

# ARTS, CULTURE, AND TOURISM GRANT APPLICATION



## HOW TO SUBMIT HARDCOPY APPLICATION:

Complete & Submit Physical Hardcopies To:

Office of the Albany County Executive  
112 State Street  
Albany, NY 12207

*Only fully completed and signed applications will be considered for funding*

## ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Tom Vouzakis  
Vice President  
Capital Markets Advisors, LLC  
Email: [tvouzakis@capmark.org](mailto:tvouzakis@capmark.org)

## APPLICATION DETAILS:

The County of Albany is dedicating \$750,000 of ARPA funding to promote the recovery of the arts, culture, and tourism sectors in the County that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

As detailed below, two (2) types of applications will be accepted. Applicants may apply for both programs but will only be awarded one grant:

- 1. Arts, Culture, and Tourism Promotion Grants.** Applicants may submit requests in an amount up to \$100,000 for the expansion of existing initiatives, development of new initiatives, or other improvements that will result in additional visitors to Albany County. Promotion grants should have a specific work plan focused on developing tourism amenities; enhancing visitor experience; increasing recreation, art, culture, and heritage opportunities for visitors; and/or initiatives promoting Albany County as a destination. Promotion grants are open to all organizations. Award recipients will be considered subrecipients of County ARPA funds and will be subject to subrecipient reporting requirements.
- 2. Arts, Culture, and Tourism Recovery Grants.** Applicants may submit requests in an amount up to \$50,000. Recovery funding is available for non-profit organizations that were in operation prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and can demonstrate that they experienced a negative economic impact as a result of required closures and other efforts to contain the pandemic. These funds do not require a specific proposal or work plan. Awardees will be considered beneficiaries of ARPA funding and will be required to submit periodic compliance information but will not be subject to subrecipient compliance requirements.



## APPLICATION DETAILS, ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS:

**Competitive Process:** Funds will be awarded only after the completion, submission, and review of a complete application. Incomplete or deficient applications will be disqualified for consideration by the County. Completion of an application is not a guarantee of an award. Applications will be reviewed, and investments will be made at the discretion of the County.

**Award Structure:** Recovery awards will be provided as one-time grants. Promotion awards will be provided in the form of reimbursement-based grants. Upfront funding in an amount up to 1/3 of a total award may be provided if a need is demonstrated.

**Decision Process.** Each proposed project and applicant will be subject to the County's standard ARPA decision making process in order to ensure ARPA eligibility, ability of applicants to meet the reporting and compliance requirements as set forth by the US Treasury, and to determine the best and most strategic use of funds.

**Application Deadline:** Applications will be accepted until 5pm on Friday June 30, 2023.

**Award Notification:** Applicants will be notified of application status in August of 2023. Once approved, successful applicants will be required to complete intake forms and enter into a contract with the County.

**Application Assistance:** The County of Albany will be hosting information sessions during the application open period to assist grant applicants. For more information visit [www.AlbanyCountyARPA.org](http://www.AlbanyCountyARPA.org).

**Federal Eligibility:** County awards must be expended in compliance with applicable Local, State and Federal law. The use of funds must address impacts associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic. For additional information, see Federal regulations below:

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/stat%20e-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

**Eligible Organizations:** To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be located in Albany County. Aid may only be provided to support organizations that were operating prior to the pandemic and affected by required closures and other efforts to contain the pandemic. Recovery grants are available for non-profit organizations only. Promotion grants are available for all organizations

**Award Restrictions:** Awarded funds may not be used to pay taxes, fees, or any other payments due to the County of Albany. In addition, organization or entities shall not be permitted to use funds for expenses that already have been or will be covered by any other local, state, or federal assistance program.

**Award Term:** All funds must be expended by December 31, 2026

**Protection of Personal Information.** The County utilizes appropriate data collection, storage and processing practices and security measures to reasonably mitigate risks and protect against unauthorized access, alteration, disclosure or destruction of any personal information provided as a part of this application.



## APPLICATION DETAILS, ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS:

### Award Amounts:

- Arts, Culture, and Tourism (ACT) Promotion Grants: Up to \$100,000
- Arts, Culture, and Tourism (ACT) Recovery Grants: Up to \$50,000

### Grading criteria:

Promotion Grant Applications will be graded on the following criteria:

- Applicant capability and experience
- Outside funding/financial sustainability
- Project Readiness/ability to meet timeline
- Project impact (i.e. new visits generated)

Recovery Grant Applications will be graded on the following criteria:

- Applicant Need/Request proportional to demonstrated negative economic impact
- Actions taken to adapt to COVID-19/ demonstration of sustainable operations
- Applicant capability
- County Impact (i.e. visits generated)





## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Date of application: 6.30.2023

Entity name: Historic Altamont Inc.

Entity TIN, EIN or social security number: 83-1921588

### Entity physical address

Address Line 1: 181 Brandle Road

Address Line 2:

City / State / Zip: Altamont, NY 12009

### Entity mailing address (if different)

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

City / State / Zip:

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

### Primary contact information:

Name: Thomas Capuano

Title: President

Phone: 518 867-2340

Email: thomascapuano@sbcglobal.net

Preferred method of contact:

Website (if available)



## ENTITY INFORMATION AND STRUCTURE:

**Entity structure (select best option):**

Individual	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sole Proprietor	<input type="checkbox"/>
LLC	<input type="checkbox"/>
Franchise	<input type="checkbox"/>
Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>

Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Profit *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Local Government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

If "Other," specify here:

**\* If you selected "Non-Profit" above, you must attach proof of tax-exempt status**

**Date of establishment:** 2018

**If a business, what is the primary function (select best option):**

N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child Care, Education, Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construction, Engineering, Design Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution, Logistics, Warehousing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health, Medical Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hotel & Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information Technology, Broadcasting, Publishing	<input type="checkbox"/>

Manufacturing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Services (Barber, Nail Salon, Fitness, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repair & Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restaurant, Food Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Retail	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

If "Other" specify here:

**If applicable, is the entity a W/MBE (Minority or Women-Owned Business Entity):**

Yes*	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>

**\* If you selected "Yes" above, please attach proof of certification**

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY, NY



Have you or the entity ever received any form of covid-19 relief funds or loans specific to the negative impacts of the pandemic?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>



If "Yes" specify type(s) and amount(s) here:

## PROJECT INFORMATION - ALL APPLICANTS:

Describe the arts/cultural/tourism activities the entity provides in Albany County:

see attached Answer 1

If an award is made, describe how Albany County will benefit. Where possible, please quantify impact:

see attached Answer 2

Please select the grant opportunity you wish to apply to:

Arts, Culture, and Tourism (ACT) Recover Grants (Up to \$50,000)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts, Culture, and Tourism (ACT) Promotion Grants: Up to \$100,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I wish to apply to both*	<input type="checkbox"/>

**\* Please note, although you may apply for consideration of both opportunities, no more than 1 award shall be made**



Describe the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic increased or decreased demand for your services. As an option, you may attach to this application any optional information that supports the service increase or decrease being described below:

see attached Answer 3

Describe the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic led to a revenue loss. Please attach to this application financial information that documents actual revenue and actual expenditures from the year prior to March 2020. Also include actual revenue and actual expenditures during the period of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (March 2020 – May 2023) for which you are requesting funds:

see attached Answer 4

**PROJECT INFORMATION – ONLY COMPLETE THIS SECTION  
IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A RECOVERY GRANT:**

*Applicants may submit requests in an amount up to \$50,000. Recovery funding is available for non-profit organizations that were in operation prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and can demonstrate that they experienced a negative economic impact as a result of required closures and other efforts to contain the pandemic. These funds do not require a specific proposal or work plan.*

**What amount of funding is being requested (up to \$50,000)?**





**Provide the total amount of lost revenue/additional expenses attributable to the COVID-19 Pandemic:**

**Sustainable Operating Model: Describe how your organization adapted its operations to respond to (a) the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic and (b) any long-term trends brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic:**

**Describe how requested funds will help your organization recover from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic:**

**Does the organization possess a financial management system that provides records that can identify the sources and application of ARPA funds if an award is made? Please explain below:**



**PROJECT INFORMATION – ONLY COMPLETE THIS SECTION**  
**IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A PROMOTION GRANT:**

*Applicants may submit requests in an amount up to \$100,000. Promotion Grants are available for expansion of existing initiatives, development of new initiatives, or other improvements including, but not limited, to developing tourism amenities; enhancing visitor experience, increasing recreation, art, culture, and heritage opportunities for visitors, and/or initiatives promoting Albany County as a destination. Please describe your proposed project in detail.*

**Please select whether the proposed project is new or existing:**

Expands an existing initiative or project

☐

Creates a new initiative or project

☒

**Please provide a short summary of your proposed project including a project name, general description, total cost, reason(s) why you are pursuing the project and anticipated impact:**

see attached Answer 5

**What Amount of Funding is Being Requested (Up to \$100,000)?**

see attached Answer 6

**Please describe your organization's capabilities to implement the project you propose including organizational structure, staff members involved, a summary of similar initiatives you have undertaken and the date they were completed:**

see attached Answer 7



Please describe, in detail, the impact your proposed project will have on Arts, Culture and/or Tourism in Albany County. Describe how your project will attract new visitors to Albany County. Where possible use metrics/estimates of impact (i.e. increased visitation etc.):

see attached Answer 8

How Will You Track Performance Goals And Define Success? Include at least two Key Performance Indicators and expected annual outcomes/impact during the reporting period (September 2023 - December 2026):

see attached Answer 9

What is the proposed project start date?

September 2023

What is the anticipated completion date?

July 2024

Please Provide Key Project Milestones Inclusive Of The Anticipated Timelines And Descriptions

<i>Milestone</i>	<i>Anticipated Timeline</i>	<i>Task Description</i>
ARPA Grant award	9/23	
Record access rights to lands already negotiated	10/23	
Design of Trailhead Pavilion & Plaza	12/23	
RFP Pavilion Construction	1/24	
RFP Trails Design	11/23	
Pavilion & Trails Design completed	7/24	

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY, NY



REVENUE		Proposed ARPA Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds (ARPA + Other)
1	ARPA FUNDS	100,000		
2	Other Grants - Federal		50,000	
3	Other Grants - State		150,000	
4	Other Grants - Local Government			
5	Other Grants - Private		20,000	
6	Self-Contributions			
7	Fundraising Events		15,000	
8	Other Forms of Revenue ( <i>Specify Below</i> )			
Total Anticipated Revenue				335,000
EXPENDITURES		Proposed ARPA Uses	Other Uses	Total Uses (ARPA + Other)
1	Personnel (Salary and Wages)			
2	Fringe Benefits			
3	Travel			
4	Equipment			
5	Supplies			
6	Contractual Services and Subawards			
7	Consultant (Professional Service)	25,000		
8	Construction	60,000		
9	Occupancy (Rent and Utilities)			
10	Research and Development (R&D)			
11	Telecommunications			
12	Training and Education			
13	Direct Administrative Costs <small>legal</small>			
14	Miscellaneous Costs – Advertising and public relations costs			
16	Miscellaneous Costs – Materials and supplies costs			
17	Other Costs Not Listed Above ( <i>Specify Below</i> )		235,000	
Total Anticipated Expenditures				
TOTAL REVENUE LESS EXPENDITURES				

If you are funding a multi-year initiative, please provide a breakdown of funding level per year below:

Year	Funding Amount (1)
2023	100,000
2024	
2025	
2026	

(1) Should add up to your funding request



Use this space to provide a narrative supporting and clarify anything from the proposed project budget above. In addition, if "other funds" or "other uses" are included above, please specify the source(s) below:

see attached Answer 10

Is any upfront funding needed to successfully implement your proposed project?

If "Yes" explain how much and why here:

Historic Altamont's cash flow situation is very modest

←	Yes
No	

Describe how the funding will support a sustainable Arts/Culture/Tourism initiative that will continue to serve Albany County residents after ARPA funds have been exhausted:

see attached Answer 11

Explain why ARPA funds are needed to complete the proposed program/project. Would the proposal be possible without ARPA assistance? Describe how your proposal would be impacted if you are awarded a smaller grant than requested?

see attached Answer 12



## RISK ASSESSMENT:

**Has the organization adopted and/or implemented policies relating to: records retention, conflict of interest, code of ethics, and/or nondiscrimination policies?**

If "Yes" please specify here:

conflict of interest and disclosure policies adopted and in place

← Yes	x
No	

**Is the organization properly insured?**

If "Yes" please specify types or insurance(s) and limits here:

Previous Not for Profit policy from Mount Vernon Fire Insurance expired 11/26/22

← Yes	
No	x

**Does the organization have a financial management system?**

If "Yes" please specify here:

← Yes	
No	

**Has there been any change in your organization's key staffing positions in the last 2 years?**

If "Yes" please specify here:

elected Treasurer utilizes Quickbooks Program

← Yes	x
No	

**Has the organization previously done work for the Federal government (i.e. Is the entity experienced in managing federal funds)?**

If "Yes" please specify here:

← Yes	
No	x



## CERTIFICATIONS:

### Future ARPA Reporting & Compliance Acknowledgments

(All boxes must be initialed for consideration by the County of Albany, New York)

x	I have read and understand the U.S. Treasury's compliance and reporting guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ( <b>see link below</b> )
x	Should the County allocate ARPA funds, I am able to and pledge to adhere to all compliance and reporting requirements of the U.S. Treasury as it relates to any State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
x	I understand the County will contact me if/when additional information is needed and that information will be promptly provided to the county to support reporting requirements
x	If for any reason I am unable to comply with the U.S. Treasury's compliance and reporting requirements I will immediately notify the County in writing by email or letter
x	All information submitted in this application is true & accurate

### LINK TO THE U.S. TREASURY'S COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING GUIDANCE FOR STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS:

[HTTPS://HOME.TREASURY.GOV/SYSTEM/FILES/136/SLFRF-COMPLIANCE-AND-REPORTING-GUIDANCE.PDF](https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-COMPLIANCE-AND-REPORTING-GUIDANCE.PDF)

The County is careful about identifying and avoiding conflicts of interest, especially with grants awarded through the County. A conflict of interest arises when a person's self-interest and professional interest or public interest intersect. In this situation, there is the potential for biased professional judgment and lack of objectivity which creates a serious conflict when one of the interests can benefit financially or personally from actions or decisions made in the official capacity. A conflict of interest exists whether or not decisions are affected by a personal interest; there only needs to be the possibility of bias for a conflict. If your organization knows of a possible conflict of interest with your application for funds please disclose that information here. Otherwise write "None."

County Legislator Jeff Perlee is a dues paying member of Historic Altamont Inc. and has participated in the Greenway Initiative. He will recuse himself from any votes on the matter.

If Available, Please Provide Your Unique Entity Identifier (From SAM.gov)

AMERICAN  
RESCUE PLAN ACT  
ALBANY COUNTY, NY



SIGNATURE:

Signature Agreement

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Capuano", is written over a horizontal line.

Print Name:

Thomas Capuano

Date:

6.29.2023

*The Applicant covenants to save, defend, hold harmless and indemnify the County of Albany, and all of its officers, departments, agencies, agents and employees (Collectively the "County") from and against any and all claims, losses, damages, injuries, fines, penalties, costs (including court costs and attorney's fees), charges, liability or exposure, however caused, resulting from, arising out of, or in any way connected with this application. The Applicant provides a waiver of confidential information provided to the County and authorizes the internal use of this information for the award analysis. The Applicant acknowledges that the County will keep all proprietary information voluntarily provided by the Applicant confidential to the extent permitted by the New York Freedom of Information Act and other applicable laws and regulations pertaining to the disclosure of records in its possession, and acknowledges that all grant award decisions are final and are not subject to appeal. I certify that I have read and understand and am authorized to complete and submit this application on behalf of the Applicant. I verify that the statements contained herein are true, accurate and complete. I acknowledge that false and inaccurate statements made on the application are grounds for immediate rejection of the application.*





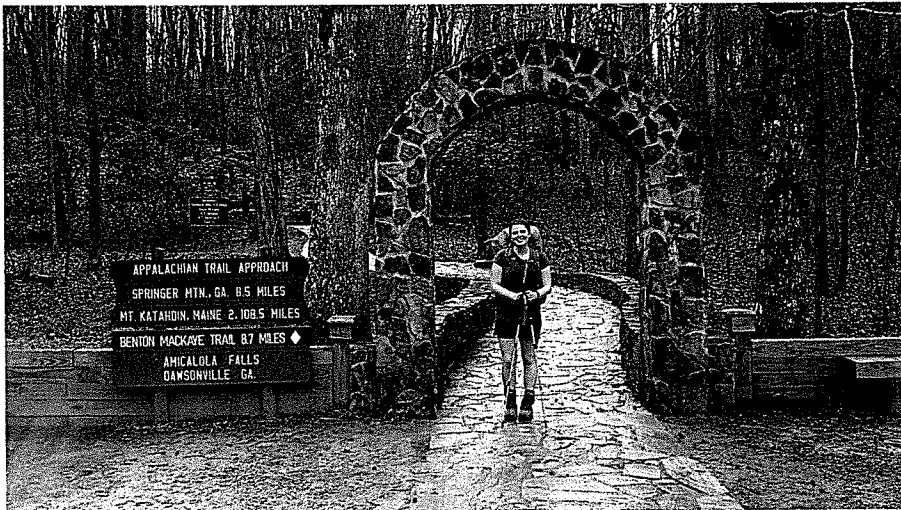
## ATTACHMENTS:

### **Please Attach:**

1. Federal Tax Returns for Tax Years 2019 through 2021
2. Federal Tax Returns for Tax Year 2022 (If Available)
3. IRS Form W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number & Certification





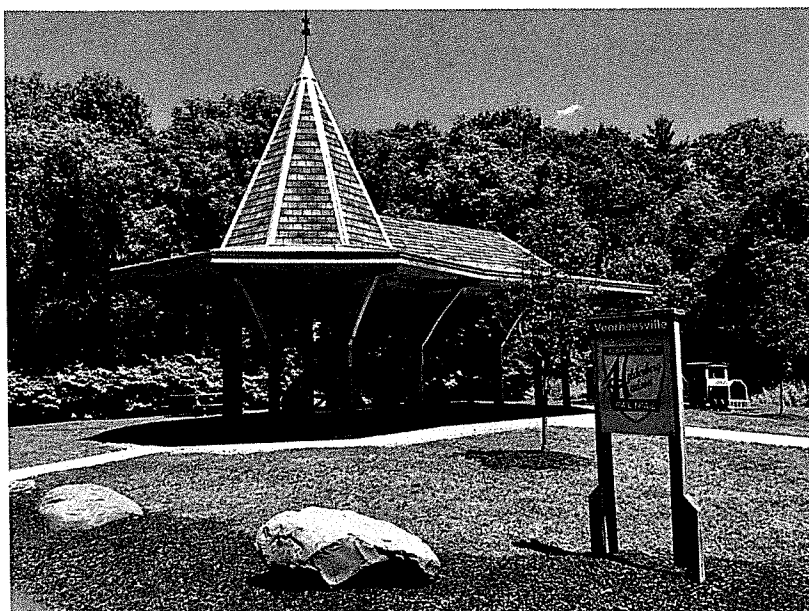


Georgia

Trailhead  
 Examples :

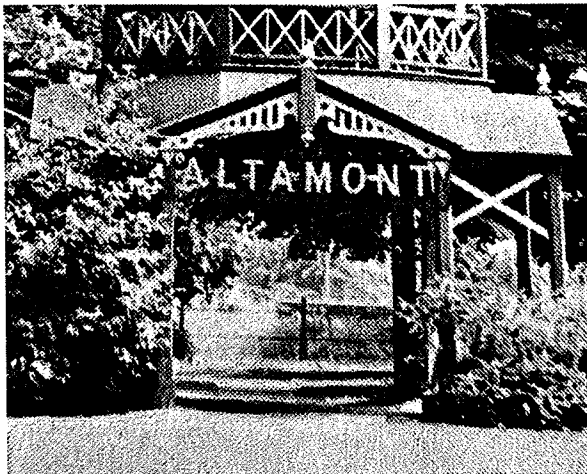
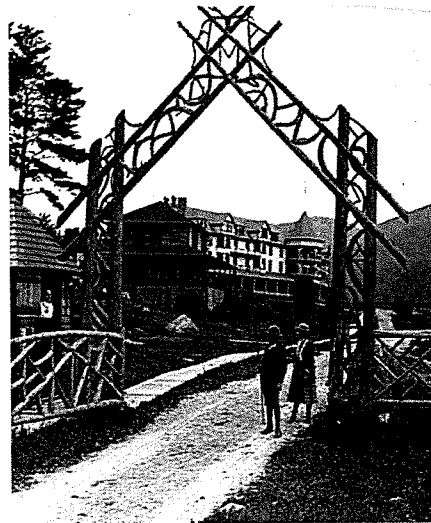


Calif.



Voorheesville

**Historic Structures from Altamont/Helderberg  
As Potential Design Guides for Proposed Trailhead Pavillion**



## **Answer 1**

*Describe the arts/cultural/tourism activities the entity provides in Albany County:*

Historic Altamont Inc. was incorporated in 2018 with a mission to promote the unique historical, cultural and natural heritage of Altamont and the surrounding Indian Ladder/Helderberg area. Altamont and its environs offer unique scenic, cultural and recreational opportunities enjoyed by residents from across Albany County and the Capital District. These include substantial open-space resources.

Pre-covid our focus was on preservation of the area's historic resources, including the historic Dr. Crounse property at the village entrance which now serves as the end point of the highly popular Museum in the Streets program. We partner with local governments and other not-for-profits in hosting programs and events, including the annual Founders Day festivities and similar activities designed to boost awareness of our history and increase local tourism.

While Historic Altamont Inc initially focused on the area's historic built environment, COVID-related shifts in usage helped us realize that open-space and recreational resources can and should work in tandem with our many historical and cultural resources. In this spirit of synergy, we have created the Helderberg Greenway initiative, a component of which is the focus of this grant application.

The Greenway will encompass nearly six miles of continuous public access green space directly linking the iconic Indian Ladder region of the Helderberg Escarpment in the Town of New Scotland to the Nature Preserves in the Bozenkill Gorge in the Town of Knox.

This grant application seeks funding for the design of a new Greenway-centered public use trail network emanating from the commercial core of the Village of Altamont and designed to attract local and regional outdoor enthusiasts.

The application also seeks corollary funding for the design and construction of an architecturally distinctive Trailhub Pavilion and Plaza to be constructed on donated land adjacent to the Village Park, Post Office and historic Library.

This Trailhub Pavilion will facilitate the extension of the iconic Long Path Hiking Trail from its southern terminus in Manhattan to a new northern terminus in the commercial core of Altamont, delivering direct economic benefits to the community as well as the opportunity to turbo charge the area's positioning as an eco/agri/heritage tourism destination.

## **Answer 2**

*If an award is made, describe how Albany County will benefit. Where possible, please quantify impact:*

It is clear that the Helderberg Escarpment area- centered on the Village of Altamont- has all the pre-requisites for success with day trippers and today's more active, affluent eco/agri tourists:

The area centered on Altamont features a concentration of historic sites, indigenous settlements, Revolutionary era conflicts and opulent Victorian-era architecture that appeal to those interested in *heritage tourism*.

In addition, this corner of Albany County is blessed with unique physical beauty, natural features (cliffs, caves, lakes etc.) State Parks and active recreation options that are a pre-requisite for attracting consumers primarily interested in *eco-tourism*.

The Altamont area also holds great appeal and potential for tourists and day trippers interested in the growing field of *agri-tourism*. For over a century visitors have been drawn to the Albany/Schenectady/Greene County Agricultural and Historical Society annual agricultural fair in Altamont as well as the many festivals and events held each year at the historic Fairgrounds in the center of the Village.

The area immediately surrounding Altamont is the traditional heart of the region's apple and fruit orchard economy. Here the connection to the land and its products is authentic and remains active and viable. Indeed, several of the area's iconic orchards, farms and vineyards have been converted to serve modern consumers with the type of "farm to table" and tasting options that make agri-tourism such a growing segment of the market. This concentration of agri-tourism sites in and around Altamont will serve as one of the primary bases and destinations for the County's new tourism focused Beverage Trail.

The area is also where county resident head when they want to "get outside". Hikers, climbers, cross country skiers, cavers and hang gliders all recognize the Helderberg Escarpment as one of the premier, and developing, outdoor recreation areas on the East Coast.

All of these existing assets sustained this area during the Pandemic- when indoor activities were prohibited - and today, post-pandemic they provide a strong foundation upon which to build a more robust, sustainable tourism based economy for this part of Albany County.

One specific initiative provides the opportunity to "put the meat on the bones" so to speak:

An extension of the iconic Long Path hiking Trail, from Manhattan into the commercial core of the Village of Altamont and the development of a new, complementary public access trail network - centered with commercial Altamont as its hub - is the type of concentrated "one stop shopping" favored by the growing community of recreational hikers, walkers and bikers. Serving a core tourism constituency of hikers and walkers will also position Altamont as a focalized "hub" linking visitors to the eco-tourism, agritourism and heritage tourism options that abound this corner of the County, but which presently have no centralized, connective place or program for information and promotion.

We have dubbed this initiative the Greenway Trailhub.

Success with the Greenway Trailhub will result in an increase of preserved lands and an increase in recreational opportunities for residents of the County and greater Capital District. Success will also drive increased awareness for the area's current tourism related business, including Indian Ladder Farms, Clover Leaf Vineyard, Altamont Vineyard, Allied and Mixed Breed Breweries,

Appel Inn, Altamont Manor, Altamont Fairgrounds, Meadowdale Winery, Helderledge Farm, Altamont Orchards, Farmhouse Tap & Tavern, Orchard Creek Golf Course, The Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center, Thompsons Lake State Park and Thacher Park. Success will result in a significant boost to the County's new Beverage Trail marketing program, establishing and anchoring the Helderberg hub in the Hudson-Helderberg orientation of the Trail.

Success with the Trailhub project will drive increased tourism related visits to these attractions, retailers and restaurants; from hikers, day trippers, seniors and families visiting from the greater Capital District and beyond. This will increase interest in the area and, along with the physical and marketing links established with the metro New York markets via the Long Path extension, will mean increased revitalization of the area's historic commercial and residential buildings, which in turn will increase business for local realtors, brokers and tradesmen. Increased sales tax collection as well as spill over of new consumer interest in the surrounding areas of Knox, Berne, Guilderland Center and New Scotland will mean that benefits from the Greenway Trail Hub Project will flow throughout Albany County.

### **Answer 3**

*Describe the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic increased or decreased demand for your services. As an option, you may attach to this application any optional information that supports the service increase or decrease being described below*

The pandemic greatly reduced the situations in which people ventured beyond their immediate households, making large group activities like Founders Day and even routine organizational meetings impractical. As remote meeting options like Zoom became more available, business could be carried on again, but with less dynamism, decreasing participation and lowering person to person interactions. Services and functions traditionally provided by history/tourism organizations such as seminars, receptions, lectures, exhibits etc. were either prohibited or not well attended out of fear of gathering in enclosed spaces.

At the same time interest and demand in outdoor-based activities soared. Attendance at Helderberg area Preserves, Parks, trails and orchards soared; the existing supply of such resources could not satisfy consumer demand. County residents who were looking to do things outdoors and close to home came to realize- and to appreciate- that our area was home to unique and compelling natural attractions. Necessity became a virtue and once discovered, interest in the natural attractions of the Helderberg area has remained strong.

It is in this context and this environment that Historic Altamont Inc. pivoted to focus on that portion of our mission that relates to preserving and promoting the *natural history* of our service area. The Greenway Trail Hub project protects and promotes our natural assets and in so doing, the Trail Hub projects addresses consumer demand for more outdoor activities and attractions leading to new, sustainable economic development for our area.



#### Answer 4

*Describe the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic led to a revenue loss. Please attach to this application financial information that documents actual revenue and actual expenditures from the year prior to March 2020. Also include actual revenue and actual expenditures during the period of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (March 2020 – May 2023) for which you are requesting funds:*

During the Pandemic all activities, meetings and functions of Historic Altamont Inc. were on hiatus. No revenue was raised (other than recurring member dues) and no significant expenditures were made, other than basic housekeeping account costs.

#### Answer 5

*Please provide a short summary of your proposed project including a project name, general description, total cost, reason(s) why you are pursuing the project and anticipated impact:*

The beautiful natural setting of the Helderberg Escarpment Region is the driver of most commercial activity and this consumer interest in the region. Protecting, extending and promoting our unique natural environment is a worthy end in itself; it also provides the best route to increased and sustainable economic development for the western third of Albany County.

To this end a local citizens group organized, and worked with and under the auspices of Historic Altamont, to initiate the Helderberg Greenway Project.

#### ARPA REQUEST COMPONENT 1

As noted, the Greenway consists of current and new preserved lands that will provide a public access corridor linking existing public lands at the top of the Helderberg Escarpment with public access nature preserve lands in the Bozenkill Gorge below. The result will be a continuous six mile public corridor containing some of the most stunning scenery and trail sites in the Northeast United States.

By offering trail systems and other future, complementary natural uses within its boundaries (eg community gardens; arboretum, county forest preserve etc.) the Greenway will protect the bucolic setting of the village and escarpment and it will, itself, be a major new natural attraction for our area.

Participation from governmental, institutional and private landowners comprising approximately 75% of the Greenway's projected path has been secured or indicated. (See *Attachment A* and *Map 1* for a more detailed description of the Greenway path). The participation of no more than five private landowners is required in order to fully complete the six mile corridor. (see *Map 2*)

As the **first component** of our request for ARPA funding we seek **\$15,000** to process commitments that have been made to date and finalize the legal transfer of public access rights

across these committed lands. We are able to reduce the costs of legal work necessary to effect transfers and public access, by working with land rights acquisition experts from the Mohawk-Hudson Land Conservancy Inc. as well as an internship program that is envisioned in conjunction with local law school faculty.

## ARPA REQUEST COMPONENT 2

Another Greenway partner is the New York/New Jersey Trails Council (“NY/NJ Trails”) which maintains and operates the Long Path, the iconic hiking trail that currently leads from the George Washington Bridge in New York City to Thatcher Park.

As part of this initiative, NY/NJ Trails has agreed to extend the Long Path into the commercial core of the Village of Altamont.

The Long Path extension will provide users better access to amenities at the conclusion of their hike and, importantly, will provide Village restaurants and retailers additional visitors from the hikers and walkers who regularly enjoy the Long Path.

NY/NJ Trails has agreed to manage and fund land acquisition to affect this extension, and, in return, Historic Altamont has agreed to manage the development and construction of a new Trailhub Pavilion in the heart of the Village, appropriately signifying the end of the point-to-point trail connection with New York City.

As the *second component* of our request for ARPA funding we request **\$60,000** to design and construct a Trailhub Pavilion in the commercial core of Altamont. The Pavilion and surrounding plaza will be located at a high-profile site in the center of the axis between the Village Post Office, the Village Park and Gazebo and the historic 1897 restored Train Station, which now houses the Village Library. The owner of the site has committed to provide the necessary land rights to site the Pavilion at no cost to Historic Altamont Inc.

This high-profile location as well as the affiliation with a national industry leader like NY/NJ Trails calls for an architecturally worthy Trailhub structure. We envision a structure that provides a suitable “Instagram worthy” backdrop for hikers while playing off, and adding to, the iconic, historic infrastructure and architecture that will surround it.

The plaza area around the new Trailhub Pavilion will be utilized to disseminate information on trail options, local attractions and local businesses. For instance, long haul hikers will be directed to the Altamont Laundromat should they need such services and will also be directed to access to showers and camping facilities which will be available at the Fairgrounds, which is a few hundred feet south of the Pavilion location. Day visitors will receive information on trail options as well as directions and information on local retailers to provision their hike and local cafes and restaurants where they can patronize pre- or post-hike.

## ARPA REQUEST COMPONENT 3

The new physical connection with The Long Path, defined by the new Trailhub Pavilion, opens a compelling economic development opportunity for Altamont to establish itself not simply as a terminus of the Long Path but also as a larger “hub” of trail and nature history tourism. Because

the Trailhub will be located in the commercial center of the Village, users and visitors will have convenient access to existing amenities, trail and attraction info, provisions and a variety of dining options, all delivered in an historic and bucolic setting. This type of packaging – a multitude of stunning natural recreational options centered around a picturesque and historic downtown- has been the recipe for economic success for a variety of similarly situated communities across the nation. Several communities, including Northville, NY, Gardner, NY and Highlands, NC, have built on their trail head status to become known as destinations for a variety of outdoor related activities.

Altamont's proximity to the large capital district consumer market as well as the connection to the huge downstate markets now provided by the Long Path terminus provide a strong platform on which to build. Indeed, it is the opinion of the experts with the NY/NJ Trail Conference that with just a few key steps Altamont could well become a leading hiking center and destination for the large and affluent East Coast markets.

To build on this opportunity the *third and final component* of our request for ARPA funding is **\$25,000** to retain experts to design a new network of trails to feed and connect with the Long Path and Greenway-connected trails. Like the Long Path, these new trails would emanate from the new Trailhub Pavilion in the center of the Village. However, the new trails be designed primarily for day hikes and walks, suitable for a variety of ages, abilities, skill levels and interests.

The primary trail would mirror the Greenway corridor by following the proposed Long Path extension from Thacher Park into the Village and from there loop around the Village to connect with the existing trail systems in the Bozenkill Park and the trails through the Bozenkill Preserves.

Trail design experts have also preliminarily identified compelling options for additional trails emanating from the Trailhub in the Village, including moderate intensity waterfall trails leading west through the Fly and School Creek Gorges and southwest to Buttermilk Falls to the vista points near where the historic Kushaquia Inn once beckoned Victorian summer visitors. An easier, family-oriented trail could lead south through the Fairgrounds to the Black Creek Marsh area and the still operating historic farms whose bounty provisioned the Continental Army at the Battle of Saratoga. A senior citizen / handicapped friendly historic architecture themed walking trail covering the Village's National Register Historic District and the popular Museum in the Streets program is yet another option. An English style point to point walking trail is an option for the Summer Estates neighborhood on the Escarpment Terrace near Leesome Lane, extending an existing century old trail that links the historic *Mira Vista*, *Woodlands* and *Cassidy* summer estates.

All these options would be put before experts via a Request for Proposal that would include design, acquisition and maintenance strategies and practices.

In time the trail network can be logically extended to connect with public access in the historic French's Hollow area, the existing Tawasentha/Normanskill trails east of Guilderland Center and even the Albany County Rail Trail to the south in Voorheesville.

Note: This trail planning component is a request to fund professional design services, it would not fund land acquisition of trail construction costs. However we are confident that with the benefit of a state of the art professional Trails Plan in hand we can successfully secure additional funds from the State (which under the recently approved Environmental Bond Act gives preference for projects adjoining existing State Parks, which this project would do), the Hudson Valley Greenway project and or our partners at the NY/NJ Trails which, in addition to providing counsel and expertise also provides direct funding for trail development.

A cohesive public access trail network - centered with commercial Altamont as its hub - is the type of concentrated "one stop shopping" favored by the growing community of recreational hikers, walkers and bikers. Altamont can truly become known as a hiking/walking destination for novices and experts alike.

Serving a core tourism constituency of hikers and walkers will also position Altamont as a focalized central "hub" linking visitors to the eco-tourism, agritourism and heritage tourism options that abound around the Village, but which presently have no centralized, connective place or program for information and promotion.

With our experience and background supported by an ARPA investment from Albany County we envision a single day in the very near future when upscale, serious hikers from Manhattan end their journey with us with celebratory drinks and dinner at one of Altamont's dining establishments; when young professionals from Saratoga County intersperse their wine tasting tours of the Cloverleaf, Altamont and Meadowdale Vineyard with a short mountainside hike among the Summer Estates on the Escarpment; when a young family from Rensselaer County stock up with provisions from one of our retailers between their visit to the Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center and hiking the new Waterfall Gorges trails; when a group of seniors from Albany meet up for breakfast at one of our cafes before walking the self-guided Victorian History trail.

Each group of visitors will think "what a beautiful place"; they will appreciate (consciously or not) that the various attractions were presented in a logical, cohesive user-friendly fashion; they will become adherents for protecting the beauty and experience they enjoyed and they will be glad to know that options such as these are available so close to home.

#### **Answer 6**

*What Amount of Funding is Being Requested (Up to \$100,000)?*

A total request of \$100,000; broken down as follows:

- \$15,000 for expenses associated with the transfer of land/public access rights already committed towards the creation of the six mile Helderberg Greenway, linking Thacher Park to the Bozenkill Preserves;
- \$60,000 to design and construct a Long Path Trailhub Pavilion and Plaza on donated land in the commercial core of the Village of Altamont;

- \$25,000 to retain experts to design a new system of trails, emanating from the new Trailhub Pavilion, designed to serve a variety of ages, abilities, skill levels and interests.

### Answer 7

*Please describe your organization's capabilities to implement the project you propose including organizational structure, staff members involved, a summary of similar initiatives you have undertaken and the date they were completed:*

Altamont is distinguished by the number of worthy public benefactions that have been realized and administered by volunteer groups of able, public spirited individuals. The creation and 20 year track record of the Altamont Community Tradition Inc. (ACT) group (sponsors of Victorian Holidays, Historic House Tours, Fall Festival etc.) and the multi-million dollar renovation of the historic train station as a new home for the volunteer-run Altamont Free Library Inc. are two noteworthy examples. It should be noted that two of the board members helping to organize the new Helderberg Greenway Project were also previously organizers of ACT as well as key players in the successful library renovation.

The Altamont area is blessed with an abundance of professionals with expertise in the fields of law, land use, environmental protection, public recreation, finance and other disciplines relevant to the task at hand. The skill sets represented by the organizers of the Greenway initiative are reflected in their professional roles as senior EnCon official, land use attorney, law school professor, veterinary Doctor, national wire service journalist, PR/Communications specialist, lobbyist etc.

Some of this talent was previously deployed in Historic Altamont's previous activities, including the focus on the historic Dr. Crounse House property outside the Village. In addition the broadened emphasis on natural history and particularly greenspace preservation through public access trail systems has brought a new and talented cohort of professionals to the table who are now utilizing their expertise and talent in pursuit of this particular project.

In addition to the participation of local professional talent, this project benefits from strong working partnerships with leading organizations in the relevant fields. Staff from the Mohawk-Hudson Land Conservancy have been involved from the outset. Their expertise in land preservation, rights acquisition and even trail design and construction has been and will be invaluable to the project. Likewise the working relationship with the NY/NJ Trail Council and the active participation of several representative from the Long Path North Hiking Club in the formulation of the Project has been invaluable.

### **Answer 8**

*Please describe, in detail, the impact your proposed project will have on Arts, Culture and/or Tourism in Albany County. Describe how your project will attract new visitors to Albany County. Where possible use metrics/estimates of impact (i.e. increased visitation etc.):*

As noted Albany County, and the Helderberg Escarpment region in particular, was handed an unexpected opportunity during the Pandemic in the form of untold numbers of local consumers looking for something to do outdoors that was closer to home. Tens of thousands discovered or re-discovered the unique natural features and public recreation resources that are clustered around the Village of Altamont. This sudden consumer demand caused attendance to spike at the area's preserves and parks. This increase worked to the benefit of the area's retailers and restaurants when restrictions on those operations were lifted. In fact, several new establishments catering to visitors interested in eco and/or agri tourism actually opened or significantly expanded their operations to meet the new interest and demand.

Today demand for natural/recreational offerings is actually exceeding supply; existing Preserves, camping, trails etc are operating at capacity. In order for these local businesses to be sustained the outdoor recreation options in our area needs to be increased, lest our visitors get diverted to new offerings in surrounding Counties (e.g. agri-tourism offering in Schoharie County; June Farms-like offerings in Rensselaer County, the County Preserve Systems in Schenectady and Saratoga Counties).

This is opportunity to consolidate our post pandemic gains and to build a sustainable, "close-in" tourism economy around the national attractions of the unique Helderberg Escarpment. The opportunity to extend the Long Path is the opportunity to create a requisite critical mass of options for hikers and walkers. A Trailhub and network of new trails centered in Altamont will give novice and serious hikers a beautiful and convenient alternative to the increasing congestion facing the trail systems in the Adirondack and Catskills. In turn the successful creation of a walking/hiking/biking identity for the area will spill over and benefit the growing number of complementary businesses that are popping up around Altamont in response to consumer interest in eco/agri/heritage/brew/vineyard destinations.

### **Answer 9**

*How Will You Track Performance Goals And Define Success? Include at least two Key Performance Indicators and expected annual outcomes/impact during the reporting period (September 2023 -December 2026):*

We will define success by the following metrics:

- number of acres of land preserved as public-access green space
- number of miles of trails opened for public access

- continued business operation of the two wineries and four micro-brewery pubs that have opened in the two years post pandemic
- number of new restaurants and retailers opened within a five-mile radius of the new Trail Hub Pavilion in Altamont
- number of visitors to Thacher Park, Thompsons Lake Campground and Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center
- attendance at the Altamont Fair
- number of ancillary events held at the Altamont Fairgrounds
- number of inquiries and events at area's wedding and event venues (Appel Inn, Altamont Manor, ILF, Orchard Creek GC
- number of new Farm to table, Farm Tours, and consumer-access farm operations opening within a 7-mile radius of the Trail Hub Pavilion
- number of media mentions referencing the Helderberg Escarpment region, the Greenway and or local tourism-related businesses, particularly in non-regional publications (e.g. *New York Magazine*, *The New York Times*, etc.)

#### **Answer 10**

*Use this space to provide a narrative supporting and clarify anything from the proposed project budget above. In addition, if "other funds" or "other uses" are included above, please specify the source(s) below:*

With the ARPA grant providing funding for the Trailhub Pavilion and acting as seed funding for the design of the larger trail network and initial legal expenses we will pivot to securing funds from the State of New York (under a series of specific funding opportunities, including local trail development funding from EnCon and NYSPHP). We will use this additional funding to secure rights to the larger designed trail network and undertake trail construction. Additional funding will be sought from the New York State Environmental Bond Act of 2022. Because this project will connect into and be directly contiguous to an existing State Park it qualifies for preferential award status under the Bond Act procedures. Federal funding will also be solicited under the generous programs for public greenspace and community forestry development contained in the Inflation Reduction Act. Local fundraising, including community events as well as a legacy gift program will also be undertaken to provide additional funding for trail construction and maintenance. The local fundraising team consists of the same individuals who successfully raised upwards of \$1 million dollars for the renovation of the Historic Altamont Train Station Library. Several members of the local leadership team have long standing working relationships with our state and federal elected representatives.

### **Answer 11**

*Describe how the funding will support a sustainable Arts/Culture/Tourism initiative that will continue to serve Albany County residents after ARPA funds have been exhausted:*

See Answer 10 above. Also, long term support and viability of the Project will be realized via the on-going relationship with the highly credible, long-standing organizations with whom we work in order to bring the project to life, including Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, NY/ NJ Trails Council, the Altamont Fair and local municipalities. In addition the project incorporates and provides key linkages with existing trail systems operated by the State as well as local trails operated by the local municipalities thus creating the opportunities for mutually beneficial construction and maintenance agreements long term.

### **Answer 12**

*Explain why ARPA funds are needed to complete the proposed program/project. Would the proposal be possible without ARPA assistance? Describe how your proposal would be impacted if you are awarded a smaller grant than requested?*

ARPA funds are required in order to achieve the minimum local contributions required for the various State and Federal funding opportunities for which this Project is a very strong contender.

The Project would likely not be possible without ARPA funding.

A grant of less than \$60,000 (to design and construct the Trailhub Pavilion in the commercial core of Altamont) would mean that Historic Altamont Inc would be unable to hold up its end of the agreement whereby the NY/NJ Trail Conference has agreed, via their own funding and efforts, to extend the Long Path into the heart of the Village.