

THE PARTNERS

The History Center in Tompkins County

Tompkins County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB)- Downtown Visitors Center & Chamber of Commerce

Wharton Studio Museum

Historic Ithaca

Community Arts Partnership

Dorothy Cotton Institute

Ithaca Aviation Heritage Foundation

Discovery Trail

LOCAL CULTURE. GLOBAL IMPACT.

The Center's exhibit space will connect Tompkins County's past, present and future. It will also engage the public by highlighting how our history aligns with other communities in the region and how, at times, our history took a different course. Those variations are due to interesting national and global interactions. Exhibits will include a timeline, artifacts including maps and photographs, and interactive displays. The center will offer a compelling narrative of this area's key historical themes, in essence telling the story of who we are as a community and what we value.

JOIN OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Find out more by contacting Rod Howe at director@thehistorycenter.net

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

By combining the CVB downtown Visitors Center, the History Center in Tompkins County, and other history, heritage, and cultural organizations, we are creating a destination that will appeal to both residents and visitors. Visitors will be oriented to go out from the center and explore the 'corners' of the county.

It is our hope that visitors will deepen their connection and appreciation of this unique place, which in turn, will lead to longer stays, more return visits, and more tourism revenues.

RETAIL

Visit Ithaca will manage retail space to address the Commons' three primary markets: local residents, visitors, and students.

MARKETING

The collective aspect of the Center will utilize websites, newsletters, media releases, radio and television, posters, broadcast e-mail, magazine advertisements and social media posts. New York State heritage and history related venues will also be fully utilized.

THE FINGER LAKES REGION

Ithaca is a key gateway to the region. Given the number of visitors to Tompkins County from all over the world, the Center will be marketed as a destination, and as a place that makes history every day.



c/o:
The History Center | 401 East State Street #100 | Ithaca, NY | 14850 | director@thehistorycenter.net



TOMPKINS
Center for
History & Culture

CONNECTING
OUR PAST, PRESENT
AND FUTURE

**ESTIMATED
PROJECT COSTS:
\$6.3 MILLION**

**FUNDED
COMMITTED:
\$4.8 MILLION**

LOCATION

The Tompkins Center for History & Culture will be located in the Tompkins Trust Company buildings on Bank Alley on the Ithaca Commons. This prime location in the heart of Ithaca, paired with the striking architectural character, give the Center tremendous visibility.

The current structure is comprised of two buildings:

The Tompkins Trust Company building at 110 N. Tioga Street was designed by Vivian and Gibb, apprentices to William Henry Miller, Ithaca's best known architect, for the Ithaca Trust Company. The building boasts beautiful Palladian windows, Ionic and Corinthian pilasters, and elaborate brackets under the roof. In 1935, the Ithaca Trust Company merged with the Tompkins County National Bank.

County Clerk's Office Building at 106 N. Tioga Street constructed circa 1863 in the Italianate style. The County Clerk's office occupied this spot for almost a century, starting from at least 1851. The Tompkins Trust Company has owned and occupied both buildings since 1949.

GOALS

- Enhance & enrich our community – for both residents and visitors – by building a vibrant destination that celebrates the county's diverse history and culture.
- Engage and inspire the public – through exhibits and innovative programming that explore the history, heritage, and culture that is offered throughout Tompkins County.
- Orient visitors to the myriad of local tourism experiences.

OUR AUDIENCES

- Visitors to Downtown Ithaca, Tompkins County and the surrounding areas.
- Regional residents of all ages looking for opportunities to engage and connect through exhibits, research library, programming, art, and gathering spaces.
- Partnering organizations looking to collaborate to offer innovative history and culture programming from a mosaic of perspectives.

**EXPECTED
ATTENDANCE
IN 2019:
30,000**

WORK PLAN

The Tompkins Center for History & Culture has an ambitious 15-month timeline that includes a Capital Campaign; completion of detailed architectural drawings, development of branding and communication plans; development of operational and governance agreements; exhibit and space planning; construction documents and approvals; and construction in preparation for the partners to move in with a soft opening in early 2019.

The Project Advisory Team, comprised of representatives from the partner organizations, is working directly with City and County representatives, and the Downtown Ithaca Alliance.

**FEATURING:
Eight Square
School House**

**The Wharton
Studio and silent
movie history**

**'TOMMY'
PLANE
COMES
HOME**



Building renderings provided by STREAM Collaborative



INVESTMENTS

Investments in the Center will continue to revitalize downtown by providing Ithaca and Tompkins County a robust place to welcome visitors and orient them to our community. The Center will be an important destination factoring into the proposed Finger Lakes National Heritage Region.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

The silent phase of a capital campaign began in June 2017 with an overall target of raising \$1.75 million.