



# Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance

*A non-profit 501(c)3 Local Development Corporation whose mission is to restore economic prosperity in the Ticonderoga region by serving as a catalyst for innovative ideas and resources, and for public-private partnerships and investment opportunities.*

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## From the Board

*Summer is heating up at Ti-Alliance. School will let out soon, giving us a break from workforce development and giving way to an intense grant writing season for upcoming projects.*

*Two topics that are working their way up the Alliance priority list are childcare and workforce housing. These two fundamental areas are high priorities from the local level to the national level.*

*We're deeply committed to building childcare for our community. Our last newsletter talked about the severe shortage of childcare affecting our families and employers. It's a big topic - too big for the newsletter, but we'll be sending an email about it soon to bring you up to date.*

*We're attacking workforce housing with a multi-directional approach that will build over the next few years (no pun intended). Like childcare, it's something that holds us back from attracting and retaining new workers. But we can do it with some creativity and the right partnerships.*

*Now is a great time to invest in our area. We're on the rise and getting the attention of the region. If you have an interest in investing in our community, get in touch. We've got ideas to fit your goals.*

### **The Ti-Alliance Board of Directors**

Nancy Archer    Lance Clark  
Scott Hearburg    Pat Ida  
Chris Mallon    Sandy Morhouse  
Pam Nolan    Bobby Porter  
Peter Reale    Mark Wright (Ex Officio)



Ric Santa Maria (Roundtree), Steve Racanelli, and Brett Balzer (Balzer Tuck) outside the rehabilitated Burleigh House building.

## The Future of Downtown Ticonderoga

Ti-Alliance is always asking our followers to Share the Vision. If you want to get a very clear picture of the Alliance's vision for the Ticonderoga Area, look no further than the beautifully rehabilitated Burleigh House at the corner of Montcalm Street and Champlain Avenue. With two retail spaces on the first floor, two big bright apartments above, a new brick exterior to match other buildings on the street, and wide sidewalks, this building embodies everything we envision for downtown revitalization.

It's the work of Steve Racanelli, a local resident and private investor, who believes in our community and shares the vision. Balzer Tuck Architecture and Roundtree Construction brought the project to life. Thank you all for bringing this fantastic new feature to our community.

## Not Your Average Job Fair

Students aimlessly wandering the gym? Not at this job fair! A little Ti-Alliance twist to the average job fair formula went a long way in making the Ticonderoga High School Spring Job Fair a smashing success. A booklet of employment opportunities was distributed to students in the weeks leading up to the fair. It empowered them to attend the event with purpose, having browsed opportunities and scheduled interviews in advance. The return on investment? More engagement, more applicants, and more excitement for next year's fair!

The job fair helped students gain the confidence to explore new work goals. Students who timidly entered for pre-scheduled interviews emerged with a newly found sense of confidence. Over 150 students in grades 7-12 attended the fair, and more than 120 interviews were conducted for 42 job openings.

The fair wasn't just rewarding for the students. 14 employers in attendance connected with and accessed a pipeline of young workers in just a few hours, a huge return on investment.

The job fair would not have been possible without the leadership of the high school counselors and teachers. The Alliance would like to thank them for all they do to support their students and our workforce development programs.



## The \$10M Question Help DRive Revitalization

If you were given \$10 million, how would you revitalize downtown Ticonderoga? We need to have the best answer to that question when we apply for the NY State DRI (Downtown Revitalization Initiative). The DRI is a highly competitive grant program that can award \$10 million to a North Country town for downtown revitalization projects. We think that Ticonderoga is a perfect candidate to receive this grant... with your help.

Winning applications in the past (Plattsburgh, Watertown, Tupper Lake, Saranac, Lake Placid) have all had one thing in common - enthusiastic public participation. We can win this grant with your help. We need input from every generation, walk of life, and perspective about what you want to see in our downtown. It's important and easy to make your voice heard. In the coming months, there will be surveys and public meetings, both virtual and in-person, to gather ideas from everyone about the town we envision. Watch the town website, social media, and the Sun Community News for surveys and meeting dates. And start dreaming.



The Alliance also received a first-time grant from The Cloudsplitter Foundation. The \$10,000 grant will help increase our capacity for workforce housing and childcare projects. Both of these initiatives align closely with the Cloudsplitter mission and priorities. Thank you to Cloudsplitter for acknowledging and supporting these crucial projects. The Cloudsplitter Foundation is dedicated to improving the future for the flora, fauna, communities, and people of the Adirondacks. For more information on their work, visit [www.cloudsplitter.org/](http://www.cloudsplitter.org/).



Michael O'Donnell at (from left to right): the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET), the Museum at the FIT, and the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA).

## Alliance Donors Change a Life

Ti-Alliance scholarship student Michael O'Donnell had never been to a major art museum. As an ambitious young man studying art at SUNY Adirondack, this shocked donors at the Alliance Annual Meeting in August. In response, a few got together and decided to do what they do best: make a difference.

The group sponsored a trip for Michael to visit New York City museums. He spent three days touring the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET), the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), and the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). He also saw *The Lion King* on Broadway, which was selected because of his interest in costume design.

"The trip was genuinely the most fun I've ever had. It was epic and life-changing for me," said Michael. "I would like to thank Ti-Alliance, Donna, and everybody who helped make this weekend possible. My favorite part had to be the diversity and very individual self-expression of the art and people all around the city. The museums were full of so much history and inspirational work. The American Lexicon of Fashion exhibit was my favorite exhibit, as it showed me you can truly make anything into a piece of beautiful clothing or fashion. I loved every minute of it! Thank you so much for the opportunity."

For Michael, it was not only an educational experience but one of great personal growth and self-discovery. Donna said, "It was so much fun to see Michael return from NYC bubbling over with energy. He was connected to his studies in a new way and brimming with inspiration for his own work and future. Thank you to all of our incredible donors who sponsored the trip. You changed Michael's life."

## Regional Foundations Support Ti-Alliance With Grants

Ti-Alliance is almost 100% funded by private donations, and we are thrilled that two of the North Country's most premier private foundations have recently provided grants to help fund our work.

The Adirondack Foundation Generous Acts Fund has awarded the Alliance a \$20,000 grant to help us expand our capacity for workforce development, workforce housing, and downtown revitalization programs. This is the third year that the ADK Foundation has recognized the innovative and impactful work of the Alliance and we are so grateful for the continued generosity and support of the Generous Acts Fund and their donors. The Adirondack Foundation works to enhance the lives of people in the Adirondacks through philanthropy and we are happy to be their partner. For more information on the Adirondack Foundation, visit [www.adirondackfoundation.org](http://www.adirondackfoundation.org).



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