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Olana's Annual Winter Solstice Celebration Returns on December 20

HUDSON, NY - The Olana Partnership and New York State Parks invite the community to join in celebrating the changing season during its annual Winter Solstice Celebration at Olana State Historic Site. Visit the site on Saturday, December 20, from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM to experience the Hudson Valley's beautiful winter landscape through free indoor and outdoor activities and events.

The Winter Solstice Celebration will include free access to the historic interiors, a bonfire, seasonal storytelling for families, a winter choir performance by Catskill High School musicians, refreshments for purchase from Citiot in Catskill, a special visit from everyone's favorite miniature donkey, Hank (back by popular demand), and much more! Special events will take place throughout the afternoon at both the Frederic Church Center for Art & Landscape and the East Lawn near the Historic House.

Nature Sarah will lead family-friendly, drop-in nature walks along Olana's historic carriage roads. She will also lead hands-on activities designed to give audiences of all ages an understanding of the science of snow and ice and a deeper appreciation for winter weather.

The Olana Partnership's educators will be facilitating winter-themed art activities throughout the day in the Wagon House Education Center. The educators will also

gather around the bonfire for a special book reading focusing on how cultures from around the world celebrate the winter solstice. This story hour will be provided in English and Spanish.

Carolyn Keough, Director of Education & Public Programs at The Olana Partnership, says, "This year's winter solstice celebration will feature fun for everyone in the family and opportunities to enjoy the beautiful winter landscape!"

The Catskill café Citiot will be on site providing seasonal refreshments like hot cocoa, coffee and delicious baked goods to get visitors in the winter spirit. Nine Pin Ciders, also based in Catskill, will be providing full and half pours of everyone's favorite Hudson Valley hard cider. Non-alcoholic sparkling cider will be available as well.

Discover the global treasures of Olana's Main House interior in your own time for free throughout this special community event. Enjoy free access to Olana's historic interiors during this self-guided opportunity. House entry will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Generous support for *Olana's Winter Solstice Celebration* is provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program. To learn more visit, OLANA.org/solstice.

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About Olana and The Olana Partnership: Olana is the greatest masterwork of Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900), the most famous American landscape artist of the mid-19th century and the most important artist's home, studio, and designed landscape in the United States. Church designed Olana as a holistic environment integrating his advanced ideas about art, architecture, landscape design, and environmental conservation. Olana's 250-acre artist-designed landscape with five miles of carriage roads and a Persian-inspired house at its summit embraces unrivaled panoramic views of the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains and welcomes more than 170,000 visitors annually. The landscape is open for guided touring, and reservations are highly recommended. The landscape is open daily 8 AM-sunset.

Olana State Historic Site, administered and operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, is a designated National Historic Landmark and one of the most visited sites in the state. The Olana Partnership is the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit cooperative partner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation at Olana State Historic Site, with primary responsibility for visitor engagement, programming, and exhibitions.

About Art Bridges Foundation: Art Bridges Foundation is the vision of philanthropist and arts patron Alice Walton. The mission of Art Bridges is to expand access to American art in all regions across the United States. Since 2017, Art Bridges has been creating and supporting programs that bring outstanding works of American art out of storage and into communities. Art Bridges partners with a growing network of over 220 museums of all sizes and locations on nearly 700 projects across the nation, impacting over 4.1 million people, to provide financial and strategic support for exhibition development, loans from the Art Bridges Collection, and programs designed to educate, inspire, and deepen engagement with local audiences. The Art Bridges Collection represents an expanding vision of American art from the 19th century to present day and encompasses multiple media and voices. For more information, visit artbridgesfoundation.org.