

# ANNUAL REPORT

**2023**

## MISSION / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rockland County’s *Percent for Art* program was established through Local Law #6 of 1986 introduced by legislators Harriet Cornell and Bruce Levine. Under guidelines approved by the County Legislature on March 7, 2006, its mission is “to enhance the quality of life in Rockland County through Public Art.” Now in its 37th year AIPP has installed more than 55 artworks at accessible county sites. It has also restored valuable county public artworks, as well as a collection of WPA paintings entrusted to the county, in perpetuity, by the Federal government.

AIPP functions under the guidance of the AIPP committee. Members include: Chairman Dan Sherman (Sparkill), Ken Linsner (Sloatsburg), Emily Harvey (Garnerville), Pat Hickman (Haverstraw), Carl Opalek (New City),, Lisa D’Amico (Bardonia), Debbie Silberburg (Valley Cottage) and Mark Attebery (South Nyack), and June Lee VanDunk .

Represented areas of their expertise include: fine arts, photography, graphic design, art history, art education, curatorial, art appraisal, conservation, restoration, landscape architecture, technology, social media, art publishing, illustration. Dan Lukens resigned from the committee after a long delay in his confirmation. Shari Fischberg (Upper Nyack) a productive and valued member resigned from the committee citing increased professional commitments. She chaired the Nominating Committee

and advised on educational programs.

The committee works cooperatively with Rockland’s County Executive,

Ed Day, who has supported new projects throughout the year.

AIPP functions under Rockland County’s Department of General Services lead by Robert H. Gruffi, Director of Facilities Management. Bob provides AIPP with technical advice and installation support for its projects and helps AIPP work efficiently with the various branches of county government including the County Legislature, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Law, the Parks Department, the Highway Department, the Department of Environmental Resources and the Drainage Department.

**A NOTE OF THANKS…..**

Alan Beers retired as head of the Department of Environmental Resources. The AIPP Committee thanks Alan for his cooperation on AIPP projects over the years.

Mike Drummond, Department of Budget and Management, retired this year. Mike was the financial liaison for AIPP since its inception. Mike kept meticulous records of each project’s finances and provided a clear accounting of all funds available and expended. Julianne Ramos worked closely with Mike for more than 25 years and extends her gratitude for his guidance, expertise and professional friendship.

Rockland Center for the Arts administers all aspects of the AIPP program**.**

**COUNTY BOARD AND COMMISSION EVALUATIONS**

The County called a moratorium on all new committee appointments for County Boards and Commissions while it conducted an evaluation of procedures. After a review, AIPP was cited as a very well-run committee (commission) with demonstrable results.

**2023 COMPLETED PROJECTS**

**The Cropsey Farm Project, New City .**

The County received a federal grant

to create a public space on this site and proposed a walking path. AIPP proposed siting the artist’s panels along the path along with explanatory signage. The panels were completed and are stored at Building A at the Yeager Health Center. This project is chaired by Dan Sherman. Committee Members: Lisa D’Amico, Emily Harvey, June Lee VanDunk.

**2023 PROJECTS IN PROGRESS**

**New Highway Department Building, Spring Valley.**

The project committee reviewed five finalist’s submissions and selected a proposal to commission a 17’ tall Corten steel sculpture by DeWitt Godfrey of New York, to be sited at the front of the new Highway Department building.

Committee Chair: Mark Atteberry. Members include: Dan Sherman, Carl Opalek and Ken Linsner.

**2023 PROJECT PLANNING**

New projects are being planned for:

Demarest Kill Park in New City and

the County Office Building campus in New City.

**CONSERVATION OF EXISTING PUBLIC ARTWORK**

Over the years, public artwork can

deteriorate and require restoration.

Maintaining county-owned public artwork respects the integrity of the artwork, preserves the intent of the artist, honors the viewing public, and preserves the value of objects that are a part of the county’s asset base.

**2023 RESTORATIONS**

**The two red sculptural benches at the Fireman’s Training Center** were dismantled to refinish the red enamel-coated steel surface and repair other parts of the benches. Mark Attebery led the project and worked with the artist, Eric Laxman, to restore the benches.

The **Piermont Village Board** contributed $2,000 to restore the **Bridge Street Bridge tower lights.**

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REVIEW AND REPORTING**

Members of AIPP’s Conservation subcommittee, led by appraiser and conservator, Ken Linsner, conduct semi-annual reviews of existing AIPP-commissioned artworks and issue condition reports with recommendations for any conservation work needed. AIPP arranges for the restorations or repairs using project funds held back for maintenance needs on the original project.

**CONNECTING TO THE PUBLIC:**

**AIPP ONLINE AND AIPP SOCIAL MEDIA**

**AIPP Website**

**www.aipprockland.org**

The website announces calls for entry for upcoming projects, features an archive of completed projects with photos and descriptions, and a clickable site map with directions. A video featuring many projects and the history of the program is posted online for public viewing. Managed by Lisa D’Amico, the website archives the Minutes of past meetings and Annual Reports.

# 2023 Social Media

AIPP committee member, Lisa D’Amico, manages the AIPP Facebook and Instagram pages and YouTube channel that feature up-to-date news and studio-based video interviews with AIPP commissioned artists. **In 2023, AIPP featured:** 1) A studio interview with artist Jean-Marc (Cropsey Farm Project artist), 2) a talk by Debbie Silberberg aired at the Rockland Arts Festival, 3) a successful survey to determine public interest in AIPP, 4) the addition of a QR code to AIPP materials, 5) the creation of three videos of AIPP sculptors in recognition of International Sculptors Day, 6) an online article featuring the photos and profiles of AIPP Committee members that drove a record number of views to our sites.

**2023 AIPP Outreach**

In 2023, AIPP conducted outreach programs at libraries adding the Piermont library. In addition, AIPP participated at the Ramapo-Munsee Community Center, The Garnerville Arts Festival, the Rockland Arts Festival, the Piermont Arts Festival and at ACOR.

A new, colorful banner was designed by Lisa D’Amico to bring attention to our locations.

Debbie Silberverg is Chair of the Education Committee. Member: June Lee VanDunk.

## Aipp PR and Photo Archive

The AIPP Committee maintains an archive of video, photos and press coverage of AIPP installations and artworks. AIPP posts its completed projects on The Public Art Archive.

# A COMMUNITY OF ARTISTS

Since the mid-19th Century, Rockland County has attracted world class artists who chose to make their home in this beautiful region in the lower Hudson Valley. With such a rich cultural past and present, it is fitting that Rockland became the first County in New York State outside New York City to pass a Percent for Art Law that marks its place among those enlightened communities and states that support and display works of publicly accessible art. Today, through AIPP, Rockland residents can find significant artwork throughout their county.

To date, 80% of commissions have been awarded to Rockland County artists, Other projects have brought to the county the work of accomplished artists from beyond our borders. This open exchange of creativity encourages our own artists, who, in turn, seek public art commissions elsewhere. In addition, these projects provide opportunities for local vendors to perform ancillary work, beautify the environment in which we live and work, attract the attention of visitors, enhance the reputation of the county and tie the community to both the national and international art world.

Report prepared by

***Julianne Ramos, AIPP Administrator December 30, 2023***

**Logo:**

AIPP logo designed by Carl Opalek.