



For Immediate Release: December 13, 2016
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For Immediate Release: Thomas Cole Site Receives State Grants Totaling \$582,650

Catskill, NY – We are pleased to announce that the Thomas Cole National Historic Site was awarded two New York State grants through the Regional Economic Development Council totaling \$582,650, furthering the transformation of the site into a national tourism destination and economic driver for the region.

The first grant of \$165,000 was awarded for a marketing campaign to promote the Parlors Project, opening in May 2017, which integrates meticulous historic restoration with interactive audiovisual technology to bring to life the home of Thomas Cole and engage broad new audiences.

The second grant of \$417,650 was awarded to support a fire suppression system that will protect the parlors and the entire Main House.

The Parlors Project includes restoring the newly discovered, hand-painted, interior decorations by Cole in the two parlors of the Main House. They are the earliest known example of interior decoration by an American artist.

In addition to these two grants, Greene County received an REDC award of \$875,000 that will benefit the Cole Site as well. That award will support Phase 2 of the Hudson River Skywalk, the spectacular pedestrian walkway to be renovated on the south side of the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. The Skywalk will connect the Cole Site, the home of Thomas Cole, with Olana, the home of Cole's student, Frederic Church, offering visitors a pathway between the two historic sites. This Phase will construct pedestrian safety improvements and look-out points on the bridge as well as the pedestrian connection from the west side of the Skywalk to the Thomas Cole Site, which has been involved in the leadership of the Skywalk from the outset of its planning.

For the full pdf from the Regional Economic Development Council [click here](#).



About the Thomas Cole National Historic Site

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 major art movement. Located on 6 acres in the Hudson Valley, the site includes the 1815 Main House, 1839 Old Studio, the newly reconstructed 1846 New Studio, and several other buildings. It is a National Historic Landmark and an affiliated area of the National Park System. Following a restoration of the Main House, the Cole Site opened to the public in 2001. The site's activities include guided tours, exhibitions, printed publications, extensive online programs, activities for school groups, free community events, lectures, and innovative public programs such as the Hudson River School Art Trail—a map and website that enables visitors to see the nearby views that Cole painted. Each year, the Cole Site organizes a loan exhibition of Hudson River School paintings, providing a first-hand experience with the art movement that Cole founded. The goal of all programs at the Cole Site is to enable visitors to find meaning and inspiration in Thomas Cole's life and work. The themes that Cole explored in his art and writings—such as landscape preservation and our conception of nature as a restorative power—are both historic and timely, providing the opportunity to connect to audiences with insights that are highly relevant to their own lives.

Visit

Thomas Cole's home, studios, special exhibitions, and grounds are open May – October, Tuesday – Sunday 9:30 to 5pm. For details visit: www.thomascole.org.