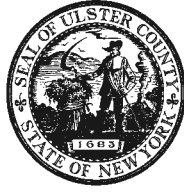


ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

PETER CRISWELL, Chair
MEGAN SPERRY, Vice Chair
ABE UCHITELLE, Majority Leader
KEVIN ROBERTS, Minority Leader
VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



P.O. Box 1800
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402
Telephone: 845 340-3900
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MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARINGS & REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025

7:05 PM

Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY
Also available via Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature>

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR: 7:05 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED THAT LEGISLATORS AND ALL OTHERS MOVE AT LEAST ONE BLOCK AWAY FROM THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING IN ORDER NOT TO IMPEDE THE FIREFIGHTERS IN THEIR DUTIES

CELL PHONES

Please silence cell phones for the duration of the Public Hearings and Legislative Session.

MICROPHONES

Please be reminded when speaking to use your microphones so that you are recorded for the official record.

April 15, 2025

7:05 PM – CALL OF THE 1st PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: 7:08 PM

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 7:09 PM

Majority Leader Uchitelle motioned, Seconded by Minority Leader Roberts to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM:

Ulster County Legislative Chair, Peter Criswell

Appointment Letter: Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board, Jayne Henson - Active Farmer

Appointment Letter: U&D Trail Rail Advisory Committee, Legislator Walls

FOIL Response –Steve Ellman

Ulster County Clerk of the Legislature, Victoria Fabella
Minority Leader Roberts

Appointment Letter: Housing Development Corporation, Legislator Maloney

Legislative News

Press Release – Statement from Chair Peter Criswell On The Passing Of Former Legislator Robert Aiello

Press Release – Ulster County Legislature Seeks Applicants for the Recycling Oversight Committee – Spanish Translation Available

Statement from the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature on UCRRA Appointments

Catskill Mountain Railroad, Ernie Hunt, President

CMRR 2025 NYSDOT PFRAP Grant Rail With Trail Proposal

CMRR Economic White Paper On The Economic Benefits Of Creating a Joint And Trail Terminal At Basin Road And Route 28

Cheryl Schneider, Bloomington

Email – Some History of Ulster County & NYS Prisons, 1970s

Chris Cavanagh, Kingston

Email – Letter of Support: Kingston-Chernivtsi

Concern Citizens (1)

Email – Ashokan Rail Trail: Undesignated Section – Supports Trail

Concern Citizens (11)

Emails – Supporting Catskill Mountain Railroad

Concern Citizen (1)

Emails – In Support of the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan

COMMUNICATIONS FROM (continued):

Concern Citizens (60)

Emails – Opposed to Resolution No. 165
(HALT ACT)

Cornell Creative Arts Center

Invitation To Attend “Art For All
Disabilities” Show on April 25th

Department Of State

Local Law 4 of 2025 Filing

Hudson 7

Announces Launch of “Seven Campaigns
and Key Actions 2020-2024” Campaign
Report

Randy Alstadt Honored with
“Recognition for Service to the Water
Profession” Award by New York Section
American Water Works Association

Hudson 7 Agenda April 9th & Minutes For
March 12th – Meeting Cancelled

Hudson Valley Regional Council

HVRC Economic Development Digest
Spring 2025 Newsletter

Historic Huguenot Street

Presents – New Netherland Marketplace -
Living History Event 2025

NYS Dept of Agricultural & Markets (5)

Emails – NYSERDA – NY-Sun NOI
Submission – ELP Marlborough Solar in
the Town of Marlborough

NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation

Plessner Property (New Paltz) – DEC
Invites Public Comment on Proposed
Expedited Cleanup of Site

Rosendale Cleaners Site – DEC Selects
Cleanup To Address Site Contamination

NYS Dept of Transportation

Copy of Official Order H2657 of the Dept
of Transportation – Abandonment of
Portions of Saugerties-Kingston, Part 2,
S.H. 5000, Town of Ulster

NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation

Public Comment Open on Draft
Amendment No. 2 –Clean Water State
Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan

COMMUNICATIONS FROM (continued):

NYS Public Service Commission

Subsequent Filing – Matter No. 21-0118
– Notice Inviting Comments And
Announcing A Meeting Concerning
Indian Point Decommissioning

Steve Ellman, Kingston Wire

Foil Request – Copy Of Resignation
Letter From Legislator Litts, Ulster &
Delaware Advisory Committee

Town of Esopus Town Board

Town Resolution In Support Of
Resolution No. 102

Town of New Paltz Town Board

Town Resolution In Support Resolution
No. 102

Town of Shawangunk Town Board

Town Resolution In Support of
Resolution No. 102

Town of Ulster Town Board

Letter In Support Of Resolution No. 102

Ulster County Board Of Health

Agenda & Minutes - January 14th &

Ulster County Budget Department

February 2025 Budget Transfer Report,
Budget Transfers for December 31, 2024

March 2025 Budget Transfer Report

Ulster County Chamber of Commerce

Ribbon Cutting – Taqueria Mi Pueblito
Food Truck – Friday, March 21, 2025 @
10:15 AM – 571 Broadway, Kingston

Ribbon Cutting – Canna Planet Kingston
– Friday, April 4, 2025 @ 10:30 AM –
1221 Ulster Avenue, Kingston

Ribbon Cutting – Canna Planet Ellenville
– Friday, April 4, 2025 @ 12:00 PM – 37
N Main Street, Ellenville

Ribbon Cutting – Smokehouse Of The
Catskills – Thursday, April 10, 2025 @
8:45 AM – 724 NY-212, Saugerties

Ribbon Cutting – Pink Orthodontics –
Thursday, April 17, 2025 @ 10:00 AM –
243 Main Street, Suite 150, New Paltz

COMMUNICATIONS FROM (continued):

Ulster County Comptroller's Office

Press Release – Issuance of the 2025
Ulster County Emergency Housing
Snapshot – Ulster County Emergency
Housing Needs And Costs Grow
Substantially

Ulster County Department of General Services

Non-Commodity Solicitations:

RFP-UC25-027 – Commissioning
Services For The GOC

RFP-UC25-033 – Accessory Dwelling
Unit (ADU) Revolving Loan Fund

RFP-UC25-029 – Behavioral Health
Services For Ulster County Schools

Purchasing Report – February 2025

Revised Report – GOC Reserve for 2024

Revised Report – GOC Reserve for 2024

Revised Report – GOC Reserve for 2024

2024 Housing Action Report

Ulster County Department of Finances

Public Hearing Notice – Agricultural
District #3 – April 15th

Agenda – April 2nd & Minutes for March
5th

Agenda – UCHDC April 10th & Draft
Minutes for May 29, 2024, Also ABO
Budget 2025-2028

Ulster County Department of Planning

Civil Service Exams/Job Announcements

Ulster County Personnel Department (50)

Updates – 2025 Charles Schaller Award
Application Deadline Extended – April
14th – Award Ceremony April 24th; 2026
Governor's Traffic Safety Committee
Highway Safety Brant Program Deadline
May 1st

Ulster County Traffic Safety Board

Ulster County Transportation Council

2025 Ulster County School Bus Driver of
the year

COMMUNICATIONS FROM (continued):

Ulster County Veterans Services

Ulster County Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Highway- Dedication of Lucas Avenue (County Road 1) – Saturday, March 29, 2025 @ Noon – Spring Lake Fire Department, 123 Maxwell Lane, Kingston

Invitation To Attend “Art For All Disabilities” Show – April 25th

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

Appointment Letter – Medical Examiner – Margaret M. Prial

Appointment Letter – UC Hudson Valley River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council – Amanda LaValle

Appointment Letter – Director of Real Property Tax Service – Tracey Williams

Press Release – Consultant for Ulster County Completes Government Salary Study

Press Release – Joint Statement from Ulster County Department of Emergency Services, West Hurley Fire District, and the New York State Police regarding an explosion off of Route 28A on March 19th

Press Release – Ulster County Launches Grant Program To Support Local Farmers

Press Release – Ulster County Launches 2nd Round of AED Grants for Youth Camps and Sports Programs

Press Release – Ulster County Unveils EMS Coordinated Coverage Plan

Press Release – Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger Issues Executive Order Reaffirming Protections of Transgender Individuals From Discrimination

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued):

Press Release - Ulster County Launches
Midtown Linear Park Community Space
Design Project With Pop-Up Events April
7th – 9th

Press Release – County Executive Jen
Metzger And Chair Of The Legislature
Peter Criswell Introduce Ukrainian
‘Sister Community’ Resolution

Press Release – Update From Ulster
County Department Of Social Services
Regarding The Closure Of Samadhi
Refuge

Press Release – Spring Chicks Are Cute,
But Caution is Key – Prevent The Spread
Of Avian Flu

Statement – Ulster County Executive Jen
Metzger has released a statement on
Acting County Clerk Taylor Bruck’s
Decision Regarding The Filing of A
Motion For Summary Judgement Seeking
To Enforce A State Of Texas Court

Judgement In The State Of New York
Against Dr. Margaret Carpenter

Executive Order #1 of 2025 – On The
Protection Of Transgender Individuals &
The Prevention Of Discrimination

Final Revised GOC Report

ANNUAL REPORTS:

2024 Comptroller’s Annual Report

2024 Housing Action Report

2024 Ulster County Traffic Safety Board Annual Report

2024 UCIDA Annual Report

2024 UCHDC Annual Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Economic Development, Planning, Education,
Employment, Arts & Agriculture

Energy, Environment & Sustainability

Health, Human Services & Human Rights

Housing & Transportation

Law Enforcement and Public Safety

Laws and Rules, Government Services

Public Works, Capital Projects

Ways and Means

DATE:

March 4, 2025

March 4, 2025

March 10, 2025

March 6, 2025

March 6, 2025

March 5, 2025

March 13, 2025

March 10, 2025

March 13, 2025

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Chair Criswell granted Privilege of the Floor to Lord Cultural Resources Senior Director, Eve Moros-Ortega, Senior Consultant, Tiffany Lyons and Magdiel Espinal, Research Consultant. A global firm specializing in cultural planning and community engagement they led the process to develop the Ulster County Arts and Culture Plan, a community-informed roadmap to prioritize community needs around arts and culture and to deploy cultural resources in service to Ulster County. They are joined by Aaron King, Director at Jon Stover & Associates, who contributed to the plan's economic development strategy.

PUBLIC COMMENT (on Resolutions currently before the Legislature): There were 14 speakers signed up for public comment.

1. Reuben Butchart – Spoke in favor Resolution No. 33 – Landfill
2. Lauren Salvay – Spoke in favor Resolution No. 33 – Landfill
3. Ted Ward Hall – Spoke in favor Resolution No. 33 – Landfill
4. Poppy Cannon-Reese – Spoke in favor Resolution No. 33 – Landfill
5. Maurice Dubose – Spoke in favor Resolution No. 33 – Landfill
6. Pamela Williams – Spoke in favor Resolution No. 33 – Landfill
7. Robert Kenmore – Spoke in favor Resolution No. 33 – Landfill

8. Kenneth Cook – Spoke in favor Resolution No. 33 – Landfill
9. Shabazz Jackson, Clintondale – Spoke in favor Resolution No. 33 – Landfill
10. Josephine Papagni, Clintondale – Spoke in favor Resolution No. 33 – Landfill
11. Felicia Kashik, Woodstock – Spoke in favor Resolution No. 33 – Landfill
12. James Gordon – Chair of the UCRRA, spoke against Resolution No. 33 – Landfill
13. Rachel Gans, Bloomington – Spoke against Resolution No. 167 and Resolution No. 169
14. Chelsea Vialba – Spoke against Resolution No. 167 – ATV's & Jet skis

**RESOLUTION NOS: 33, 81, 82, 85, 125, 126, 128 – 142, 144 - 154, 157 – 164, 166 - 177, 179 - 201;
470 of 2024, 52, 102, 127, 143, 155, 156, & 178 - POSTPONED;
731 of 2024 & 80 – DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE; 165 – WITHDRAWN**

Resolution N0. 470 of 2024 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 10 Of 2024, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 205 Food Service, Article II Use Of Disposable Polystyrene Foam, To Include Thermoform Plastic, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 20, 2025 At 7:00 PM

Postponed in Committee.

Resolution No. 52 - Adopting The Ulster County Fleet Vehicle Take-Home Policy

Postponed in Committee.

Resolution No. 102 - Establishing A Policy To Fund, Facilitate, Perpetuate And Support The Augmentation And Operation Of Local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) In and For The County Of Ulster

Postponed in Committee.

Resolution No. 127 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District – Department Of Environment/Department Of Planning

Postponed in Committee.

Resolution No. 143 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 3 Of 2025, A Local Law To Ensure The Safety Of Vulnerable Road Users In Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 20, 2025 At 7:05 PM

Postponed in Committee.

Resolution No. 155 - Requiring High Quality Field Drug Test Kits For Use In Any Required Screening Of Participants Of County Administered Social Service Programs
Postponed in Committee.

Resolution No. 156 - Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget – To Provide Funding For Emergency Medical Services (EMS) – Ulster County Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management
Postponed in Committee.

Resolution No. 178 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2025, A Local Law Providing For The Protection And Restoration Of The Esopus Creek, Rondout Creek And Wallkill River In Ulster County, And Providing For The Rights Of The Residents Of Ulster County To Clean Water And A Healthy And Productive Ecosystem, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 20, 2025 At 7:15 PM
Postponed in Committee.

Resolution No. 731 of 2024 - Authorizing A One-Time Reimbursement To Ulster County 2024 Real Property Taxpayers
Defeated in Committee.

Resolution No. 80 - Amending The Rules Of Order As They Relate To The Scheduling And Rescheduling Of Legislative Committee Meetings
Defeated in Committee

Resolution No. 165 - Calling On The New York State Legislature And Governor To Amend The New York State Humane Alternatives To Long-Term Solitary Confinement (HALT) Act
Withdrawn by Sponsor.

	Consent
125	<p>Declaring Ulster County’s Intent To Act As Lead Agency Under The New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) For Adoption Of The Ulster County Agricultural And Farmland Protection Plan – Department Of Planning</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

126	<p>Urging The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation To Initiate The Rulemaking Process And Establish New Regulations Under 6 NYCRR, Parts 360 & 363 For The Onsite Treatment And Disposal Of Landfill Leachate</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
128	<p>Appointing Lyle Nolan To The Ulster County Planning Board – Town Of New Paltz</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
129	<p>Authorizing The Chair Of The Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The SUNY New Paltz Venture Hub To Provide Entrepreneurial And Business Recruitment And Support – Department Of Economic Development</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 21 NOES: 0 (1 Abstention: Legislator Uchitelle) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
131	<p>Setting A Public Hearing On The Tentative Budget Of Ulster County Community College For The Year 2025 – 2026, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 20, 2025 At 6:45 PM</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

132	<p>Approving The Work Order With The Dormitory Authority Of The State Of New York (DASNY) For Design, Testing And Construction Services For Clinton Hall Roof, Hasbrouck Hall (2000 Expansion) And Dewitt Library Lower Roofs (2000 Expansion) Related To The Capital Project No. 489 – Campus Roofs – Ulster County Community College And Amending The Capital Fund Budget – SUNY Ulster</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
134	<p>Approving The Work Order With The Dormitory Authority Of The State Of New York (DASNY) Related To The Capital Project No. 696 – Water Service Line Replacement – Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget – SUNY Ulster</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
137	<p>Authorizing The Use Of Funds From The Housing Action Fund For The Establishment Of The Ulster County Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Revolving Loan Fund – Department Of Planning</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
138	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$116,464.00 Entered Into By The County – Catholic Charities Of Orange, Sullivan & Ulster – Department Of Social Services</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

139	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$175,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
140	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$30,000.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
141	<p>Authorizing The Filing Of Applications And Related Documentation With The Federal Transit Administration, An Operating Administration Of The United States Department Of Transportation Assistance Authorized By 49 U.S.C Chapter 53; Title 23, United States Code – Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT)</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
142	<p>Establishing A Policy Requiring Naloxone Be Available On County Transit Vehicles For Emergency Use</p> <p>MOVED TO NON-CONSENT</p>

144	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$80,500.00 Entered Into By The County – Resource Center For Accessible Living, Inc. – Office For The Aging</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
145	<p>Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget To Fund A Medical Examiner Forensic Pathologist Position - Amending The 2025 Ulster County Position Listing – Department Of Health</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
146	<p>Confirming Reappointments Of Dr. Maya Hambright, Emma Hambright, And Maureen Sheehan To The Community Services Board</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
147	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$10,000.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Family Services, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

148	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$97,122.00 Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries, Inc. D/B/A Gateway Hudson Valley – Department Of Mental Health</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
149	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$4,096.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – HealthAlliance Hospital Mary's Avenue Campus – Department Of Mental Health</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
150	<p>Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget For 2024 Rollover Expenses – Department Of Social Services</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
151	<p>Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services To Implement Services Under The Raise The Age (RTA) Plan For SFY 2025 – Department Of Social Services</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

152	<p>Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Child Abuse Or Neglect Prevention And Treatment Act (CAPTA) Comprehensive Addiction And Recovery Act Of 2016 (CARA) Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services – Department Of Social Services</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
153	<p>Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Adoption And Legal Guardianship Incentive Funds For Recruitment Activities From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services – Department Of Social Services</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
154	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$200,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Industrial Medicine Associates, P.C. – Department Of Social Services</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
158	<p>Amending The 2025 Ulster County Operating Budget – Establishing Capital Project No. 728 – Emergency Medical Services Equipment – Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget — Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

160	<p>Authorizing the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Services For Participation In The 2024 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Operations Grant, Amending The 2025 Operational Budget – Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
161	<p>Amending Capital Project No. 482 County Wide Radio System – Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Services For Participation In The 2024 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant – Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
162	<p>Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Federal Emergency Management Agency Integrated Public Alert And Warning System (IPAWS) Program Management Office – Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
163	<p>Authorizing the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature To Execute an Agreement With The Walker Valley Chemical Engine Company No. 1 – Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

164	Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Memorandum Of Understanding, With The City Of Kingston – Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
166	Amending The 2025 Ulster County Operating Budget – Amending Capital Project No. 706 – Ulster County Jail Equipment Replacement – Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget – Ulster County Sheriff ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
167	Amending The 2025 Ulster County Operating Budget – Amending The 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program – Amending Capital Project No. 710 – Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement Equipment – Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget – Ulster County Sheriff ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
169	Amending The 2025 Ulster County Operational Budget – Amending The 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program – Establishing Capital Project No. 730 – Navigation Boat – Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget – Ulster County Sheriff ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)

170	<p>Amending The 2025 Ulster County Operating Budget – Amending The 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program – Establishing Capital Project No. 731 – Vesta 911 Upgrade – Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget – Ulster County Sheriff</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
171	<p>Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Amended Agreement With The New York State Department Of Corrections And Community Supervision (DOCCS) To Provide A Parolee Hearing Room Within The Sheriff’s Office – Ulster County Sheriff</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
172	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$5,000.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Black Creek Integrated Systems Corp. – Ulster County Sheriff</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
173	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$13,628.37, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Visual Computer Solutions Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

174	<p>Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget to Accept Additional Funding From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services – Department Of Probation</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
175	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Legal Services Of The Hudson Valley – Department Of Probation</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
176	<p>Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget Related To Allocations Of Aid To Prosecution Funding From The New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services – District Attorney</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
177	<p>Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The United States Department Of Justice Office Of Violence Against Women In Connection To The Local Law Enforcement Grant For The Prosecution Of Cybercrimes And Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget – District Attorney</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

179	Amending The 2025 Ulster County Operating Budget – Establishing Capital Project No. 726 – 2025 Pavement Preservation Of Various Roads – Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works (Highways And Bridges) ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
180	Amending The 2025 Ulster County Operating Budget – Establishing Capital Project No. 727 Big Pond Bridge Replacement In The Town Of Hardenburgh – Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works (Highways And Bridges) ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
181	Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$523,000.00 Entered Into By The County – M.J. Engineering And Land Surveying, P.C. – Department Of Public Works (Highways & Bridges) ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
182	Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Access Limited Construction – Department Of Public Works ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)

183	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$113,400.00 Entered Into By The County – Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. – Department Of Public Works (Highways & Bridges)</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
184	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Town & Country Bridge And Rail, Inc. – Department Of Public Works (Highways & Bridges)</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
185	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$115,000.00 Entered Into By The County – H2O Innovation Operation & Maintenance, LLC – Department Of Public Works</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
186	<p>Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Office Of Parks, Recreation And Historic Preservation To Accept A Grant For The Matthewis Persen House Renovation Project - Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
188	<p>Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Agreements With Various School Districts In Ulster County For The Use Of Polling Equipment And Material – Ulster County Board Of Elections</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

190	Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$55,575.00 Entered Into By The County – Capital Markets Advisors, LLC –Legislature ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
191	Requesting Funds For The Execution Of A Contract With Tyler Technologies For The Purpose Of Migrating Fire Records To Emergency Networking And Implementing A Test GIS Server In Ulster County’s Public Safety System - Amending The 2025 Ulster County Budget – Information Services ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
192	Amending The 2025 Ulster County Operating Budget – Transferring Contingency Funds To Pay For ClearGov Budget Cycle Management Software – Information Services ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
193	Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$325,850.44 Entered Into By The County – West Publishing Corporation, Thomson Reuters – Department Of Information Services ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)

194	<p>Approving Home Rule Request For Senate Bill No. S5747 And Assembly Bill No. A6223 Authorizing Ulster County To Continue The Additional 1% Rate Of Its Sales And Compensating Use Tax For Twenty-Four Additional Months</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
195	<p>Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into Agreements With The Villages Of Ellenville, New Paltz, And Saugerties Relating To The Enforcement Of Real Property Tax Liens Under Article 11, Sections 1102, 1110 And 1150 Of The New York State Real Property Tax Law – Department Of Finance</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
196	<p>Authorizing Director Of Budget To Make Certain Transfers Of Funds – Department Of Budget</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
	<p>Non- Consent</p>
33	<p>Opposing The Establishment Of A County-Wide Landfill In Wawarsing, NY, And Urging The Exploration Of Alternative Locations And Waste Management Solutions</p> <p>Legislator Nolan motioned, seconded by Legislator Greene, to refer the Resolution back to the Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee.</p> <p>MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 12 NOES: 10 (Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Gavaris, Hansut, Kitchen, Kovacs, Litts, Lopez, Maloney, Roberts, and Walls) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

81	Confirming Appointment To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
82	Confirming Reappointment To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 12 NOES: 10 (Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Gavaris, Hansut, Kitchen, Kovacs, Litts, Lopez, Maloney, Roberts, and Walls) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
85	Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$1,427,490.29 Entered Into By The County – Solar Liberty Energy Systems, Inc. – Departments Of Planning And Public Works ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 21 NOES: 1 (Noes: Legislator Maloney) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
130	Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$49,025.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Flint Media Inc. – Department Of Tourism ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 21 NOES: 1 (Noes: Legislator Maloney) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)

133 BOND	Authorizing The Reconstruction Of Building Roofs For The Ulster County Community College Campus At SUNY Ulster, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$5,048,900.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$5,048,900.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
135 BOND	Authorizing The Water Service Line Replacement At Ulster County Community College - SUNY Campus, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$135,714.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$135,714.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
136	Setting A Public Hearing On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of Lands Owned by Ulster County Located At 21 Elizabeth Street, City Of Kingston To The Ulster County Housing Development Corporation, A Local Development Corporation ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 17 NOES: 5 (Noes: Legislators Kitchen, Kovacs, Maloney, Roberts, and Walls) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)
142	Establishing A Policy Requiring Naloxone Be Available On County Transit Vehicles For Emergency Use ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)

157	<p>Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement With The Town Of Gardiner For The Purposes Of A Supplemental Emergency Medical Services System – Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management</p> <p>ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 22 NOES: 0 (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
159	<p>Amending Capital Project No. 607 Government Operations Center– Amending The 2025 Operating Budget — Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget — Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 20 NOES: 1 (Noes: Legislator Maloney) (1 Abstention: Legislator Litts) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
168	<p>Amending The 2025 Ulster County Operating Budget – Establishing Capital Project No. 729 – Amending The 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program – Axon Tasers, Amending The 2025 Capital Fund Budget – Ulster County Sheriff</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 20 NOES: 2 (Noes: Legislators Hewitt and McCollough) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
187	<p>Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2025, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), In Relation To Legislator Qualifications</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 12 NOES: 10 (Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Gavaris, Hansut, Kitchen, Kovacs, Litts, Lopez, Maloney, Roberts, and Walls) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>

189	<p>Authorizing The County Executive And Chair Of The Legislature To Execute Ulster County's Memorandum Of Agreement Between Ulster County, New York And The Chernivtsi Region, Ukraine As Sister Communities</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 21 NOES: 1 (Noes: Legislator Maloney) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
201 BOND	<p>Authorizing \$11,990,332.00 Bonds To Pay A Portion Of The Cost Of The Construction Of A Government Operations Center, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$11,990,332.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$11,990,332.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Of Said Portion Thereof</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 19 NOES: 2 (Noes: Legislators Maloney and Roberts) (1 Abstention: Legislator Litts) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Late Resolutions</p>
197	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$9,355,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Andron Construction, Corp. – Department Of Public Works</p>
198	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$3,656,615.00 Entered Into By The County – Merritt Construction Inc. – Department Of Public Works</p>
199	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$5,341,700.00 Entered Into By The County – Perreca Electric Co., Inc. – Department Of Public Works</p>
200	<p>Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$3,498,470.00 Entered Into By The County – Youna Mechanical, Inc. D/B/A The YMI Group, Inc. – Department Of Public Works</p>

	<p>Majority Leader Uchitelle motioned to Block Resolution Nos. 197, 198, 199, 200, Seconded by Legislator Harmon</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 20 NOES: 1 (Noes: Legislator Maloney) (1 Abstention: Legislator Litts) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p> <p>Majority Leader Uchitelle motioned to Adopt Blocked Resolution Nos. 197, 198, 199, 200, Seconded by Legislator Roberts</p> <p>ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:</p> <p>AYES: 20 NOES: 1 (Noes: Legislator Maloney) (1 Abstention: Legislator Litts) (Absent: Legislator Clinton)</p>
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PUBLIC COMMENT (on subjects *not* currently before the Legislature): There were 18 speakers signed up for public comment.

1. Meg Carey, Town of Hurley – Spoke in support of Rails with Trails
2. Joann Mead, Ulster Park – Spoke in regard to Dina Noble Fund in Ulster Park, her Foil Request was denied from NYS Department of Health
3. Cheryl Schneider, Rosendale – Spoke against Withdrawn Resolution No. 165 (HALT ACT)
4. Helen Chase, Hamlet of Ashokan – Spoke in favor support of CMRR
5. Peter Fluchere, Marlboro – Spoke in support of Rails
6. Scott Paltrowitz, Rosendale – Spoke against Withdrawn Resolution No. 165 (HALT ACT), was happy that the resolution was withdrawn
7. Russ Bonk, Clinton – Spoke in Support of Rails
8. Shelley Bolding, Oliverbridge - Spoke regarding DSS with low salaries
9. Chris Allen – Spoke in favor of tax rebates for seniors

10. Larry Roth – Spoke in support of Trails
11. Anthony Fitzpatrick, Town of Esopus – Spoke on Resolution No. 189 – He appreciated the sister communities between Chernivtsi Region and Ulster County
12. Rachel Gans – Spoke against Withdrawn Resolution No. 165 (HALT ACT); tax relief; Was not happy that Resolution No. 168 for Axon Tasers passed and not happy that a lot of money is going into the Sheriff's Department
13. Kenneth Cook – Spoke against the Landfill
14. Robert Kenmore – Spoke against the Landfill
15. Lauren Salvay, Wawarsing – Spoke regarding DSS employees and salaries and also against the Landfill
16. Chelsea Vilalba – Was thankful for the withdrawal of Resolution No. 165 (HALT ACT), and spoke on the insidiousness of the concentration and extermination camps within the US and would like to see a Memorializing Resolution on this, also spoke on countrywide waste reduction
17. Harrison Beldef, Kingston – Spoke in support of CMRR Rails with Trails
18. Chad McPeake – Spoke about raises to public workers and county employees need more money, highways, building & grounds workers believe are underpaid

MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF: Read by Deputy Majority Leader Levine

Robert Aiello, Saugerties (former Legislator)
Felice 'Phil' LaMela, Marlboro
Darlene A. Scanna, Milton
William R. Kresser, Kingston
Sue Brook, Miami, Florida

John Repke, Marlboro
Marshall Kelton Byrd, Jr., Kingston
Louise Lefkovits, Kingston
Frederick Wind, Saugerties
Alan Shapiro, Woodstock

CLOSING WORDS – Chair Criswell called upon Legislator Greg McCollough, District 6, to offer closing words. Theme – “Stand For Humanity On The Battlefield”

MINUTES
PAGE 32
April 15, 2025

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:45 PM in the Legislative Chambers, Sixth Floor, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York.

Resolution deadline is Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:51 PM
Motion made by Legislator Litts
Seconded by Legislator Sperry



14
~~12 speakers~~ ~~5 speakers~~
1 of 3 pages

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

PUBLIC COMMENT: On Resolutions Currently Before the Legislature

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	CONTACT	TOPIC(S) TO BE DISCUSSED
1. DARREN CAPOTE	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	AGAINST LANDFILL
✓ 1. 2. REUBEN BUTCHART	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	AGAINST LANDFILL
3. ANDREW FAUST	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	AGAINST LANDFILL
✓ 2. 4. LAUREN SALVAY	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	AGAINST LANDFILL
✓ 3. 5. TED WARD HALL	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	AGAINST LANDFILL
✓ 4. 6. POPPY CANNON-REESE	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	AGAINST LANDFILL

203

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	CONTACT	TOPIC(S) TO BE DISCUSSED
7. TERRY HOUCK	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	AGAINST LANDFILL
✓ 5 Maurice 8. JENNIFER DUBOSE	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	AGAINST LANDFILL
✓ 6. 9. PAMELA WILLIAMS	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	AGAINST LANDFILL
✓ 7 10. ROBERT KENMORE	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
✓ 8 11. KENNETH COOK	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
✓ 9 12. Shakazz Jackson	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: Clintondale EMAIL: greenway777@aol.com Res 33	
✓ 10 13. Josephine Papagni	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: Clintondale EMAIL: greenway777@aol.com Res 33	
✓ 11 14. Felicia Kasik (Kashik)	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: Woodstock Res 33 EMAIL: None	

323

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	CONTACT	TOPIC(S) TO BE DISCUSSED
12. 15. <i>Jim Gordon</i>	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	<i>Rep</i>
13. 16. <i>Rachel Gans</i>	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	<i>166</i>
14. 17. <i>Chelsea Vialba</i>	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
18.	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
19.	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
20.	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
21.	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

PUBLIC COMMENT: On Subjects *Not* Currently Before the Legislature

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025

18 *speakers* / 2 *pages*

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	CONTACT	TOPIC(S) TO BE DISCUSSED
✓ 1. MEG CAREY	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	RAILS & TRAILS
✓ 2. Joann Mead	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: Ulster Park EMAIL: JoMead438@gmail.com	Dyno-Noble
✓ 3. Cheryl Schneider	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: Rosendale EMAIL: cheryl.schneider@rosc.com	lack of HR awareness
✓ 4. Helen K. Chase	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: Orlize EMAIL: hkchase190@gmail.com	Cell
(Flu-share) 5. PETER FLUCHERE	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: MARLBORO EMAIL:	RAILS
✓ 6. Scott Paltrowitz	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: Rosendale EMAIL: spaltrowitz@hotmail.com	HALT solitary

202

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	CONTACT	TOPIC(S) TO BE DISCUSSED
7. ✓ Russ Bonk	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: Clinton EMAIL:	CMRR
8. ✓ Shelley Bolding	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: Olivebridge EMAIL:	CSEA
9. ✓ Chris Allen	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	tax rebate
10. ✓ Larry Roth	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
11. Anthony Fitzpatrick	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
12. Rachel Gans	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	
13. Robert Kennos Kenneth Cook	TOWN WHERE YOU RESIDE: EMAIL:	

Lauren Salway
Chelsea Vianna

Harrison
Chad
Belia
MoPeak

Remarks to UC Legislature 4-15-25

The clearest sign of the value of the Catskill Mountain Railroad and allowing it to reach Basin Road is shown by the people who have been working hardest to put it out of business. Even they have been forced to take the public position that “Nobody wants to see the trains gone”.

Let’s talk about money.

- CMRR pays the county for the right to use the rail corridor.
- CMRR maintains the tracks at its own expense.
- CMRR is an employer, directly creating jobs.
- CMRR is prepared to restore the tracks up to Basin Road at no cost to the county.
- CMRR is prepared to build a combined rail station and trail visitor center at Basin Road at no cost to the county. They have leased land with the appropriate zoning.
- CMRR, as a railroad, has applied for a state grant to fully fund construction of an access road/trail in the corridor – at no cost to the county.
- CMRR is prepared to use the railroad to cut hundreds of thousands of dollars from the cost of building a trail in the corridor.

Preventing CMRR from reaching its full potential or even driving it out of the corridor altogether will have a significant impact on the local economy.

Let’s talk about tourism.

Tourism is considered a key element in Ulster County’s economic strategy. The expense of trail construction and trail maintenance, unlike the railroad, is paid by the county. It has been justified on the grounds that spending by visitors from outside the county provides enough economic gains to justify it. Is that actually the case?

The user numbers for the Ashokan Rail Trail show it has been a great success – as a public amenity, not so much as promised for tourism. A 2023 Camoin Study found that roughly 9 out of 10 ART trail users are local. In contrast, CMRR’s rider numbers show that roughly 9 out of 10 of them are from out of county. Although there are fewer riders than trail users, CMRR outperforms the ART when it comes to bringing in actual tourist dollars.

This is why the expansion to Basin Road is critical for both CMRR and the ART. Linking them together would have a multiplier effect:

- It would bring more out of county visitors to the ART trail head
- Give trail users access to amenities the combined station and trail visitor center would provide, such as better parking, bathrooms, and access to drinking water.
- Make it easier for Kingston residents to enjoy the trail.
- Allow trail users easy access to Kingston by using CMRR.

Above and beyond that is a further benefit. CMRR is proposing to run daily shuttles between Kingston and Basin Road, with intermediate stops along the way. For communities along the corridor, this could effectively become the equivalent of a dedicated bus route, connecting them with Kingston Plaza, the major bus stop at the plaza, and the Linear Park. CMRR would become more than a tourist railroad – it would become a public service to the community at large.

It would fill a need for the people living along the corridor, giving them a safe travel option while reducing the need to use a car to get around. For this and all the reasons given above, allowing CMRR to expand to Basin Road and making the effort to build rail with trail would be a win-win for everyone.

Larry Roth, Co-chair

Ulster & Delaware Railway Revitalization Corporation

P.O Box 503

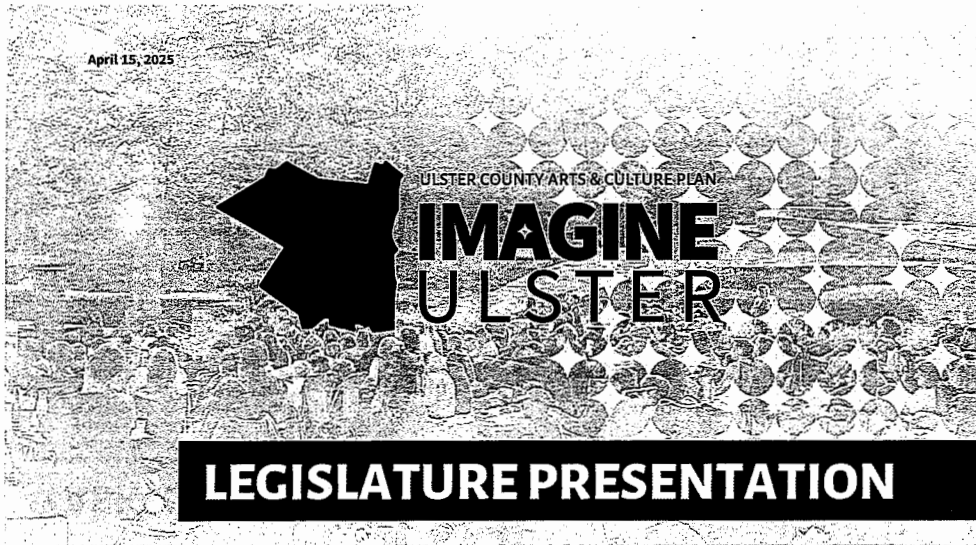
Phoenicia, NY 12464

udrrc.media@gmail.com

518-390-2395

Cultural
Resources
Director,
Eve Maras-Ortega

Art + Culture
Presentation



WE ENCOURAGE YOU
TO **ACKNOWLEDGE** THE PRESENCE
OF THE PEOPLE **WHO CAME
BEFORE**, WHEREVER YOU ARE.



Welcome and Introductions
Process Overview
Economic Impact
Vision & Priorities
Strategies

INTRODUCTION

YOUR PLANNING TEAM

ULSTER COUNTY TEAM



PETER CRISWELL
Ulster County Legislature
Chair



JOSHUA STRATTON-RAYNER
Department of Economic
Development
Deputy Director



SARA PASTI
Ulster County Arts & Culture Plan
Project Manager

CONSULTANT TEAM



EVE MOROS ORTEGA
Director
Project Lead



TIFFANY LYONS
Senior Consultant
Project Manager



MAGDIEL ESPINAL
Research Consultant
Research & Community Engagement



JON STOVER
Managing Partner, JS&A
Economic Development Strategy Lead



AARON KING
Director, JS&A
Economic Development Strategy Support

PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

- 1. Bryant ("Drew") Andrews, Center for Creative Education
- 2. Lisa Berger, Ulster County Tourism
- 3. Danielle Bliss, Hudson Valley Hullabaloo Market
- 4. Taylor Bruck, UC Deputy County Clerk, County Historian
- 5. Dave Channon, Artist, Shandaken Tour Operator
- 6. Beth Davenport, Stockade Works, Upriver Studios
- 7. Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas, Arts Mid-Hudson
- 8. Marielena Ferrer-Harrington, Unison Arts
- 9. Lara Giordano, Department of Regional Art Workers (DRAW)
- 10. Nicole Goldberg, Woodstock Artists Association & Museum
- 11. Margaret S. Inge, Kingston Midtown Arts District
- 12. Andrew Jacobs, Catskills Borscht Belt Museum
- 13. Nadine Lemmon, Center for Photography at Woodstock
- 14. James McIntyre, Shadowland Stages
- 15. Jadin Manipole, Ulster Performing Arts Center/Bardavon
- 16. Melanie Martin, New York Foundation for the Arts
- 17. Kate Mitchell, Opus 40
- 18. Kitt Potter, Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Kingston
- 19. Robert Sabuda, 10 Horse Art Center, Pop-Up Book Artist
- 20. Nina Schmidbaur, Saugerties Arts Commission
- 21. Jonah Schenker, BOCES
- 22. Stephan Hengst, Big Gay Hudson Valley
- 23. Jason Silverman, Upstate Films
- 24. Isabel Soffer, The Local, Saugerties
- 25. Megan Sperry, Ulster County Legislature, SUNY Ulster
- 26. Carrie Wykoff, Rosendale Town Board Member, Rosendale Street Festival
- 27. Helen Toomer, Stoneleaf Retreat Residency and Upstate Art Weekend
- 28. Kathleen (kt) Tobin, SUNY NP Benjamin Center

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TASKFORCE MEMBERS

Education & Workforce Development Taskforce

Lara Giordano, D.R.A.W. Kingston, *Co-Chair*
Melanie Martin, New York Foundation for the Arts, *Co-Chair*
Ben Williamson, Shadowland Stages
Sarah Dudley-Lemek, Ulster Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
Maria Guralnik, SUNY Purchase College, Arts Management
Sharon Williams, Ulster County Employment and Training
Sugely Melenciano-Weed, Ulster County Youth
Lisa Wiles, Ellenville Central School District
Amy Poux, The Arts Society of Kingston
Jason Silverman, Upstate Films

Investment & Advocacy Taskforce

Melissa Dvozenja-Thomas, Arts Mid-Hudson, *Co-Chair*
Nadine Lemmon, Center for Photography at Woodstock, *Co-Chair*
Kevin Quilty, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley
Helene Lesterlin, Good Work Institute
Eddie Moran, Ulster County Historian
Hillary Nichols, Ulster County IDA
Elizabeth Keithline (Liz), Artist & Independent Curator
Lilia Perez, Arts Mid-Hudson
Marielena Ferrer-Harrington, Unison Arts

Infrastructure Growth Taskforce

Robert Sabuda, 10 House Art Center, *Co-Chair*
Carrie Wykoff, Rosendale Street Festival, *Co-Chair*
Marcy Bernstein, Roost Studios
Joe Gonzalez, Art Walk Kingston
Isabel Soffer, The Local
Bill Merchant, D&H Canal Historical Society & Museum
Colleen McMurray, Pine Hill Community Center
Brendan Burke, Shadowland Stages
Robert Langdon, Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild
Scott Dutton, Dutton Architecture

Mobilization of Network Taskforce

Nina Doyle, Woodstock School of Art, *Co-Chair*
Maggie Inge, Midtown Kingston Arts District, *Co-Chair*
Dave Channon, Esopus Creek Fine Arts
Elisa Pritzker, Visual Artist, Independent Curator & Art Columnist
Brian Mahoney, Chronogram Media
Lizzie Vann, Bearsville Center
Mac Welch, O+ Festival
Ida Hakila, Radio Kingston
Jadin Manipole, Bardavon Presents

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WHAT IS AN ARTS AND CULTURE PLAN?

An arts and culture plan enables municipalities to **prioritize community needs** around arts and culture and deploy arts and cultural resources in the service of community

The Ulster County Arts & Culture Plan will energize the arts and cultural sector, residents, and leaders, ultimately strengthening partnerships, community participation, and civic leadership, as outcomes will:

Leverage Ulster's network of arts attractions & venues.

Nurture Ulster County's future cultural leaders, artists, volunteers, and audiences and foster diversity.

Support culture as an engine for a creative economy, attracting and retaining diverse residents and visitors to increase prosperity for all.

Position culture as an integral part of Ulster County's overall responsibilities.

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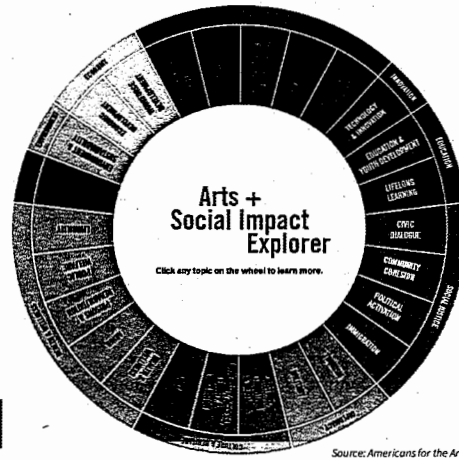
BENEFITS OF CULTURE

ARTS+SOCIAL IMPACT EXPLORER

On a practical level, cultural plans can **galvanize communities and attract new resources**, including financial support.

Arts & Culture can address needs in many sectors:

- Health: Mental and Physical
- Education
- Quality of Life
- Talent Development/Retention
- Tourism
- Economic Vitality



Source: Americans for the Arts
<https://www2.americanforthearts.org/explorer>

OVER \$1 TRILLION contributed to the US Economy annually

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IMPACTS OF ARTS & CULTURE PLANS



ROCKFORD, IL (2024)

- \$200K in additional public art funds
- \$250K annually to arts & culture from Casino Revenue funds
- Arts Council working on converting dormant Armory to cultural center with artist live/work spaces



KINGSTON, NY (2022)

- Cited as a reason CPW invested in new 40,000 square foot home, attracting over \$1.5 million in state funding
- Yielded a new municipal public art policy
- Provides road map for Arts & Cultural Affairs department



CHARLOTTE, NC (2023)

- Following the plan, Charlotte City Council approved a historic \$11 million to fund arts & culture.
- In addition, Mecklenburg County approved \$10 million for a total of \$21 million.

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CONNECTING TO OTHER INITIATIVES & PLANS

Ulster 2040: Building a People Centered Economy

Prioritizes "Makers and Creators", focusing on collaboration. Affordable spaces, and workforce development in the arts. Not an adopted plan, but a high-level vision for growth.

Industry Targeting Analysis for the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance

This report identifies arts production as a key growth industry in Ulster County, recommending support for businesses in music, performing arts, and video production.

Ulster County Housing Action Plan

The plan recommends partnering with developers, a priority for arts and culture stakeholders. It led to the Housing Smart Communities Initiative, offering municipalities support for inclusive housing, including for artists and creatives.

New York State Education Department Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures

Recommendations highlight arts education in New York State's graduation requirements, potentially increasing resources for arts education in Ulster County.

Ulster County Main Street Toolbox

This toolkit emphasizes the arts as economic drivers and provides resources for communities to promote local planning and economic revitalization

Ashokan Rail Trail Project (and other County Rail Trail Plans)

The 11.5-mile trail offers potential for public art, artists-designed wayfinding, and creative performances, adding arts and culture to its historical interpretation displays.

iPark87

Redevelopment of the former IBM Kingston site, iPark87 is planned to create 1,000 jobs and offer affordable space for creative economy training and partnerships with local institutions.

The Metro Building in Kingston

This project will provide education and hands-on training in trades and production, with a 15,000 sq-ft Fabrication Center offering access to modern and traditional technologies.

Kingston Arts and Culture Plan

The plan focuses on creative economy, connecting, diversity, and funding, with potential for collaboration between Kingston and broader Ulster County arts initiatives.

Ulster County Library Plans

Libraries in Ulster County, like Highland and Rosendale, include arts and culture in their strategic goals, offering creative programming and cultural events.

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PROCESS OVERVIEW

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OVERALL PROCESS



PHASE 1:
Needs Assessment
April - July 2024



PHASE 2:
Public Engagement, Economic
Impact Analysis, Priority Setting
June - Oct 2024



PHASE 3:
Vision, Strategy, and
Implementation
October 2024 - March 2025



FINAL PLAN

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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

The UCACP public engagement process designed captured not just the diverse perspectives and experiences of residents, artists, businesses, and community leaders across the County, but possible strategies to implement the plan. We used these suggested strategies, collected throughout the public engagement period to help inform the taskforces of the needs and priorities of the County.



Public Launch and Preliminary Stakeholders meeting to build project awareness



Town Halls throughout the county



Sector Workshops with key sectors



Interviews
With key stakeholders and community leaders



Survey focused on cultural participation and artists needs



Community Conversations with residents, arts networks, and colleagues around the county.

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ENGAGEMENT TOTALS

35 Implementation Taskforce Committee Members

576 Respondents to the survey

33 Interviews

101 Attendees to 4 Town Halls

35 Attendees to the Public Launch

1,390 total people engaged

104 Attendees to 8 Sector Workshops

101 Site Visit Conversations

61 Attendees to the preliminary stakeholder's meeting

141 Community Conversation Touchpoints

121 Participate Ulster subscriptions

21 Government staff and elected officials webinar

61 Respondents to priority review survey

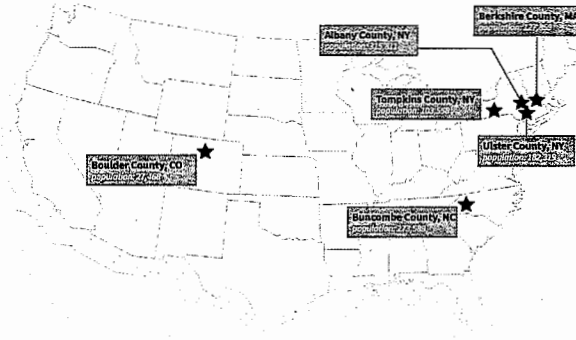
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COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES RESEARCH

Research elements included:

- Demographic data and size
- Arts and culture governance structure
- Funding mechanisms
- Culture related plans and reports
- Programs and Key initiatives related to:
 - Communication
 - Artists, Arts organization and creative businesses resources
 - Transportation
 - Workforce Development
 - Advocacy
 - Wayfinding and Branding



Population Data Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2022



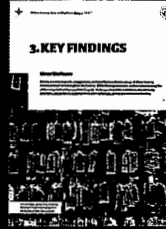
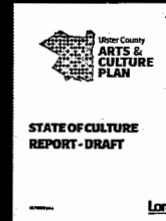
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STATE OF CULTURE IN ULSTER COUNTY REPORT

The report offers an in-depth overview of the county's cultural ecosystem, evaluating strengths, challenges, and opportunities.

Synthesizes findings from Phase 1 (Needs Assessment) and Phase 2 (Public Engagement) to inform future planning.

Presented at a virtual event on October 24, 2024, and published online via Participate Ulster as a foundational resource for strengthening the local cultural landscape.



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KEY FINDINGS



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KEY FINDINGS

STRENGTHS

Ulster County's vibrant arts and culture sector is built on a strong foundation:

- Abundant artistic talent, diverse cultural offerings, and a deeply engaged community.
- Unparalleled blend of stunning natural beauty, wealth of historical stories, rich cultural heritage, and convenient location.
- Ongoing collaboration between artists, organizations, and local leaders fosters growth and innovation.
- Arts education and workforce development programs support creative professionals and engage diverse, often underserved audiences.
- The arts play a key role in economic development and community revitalization, attracting visitors and new residents.

WEAKNESSES

Despite its strengths, Ulster County faces several challenges that hinder the arts and culture sector:

- Limited coordination, communication, and data collection make strategic planning difficult.
- Chronic funding shortages and delays in government grants create financial instability.
- Resources and support are unevenly distributed across the county.
- A lack of affordable venues and rising rents restrict artists' access to creative spaces.
- Many creatives struggle with marketing, making it hard to attract and retain diverse audiences, especially the younger demographic.
- Gaps exist in accessible arts education for youth and seniors, as well as in administrative support for organizations.
- Access to essential art supplies is limited, and the county lacks a cohesive signage and wayfinding system.
- The absence of a public art policy leads to inconsistencies in public art initiatives.



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KEY FINDINGS

OPPORTUNITIES

Several opportunities could strengthen Ulster County's arts and culture landscape:

- Establish centralized coordination, such as a master event calendar and a consolidated resource hub, to streamline efforts.
- Expand collaborations and partnerships to facilitate cross-promotion, shared resources, data collection, and digital tools.
- Enhance marketing, branding, and tourism-driven thematic programming to elevate local cultural initiatives - in particular, connecting culture and nature as key to Ulster County's identity and appeal.
- Secure additional funding through connections with culture-adjacent sectors (i.e. tourism, public works, etc.) and alternative sources like endowments, low-interest financing, and tax mechanisms.
- Strengthen workforce development, expand arts education, and increase professional development options.
- Develop and preserve more affordable spaces for arts and culture.
- Improve transportation options and activate geographic corridors and open space with arts and culture.
- Leverage the film and TV production industry to raise Ulster County's profile and stimulate economic growth.

CHALLENGES

The arts and culture sector faces broader structural and external challenges:

- The county's vast geography and limited infrastructure, including spotty cell service and internet access, hinder connectivity.
- Dispersed governance among 24 municipalities complicates decision-making and implementation.
- Bureaucratic processes and government delays slow progress.
- Gentrification, rising real estate costs, and short-term rentals contribute to housing shortages and artist displacement.
- Strict zoning, building codes, and parking regulations create obstacles for adapting spaces for arts and culture.
- Limited transportation options, including long distances and a lack of public transit, restrict access to events.
- Labor shortages and a fragmented media landscape make it difficult to sustain and promote the arts.
- There is a continued need for greater diversity, equity, and inclusion in arts programming and leadership.

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT of the creative economy and arts & culture industries in Ulster County

5.4%

Total economic output

6.5%

Total employment

4.5%

Total wages

545

cultural assets

2,037

employees

3,564

Total jobs supported

\$814 MILLION

Total Annual Economic Impact comprising \$497 million in direct impact, \$220 million in indirect impact, and \$97 million in induced impact.

- Ulster County's cultural assets directly employ 2,037 individuals, with a **total economic impact supporting 3,564 jobs annually**.
- The creative economy generates \$148 million in wages and **\$537 million in annual revenue**.
- **Out-of-town visitors contribute to an additional 2,165 jobs**, \$81 million in wages, and \$277 million in business revenue annually.

VISION & PRIORITIES

ULSTER COUNTY ARTS & CULTURE PLAN

**IMAGINE
ULSTER**

Investment
Mobilization
Advocacy
Growth
Infrastructure
Networking
Education

VISION

IMAGINE Ulster is a transformative plan to **invest** in arts & culture, **mobilize networks**, **advocate** for arts & culture policy, **grow** creative **infrastructure**, and **educate** our creative workforce for a thriving and equitable arts & culture landscape in Ulster County.

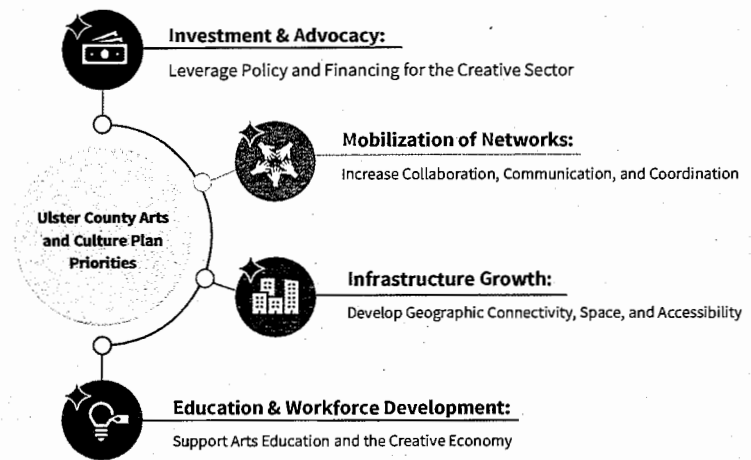
ULSTER COUNTY ARTS & CULTURE PLAN
**IMAGINE
ULSTER**



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of the Manor

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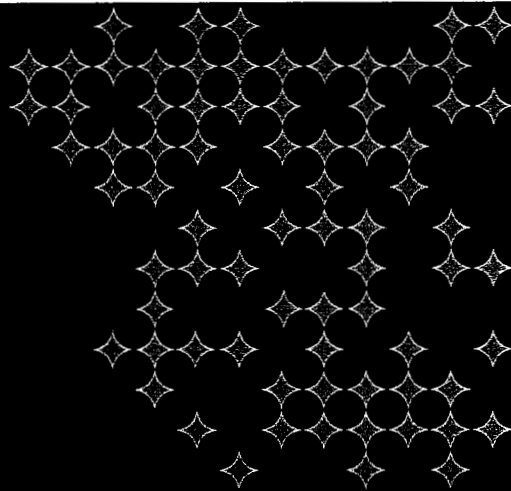
ULSTER COUNTY ARTS & CULTURE PLAN
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STRATEGIES



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PRIORITY 1: INVESTMENT & ADVOCACY

Leverage Policy and Financing for the Creative Sector

1. Develop a comprehensive financial resource strategy for the creative sector.
2. Launch a targeted advocacy and education campaign around the impact of arts and culture.
3. Establish an equity framework for arts funding and programming.
4. Explore models for creation of cultural districts and creative business zones.

DRAFT

Lord
of the Manor

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PRIORITY 2: MOBILIZATION OF NETWORKS

Increase Collaboration, Communication, and Coordination

1. Establish an Ulster County Arts and Culture Advisory Commission.
2. Create a multi-functional, central, digital platform for an Arts and Culture Hub, providing resources and facilitating communication for arts and culture businesses and nonprofits, practitioners, residents, and visitors.
3. Strengthen and expand existing partnerships and create new countywide/regional partnerships among media outlets, arts groups, individual artists, and organizations.
4. Develop and implement shared resource programs to enhance sustainability.

DRAFT



PRIORITY 3: INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH

Develop Geographic Connectivity, Creative Spaces, and Accessibility

1. Establish materials exchange programs.
2. Address cost barriers to equitable arts programming.
3. Activate underutilized properties as live/work studios and other creative spaces.
4. Enhance open spaces, parks, and trails through expanded arts and culture partnerships and increased support.
5. Develop arts and culture transportation solutions to connect communities, expand access, and foster greater participation throughout the County.

DRAFT



PRIORITY 4: EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Support Arts Education and the Creative Economy

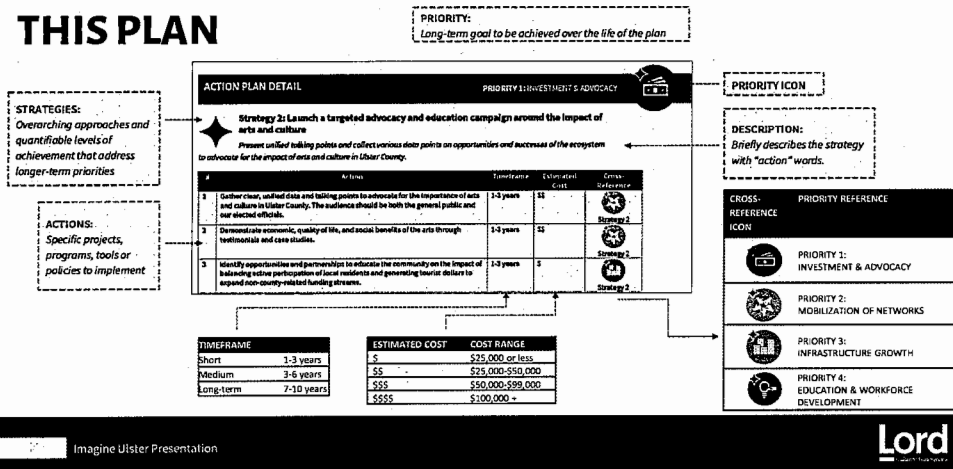
1. Integrate local arts into Ulster County schools.
2. Increase creative internships and mentorship opportunities for youth.
3. Ensure arts accessibility through transportation solutions for students and families.
4. Support arts educators and leaders through professional development and exploration of accreditation programs.

DRAFT



ACTION PLAN

HOW TO READ THIS PLAN



ACTION PLAN DETAIL

PRIORITY 1: INVESTMENT & ADVOCACY



Strategy 2: Launch a targeted advocacy and education campaign around the impact of arts and culture

Present unified talking points and collect various data points on opportunities and successes of the ecosystem to advocate for the impact of arts and culture in Ulster County.

#	Action	Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Cross-Reference
1	Gather clear, unified data and talking points to advocate for the importance of arts and culture in Ulster County. The audience should be both the general public and our elected officials.	1-3 years	\$	Strategy 2
2	Demonstrate economic, quality of life, and social benefits of the arts through testimonials and case studies.	1-3 years	\$	Strategy 2
3	Identify opportunities and partnerships to educate the community on the impact of balancing active participation of residents and generating tourist dollars to expand non-county-related funding streams.	1-3 years	\$	Strategy 2

Who needs to be involved?

- Leaders:** Tourism & Ulster County Arts and Culture, media, arts and culture hub
- Partners & Stakeholders:** Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley and Arts Mid-Hudson

Resources:

- Data Collection and Analysis:** Resources for gathering and analyzing data on the economic, social, and quality-of-life impacts of arts and culture, including expertise in data analysis and report creation.
- Communication and Marketing Expertise:** Skills and resources for developing unified talking points, creating compelling testimonials and case studies, and designing effective communication materials for various audiences.
- Partnership and Outreach Network:** Collaboration with tourism agencies, media outlets, community foundations, and arts organizations to expand the reach of the advocacy campaign and educate the community.

NEXT STEPS

PUBLIC PRESENTATION WATCH PARTIES



- Schedule: **April 22, 6-7pm**
- Locations:
 - Ulster BOCES, New Paltz
 - CPW, Kingston
 - The Local, Saugerties
 - Pine Hill Community Center, Pine Hill/Shandaken
 - Woodstock School of Art, Woodstock
 - Market Street Studio, Ellenville
- We need your help in **PROMOTING THEM!**



Making the World
a Better Place
Through Culture



THANK YOU.

Contact details:
Eve Moros Ortega, Project Lead
Email: emortega@lord.ca



Cultural News

A curated monthly review of what's happening
in culture. Sign up at www.lord.ca



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



ULSTER COUNTY ARTS & CULTURE PLAN

IMAGINE ULSTER

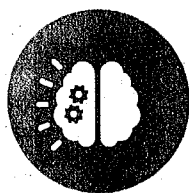
Ulster County is legendary for its natural beauty, which historically has been a magnet for artists and creatives. In the post-pandemic landscape, Ulster County's ideal location, easily accessible to New York City, has only become more attractive to cultural creators and audiences. Given extensive quantitative and qualitative data about the many benefits of arts and culture for all communities, **this plan was commissioned by the Ulster County Legislature, as the first ever arts and culture plan for the County.**

The entire process was conducted in collaboration with stakeholders throughout Ulster County, including the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), IMAGINE Ulster Planning Team (IUPT), and many others. The public was invited to engage through town hall meetings held throughout the County and to stay informed and involved via regular updates on Ulster County's Participate Ulster portal.

An overarching goal of this plan is to strengthen Ulster County's arts and culture ecosystem for the benefit of all in the County. Arts and culture are a major economic engine for the County, generating a total economic impact of \$814 million, comprising \$497 million in direct impact, \$220 in indirect impact, and \$97 million in induced impact. Arts and culture are proven to generate positive outcomes in other sectors as well such as education, health, and quality of life. Thus, the philosophy of this plan is to "plan culturally" – that is, to connect the goals of this plan to other goals in the County, as indicated in the other plans and initiatives underway in Ulster County, noted in this plan. Over a year in the making, the process of creating this plan has in itself generated great benefits, including building relationships among members of the arts and culture landscape in Ulster County, and the funding of a new government position for arts, culture, and open spaces.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

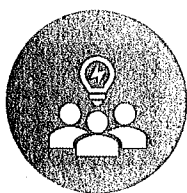
The planning process took place over a year, from April 2024 through March 2025, in three phases.



PHASE 1:

Needs Assessment

April - July 2024



PHASE 2:

Public Engagement, Economic
Impact Analysis, Priority Setting

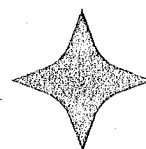
June - October 2024



PHASE 3:

Vision, Strategy, and
Implementation

October 2024 - March 2025



FINAL PLAN

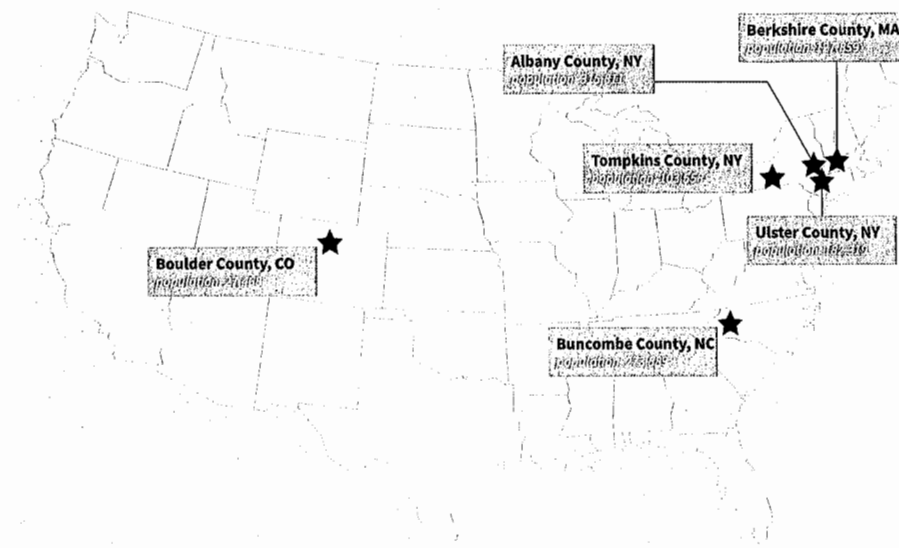
PHASE 1 – NEEDS ASSESSMENT –

involved extensive background research on existing conditions in the County including past and current plans and initiatives; a review of five comparable communities nationally, to glean insights and inspirations for Ulster County; and research and planning for public engagement.

PHASE 2 – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS, AND PRIORITY SETTING –

entailed extensive consultation with communities throughout Ulster County.

Following a public launch, there were four in-person town halls, site visits throughout the County, online sector workshops, in-depth interviews with County leaders, community conversations, and an online survey.



Public Launch and Preliminary Stakeholders Meeting



Town Halls



Sector Workshops



Interviews



Site Visits



Community Conversations



Surveys

35 Implementation Taskforce Committee Members

33 Interviews

35 Attendees to the Public Launch

101 Site Visit Conversations

141 Community Conversation Touchpoints

21 Government staff and elected officials webinar

1,390 total people engaged

576 Respondents to the survey

101 Attendees to 4 Town Halls

104 Attendees to 8 Sector Workshops

61 Attendees to the preliminary stakeholder's meeting

121 Participate Ulster subscriptions

61 Respondents to priority review survey

In all, 1,390 people contributed to this planning effort. Phase 2 also included the economic impact analysis, as well as a cultural asset inventory, and an assessment of displacement, all included in the appendices to this plan.

All of the data from Phases 1 and 2 of the planning process were analyzed and synthesized into key findings provided in the State of Culture in Ulster County report. The State of Culture report, available to all online on Participate Ulster, provides a comprehensive overview of the County's cultural ecosystem, including strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities, as well as detailed results from all the research and public engagement. Presented to the public in an online event, the report served as the basis for decision-making to create the top-level priorities for this plan.



CULTURAL ASSET INVENTORY

To assess the scale and composition of Ulster County's arts and cultural sector, a cultural asset inventory was compiled using data from ESRI Business Analyst, PAC contributions, and research by Jon Stover & Associates (JS&A). This catalog identified 545 cultural assets across the County.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Arts and culture represent a significant segment of the U.S. economy — larger than construction, transportation, and agriculture. The nonprofit arts and culture sector generates over 2.6 million jobs and \$151 billion in economic activity annually nationally.

In Ulster County, the arts and culture sector supports over 3,564 jobs and contributes more than \$814 million in total annual economic impact.

In Ulster County, arts and culture contribute an estimated

\$814 MILLION in total annual economic impact:

\$497 MILLION
in direct impact

\$220 MILLION
in indirect impact

\$97 MILLION
in induced impact

2,037
direct jobs

3,564
total supported jobs

\$148 MILLION
in wages

\$537 MILLION in annual revenue

Out-of-town visitors generate:

2,165
additional jobs

\$227 MILLION in
business revenue annually

\$81 MILLION
in wages

Arts and culture sector contributes to the County:

5.4%
total economic output

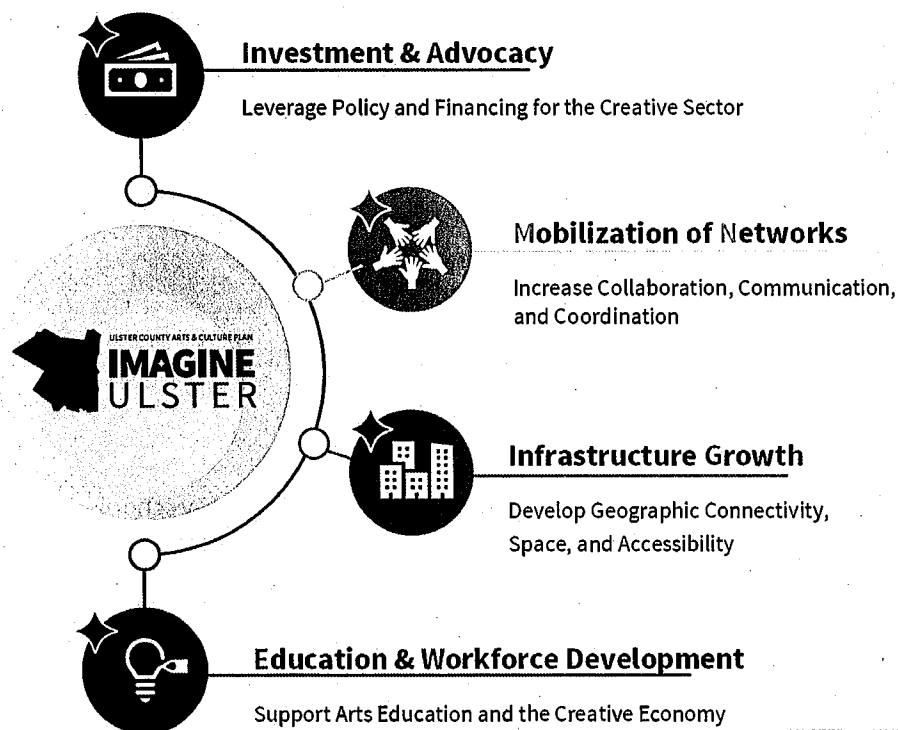
6.5%
total employment

4.5%
total wages

PHASE 3: VISION AND PRIORITIES

Following the State of Culture report and event, emerging insights from the report were refined into the plan priorities, in collaboration with the PAC, IUPT, and the public, who were invited to take a survey about the plan priorities.

The final four priorities of this plan are as follows:



These priorities were designed to be easy to remember with the name of this plan, **IMAGINE Ulster**, which are articulated in the overall vision:

IMAGINE Ulster is a transformative plan to Invest in arts and culture, Mobilize Networks, Advocate for policy, Grow creative Infrastructure, and Educate our creative workforce for a thriving and equitable arts landscape in Ulster County.

ULSTER COUNTY ARTS & CULTURE PLAN

**IMAGINE
ULSTER**

INVESTMENT
MOBILIZATION
ADVOCACY
GROWTH
INFRASTRUCTURE
NETWORKS
EDUCATION

IMPLEMENTATION

The final phase of this plan, Implementation, was led by community taskforces, who closely worked with the PAC and IUPT, to create a detailed roadmap to achieve the priorities of this plan. Each priority is accompanied by specific strategies which in turn have more detailed actions to execute the strategies, including timeframes, estimated costs, leaders, partners, and needed resources. The implementation section of this plan is meant to be a living document, designed to be flexible and respond to the evolving needs of the residents and creative communities of Ulster County. Ultimately, while this plan is the summation of an extensive planning process, it is in many ways not an end, but the beginning of a longer process of bringing these priorities to fruition, with the County collaborating with numerous stakeholders throughout Ulster County.

PRIORITY 1: INVESTMENT & ADVOCACY

Leverage Policy and Financing for the Creative Sector

Strategies:

1. Develop a comprehensive financial resource strategy for the creative sector.
2. Launch a targeted advocacy and education campaign around the impact of arts and culture.
3. Establish equitable policies and procedures for arts programming.
4. Explore models for the creation of cultural districts and creative business zones.

PRIORITY 2: MOBILIZATION OF NETWORKS

Increase Collaboration, Communication, and Coordination

Strategies:

1. Establish an Ulster County Arts and Culture Advisory Commission.
2. Create a multi-functional, central, digital platform for an arts and culture hub, providing resources and facilitating communication for arts and culture businesses and nonprofits, practitioners, residents, and visitors.
3. Strengthen and expand existing partnerships and create new countywide/regional partnerships among media outlets, arts groups, individual artists, and organizations.
4. Develop and implement shared resource programs to enhance sustainability.

PRIORITY 3: INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH

Develop Geographic Connectivity, Creative Spaces, and Accessibility

Strategies:

1. Establish materials exchange programs.
2. Address cost barriers to equitable arts programming.
3. Activate underutilized properties as live/work studios and other creative spaces.
4. Enhance open spaces, parks, and trails through expanded arts and culture partnerships and increased support.
5. Develop arts and culture transportation solutions to connect communities, expand access, and foster greater participation throughout the County.

PRIORITY 4: EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Support Arts Education and the Creative Economy

Strategies:

1. Integrate local arts into Ulster County schools.
2. Increase creative internships and mentorship opportunities for youth.
3. Ensure arts accessibility through transportation solutions for students and families.
4. Support arts educators and leaders through professional development and exploration of accreditation programs.