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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### OLANA ANNOUNCES SERIES OF GUIDED TOURS

#### THROUGH THE LENS OF ART AND ENVIRONMENTALISM

HUDSON, NY –

The program series, *Environmentalists on Olana*, continues for another year. Organized by The Olana Partnership, each program consists of walks led by regional environmentalists, agriculturalists, activists, and ecological stewards. The programs will engage participants in the work of environmental organizations and provide new insights into Olana State Historic Site by connecting their expertise with Frederic Church's 250-acre artist-designed landscape and viewshed.

Each visiting environmentalist will provide a deeper understanding of Olana as a resource for immersive explorations in our contemporary environment and appreciation of the natural world. This series is designed to give participants an opportunity to explore Olana's landscape and integral viewshed through a diverse set of topics and viewpoints and consider Olana's history and current legacy through the intersections of art and environmentalism. This year, the series will be led by experts from 13 organizations, regional nonprofits, and businesses including: Amplify the Future, Fox Farm Apiary (Hannacroix, NY), Forge Project (Taghkanic, NY), The Outside Institute, Grow Black Hudson (Hudson, NY), Columbia Land Conservancy (Chatham, NY), Nine Pin Cider Works (Albany, NY), Samascott Orchards (Kinderhook, NY), Riverkeeper (Ossining, NY), Partners for Climate Action (Chatham, NY), Scenic Hudson (Poughkeepsie, NY), and Churchtown Dairy (Hudson, NY).

Tickets are \$15 per person, \$10 for members of Olana. Advanced registration is required. For more information and a full list of detailed offerings, dates and times, please contact [education@olana.org](mailto:education@olana.org) or visit [OLANA.org](http://OLANA.org).

### **Full List of Programs:**

- March 12- “Birding from a Decolonized Lens” with Yamina Nater-Otero from Amplify the Future
- April 23- “A Gift for Modern Pollinators: Exploring Olana’s Legacy Landscape” with Chris Layman from Fox Farm Apiary
- May 14- “Exploring Olana’s Landscape through Indigenous Eyes” with Heather Bruegl from Forge Project
- June 18- “Indigenous and Introduced: Discovering the Flora and Fungi of Olana” with Laura Chávez Silverman from The Outside Institute
- July 16- “The Knowledge of the Land: Exploring Ancestral Healing” with Nkoula Badila from Grow Black Hudson
- August 13- “Under the Surface: Lake Explorers” with Heidi Bock and Jenifer Rosete from the Columbia Land Conservancy
- September 10- “How About Them NY Apples: Regional Agriculture, Sustainability, and Cider-Making in New York State” with Alejandro del Peral and Jake Samascott from Nine Pine Cidery and Samascott Orchards
- October 8- “Exploring the Future of the Hudson River” with Tracy Brown from Riverkeeper
- October 15- “Thinking in Systems: What Church and His Contemporaries Knew About Climate Change” with Matt Stinchcomb and Bob Dandrew from Partners for Climate Action
- October 22- “Inspiring Partnerships to Protect Inspiring Views” with Cari Watkins-Bates and Jeffrey Anzevino from Scenic Hudson
- November 5- “A Farm for the Past, Present, and Future: Exploring Agrarian Practice in the Hudson Valley” with Amy Gavaris from Churchtown Dairy

#### About our Program Partners:

For this program series, Olana connected with various organizations and community leaders to tell stories of our environment from inclusive and diverse perspectives. Each program provides a unique perspective on Olana’s landscape, viewshed, and history in connection with contemporary voices working in preservation, education, advocacy, ecology, and agriculture.

**Amplify the Future** provides scholarships for students, networking opportunities, and educational programs to the historically excluded in conservation—including the Black and Latinx Birders Scholarship and the BIPOC Birders Graduate Student Mini Grant.

Environmental advocacy continues with our other guest speakers—**Fox Farm Apiary**—who manages the two beehives at Olana, as well as apiaries at Opus 40, Greene Land Trust, the Woodstock Land Conservancy, while promoting pollinator health.

**Forge Project** is a Native-led initiative centered on decolonial education, Indigenous art, and supporting leaders in culture, food security, and land justice.

**The Outside Institute** was founded in 2017 in the Upper Delaware Valley to foster a greater connection to the Earth by nurturing humanity's powers of observation and innate affinity for the wild.

**Grow Black Hudson** is an initiative that aims to reconnect the Black and Brown community to the plant knowledge of their ancestors and spread access to fresh food.

**Columbia Land Conservancy** works with their community to conserve the farmland, forests, wildlife habitat and rural character of Columbia County, strengthening connections between people and the land.

**Nine Pin Cider** is New York's First Farm Cidery offering quality craft ciders using 100% NY apples and fruit. **Samascott Orchards** is a family owned and operated farm that began in the early 1900's and today offers many varieties of fruits and vegetables to pick-your-own customers each year.

**Riverkeeper's** mission is to protect and restore the Hudson River from source to sea and safeguard drinking water supplies, through advocacy rooted in community partnerships, science, and law.

**Partners for Climate Action** provides human, social, and financial capital to communities in the Hudson Valley who are leading the work to repair our natural systems and tackle the climate crisis.

**Scenic Hudson** preserves land and farms and creates parks that connect people with the inspirational power of the Hudson River, while fighting threats to the river and natural resources that are the foundation of the valley's prosperity.

**Churchtown Dairy** is a biodynamic farm that intends to serve as a beacon for those working to promote organic agriculture and resilient communities.

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**About Olana and The Olana Partnership:** Olana is the greatest masterwork of Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900), the preeminent American artist of the mid-19th century and the most important artist's home, studio, and designed landscape in the United States. Church designed Olana as a holistic environment integrating his advanced ideas about art, architecture, landscape design, and

environmental conservation. Olana's 250-acre artist-designed landscape with five miles of carriage roads and a Persian-inspired house at its summit embraces unrivaled panoramic views of the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountains and welcomes more than 170,000 visitors annually. The landscape is open for guided touring, and reservations are highly recommended. The landscape is open daily 8 AM-sunset.

Olana State Historic Site, administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, is a designated National Historic Landmark and one of the most visited sites in the state. The Olana Partnership, a private not-for-profit education corporation, works cooperatively with New York State to support the restoration, conservation, and interpretation of Olana. The Olana Partnership operates Olana State Historic Site in a cooperative agreement with New York State Parks.