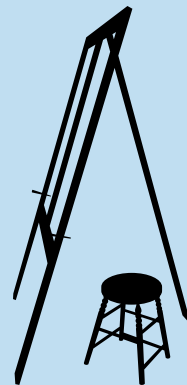


THOMAS COLE

NATIONAL
HISTORIC
SITE



2012 ANNUAL REPORT



Where American Art Was Born



Staff, volunteers and trustees at the summer fundraiser. Photograph by Rob Shannon

THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is the place where American art was born in the early 19th century, as it was the home and workplace of Thomas Cole, founder of America's first major art movement, now known as the Hudson River School. The board, staff, supporters and volunteers comprise a rapidly growing organization that embraces change and continually pursues excellence. At its core, the organization's purpose is to facilitate the connection between Cole's vision and the people and ideas of our own time. We pursue this purpose by breathing new life into the historic site where such pioneering events took place, regenerating Cole's revolutionary creativity so that it touches people's lives in the present, and providing an opportunity for the public to engage with a story that sheds light on both our personal and national identity.

VISION STATEMENT

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site will be the leading source for education and scholarship that inspires cultural and environmental awareness of the American landscape and the continuing impact of Thomas Cole and the Hudson River School.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site preserves and interprets the home and studios of Thomas Cole, the founder of the Hudson River School of painting, the nation's first art movement. Cole's profound influence on America's cultural landscape inspires us to engage broad audiences through innovative educational programs that are relevant today.

Dear Friends,

2012 was a year of looking and reaching outward: expanding our Hudson River School Art Trail to 22 sites in five counties in the Hudson Valley and into three other states, getting in touch with artists of all ages and abilities for a one-day show that brought in over 250 submissions, bringing the curator of American art all the way from the Louvre in Paris for a talk here at the Thomas Cole site, assessing our economic impact on the community, and completing a two-year study of best practices that set us on the road to museums and historic sites in fourteen states. With a firm foundation now beneath us, the organization can really spread its wings. I extend my profound thanks to my dedicated and talented staff, our committed board of trustees, and the generous members, donors and volunteers that believe in this place. I look forward to reaching new heights with you.

Elizabeth B. Jacks
Executive Director

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Guests viewing the 2012 exhibition, *Between Worlds: Landscapes of Lois Remy Mignot*. Photograph by Thatcher Keats

EDUCATION & INSPIRATION

This year, Thomas Cole finally obtained one of his fondest desires: an exhibition at the Musée du Louvre. To celebrate, our 2012 Sunday Salon speakers included the Louvre’s curator of American art, Guillaume Faroult, and the curator from the

Terra Foundation in Europe, Katherine Bourguignon. Turning to this side of the Atlantic, in the fall we presented Dr. Elizabeth Mankin Kornhauser, the Curator of American Paintings at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, who became a guiding

force in the 10-year project to revamp the museum’s American Wing. Our 2012 exhibition curated by Katherine E. Manthorne, “Between Worlds: Landscapes of Louis Rémy Mignot”, brought to light the paintings of this world traveler who died young and left behind a scarce and spectacular body of work.

In 2010, the Thomas Cole National Historic Site launched the Thomas Cole Fellows program for recent college graduates and graduate students. Now in its third year, the program received more than 30 applicants, hailing from 12 states, Canada, and the UK. The accepted Fellows commit to a five-month stay



Elizabeth Mankin Kornhauser, Curator of American Paintings at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, presenting at a Sunday Salon lecture



Thomas Cole Fellows Madeline Turner, Amara McMann and Margot Mache

at the Thomas Cole Site, June 1 to November 1, and in exchange receive an honorarium, free housing at the historic site, the resumé-building experience of working in a museum environment, as well as a full schedule of training, professional development, networking and field trips. The 2013 Fellows – Margot Mache,

Amara McMann and Madeline Turner – come to us from Boston University, the University of Manchester in the UK, and Bard College, respectively.



Visitors viewing *Postcards from the Trail* exhibition. Photograph by Thatcher Keats



Catskill Village President, Vincent Seeley, dressed as Thomas Cole at Community Day. Photograph by Thatcher Keats



Dedication of a new site on the Hudson River School Art Trail with Mark Castiglione (Acting Director, Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area), Shayne Gallo, Mayor of Kingston; Congressman Maurice Hinchey; and Elizabeth Jacks

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY

In 2012 we dramatically expanded the Hudson River School Art Trail, the series of driving and walking trails to the places that inspired Hudson River School landscape paintings. In partnership with the Hudson Valley Greenway, we announced the expansion from the

original 8 to a total of 22 sites, and the story was featured in a two-page full-color spread in *The New York Times* over the summer. At the same time, through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Trail gained a new website, www.hudsonriverschool.org, that

is optimized for hand-held devices. There are now 17 sites in the Hudson Valley encompassing six counties, with the remaining five sites in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Wyoming.

Our Second Annual Community Day drew over 400 people to Thomas Cole's home and studio, double last

year's number, many of whom had never been here before. On the walls in the Main House were 250 new landscape paintings, including 75 works by local kids, in the inaugural "Postcards from the Trail" exhibition. Each painting was the size of a postcard and depicted one of the 22 views of the Hudson River School Art Trail. We put out

a "call to artists" in June and were astounded by the number of artists who responded.

The results of our Economic Impact Study are in and the bottom line is that the Thomas Cole National Historic Site has an economic impact of more than \$1.3 million and supports 15 jobs in the local economy.

The economic impact includes local operating and capital spending by the site, spending by visitors to the site in the local area, and the local spending by businesses that service the site and its visitors. Jobs supported by us include those employed at the site, jobs supported by the spending of visitors to the site, and jobs supported at businesses that service the site.



View from the porch of Thomas Cole's home.
Photography by Peter Aaron

DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH

In the fall we completed a two-year project to research and write an “Interpretive Plan” for the site, taking us on field trips all over the U.S. to find the best ideas for our own museum. The project enabled us to fund two years of research on the original

use and appearance of the rooms of Thomas Cole’s home and the groundbreaking events that took place here. We are now applying for grant funding to take this new information and inspiration and put it into practice for all to enjoy.

The project to reconstruct Thomas Cole’s “New Studio” took another step forward this year with the selection of architect John Mesick to lead the reconstruction of the building that Cole designed and used as his workspace from 1846 until his death in 1848. The partnership of Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker Architects,

LLP, with offices in Albany, NY, and Williamsburg, VA, specializes in the discipline of historic preservation with projects such as the New York State Capitol and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello.

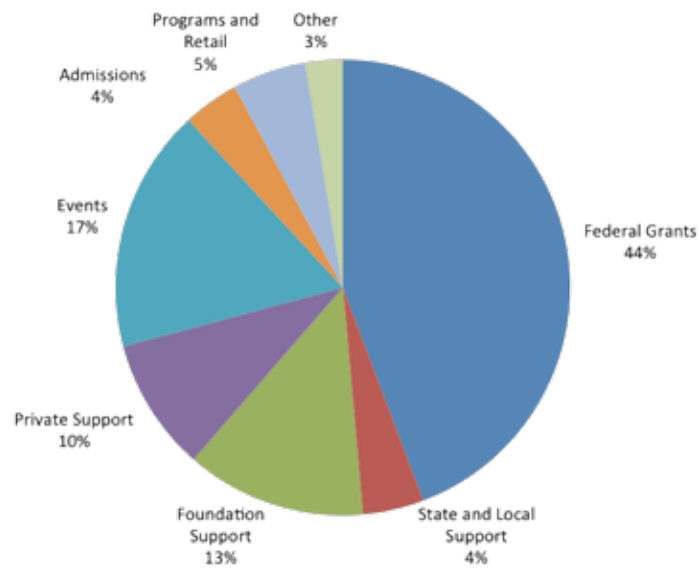
We now have a reference library consisting of over 571 publications – up from only 77 in 2009 – thanks to

the efforts of our educator, Melissa. In the last few months alone she has added over 100 books at zero cost by applying for grants and asking for donations from volunteers and others. The results of our Economic Impact Study are in and the bottom line is that the Thomas Cole National Historic Site has an economic impact of more than \$1.3 million and supports

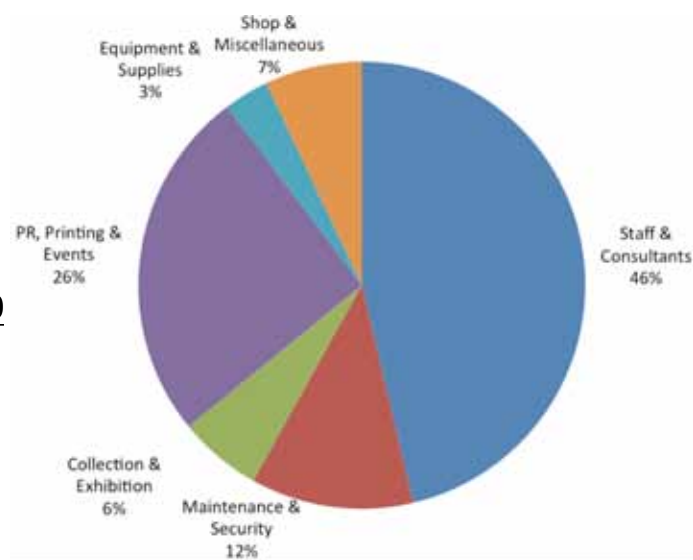
15 jobs in the local economy. The economic impact includes local operating and capital spending by the site, spending by visitors to the site in the local area, and the local spending by businesses that service the site and its visitors. Supporting the local community is a key piece of our strategic plan and we look forward to growing our economic impact even more.

2012 SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

Total Income: \$543,832



Total Expense: \$526,890



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