



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION

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For Immediate Release

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Ulster County Legislature Establishes Arts and Culture Advisory Council to Implement Countywide Cultural Plan

(Kingston, NY) - The Ulster County Legislature unanimously passed a resolution on November 18, 2025 establishing the Ulster County Arts and Culture Advisory Council, a key milestone in implementing IMAGINE Ulster, the county's first comprehensive arts and culture plan.

The seven-member advisory council will guide the implementation of IMAGINE Ulster, which was completed in April 2025 following a year of robust community engagement that included four town hall meetings, extensive site tours, and collaboration with hundreds of stakeholders across the county. The plan recognizes arts and culture as a major economic engine for Ulster County, generating approximately \$814 million in annual economic impact.

"This is a historic moment for Ulster County," **said Legislature Chair Peter Criswell**. "By establishing this advisory council, we are translating vision into action. IMAGINE Ulster gave us a roadmap for supporting our artists, strengthening our cultural economy, and defining how county government can best serve this vital sector. Now we're building the infrastructure to make that vision real. I'm excited to see how this council will help us mobilize networks, support our creative community, and ensure that arts and culture remain central to Ulster County's identity and future."

"Arts and culture are part of the fabric of Ulster County, enriching our communities, economy, and quality of life," **said Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger**. "With the creation of the Arts and Culture Advisory Council, we're taking an important step forward in implementing the County's Arts and Culture Master Plan, helping to ensure that programs and initiatives reflect the creativity, diversity, and vitality of our county's arts and culture sector. I want to thank the Chair of the Legislature, Peter Criswell, for his leadership and dedication to advancing this work, and I encourage residents with a passion for the arts to consider applying to serve."

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work with local arts, cultural, and historical leaders as they are appointed to the Ulster County Arts and Culture Advisory Council," **said Sarah**

Kramer-Harrison, Ulster County’s Director of Arts, Culture, and Open Spaces. “Together, we will continue to activate the IMAGINE Ulster Plan to support arts, culture, and open spaces.”

"It is so exciting to see the priorities and strategies of IMAGINE Ulster, the County's transformative arts and culture plan, come to life. The establishment of an Ulster County Arts and Culture Advisory Council was a key strategy towards the plan's Priority 2: Mobilization of Networks. We applaud the County for advancing this plan, to strengthen arts and culture for the benefit of all in Ulster County," **said Senior Director Eve Moros Ortega of Lord Cultural Resources**, which facilitated the plan along with hundreds of Ulster County stakeholders.

The council will advise the County Executive, the County Legislature, and the newly created Director of Arts, Culture, and Open Spaces—a position called for in IMAGINE Ulster—on the implementation of the plan.

Council members will consist of seven qualified individuals with accomplishments in various areas of the arts, including artists, writers, musicians, arts and culture professionals, art fabricators, arts and culture supporters, and arts-related business owners. Members will represent diverse perspectives from across Ulster County's geographic regions.

Applications Now Open

Ulster County residents interested in serving on the Arts and Culture Advisory Council are encouraged to apply. The county is seeking individuals with passion for and experience in the arts who can help advance the goals of IMAGINE Ulster while representing the diverse communities across the county.

To apply or learn more about the council, visit:

<https://legislature.ulstercountyny.gov/committee/arts-culture-advisory-committee/>

Initial appointments to the council will be made by December 31, 2025, with the first organizational meeting scheduled for January 2026.

About IMAGINE Ulster

IMAGINE Ulster: The Ulster County Arts and Culture Plan is the first comprehensive cultural plan for Ulster County. Developed in partnership with Lord Cultural Resources and completed in April 2025, the plan establishes strategic priorities for supporting artists and the arts economy while defining the county government's role in advancing arts and culture throughout the region.

To read the full plan, visit: <https://participate.ulstercountyny.gov/arts-culture-plan>

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