

Barnabas McHenry Hudson River Valley Awards



"Conservation is something we've got to do now. Because if we don't do it now, we won't ever get the chance to do it again."

—Barney McHenry

The Barnabas McHenry Hudson River Valley Awards were created in 2007 to honor Barnabas McHenry's extensive accomplishments and to foster future leaders in the Hudson River Valley. The Awards provide financial support to the pairing of young leaders with nonprofit organizations to conduct exemplary projects that make significant contributions to the Hudson River Valley. Each year, four grants are awarded in four distinctive disciplines: environmental conservation, historic preservation, tourism and the arts.

OSI has raised endowment pledges and commitments of \$600,000 to date. Additional donations will allow OSI to further support the cultivation of the next generation of regional visionaries and their projects in the Hudson River Valley. Four awards of up to \$5,000 per year are made annually. Any non-profit working in the Hudson Valley in the fields of environmental conservation, historic preservation, tourism, and/or the arts is eligible to nominate a candidate and project. An advisory committee selects the award winners.

Barney McHenry

For the past forty years, Barney McHenry has worked to protect the Hudson River Valley—its landscapes, heritage and culture. As counsel to DeWitt and Lila Acheson Wallace, founders of *Reader's Digest*, he was the principal architect of the Wallace Funds, which have contributed to the arts, education, humanities, and the environment throughout the Hudson River Valley. He demonstrates his commitment to the region as a Member of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Chair of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Co-Chair of the Hudson River Valley Natural Heritage Area, President of Boscobel, and Trustee of both Friends of the Hudson Valley and the Open Space Institute.



Michael Neal O'Donnell

McHenry Fellows

2007

Michael Diaz, Historic Preservation, Boscobel Restoration, Inc.

Completed a widely circulated research paper entitled "Loyalists in the Hudson Valley."

Jenny Reisner, Arts, Historic Hudson Valley

Catalogued the William and Ruth Diebold Collection of Hudson River Prints.

Matt Weiner, Environmental Conservation, Mohonk Preserve

Upgraded the Preserve's land easement monitoring system to comply with the national standards and practices of the land conservation field.

2008

Jessica Friedlander, Arts, Hudson River Valley Institute and Walkway over the Hudson

Produced visual and written works that illustrate the history of the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge.

David Jakim, Environmental Conservation, Hudsonia Ltd.

Developed a database of ecologically significant habitats that landowners and municipal agencies can use to protect important biodiversity resources.

Alyson Mazzone, Historic Preservation, Olana Partnership

Developed an historical exhibition about Fredric Church's paintings of the Hudson River.

2009

Jesse Catalano, Environmental Conservation, Bedford Garden Club

Created the Sustainable Bedford website and developed the "Summit in a Box" guide that enables communities to hold their own environmental summits.

Melissa Kay Oles Gavilanes, Arts, Thomas Cole National Historic Site

Developed afterschool programs and family education materials related to Thomas Cole.

Matthew Shook, Historic Preservation, Friends of the Palisades Parks Conservancy

Curriculum and teacher training and field guide for Sterling Forest's Lakeville-Ironworks Trail.

2010

Aaron Ahlstrom, Arts, Historic Hudson Valley

Has “taken art to the landscape” by developing activities, lesson plans and teaching tools to assist educators as well as attract and encourage a younger age group to visit Montgomery Place.

Matthew Colon, Historic Preservation, Washington’s Headquarters

Digitized the slide collection of Washington’s Headquarters Archives to preserve and enhance the availability of the collection for public use (Jan 2011 completion).

Kate Ito, Environmental Conservation, Hudson River Watershed Alliance

Researched how a National Park designation can support the Hudson Valley’s economic, environmental, social and natural institutions.

Chelsea Sorrento, Tourism, Mohonk Preserve

Investigated the economic value of protected open space in the region and developing a marketing plan to showcase the advantages of protected open space for local communities (June 2011 completion).

2011

Alexandra Church, Historic Restoration, Newburgh Armory Unity Center

Completed a preliminary master plan for the 12-acre Newburgh Armory for the purpose of developing and implementing programs.

Cornelia (Lia) Harris, Environmental Conservation, Cary Institute

Through a series of after-school workshops, led a summer program that trained students from Poughkeepsie Schools to become stewards of the Hudson River.

Sara Kendall, Arts, free103point9 Radio

Produced special exhibitions, led media training, and developed a news blog and local calendar for the community-run media project in Greene and Columbia counties.

Derrick Mead, Tourism, Glynwood

Mapped orchards, composed profiles of various orchard locations that produce apples and cider for the “Hudson Valley Cider Route” project.

2012

Meredith Clavin-Marquet, Arts, Vision Hudson Valley

Cataloged and digitized more than 400 original photos and letters from painter and sculptor Kurt Seligmann to mark the presence of Surrealism in Orange County.

Erin Hoagland, Tourism, Winnakee Land Trust

Developed an arboretum at the Winnakee Nature Preserve in Hyde Park. Erin’s project educates visitors about tree identification and environmental issues facing Hudson Valley forests.

Sarah Parks, Environmental Conservation, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance

Generated GIS maps which are core to the Rensselaer Plateau Regional Conservation Plan. Sarah developed a Community Values Mapping effort that will provide additional data for the Conservation Plan.

Marissa Unger, Historic Preservation, Olana Partnership

Organized a symposium to explore the concept of viewsheds in a national context. The symposium, the third in a series, continued the conversation about how art and architecture have established the Hudson Valley’s signature character.

2013

Megan McClellan, Tourism, Woodstock Land Conservancy

Engaged community members, businesses and government in the creation of the Catskill Mountain Rail Trail. A key component was establishing a “Friends of the Catskill Mountain Rail Trail” Committee.

Christina Ritter, Historic Preservation, Hudson River Valley Institute

Created the “Dutchess County Social Studies Toolkit for Educators” for the Hudson River Valley Institute and Teaching the Hudson Valley.

Keith Shane, Environmental Conservation, NY-NJ Trail Conference

Keith monitored and removed invasive plants to control invasives in the PIPC and Taconic State Park regions in continued cooperation with the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management.

2014

Sawyer Cresap, Historic Preservation, Preservation League of NYS

Published a grassroots guide to public participation in the Public Service Commission review process, with an emphasis on the role that historic and cultural resources and designation serve in the process.

Ben Himmelfarb, Historic Preservation, Shaker Heritage Society

Developed a Heritage Tourism plan as part of Partners for Albany Stories (PASt).

Samantha Singleton, Arts, Thomas Cole National Historic Site

Conducted inventory, organized, planned, and developed a recently donated collection of all known Thomas Cole letters, journals, drawings, paintings, exhibition records, articles, books and other documents for use by Thomas Cole staff and Fellows.

Katherine Sopko, Environmental Conservation, Rondout Valley Growers Association

Produced a comprehensive profile of farming in the Rondout Valley and its contributions to the environmental, social, economic and historical fabric of the Hudson Valley.

2015

Julia Czarnecki and Marissa Porter, Environmental Conservation, Hudson River Valley Institute

Organized a series of public seminars on leadership in sustainability in an attempt to bridge the disconnect between the public and climate change.

Michael Meehan, Environmental Conservation, Glynwood

Created a toolkit for the purpose of facilitating the baseline property assessment of agricultural properties by Partners in the Hudson Valley Farmlink Network.

Tashae K. Smith, Historic Preservation, Manhattanville College

Researched and presented to local and academic communities the history of enslaved and indentured African-American labor in the physical construction of the city of Newburgh, New York, with a particular focus on the period from the Revolutionary War to 1840.

Sheena Zhang, Urban Planning, Newburgh Community Land Bank

Researched opportunities for a Food Hub in historic downtown Newburgh that incorporates market aggregation of farm products in the region, value added processing and food incubator opportunities.

2016

Otto Ohle, Arts, Prattsville Art Center & Residency

Developed a series of multimedia digital workshops for rural youth that explored the experiences of young people growing up among the forests and mountain valleys of the Northern Catskills.

Nicole Pidala, Environmental Conservation, Hudson Highlands Land Trust

Updated the town's Open Space Index and Open Areas Inventory within its Comprehensive Plan to guide long-term protection of the town's ground and surface water, biodiversity, community character and recreation.

Maija Niemisto, Environmental Conservation, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Researched the distribution of fish and plankton in the Hudson River estuary via sonar.

Allison Montroy, Environmental Conservation, Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries

Created an educational exhibit about the Hudson River that integrated digital art and real-time data from the River and Estuary Observatory Network.

2017

Miranda Fey Whitus, Historic Preservation, Bard College

Created a genealogy and comprehensive history of the families connected to the historic Montgomery Place and Hudson Valley Through Collection Materials.

Michael Burke, Healthy Communities & Environmental Justice, Rondout Valley Growers Association

Created a model of community outreach that engages the next generation in addressing food insecurity through RVGA'S Farm to Food Pantry Program.

Anya Ptacek, Healthy Communities & Environmental Justice, Land to Learn (Hudson Valley Seed)

Designed and built four new educational gardens at elementary schools in Newburgh and Kingston where she taught healthy eating programs.

Molly Scott, Historic Preservation, Teaching the Hudson Valley

Created a comprehensive guide of Hudson Valley heritage sites associated with notable women or events related to women's history to be used by K-12 Schools in the region.

Samantha Robinson, Environmental Conservation, Groundwork Hudson Valley

Lead the Green Team program as a youth leader and mentor during their weekly shift at the Yonkers' Farmer's Market and developed a one-hour curriculum surrounding urban agriculture and healthy communities.

2018

Christian Liriano, Environmental Conservation, Friends of Van Cortland Park

Worked with Friends of Van Cortland Park to contribute to a larger goal of ecological enhancement of six acres of Flood Plain Forest bordering Tibbett's Brook, located within Van Cortland Park in the North West Bronx.

Robert Celestin, Environmental Conservation, New York – New Jersey Trail Conference

Helped to preserve the region's biodiversity by enabling more efficient, invasive species management by building a comprehensive database that integrates regional invasive plant data from several environmental agencies with geographic information mapping software.

Zachary Henderson, Environmental Conservation, Palisades Park Conservancy

Worked with Palisades Park Conservancy to make accessible PIPC's William A. Welch archival collections. As the PIPC General Manager from 1914-1940, he also oversaw the construction of the Bear Mountain Inn, Henry Hudson Drive and Harriman's lake.

Amanda Samuels, Historic Preservation, University at Albany

Worked with the University at Albany to create educational packages through collaboration with the Stockbridge-Munsee, the University at Albany and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer to develop educational material to be used in university courses in archaeology and historic preservation.

2019

Grace Alli, Historic Preservation, Hudson Valley Initiative and Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation

Developed a toolbox that will communicate the policies and processes for turning city-owned vacant lots in Newburgh into temporary or permanent neighborhood amenities.

Ethan Scott Barnett, Historic Preservation, A.J. Williams-Myers African Roots Library

Helped establish Kingston, NY as one of the important African Heritage sites in the nation through research and interpretation of a local African burial ground. The Kingston burial ground will be a case study for establishing a community space where shared memory is honored and illustrated through the tensions of politics, history, and race.

Erin R. Clark, Tourism, Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress

Analyzed the tourism habits of college students and Millennials (19-38 years old) with a survey and analysis of MetroNorth outbound weekend ridership from NYC to the Hudson Valley.

Lindsey Drew, Environmental Conservation, Woodstock Land Conservancy (WLC)

Helped assess and address impacts in the Sawkill Creek watershed, which includes the towns of Woodstock, Hurley, Kingston, and Ulster. The Sawkill waters contribute to the municipal water supply for seven Hudson River communities and more than 100,000 people.

Hannah Tremblay, Environmental Conservation, National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC)

Researched issues farmers are facing in the Hudson Valley including land access policies designed to address the challenges of high land prices, intergenerational transition, and competition from non-farming buyers.

2021

Isabela Leon Ferrer, Healthy Communities & Environmental Justice, Land to Learn (Hudson Valley Seed)

Worked in Beacon and Newburgh to create a new environmental education curriculum, facilitate summer lessons, and maintain three school gardens.

Andrew Randazzo & Marguerite Royo, Environmental Conservation, Mohonk Preserve & Wallkill Valley Land Trust

Developed and revised forest and protected land management plans that will aid both organizations. The plans will help the organizations prepare for and address the negative impacts of climate change on forested ecosystems and monitor and remove invasive species from protected lands.

Olivia Roberts, Environmental Conservation, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance

Compiled research that will assist Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) farmers in maintaining and securing landownership. The project will also explore tools land trusts have at their disposal to stem the loss of BIPOC-owned farmlands.

Kate Walters, Arts, Fullerton Mansion Center

Set up a series of community public art projects using makerBoards that will be installed on Newburgh streets and in open spaces and will prompt members of the community to contribute toward and help co-create the public art displays.

2022**Jessica Alonso, Environmental Conservation, Kingston YMCA Farm Project**

K-Town Composts will rebuild soil, train youth in green infrastructure, and provide typically disenfranchised City of Kingston residents with access to quality compost to increase food sovereignty.

Steven Baltsas, Historic Preservation, Fullerton Mansion Center

Created Building Shells: Building Community Walking Tours that covered the architectural and social histories of three streets in the City of Newburgh: Lutheran, William, and Dubois.

Elizabeth Gannon, Historic Preservation, Museum Village of Old Smith's Clove

Created an exhibit mockup that aims to teach people about the dairy industry in the Hudson Valley, local history, and women's role in local agriculture.

Drake McDonough, Environmental Conservation, Saratoga PLAN

Developed GIS maps, educational interactive materials, informational geological representations of local areas, and communications and kiosk content about the geology of the Palmertown Range.

2023**Christina Bell, Environmental Justice, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance**

Created a sensory trail at Rensselaer Plateau Alliance's Albert Family Community Forest (AFCF) in East Nassau by adding sensory stations that provide engaging activities that stimulate and

regulate the senses and spaces dedicated to providing visitors with natural items that they can use to build and create.

Aidan Emery, Historic Preservation, Boscobel House & Gardens

Conducted research on States Morris Dyckman, the original owner of Boscobel House. This catalogue highlights Dyckman's allegiance to England; and any references to Sarah Wilkinson, an African American woman whom Dyckman enslaved and later freed, as well as reference to when and how his and his fellow Loyalists' support of slavery shifted.

Kathryn McKenzie, Environmental Justice, Outdoor Promise

Created a visually compelling and informative timeline documenting the history, challenges, and ongoing efforts surrounding the water crisis faced by the City of Newburgh due to PFAS contamination.

Morgan Miller, Historic Preservation, Franklin D. Roosevelt Hyde Park Foundation

Conducted research on best horticulture practices for preservation and maintenance to support the Roosevelt Preservation Horticulture Program, which preserves and maintains the Roosevelt Home vegetable garden, rose garden, and Presidential Gravesite; the home of Eleanor Roosevelt; and the Farrand Garden at Bellefield.