

2023 Snapshot of New York State Museums

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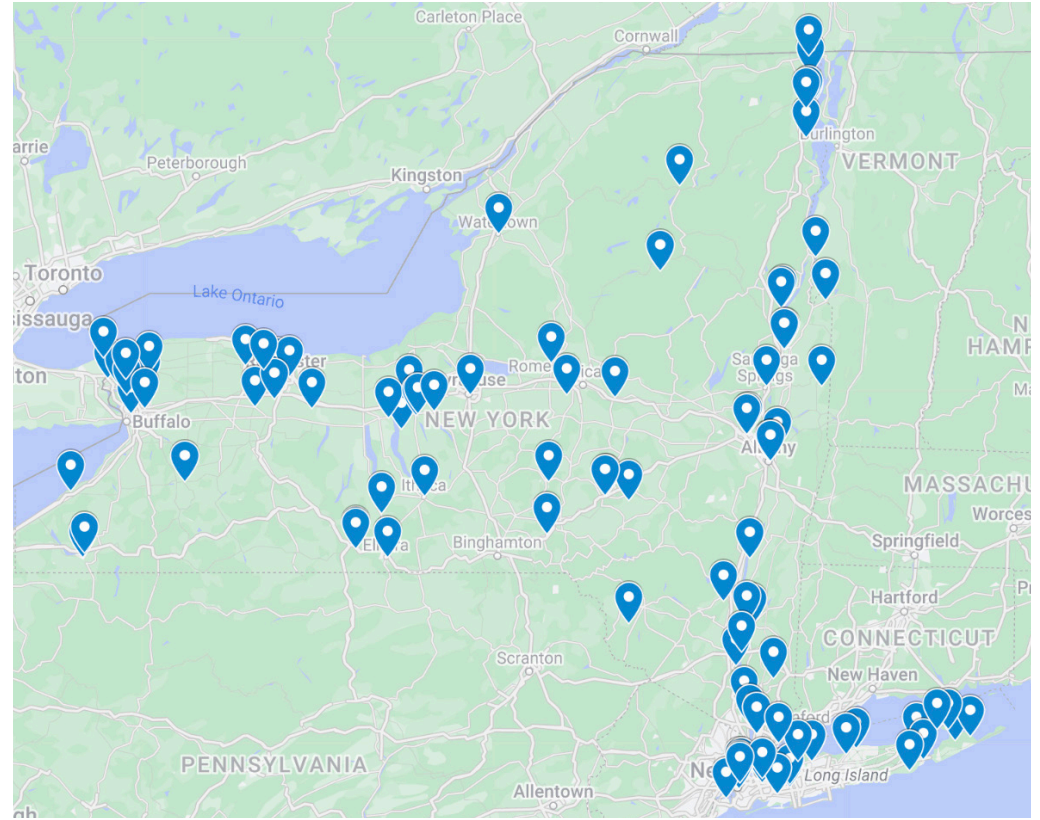
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Introduction

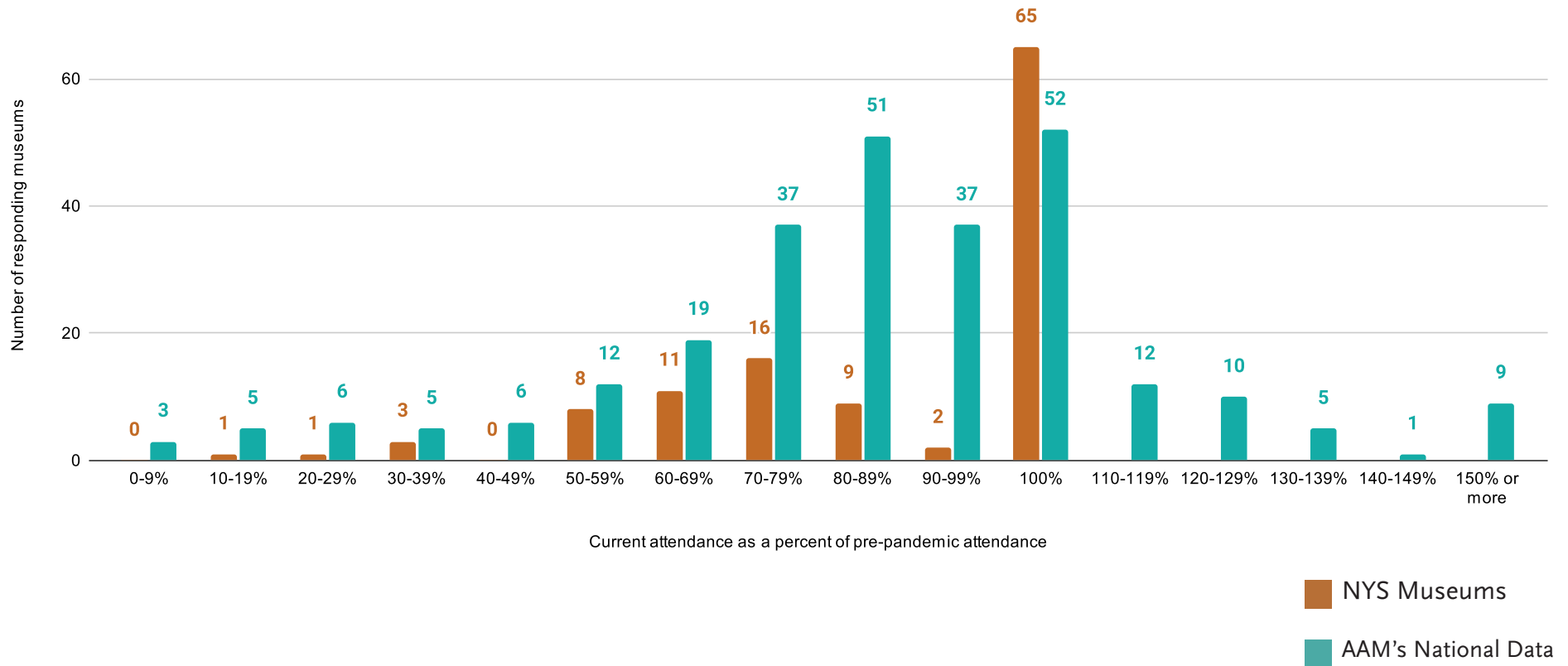
Data fielded August 1 - 18, 2023

116 New York State museums responded to this survey from all ten REDC regions, with representation from museums of multiple disciplines and budget sizes.

MANY compared this data to the American Alliance of Museum's 2023 National Snapshot of United States Museums, fielded in March and April 2023 by Wilkening Consulting with 340 museum responses.

While NYS museums are trending at the same rate as nationally reported data in some areas, in other areas they are lagging behind.

Attendance



57% of responding NYS museums have recovered to pre-pandemic attendance numbers. New York's post-pandemic attendance average is 25% higher than the national average reported by AAM.

43% of responding NYS museums have yet to recover pre-pandemic attendance numbers, averaging a 66% attendance rate compared to pre-pandemic attendance.

**MANY did not ask NYS museums to report any increase in attendance from pre-pandemic.*

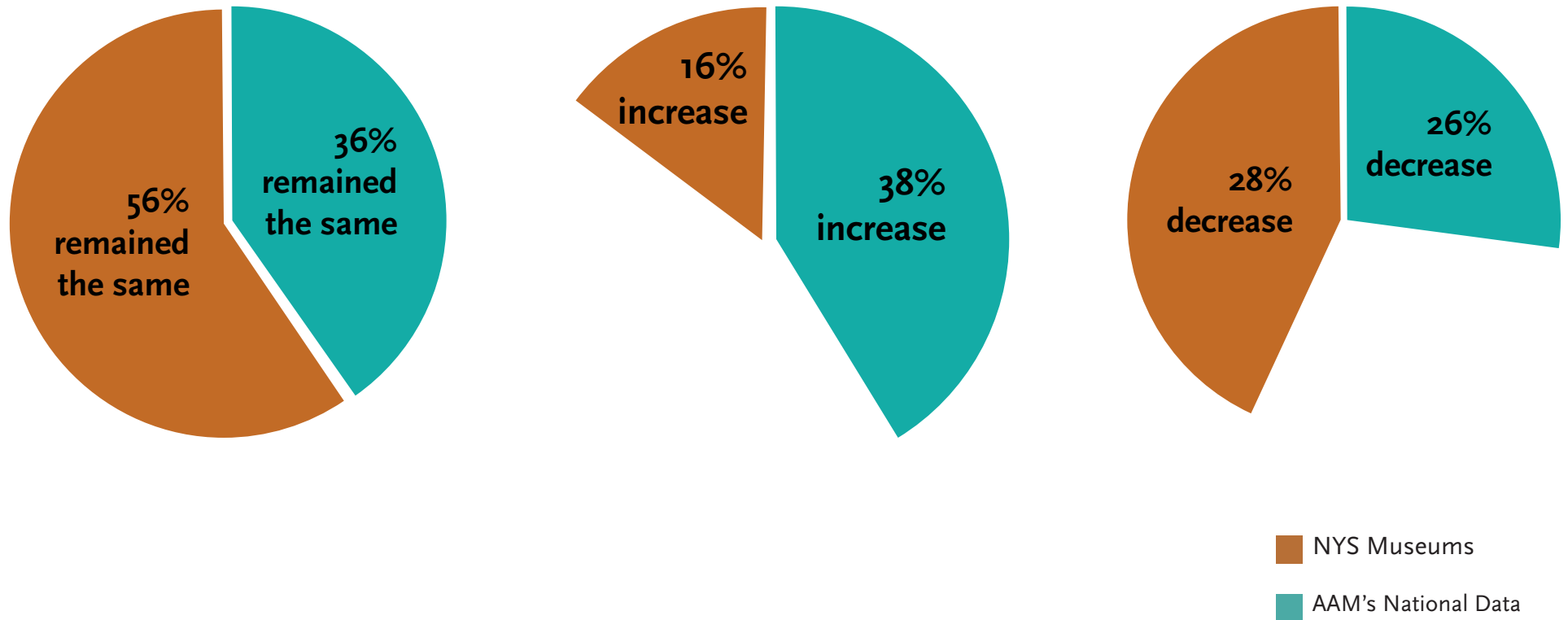
Staffing

56% of respondents reported that staff size is the same as it was pre-pandemic.

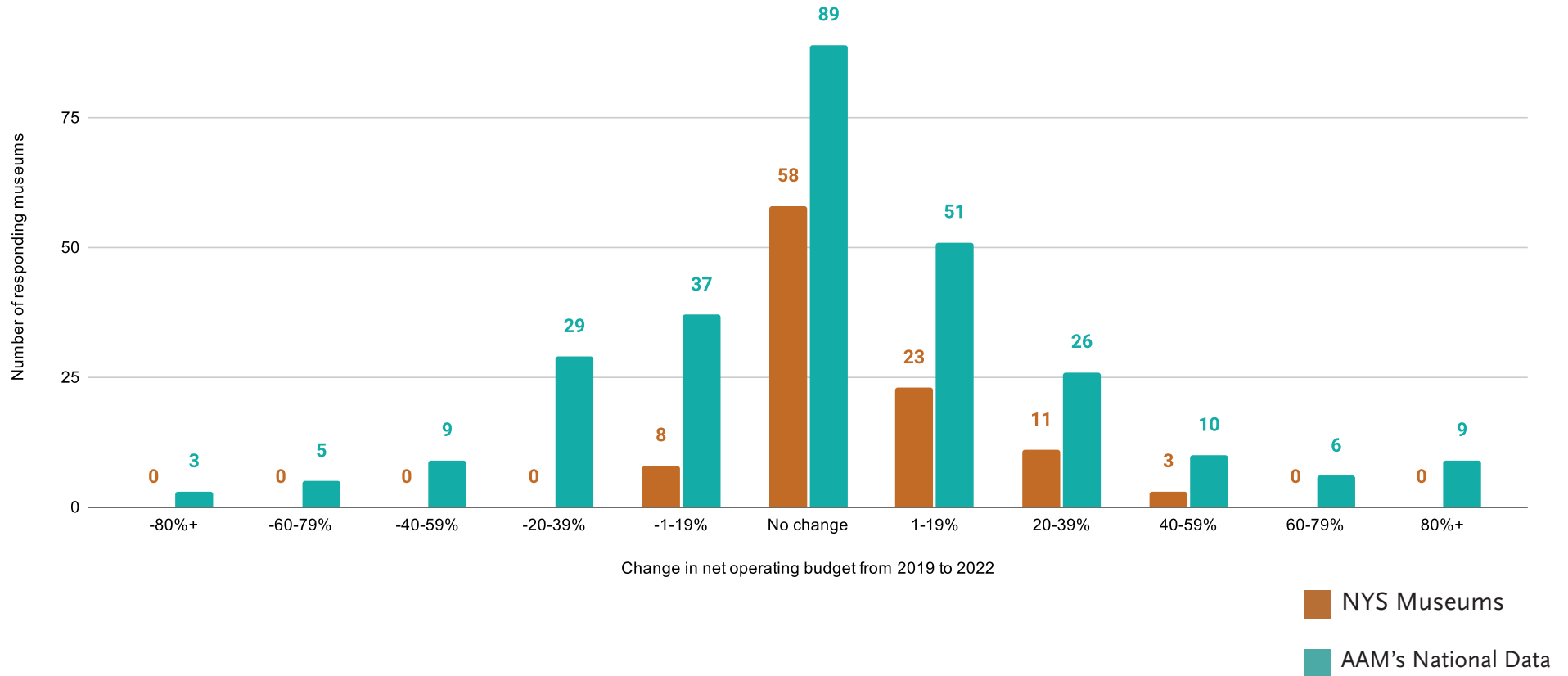
16% of respondents reported an increase in staff size.

28% of respondents reported a decrease in staff size. In 2021 MANY reported a 12% loss in full-time and part-time staff. The 28% represents an additional 16% loss in staff since 2019.

36% of respondents said that they are actively recruiting for positions.



Finances



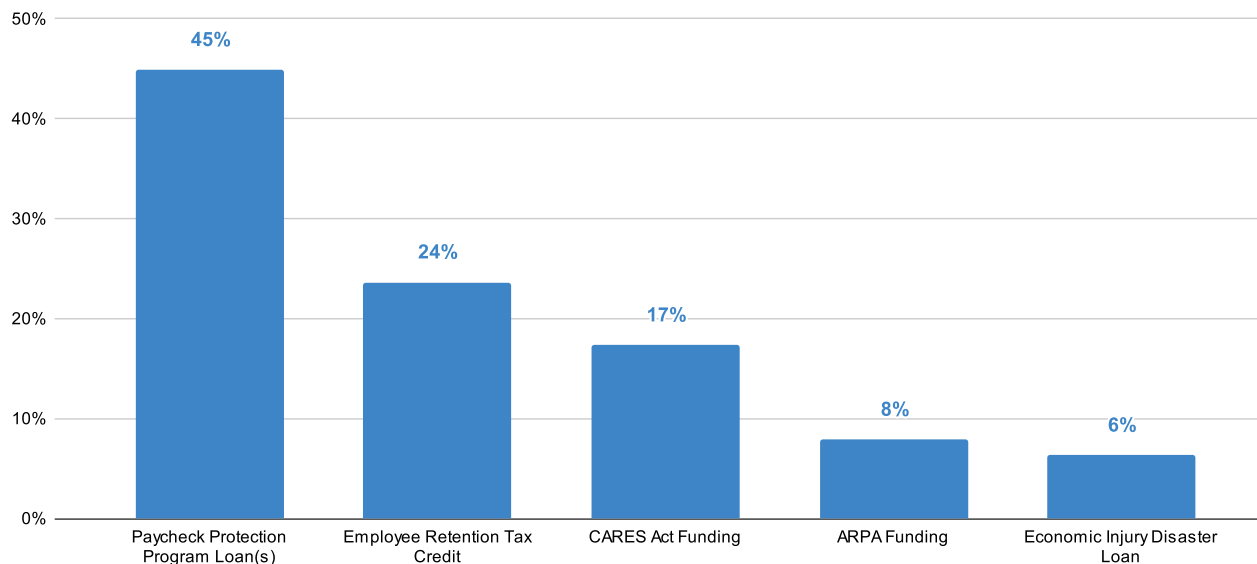
17% of respondents reported a decrease in their museum's operating budget.

33% of respondents reported an increase.

50% of respondents reported that their museum's operating budget remain relatively the same as it was pre-pandemic which is 13% higher than the national data.

Some of the reported operating budget increases may be attributed to the 2022 6.5% inflation rate as reported by the US Labor Department.

Pandemic Relief



52% of responding museums received some type of federal pandemic relief funding.

142 NYS museums received Paycheck Protection Program loans during the pandemic which protected 7,062 museum jobs.¹

4% of total CARES Act funding to US museums went to NYS museums in 36 grants totalling \$5,056,041 from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

61 NYS museums were awarded ARPA funding through IMLS, NEA, and NEH grants, totaling \$6,807,259.

53 NYS museums received a Shuttered Venue Operating Grant (SVOG), totalling just under \$115 million.

¹ COVID-19 Impact of NYS Museums Part 2, Museum Association of New York, August 2020.

Selected additional comments regarding museum's recovery over the past three years.

We were focused on creating online programming and outdoor accessibility during the pandemic. We have continued and even expanded the offerings post pandemic. We reopened as soon as we were allowed to because we are a LEED certified building and we were well positioned to provide a safe space for the public.

We are a small historical society serving a rural township and locale. We are an all-volunteer organization and applied for several local relief grants to help with operating and capital expenses. We received no funding. Our comeback has been entirely due to the tremendous fundraising efforts of our volunteers, Town support, and our membership.

While we may have the same number of people coming through our doors, we have not been able to recover the energy needed from volunteers to organize events and activities.

Because we are connected to a university, this affected recovery and growth quite a bit. Higher education has not recovered from the pandemic and the side effects of this include budget cuts, hiring freezes, and extra financial approvals. This often directly affects our operations.

We had heavy board loss from which we have not recovered. With an increased cost of living, there are salary pressures without us feeling confident about increasing fees for events. Audiences are returning, but patterns/composition are shifting and for a very small staff it is hard to respond quickly in our planning & marketing.

We have pivoted to doing most of our talks online or a hybrid -which remains very problematic but inescapable now, as in-person attendance has not recovered. Our reach is much bigger online and of course, the event is recorded and shareable.

The pandemic provided our organization the opportunity to focus on identifying more effective ways of accomplishing our mission, resulting in tremendous growth during the past three years.

The recovery funding was key to helping us get through the pandemic years. While we filed for ERTC funding, we have not received the funding yet. The dollars never arrived and we have been told it might still be years till they arrive (if ever) because the IRS is backed up. The 2022-2023 fiscal year has been harder now that there are no PPP loans but we still have increased operating costs due to inflation, increases in goods and services costs, and staffing costs. We are finding it very hard to recruit new staff at former staff salary rates. Our attendance numbers have rebounded, but we are admission free. So we are thrilled to be serving more people again, but that does not bring in more revenue. In fact, it just means we have needed to increase admission desk hours, increased guards, and education and visitor services staff.

Alphabetical List of Respondents

Adirondack Sky Center & Observatory
Afton Historical Society Museum
Albany Institute of History & Art
Alice T. Miner Museum
American Museum of Natural History
Antique Wireless Association
Arcade Historical Society
Big Springs Museum
Black Rock Historical Society
Bolton Historical Museum
Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village
Cambridge Historical Society and Museum
Canal Society of New York State
Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University
Chemung County Historical Society
Chenango County Historical Society and Museum
Clermont State Historic Site
Clinton County Historical Association
Clinton Historical Society
Corning Museum of Glass
Cornwall on Hudson Village Museum
D&H Canal Museum
Dunkirk Historical Museum
Eastville Community Historical Society
Everson Museum of Art
Fenton History Center
Fireboat Fire Fighter Museum
Fort Ticonderoga
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College
Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery
Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House
Franklin Square Museum
Frontenac Museum
Gates Historical Society
George Eastman Museum
Godwin-Ternbach Museum
Greater Fleischmanns Museum of Memories
Greater Oneonta Historical Society
Hagaman Historical & Preservation Society
Hallockville Museum Farm
Hampton Bays Historical Society
Hanford Mills Museum
Hart Cluett Museum of Historic Rensselaer County
Haverstraw Brick Museum
Heckscher Museum of Art
Heritage Discovery Center
Herkimer County Historical Society
Historic Geneva
Historic Saranac Lake
Historical Society of the Nyacks
Hofstra University Museum of Art
Intrepid Museum
Irish American Heritage Museum
Irvington Historical Society
Kent-Delord House
Long Beach Historical Society
Long Island Children's Museum
Long Island Exploration
Long Island Museum
Mandeville Gallery, Union College
Mid-Hudson Discovery Museum
miSci
Morgan-Manning House
MOST
Mount Gulian Historic Site
Museum at Eldridge Street
Museum of Arts and Design
National Women's Hall of Fame
New York Museum of Transportation
Niagara Aerospace Museum
Niagara County Historical Society
Noah Hallock Homestead
North Star Underground Railroad Museum
North Tonawanda History Museum
Old Fort Niagara
Plattsburgh State Art Museum
Pollock-Krasner House & Study Center
Putnam Arts Council
Raynham Hall Museum
Roger Tory Peterson Institute
Rome Sports Hall of Fame and Museum
Rye Historical Society
Sagamore Institute
Samuel de Champlain History Center
Sanborn Area Historical Society
Schuyler County Historical Society
Schweinfurth Art Center
Sci-Tech Center of Northern NY
Sciencenter
Seneca Art and Culture Center
at Ganondagan State Historic Site
Seward House Museum
Shelter Island Historical Society
Sherwood House
Shushan Covered Bridge Museum
Skaneateles Historical Society
South Street Seaport Museum
Southold Historical Society
dba Southold Historical Museum
Spencerport Depot and Canal Museum
Staten Island Museum
The Historical Association of Lewiston
The Hyde Collection
The Museum at Bethel Woods
The Museum at FIT
The Rockwell Museum
The Sembrich
The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence
Town OF Diana Historical Museum
Town of Pompey Historical Society
Valley Stream Historical Society
Village of Williamsville Historical Society & Museum
Voelker Orth Museum
Westhampton Beach Historical Society
William Miller House
World Awareness Children's Museum
Yager Museum of Art & Culture, at Hartwick College
Yeshiva University Museum



MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK

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