

TOWN OF GHENT  
GHENT, NEW YORK 12075

ZONING BOARD

BUILDING INSPECTOR

PLANNING BOARD

September 10, 2005

Peter Franck, Executive Director, Art Omi  
59 Letter S Rd.  
Ghent, N.Y. 12075

This is to confirm approval at the Ghent Planning Board's regular September 7 meeting of your special permit and site plan for the Art Omi visitor's center on County Route 22. Conditions of approval are per the details for design, siting and operation provided by Art Omi and on file at the Ghent Town Hall, including issues related to parking, lighting, hours of operation, etc. Final approval of site plan and special permit is also contingent on obtaining all other required permits and licenses.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Walters, Co-chair, Ghent Planning Board  
CC: Walt Simonsmeier, Gil Raab, Patrice Perry

74-1-24-172

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GHENT, NEW YORK 12075

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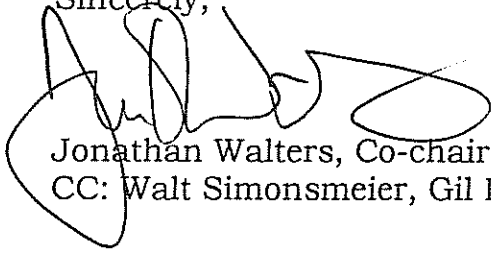
PLANNING BOARD

June 4, 2004

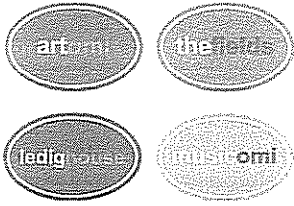
Peter Franck, Executive Director, Art Omi  
59 Letter S Rd.  
Ghent, N.Y. 12075

This is to confirm approval of your special permit and site plan for the Art Omi visitor's center on County Route 22. Conditions of approval are per the details for design, siting and operation provided by Art Omi and on file at the Ghent Town Hall, including issues related to parking, lighting, hours of operation, etc. Approval is also conditioned on a limit of fifteen outside (non-Art Omi sponsored) events at the center per year. As discussed, Art Omi will make every effort to continue to reach out to neighbors regarding any concerns or issues that might come up upon the center's opening. Final approval of site plan and special permit is also contingent on obtaining all other required state and county permits.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Walters, Co-chair, Ghent Planning Board  
CC: Walt Simonsmeier, Gil Raab, Larry Andrews



## Art Omi International Arts Center

From: Art Omi International Arts Center  
To: Town of Ghent Planning Board

RE: site plan review  
Attn: Chairman, Jonathon Walters

In response to the Town of Ghent Planning Board's request we offer the following background information on our current activities and future plans for the Visitors Center at Art Omi. However, it needs to be understood that Art Omi's programming is continuously improving and changing. As such, our specific events and uses of the Visitors Center will also change over time.

### **PROPOSAL:**

Following is an outline of the programming we have currently planned for the Visitors Center in The Fields Sculpture Park at Art Omi. Art Omi is proud to be a contributing member in the local community for the last 12 years. The Fields Sculpture Park, open year round and free to the public, along with our readings, recitals and open studio tours in the summer, continue to be a family resource year round. We are hopeful that programming for the public in the new building will further develop our relationship with the surrounding communities. We look forward to working together to build on what is a very special relationship for both Art Omi and the people of Columbia County.

### **Summary:**

The new Visitors' Center (VC) at Art Omi will be the site for certain of the events presently held in Ledig House and other locations on the Art Omi property. It will also be rented to the public on a limited basis as gallery space, performance space and for private parties, as well as additional new programming including regular art exhibitions, adult education seminars and education programs for children.

It is our intention that these events will be very well regulated with specific rules that will preclude any unnecessary disturbance of the site itself and the neighbors that surround us.

Dorothy Randall, Director of the Retreat, will be in charge of all phases of this rental exercise.



## Art Omi International Arts Center

January 21, 2003

Town of Ghent  
Garage Place  
Ghent, NY 12075

Dear Town of Ghent,

Please find enclosed 4 copies of the necessary documents for the site plan review. Below is a brief description of our proposed new Visitors' Center for The Fields Sculpture Park at the Art Omi International Arts Center.

The Art Omi International Arts Center is proposing to build a new 4200 s.f. facility to augment their public amenities for The Fields Sculpture Park.

The Fields is set up on 50 acres of farmland. Currently there are over 40 sculptures set among the open fields, forested areas and around a pond. The Fields is open to the public on a year round basis during day light hours.

The new building is located along County Route 22. It will contain restroom facilities, a small art gallery and an education room. The gallery will augment the outdoor sculpture displays. It will show drawings and maquettes for the larger scale works on display in the park. In addition, independent shows will periodically be on display. The Fields has a growing public education program, and the inclusion of an education room will give us facilities to expand our art education and awareness programs for children in the winter months.

The building will be staffed on a part time basis, mostly for the spring, summer and fall months, and perhaps mostly on weekends only. The gallery and education rooms will be locked during times when the building is unmanned, however, the vestibule and bathrooms will be open during daylight hours to allow access to restroom facilities. The design of the gallery will be such that visitors can look into the space to view the shows even when the gallery is locked.

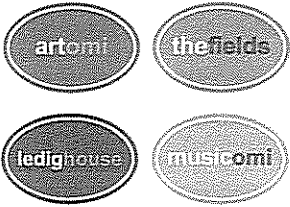
The design of the building is meant to be as inconspicuous as possible. It is set on low ground within a valley between two hills. The façade is detailed like an open cedar fence, with horizontal wood slats. It is extremely neutral and meant to not intrude upon the feeling of rural open space which The Fields values.

Currently, during the summer months, we have a small flow of traffic through the park. We never have more than 3 or 4 cars in the parking lot at any one time. Given the proposed improvement of the facilities, we can expect our visitor flow to perhaps double, which would mean that we may expect 6 or 8 cars in the lot at any given time. We have included a total of 14 parking spaces which should be adequate for normal usage.

Occasionally, we have a school bus delivering children to the education department. We have designed a safe drop off area and space for parking a bus.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Triem  
Executive Director, The Fields



## Art Omi International Arts Center

June 2, 2004

Town of Ghent Planning Board  
Ghent, NY 12075

Dear Ghent Planning Board,

The entire Art Omi community would like to thank you for your open and frank discussion in consideration of our planned visitors' center to The Fields Sculpture Park.

During the last meeting, you kindly offered us the freedom to hold up to 12 banqueting events per year for groups not directly affiliated with Art Omi programming. Although the demand for the use of our facility has not been demonstrated, and we are, of course, not in the business of running a banquet facility, it is necessary for us to have the ability to use the envisioned facility to support our programming.

To this end, we would like to offer that we hold 15 such events per year with the following understandings: that Art Omi will be completely open at all times to hear feedback from neighbors about how any problems or concerns in regard to the conduct of such events, and that we will do our best to rectify any complaints. In addition, we would like to have the open possibility of returning to the planning board in near the future to discuss the possibility of improving the logistics of these events and the possibility of increasing their frequency.

We hope this meets your approval and we look forward to continued service to the community.

Very Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Triem', written over a horizontal line.

Kathleen Triem,  
Executive Director, The Fields Sculpture Park