

*Woodstock, NY-* Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Woodstock Artist Association and Museum has been awarded a \$102,289 grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to support projects that help the museum better serve the community. Hinchey initiated the process that resulted in the Woodstock Artist Association and Museum submitting an application to IMLS and he strongly encouraged the agency to provide funding.

"These federal funds will be used to educate students and their families about local art history and provide them an engaging artistic experience," Hinchey said. "Students in Ulster County will benefit greatly from the opportunity to create their own artwork, work with professional artists and display their own artwork to the public."

The Woodstock Artist Association will use these funds to implement the Maverick Youth Project, a museum education program designed to give students hands-on art experiences and educate them about local art history through the permanent collection of the museum. The funds will help to enrich local students' experience of the visual arts by working with art professionals in which they will observe, interpret, and reflect on the artwork from the museum's collection. In addition, students will have the opportunity to create and showcase their own art in the museum's youth exhibition space.

The grant comes from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services Museums for America Program, which is designed to strengthen a museum's ability to serve the public more effectively by supporting high-priority activities that advance the institution's mission and strategic goals.