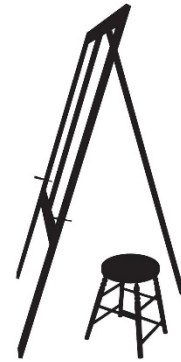


# THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Thomas Cole National Historic Site Announces New Board Leadership

Catskill, NY – January 6, 2026 – Maura O’Shea, Executive Director of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, announced today new leadership of its Board of Directors. The changes come in the wake of the death last Spring of the organization’s long-time Chairman Lisa Fox Martin. Interim changes occurred immediately thereafter. Now a permanent leadership team is in place.

At the time of Lisa Fox Martin’s death, Vice Co-Chair Warner Shook became Interim Chairman. At his request, he now resumes his previous role as Vice Co-Chair.

The new Board Chairman is Emma Davidson Tribbs. A resident of Germantown, NY, she shares a long family legacy of art and culture as well as historic preservation in the Hudson Valley. Her grandmother, Joan Davidson, a longtime resident of Germantown and New York City, served as Chairwoman of the New York State Council on the Arts, as New York State Parks Commissioner, and as President of the J.M. Kaplan Fund.

Emma Davidson Tribbs is a nonprofit leader, policy strategist, and advocate who works with mission-driven organizations to advance systemic change and build resilient, people-centered institutions. She is Co-Founder and Principal of Harrison Clark, which designs and runs high-impact policy campaigns, and Founding Director of the National Women’s Defense League, which is dedicated to preventing sexual harassment and protecting survivors. She believes that strategic policy, inclusive leadership, and community-driven advocacy are essential to strengthening the cultural and civic organizations that shape public life.



“Arts and culture and historic preservation are ingrained in my being,” said Emma Davidson Tribbs. “How we celebrate the great historic homes of the Hudson Valley is vital to me. I first experienced the Thomas Cole National Historic Site as an historic home and national landmark, and then was further impressed by its role as a catalyst of arts and culture. I am deeply passionate about stewarding this national treasure and community

anchor, as the Thomas Cole National Historic Site is intrinsic to the extraordinary character of both this region and the nation.”

“Emma Davidson Tribbs is the perfect new Board Chair for the Thomas Cole Site,” said Warner Shook. “Her vision, enthusiasm, and love for the organization are infectious. She is a galvanizing, whip-smart, new leader who will take the Thomas Cole Site to even greater heights.”

Joining Warner Shook as Vice Co-Chair is Evelyn Trebilcock. A resident of South Westerlo, NY, she is an art historian who served for 16 years as Curator of Olana, the home of Thomas Cole’s student, the artist Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900). She has organized exhibitions, lectured and published essays and articles on Frederic E. Church, the art of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and the furnishing of historic house museums. Her publications include *Glories of the Hudson: Frederic Church’s Views from Olana* (2009), *Frederic Church Sketching in Maine* (2013), *The Ideal Home for A Landscape Painter* (2013), and *Lockwood de Forest and Frederic Church at Olana* (2014). She currently teaches at SUNY Ulster Community College and has taught art history at SUNY Columbia-Greene Community College and SUNY Cobleskill. She believes that learning about past cultures through the history of art brings an understanding of our similarities across time and geography.

“It’s exciting for me now to be in the Board leadership of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site,” said Evelyn Trebilcock. “Thomas Cole is unique in his influence on the visual identity of our nation, and I look forward to illuminating his role, especially as America celebrates in 2026 its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.”

The other new officer of the Board of Directors is its Secretary, Catherine Lockyer Moulton, who succeeds Emma Davidson Tribbs in that role. A resident of Broomall, PA, she has nearly 30 years’ experience in property management, having been a longtime executive and former President of Thomas Wynne LP.

Rounding out the officers of the Board of Directors is Tom de Swardt, who continues as Treasurer.

The Thomas Cole Site will celebrate the nation’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary – and Cole’s crucial role in giving the nation a visual identity – by presenting in 2026 a series of exhibitions and other programming titled “Thomas Cole: Painting the Nature of America.” Cole’s portrayal of the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley and the Catskill Mountains continues to inspire and engage generations today.

“The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is thrilled to have this exciting Board leadership team now in place – with Emma, Evelyn, and Cathy joining Warner and Tom,” said Maura O’Shea, Executive Director of the Thomas Cole Site. “We are enormously grateful to Warner Shook for serving as Interim Chairman this past year, and we look forward to all that the Thomas Cole Site can achieve in the years ahead with this extraordinary team of leaders.”

### **Thomas Cole National Historic Site**

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site showcases the life and work of Thomas Cole (1801-1848), whose American landscape painting defines an enduring visual identity for the nation. Inspired by the natural beauty that surrounds the site, Cole founded the influential Hudson River School art movement. The site's six-acre campus in Catskill, NY, includes Cole's home and two studio buildings; the Cole Center, a new visitor center designed by Architectural Digest 100 Stephen Shadley; gardens and grounds with panoramic views of the Catskill Mountains; and a scenic walkway over the Hudson River connecting the site with Olana, the historic home of artist and Cole student Frederic Church. The Thomas Cole Site hosts exhibitions as well as art-making activities and innovative school and public programs. Visitors experience first-hand the themes that Cole explored, from the power of art to landscape preservation to the restorative properties of nature. The Thomas Cole Site is a National Historic Landmark and an affiliated area of the National Park System, and it operates as an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization.

### **Visitor Information**

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site is open year-round and hours vary by season. For details see: [www.thomascole.org/visit](http://www.thomascole.org/visit). The grounds are open every day for free from dawn to dusk. Keep in touch on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube at [@thomascolesite](https://www.instagram.com/thomascolesite).