

## Benenson Center Expansion

### THE PROJECT



**In 2020, Art Omi plans to break ground on a building and renovation project to expand and enhance the Charles B. Benenson Center.**

The Benenson Center is the public gateway to the Sculpture & Architecture Park, and a central hub of Art Omi's programming and events.

The goals of the project are threefold:

1. Provide a fully ADA compliant space for arts education and community group use.
2. Improve gallery space and exhibition programming, as well as visitor experience.
3. Expand and improve administrative staff facilities.

Since opening the doors of the Benenson Center in 2008, Art Omi has grown into a local institution and acclaimed destination for contemporary arts. Our education programs serve over 3,000 local children per year.

**Art Omi has outgrown the beautiful space that has served us well.** Today, art classes are held on the floor of the gallery and limited to dry media. This affects the audience experience as well as curatorial choices. With a new education center, the children and adults we serve will work in a space where they can explore all kinds of materials without inhibition, while remaining close to the artworks that provide inspiration.

### BENENSON CENTER EXPANSION GOALS

#### Goal 1

### Education

Already a valuable local resource for arts education, a dedicated education center will provide a setting for school field trips, workshops for people of all ages, and outside organizations to present programs and collaborate.

#### Goal 2

### Exhibition

With expanded gallery space, Art Omi is poised to join an elite handful of leading contemporary art venues operating in the region. This contributes to the region's growing reputation as a premiere destination for arts and culture.

#### Goal 3

### Admin

Since 2008, Art Omi's administrative staff has grown significantly to accommodate the growth of our organization. A portion of the expanded building will be used for administrative offices and storage.

## Serving Our Communities



### COLLABORATION

**Art Omi is a major local asset whose resources enhance other groups.** Our park is a no-cost option for school field trips. By adding an education center, we can further our engagement with area schools, community groups and non-profit organizations. Enhanced facilities will provide opportunity for collaboration and cross-pollination in our community.

### GOOD NEIGHBORS

**Art Omi is committed to the preservation of the rural character of our property, and our surroundings.** Framing art in a rural context is at the core of our park's identity. The building's wood-clad exterior will be in keeping with the vernacular architecture of surrounding farm buildings. We are committed to being good neighbors within our rural, residential community by offering access every day all year-round, always free of charge.

### CREATIVE ECONOMY

**Art Omi is a significant resource in the Hudson Valley and Capital Region creative economy.** As a destination for both tourists and locals, Art Omi is a year-round engine of economic activity. The expansion will contribute over \$3 million through the purchase of goods and services.

### NATURAL RESOURCE

**Art Omi's grounds are host to a thriving and unique ecosystem.** A pristine example of the natural beauty characteristic of our region, our property encompasses a fragile wetland, native fauna and provides nesting environments for endangered species, such as the bobolink. We are committed to being good stewards of these responsibilities, and maintaining our lands for all to those who cherish it—both man and beast!

### SOCIAL IMPACT

**Art Omi's social impact extends throughout our region.** A year-round calendar of free events connects local audiences to contemporary art and artists from across the globe. Art Omi employs over 70 people in a range of year-round and seasonal positions. Art Omi serves teachers and students in the local school districts by integrating the arts into standard curricula.

QUESTIONS?

RUTH ADAMS

[DIRECTOR@ARTOMI.ORG](mailto:DIRECTOR@ARTOMI.ORG)

JESSICA PUGLISI

[MEDIA@ARTOMI.ORG](mailto:MEDIA@ARTOMI.ORG)