



Town of New Paltz, New York

Neil Bettez, Town Supervisor

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July 20, 2018

Howard Zemsky
Empire State Development, President & CEO
New York State of Economic Development, Commissioner
633 Third Avenue – Floor 37
New York, NY 10017

Dear Commissioner Zemsky,

I wish to express my full support of Historic Huguenot Street's Consolidated Funding Application to Empire State Development for the design of a master site plan.

As Town Supervisor, I can attest to the positive impact that Historic Huguenot Street has on our community. As one of a few large cultural institutions in the area, the museum has taken on the responsibility of offering educational and cultural opportunities to our residents. It works diligently to attract tourists and to use local businesses in their operations whenever possible.

Incorporated in 1894, Historic Huguenot Street is one of the oldest preservation organizations in the nation. It has successfully evolved over time to meet our community's needs, always delivering relevant public programs and stimulating our local economy. In recent years, the museum has been committed to building new partnerships, cultivating new audiences, and diversifying its programs. A master site plan will ensure that as the museum embraces this growth, it does so in the most productive, community-oriented, and environmentally sustainable way. In addition to considering the museum's collections and current landscape, it will consider the needs and plans of its stakeholders and neighbors. It will help Historic Huguenot Street to improve its visitors' experiences, reduce costs, steward its natural environment, and increase the museum's appeal as an international destination. We rely on large anchor institutions such as Historic Huguenot Street to provide culture, entertainment, and economic benefit to the place where so many of us live, work, and play.

They need our support and yours in endeavors like these. Please join me in supporting this project.

Sincerely,

Neil Bettez
Town Supervisor