FILM OTSEGO HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL NEW YORK WOMEN FILM FESTIVAL

Film Otsego received glowing reviews for its second annual women's film festival held in Otsego County at Foothills from March 6- 8, 2026.

The Made By New York Women Film Festival was open to any woman in a key position who made her film in New York, lives in New York, or is a native New Yorker. Every year Film Otsego celebrates International Women's Day by showcasing the work of top women filmmakers in New York. Shorts, documentaries, and features are allowed. Films must be made in New York or by New York women elsewhere.

Fifteen films were shown and ten were represented by the filmmakers, who talked with audiences at length. The house was full for all the films and patrons responded with enthusiasm and appreciation. The filmmakers also lauded the organizers and the warmth, friendliness, and beauty of Otsego County.

CFOC was delighted to make a grant which helped the young festival succeed. We look forward to many more successful seasons of the festival. We and Film Otsego also look forward to the filmmakers setting new productions in Otsego County.

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY

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CFOC BY THE NUMBERS

As of March 31, 2026

Total invested in the community since 2019

$2,019,197

Total number of awards/grants since 2019

580

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTSEGO COUNTY

CREATING A FUND WITH CFOC

One of the ways CFOC serves this area is by offering our donors a way to create funds that support their philanthropic interests, streamline giving, and keep impact local.

You can establish either a donor-advised fund or a field-of-interest fund with CFOC. Your contribution to establish the fund generally brings tax advantages. The money in your fund is managed with our other assets to produce income, which means your initial gift grows and can do more good in our community. Other members of the community can make gifts to your fund, furthering its impact. Which fund is right for you depends on your goals.

A **donor-advised fund** gives you and your named successor the ability to direct grants to your favorite charities. You tell us where you want the money to go, and we write the check.

A **field-of-interest fund** streamlines your giving. You establish the fund with a specific purpose; we work with nonprofits who apply for grants from your fund and send the checks. We ask that donors contribute at least $10,000 to create a fund and that the minimum granted from a donor-advised fund be $250.

Tax law has changed in 2026. If you itemize on your tax return, establishing a fund may be the best way to manage the taxes you pay. And if you're 73 or older and have a traditional IRA, using your required minimum distributions to fund your philanthropy may be the most tax-smart way for you to give. Please talk to your tax and/or financial adviser to see what works best for you.

To learn more about creating a fund tailored to your philanthropic interests, contact Joanne Tobey, director of development, at ***joanne@cfotsego.org***.

CFOC ANNOUNCES SPRING 2026 AWARDS CYCLE:

$100,000 FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The 2026 Spring awards cycle is dedicated to civics education, historic preservation, and community service projects related to Otsego County history, with special consideration given to projects focused on celebrating America 250. In partnership with the Mildred Parish Foundation Fund at CFOC, we are allocating $100,000 for the Spring cycle.

The 2026 Spring awards cycle focuses on the following types of applications that include, but are not limited to

- Workshops and education programs (for example, civic education, grave restoration, school programs, indigenous history, research, etc.)
- Archival and genealogical services support (including digitization of important documents)
- Historic markers and monument care
- Exhibit and event support (excluding fireworks)
- Historic encampments and reenactments
- Capital projects for historic buildings

While special consideration will be given to America 250 projects, projects that focus and pre- and post- America 250 are also welcome. Collaborative efforts (for example, purchase of digitization services or archival supplies) are strongly encouraged. The maximum award is $10,000. The deadline to apply is May 15, 2026.

Applicants should be registered charities or sponsored by a registered charity, although municipalities may apply with restrictions.

Please visit our website, ***cfotsego.org***, for complete details and a link to our application process.

DONOR PROFILE: SARAH AND PAUL PATTERSON

College brought Paul and Sarah Patterson to Oneonta in the late 60s and early 70s. The great community brought them back twenty years later, after they had built and then sold a successful business in the Hudson Valley. "Friends said, 'You could have gone anywhere, but you came back to Oneonta,'" says Sarah, with a laugh. "We're so glad we did. We love Oneonta. It was a great place to raise our kids."

The Pattersons, who have been donors to the Community Foundation of Otsego County since 2021, learned the power of philanthropy from their parents. Sarah's mother and father were very supportive of the arts in the Buffalo area, where Sarah grew up, and volunteered with Meals on Wheels. Describing his own upbringing, Paul said, "With nine children, there was not much philanthropy, but we always helped our neighbors." Paul's mother, who was a decorated nurse during World War II, earned the admiration of her nurse colleagues during her post-war career at an area hospital. A surgeon there was infamous among the nurses for kicking them if they did not supply the requested implement quickly enough. When he tried his technique for encouraging speed with Paul's mother, she kicked him back, saying "You'll never do that to another nurse again!" Paul learned from his mom to stand up for what's right."Little people doing little things, that's what makes change happen," he said.

The Pattersons make change happen in Otsego County in many ways. Since their college days, they have been very involved in the community. Sarah served on the SUNY college council even while in the Hudson Valley, and she has served on a number of local boards, including the Catskill Symphony and A. O. Fox Hospital. She and Paul got to know CFOC founder Bob Schlather and his business partner, Bob Birch, through Rotary, as well as Executive Director Jeff Katz, whom they credit for their connection to CFOC.

The Pattersons appreciate the impact CFOC has had across the county. "We have so much here," Sarah said, noting that she and Paul enjoy the variety of activities in Otsego County and the programming our nonprofit organizations provide. "It's like I used to tell my kids, if you're bored, it's your own fault."

CFOC NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT: FRIENDS OF MUSIC & ART (FoMA)

Friends of Music & Art of Cooperstown exists to encourage, support, and strengthen music and arts education within the Cooperstown Central School District (CCS). Formed in 1994, FoMA is all-volunteer organization that provides support to CCS programs and organizes community arts enrichment activities.

As part of a new initiative to bring multicultural musical experiences to Cooperstown Elementary School, FoMA welcomed Gabriel Alegría and his Afro-Peruvian Sextet on Thursday, October 9, 2025. This was made possible by a grant from CFOC. The group performed world-class, Afro-Peruvian jazz music for nearly 400 students.

The students were entranced by the rhythms of the cajón, cajita, and quijada; instruments most had never seen before. They clapped along and danced in their chairs while listening to the masterful musicians. FoMA hoped the students would find the performance both engaging and entertaining, and it was clear from their body language that they did.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: MOHAWK VALLEY GIVES RETURNS ON SEPTEMBER 18 FOR ITS FIFTH YEAR OF COMMUNITY IMPACT!

Mohawk Valley Gives is an exciting day of online giving that brings together local nonprofits, businesses, and residents across Otsego County to support the causes that matter most. Last year, more than 80 nonprofit organizta-ions participated in Mohawk Valley Gives.

Sponsors provide prizes, and CFOC provides a grant to each nonprofit registered for the program. Mohawk Valley Gives is a once-a-year event that boosts giving across our nonprofit community, helping local organizations advance their missions and vital work.

Whether you choose to support one organization or several, your generosity helps build a stronger, more vibrant Otsego County for everyone. We hope you'll join us on September 18, 2026, for this inspiring day of giving.