

Media Release

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Greater Oneonta Historical Society Grand Reopening & New Permanent Exhibition

On Friday, May 13, 2022, the Greater Oneonta Historical Society (GOHS) will reopen the doors to its History Center at 183 Main Street in the heart of downtown Oneonta. The reopening follows a four-month closure for renovations to the first floor, including updates to the walls, floors, and lighting.

At the grand re-opening GOHS will unveil *Small Community, Big Ideas: Greater Oneonta*, a new exhibition exploring the history of the town and city of Oneonta, New York. The exhibit will include modern, interactive, and digital features and a variety of different, formerly unseen objects from GOHS's object and archival collections.

Small Community, Big Ideas will feature five chronological modules, each shedding light on the everyday people, places, and events that have shaped the town and city of Oneonta over the past three centuries. It will tell the stories of how Natives, settlers, immigrants, and residents created a community, and how they built and rebuilt Oneonta to become a destination city—one that was adaptable and evolved with the changing geography, economy, culture, and society.

Throughout the exhibit visitors will experience floor maps, ambient sound, audio and visual content, and additional interactive components. At the close of the exhibition, visitors also will have an opportunity to contribute their own ideas of what they believe the next "big idea" for Oneonta might be. In the coming months, GOHS will continue to integrate new interactives, objects, and expanded content into the exhibit, ensuring visitors a different experience each time they visit.

In addition to the new permanent exhibition, the History Center's first floor also includes a newly designed gift shop, the Sally Mullen Children's Corner, and the Brzozowski Special Exhibition Gallery. The special exhibition space will feature three to four rotating exhibitions each year, beginning with *Remembering Oneonta in the 1960s*, to open in summer 2022.

Also featured in May will be a special display, *100 Years of Oneonta Rotary*, celebrating the centennial of the Oneonta Rotary Club, in GOHS' Buckingham Window on Main Street and SUNY Oneonta Alumni Window on Dietz Street. The exhibit will highlight the Rotary's local and international charitable work and community service, their membership and camaraderie, and the 100-year history of one of Oneonta's oldest clubs.

In our Laskaris Window on Dietz Street, the Oneonta Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will exhibit a small display commemorating their Chapter's 125th anniversary.

“We are thrilled to reopen our doors to the Oneonta community in celebration of our new first-floor space and permanent exhibition,” said Dr. Marcela Micucci, GOHS' Executive Director. “I am grateful to be part of such a collaborative team and organization, and I look forward to sharing this milestone with our local community. Our new first floor space is a testament to GOHS' mission to promote and preserve our history for Oneonta's future.”

John Pontius, President of the GOHS Board of Trustees commented, “It is with great pride that we present to the Oneonta community the new museum on the first floor of the History Center in downtown Oneonta, along with the new permanent exhibit, *Small Community, Big Ideas*. Having a vibrant museum as an integral part of our downtown is a tremendous asset for Oneonta and it will serve as an important facility to provide educational programs and celebrate the rich history of the Greater Oneonta area for many years to come.”

Join GOHS' members and friends on the evening of Friday, May 13, 2022, from 6:30-8:30pm, for a grand re-opening reception at the Oneonta History Center. The evening will include opening remarks from Executive Director Dr. Marcela Micucci and GOHS Board of Trustees President John Pontius, curator and docent-led tours of the exhibition, and live entertainment. Beer and wine will be served. Please consider registering for this free event here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oneonta-history-center-grand-reopening-celebration-tickets-330622088567>

Small Community, Big Ideas was curated by GOHS' Executive Director, Dr. Marcela Micucci, with the help of a talented team of exhibition designers, docents, and advisors. Support for the first-floor space was provided by private donors, members, and friends of GOHS. The exhibition was also made possible in part by major grants from Humanities New York, the Dewar Foundation, and The Community Foundation of Otsego County.

The History Center is open to the public Tuesday – Friday, 12pm-4 pm and Saturdays, 10 am-4pm, *by suggested donation*. Stay updated on GOHS' upcoming events and programs by visiting their website (www.oneontahistory.org), Facebook and Instagram pages, or call or email the History Center at 607-432-0960 and info@oneontahistory.org.