



## NEW YORK STATE CELEBRATES THE GROUNDBREAKING FOR [ART OMI PAVILIONS](#) IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

### *Phase 1 of \$21 Million Project Reflects \$7 Million State Investment in Arts and Culture*

The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and Empire State Development (ESD) today celebrated the Phase One groundbreaking at Art Omi Pavilions, a \$21 million project in Chatham, Columbia County. The project will create individual contemporary art pavilions and exhibition space over a hilltop site. The first two pavilions will display works from renowned artists in settings they design and further solidify New York State as an internationally recognized arts and culture hub. The project is supported by a combined \$7 million investment from the New York State Council on the Arts and Empire State Development's Market New York program.

**NYSCA Executive Director Erika Mallin said**, "By combining individually designed art pavilions with the matchless natural beauty of New York State, Art Omi is creating a contemporary art center without parallel at Art Omi Pavilions. As a supporter of Art Omi for nearly 30 years, the New York State Council on the Arts is proud to fund their ambitious and far-reaching vision to strengthen and expand our creative landscape."

**ESD President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said**, "Art Omi's Pavilions project will bring a new and unique attraction to Columbia County. Once completed, it will invite guests to experience the stand-alone exhibits from renowned artists, while supporting local small businesses to generate new regional economic growth."

This phase of Art Omi Pavilions at Chatham, a short drive from the original Art Omi in Ghent, will construct the first four buildings: The Visitor Center, Hort Family Pavilion, Alice Aycock Pavilion, and the Tadaaki Kuwayama + Rakuko Naito Pavilion along with basic site work. Subsequent phases will include 13 to 15 additional buildings to the site across 190 acres over the next 10 years. These pavilions will be part of a larger art campus with two venues for rotating exhibitions and a visitor center that will expand the education programming of Art Omi in Ghent.

**Art Omi Co-Director Natalie Diaz said**, "We are delighted to mark this milestone celebration of the commencement of construction of Phase I of the Art Omi Pavilions at Chatham. Phase I includes the first four buildings that form the beginning of the new Art Omi Pavilions campus, which will eventually include 18 Pavilions and the Visitor Center. The project is borne out of a simple idea: give great artists and great collectors a place to define the built environment in which they want to preserve their legacy. We are so thankful to the Governor, our elected officials, NYSCA, and Empire State Development

for their support of this project and their investment in further establishing New York State as a prominent global center for arts and culture."

**ESD Vice President and Executive Director of Tourism Ross D. Levi** said, "Art Omi Pavilions will provide residents and visitors alike with another unique opportunity to experience the arts in New York State. When paired with the other world-class attractions and destinations across the Hudson Valley, from historic homes to charming downtowns to farm-to-table dining, Pavilions will be an additional captivating example of how easy it is to love New York."

Last month, [Governor Kathy Hochul announced](#) that more than \$80 million in NYSCA funding is now available competitively to support non-profit arts and cultural organizations throughout the state. Building on the \$32 million in capital awards made by NYSCA earlier this year, this program includes multi-year funding to facilitate large-scale capital projects that prioritize community development and placemaking. By supporting investments in capital improvements that allow organizations to sustain and expand cultural programming for diverse audiences, promote accessibility and environmental sustainability, and preserve and create jobs, this funding is a critical driver of New York's dynamic arts and tourism sectors.

Tourism is vital to New York's economy; last year, the state welcomed a record-high 306.3 million visitors. Statewide, the economic impact of tourism reached a record-high \$137 billion, representing an 11 percent jump over 2022. Direct visitor spending was also up nearly 12 percent from \$78.6 billion in 2022 to \$88 billion in 2023 – the third straight year of double-digit growth. Additionally, state and local tax revenues generated by tourism saved the average New York State household \$1,420 in taxes.

### **About the New York State Council on the Arts**

The mission of the New York State Council on the Arts is to foster and advance the full breadth of New York State's arts, culture, and creativity for all. To support the ongoing recovery of the arts across New York State, the Council on the Arts will award \$162 million in FY2025, serving organizations and artists across all 10 state regions. The Council on the Arts further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources. Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 and continued with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, the Council is an agency that is part of the Executive Branch. For more information on NYSCA, please visit [arts.ny.gov](https://arts.ny.gov), and follow NYSCA's [Facebook](#) page, on X [@NYSCArts](#) and Instagram [@NYSCouncilontheArts](#).

### **About Empire State Development**

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, and promotes business growth, job creation, and greater economic opportunity throughout the state. With offices in each of the state's 10 regions, ESD oversees the [Regional Economic Development Councils](#), supports broadband equity through the ConnectALL office, and is growing the workforce of tomorrow through the Office of Strategic Workforce Development. The agency engages with emerging and next generation industries like clean energy and semiconductor manufacturing looking to grow in New York State, operates a network of assistance centers to help small businesses grow and

succeed, and promotes the state's world class tourism destinations through [I LOVE NY](#). For more information, please visit [esd.ny.gov](http://esd.ny.gov), and connect with ESD on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

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