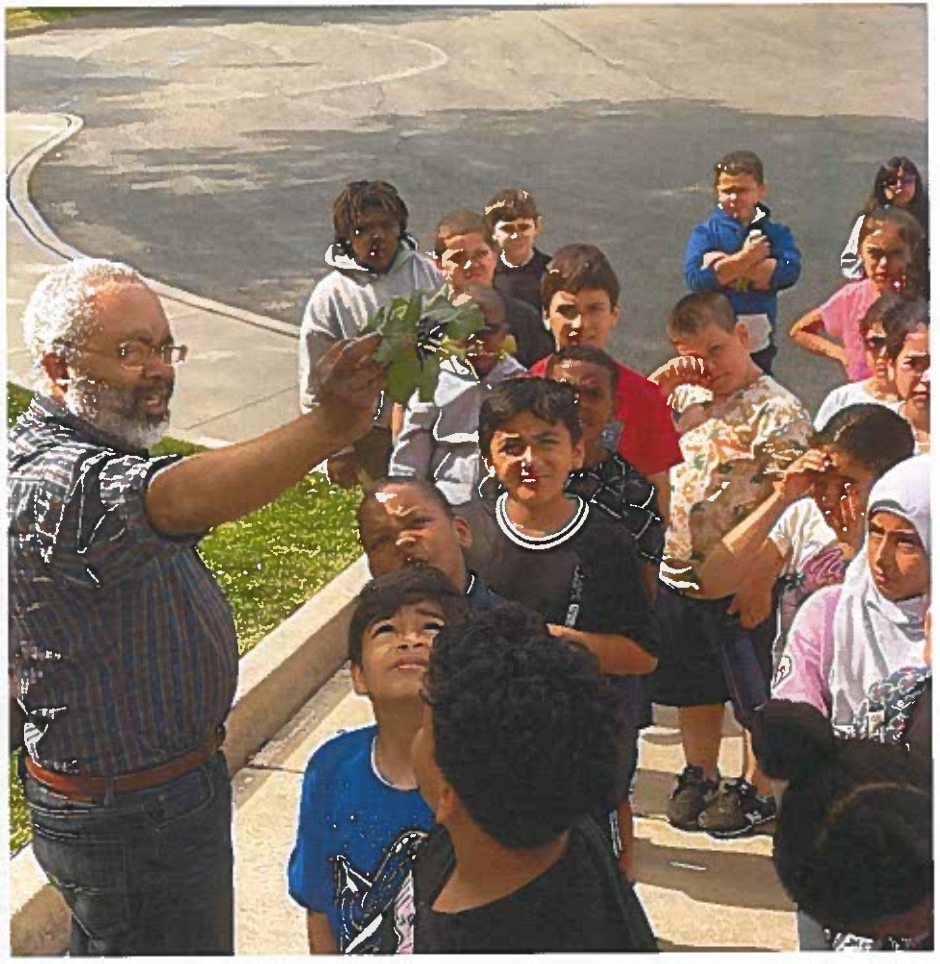
2025 Scope of Services

Planetarium Programs

2025 Scope of Services

Environmental Science & Social Justice

- Hands-on workshops that connect the natural environment to daily life
- STEM sustainability design challenges
- Citizen science & ecological monitoring programs



Pictured: HRM Senior Manager of Science and Planetarium Programs Marc Taylor discussing tree identification with visiting School 5's 4th graders participating in HRM's Carvel Partnership.

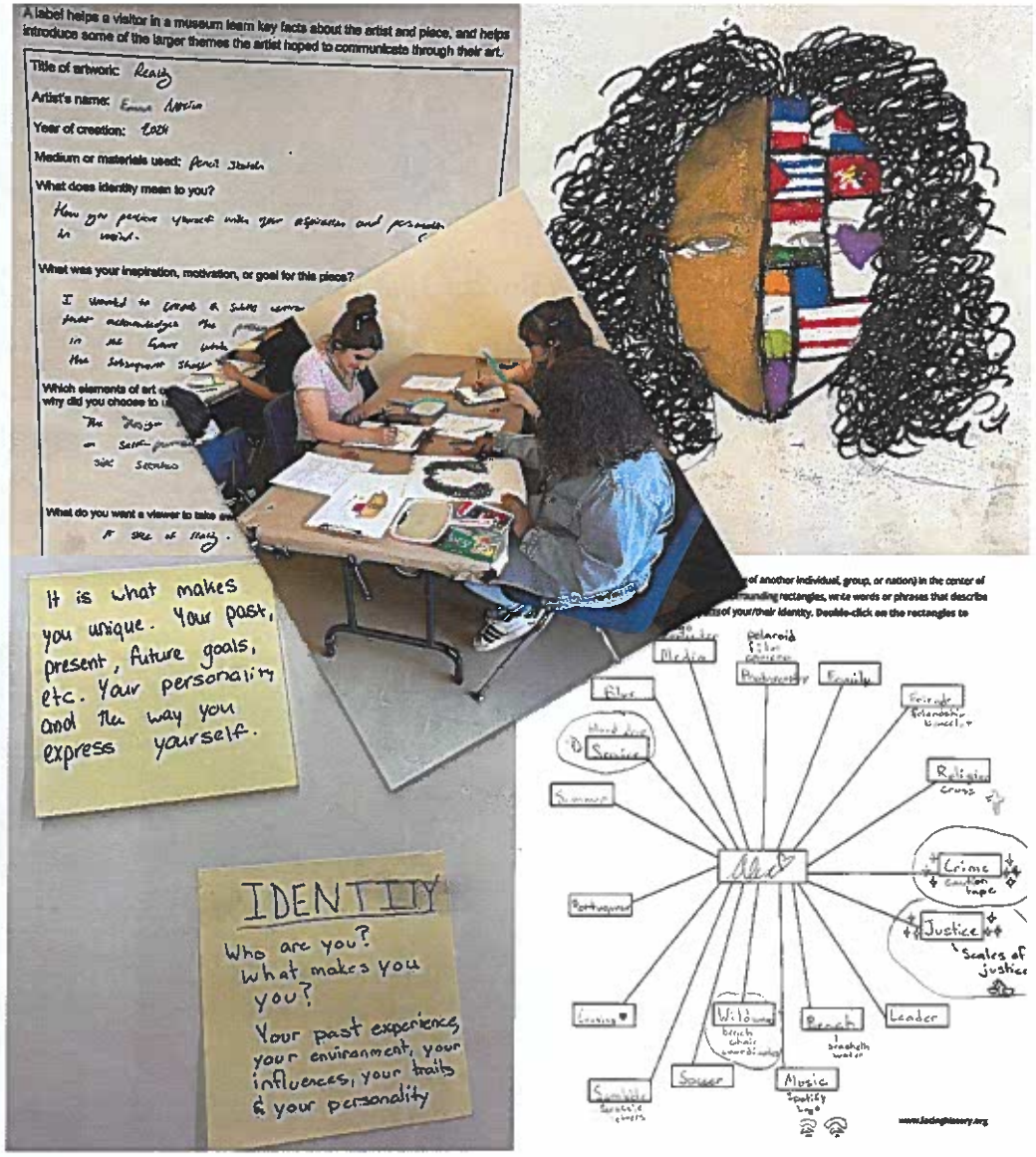
2025 Scope of Services

School Visits and Partnerships at the HRM

Engage students of all ages in art, history, and science through interdisciplinary, experiential, inquiry-based tours, planetarium shows, and workshops.

Ensure social emotional learning, literacies, critical thinking, and problem solving skills are accessible to learners at all developmental levels through multiple entry points and modalities.

Students participated in HRM's *Portraiture and Identity* program. Following a gallery tour focused on portraits, students made their own identity charts in the workshop from which they created a divided self-portrait in which one side shows how the world sees them vs. how they feel/think of themselves on the inside.



2025 Scope of Services

Community Partnership: Museum Docents

- Personalized lifelong learning experience for all ages, and from all communities
- Insight and passion that engages diverse visitors
- Fosters multigenerational connections and strengthens community ties

HUDSON
RIVER
MUSEUM

The Hudson River Museum deeply appreciates County Executive George Latimer, Deputy Director Ken Jenkins, and each member of the Westchester County Board of Legislators for considering this funding request.

Your support enables us to continue our mission-driven work and expand our impact across the region.

We invite all to experience the best of our country, right here in our County.