

HUDSON HIGHLANDS

PUTNAM

HISTORY

MUSEUM

WEST POINT FOUNDRY

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2025

The mission of the Putnam History Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret, and present the history of Putnam County, Philipstown, the West Point Foundry, and the Hudson Highlands. Through exhibitions, programs, and events, the museum uses its collection to engage the community with the vibrant history of our region--and to foster greater understanding of the role it has played in the growth of our nation.



2025 SUMMARY

For over 120 years, the Putnam History Museum (PHM) has served residents, visitors, and historical researchers of Putnam County. Putnam County's generous funding, along with the support of our members, friends, and visitors, has enabled the PHM to establish a world-class special collections library and archive, to preserve the West Point Foundry schoolhouse as the museum headquarters, and to create hundreds of public programs, exhibitions, and publications.

In 2025, we achieved significant milestones with the help of both public and private support:

- Opened the exhibition "The American Revolution in the Hudson Highlands, Part One".
- Engaged the community with educational programs on key themes such as: Native Americans, the Colonial Period, the American Revolution, Women's History, and more.
- Hosted 9 lectures covering a wide range of subjects to further engage with the community.
- Published two new traveling exhibitions. "Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County" went on display at the Austin Road Elementary School in Mahopac to help education 4th and 5th graders on local Indigenous history. "The American Revolution in the Hudson Highlands" is available for libraries, schools, and other public spaces in the new year.
- Dedicated more than 400 research hours to over 50 public research requests.
- Hosted, co-hosted, or collaborated on over 45 public programs, enhancing historical curiosity and appreciation within the mid-Hudson region.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to embark on several key projects focused on financial sustainability, infrastructure improvements, program expansion, digitization, and strategic planning.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our supporters for their continued trust and support. Your contributions significantly impact the Putnam History Museum, enabling us to preserve our shared heritage and inspire future generations.



POPULATION SERVED

The Putnam History Museum serves a socioeconomically diverse audience of students, adults, and seniors. Our primary audience resides in Putnam County and throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley region. Our secondary audience includes weekend visitors from New York City, Westchester, Connecticut, and beyond. Our weekend visitors represent a large urban population.

STAFF

Interim Executive Director and Education & Public Programming Manager,
Kara Mattsen

Collections Manager, John Duncan

Finance Manager, Cristina Bally

Administrative Assistant, Bernadette Knox

Research Librarian, Arman Safa

Front Desk Associate, Josephine Bach

(Started in 2026) Consultant, Jill Golden

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SOURCES OF REVENUE & CURRENT TRENDS IN COST OF SERVICE

- **Financial Report:**

- 2025 Income: \$246,854
- 2025 Expenses: \$282,981
- 2025 Investments (end-of-year balance): \$1,308,441
- Income and expense figures are tentative and have not been adjusted by our accountant to reflect depreciation and investments. Final figures will be reported on PHM's 2025 form 990 and are available upon request.

- **Major Funding:**

- A cornerstone gift from Marion & Pat Dugan provides sustaining annual support.
- Yearly support from Putnam County

- **Additional Funding:**

- Town of Philipstown

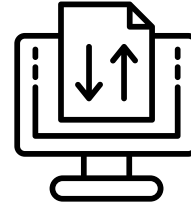
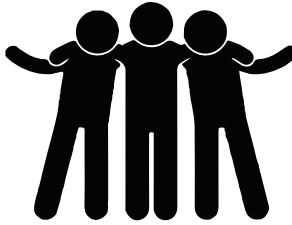
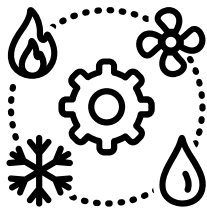
- **2025 Grants:**

- New York State Council for the Arts (for 2025 and renewed for 2026)
- Greater Hudson Heritage Network (for 2026)

- **A heartfelt thanks** also goes out to Preston Pittman, Timothy Wallach & Fleur Fairman, and George Whipple III for their support of the 2025 Lecture Series.



NEW & UPCOMING PROJECTS



Financial Sustainability

Continue to develop revenue streams to ensure the museum's financial stability and sustainability. These will include donations, fundraising initiatives, sponsorships, grant applications, program and event income, and other income-generating opportunities within the scope of the PHM Mission. Putnam County funding is essential and one of the most stable sources of revenue for the Putnam History Museum.

250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

Through exhibitions, programming, and community collaborations, our goal is to commemorate this milestone in history and to showcase the significant role that what is now Putnam County played in the events associated with the American Revolution.

Part two of the American Revolution in the Hudson Highlands exhibition will be launched in the Spring of 2026. Additionally, the PHM, in keeping with its tradition of community partnerships, is planning several lectures related to the Revolutionary War. These lectures will be hosted in multiple locations within Putnam County: the PHM and other locations including the Reed Library, Southeast Museum, and more.

Museum and History Programming

Continue to offer exceptional museum exhibitions and a diverse calendar of history lectures, hikes, and other engaging events. PHM seeks to expand programming within Putnam County and will build on past efforts to further establish alliances and partnerships to make history more accessible to audiences throughout the County.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Research

The PHM provides comprehensive research services, catering to a diverse range of inquiries related to Putnam County's history and culture. Our research team covers a range of topics, including genealogy, house histories, local landmarks, historical events, and cultural heritage. In 2025, we responded to over fifty public research queries, dedicating more than 400 hours to research activities and facilitating the use of our historical collection for local authors, genealogists, and interested residents.

Exhibitions & Collections Management

At the heart of our institution lies a commitment to preserving and highlighting Putnam County's robust history. We maintain an extensive collection of artifacts and documents, spanning hundreds of years. Our team focuses on the care and accessibility of the collections, in both physical and digital formats. We consistently plan for the long-term management of our collections.

Additionally, the PHM creates rotating exhibitions, both indoors and outdoors, to provide visitors with an accessible and relevant historical experience. Our permanent Foundry exhibition serves as a gateway to the West Point Foundry and Preserve, a National Historic Landmark. In 2025, we opened the exhibition "The American Revolution in the Hudson Highlands: Part One" as the beginning of our two-part series exploring this pivotal area during the Revolutionary War. We also curated two temporary exhibitions, "A Spotlight on Ships" and "General Putnam: Behind the County's Revolutionary Namesake," featuring the collection of George Whipple III. The latter exhibit will travel to the Southeast Museum in the spring.

In 2025, we expanded our availability to share exhibitions by developing two new traveling exhibitions. "Indigenous Peoples in Putnam County" went on display at the Austin Road Elementary School in Mahopac to help education 4th and 5th graders on local Indigenous history. "The American Revolution in the Hudson Highlands" traveling exhibition is scheduled to travel to a few different locations in the new year.



SERVICES PROVIDED, CONTINUED.

Lecture Series

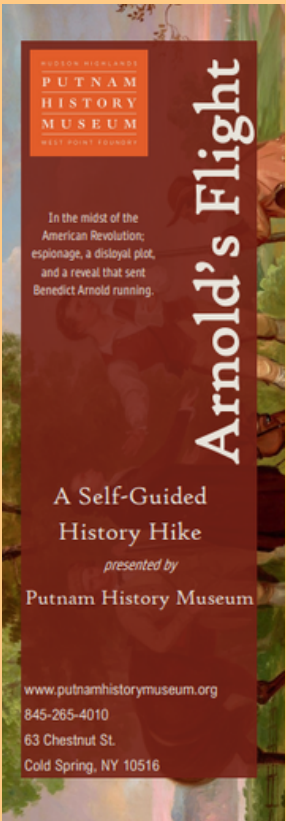
Our long-running lecture series encompasses a diverse range of subjects, including art, architecture, maritime history, military history, and genealogy. Since 2020, we have adapted the series into various formats, offering virtual, hybrid, and in-person lectures to accommodate diverse audiences. In 2025, we hosted nine lectures, including a new twist on the lecture format we are calling a Talk & Tasting. This lecture format allows attendees to taste history by sampling historic recipes while learning about the history surrounding the item.

Field Trips

We collaborate with Putnam County schools and homeschool groups to design field trips that align with curricula standards and provide students with engaging experiences. These field trips often involve guided tours of the museum and the West Point Foundry and Foundry Cove. We also provide materials and field trips for homeschool groups and other youth-focused groups.

History Hikes & Group Tours

We offer tours for groups, which may include curator-led tours of exhibitions or guided tours of historical sites located all throughout Putnam County. These popular hikes, which began during the pandemic, are now an annual offering at the PHM. We offered seven hikes this year, with topics ranging from Putnam County's historic iron mines to the path Benedict Arnold took to flee during the American Revolution.



SUPPORT

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