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

Lisa Fox Martin, Chairman
Hudson Talbott, Vice Chairman
Maynard Toll, Treasurer
Linda Gentile, Secretary

Elizabeth Jacks, Executive Director
Sheri DeJian, Executive Assistant
Kate Menconeri, Collection & Exhibition Manager
Melissa Gavilanes, Director of Education
Alice Tunison, Historic Site Interpreter
Marie Spano, Visitor Center Manager
Peter & Tone Noci, Caretakers

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

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.

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Executive Director
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 at the Thomas Cole Site, June 1 to November 1, and in exchange receive an honorarium, free housing at the historic site, the resume-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 McMan and Madeline Turner – come to us from Boston University, the University of Manchester in the UK, and Bard College, respectively.
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.
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.

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$5000 and up
Mr. Harri Abrahams and Mr. Keith Nuss
Brown Foundation
Enoch Foundation and
Marianne Lockwood
Mr. Keith Evans
Ms. Lisa Fox Martin and
Mr. David Dickinson
May Foundation
Mr. David Grey and Mrs. Laura Grey
J. L. Kaplan Fund Inc.
Mr. Richard Mason and
Mrs. Elizabeth Mason
Dr. Anne Miller and Mr. Stuart Breslow
New York State Council on the Arts
Ms. Betty Scott and Mr. Alfred Scott
Mr. Warner Shook and Mr. Frank Swinn
Mr. Maynard Toll and Ms. Di-Anne Gibson

$2500 - $4999
Mr. John C. Depietro
Mr. Guido Loyola
Mr. Stephen King
Mr. Donald Y. Ong
Mr. Louis Salerno
Ms. Barbara M. Millhouse
Mr. Jon Phillips
Ms. Barbara B. Millhouse
Mr. Jon Phillips
Ms. Barbara B. Millhouse
Mr. Jon Phillips

$200 - $249
Ms. Frances Spark
Mr. Jon Phillips
Ms. Jennifer N. Spark
Mr. Jon Phillips

Total Expense: $526,890

Total Income: $543,832

2012 SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

2012 DONORS AND MEMBERS

$5000 and up
Mr. Harri Abrahams and Mr. Keith Nuss
Brown Foundation
Enoch Foundation and
Marianne Lockwood
Mr. Keith Evans
Ms. Lisa Fox Martin and
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