

2021 ANNUAL SUMMARY



**CYCLISTS
PLEASE
GO SLOWLY**



INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2017, ART on the Rail Trail continues to be an integral part of the Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail community. Run by Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy volunteers, with the assistance of MHLC staff, ART members install works of art and host special events along the Rail Trail. ART has overseen the installation of 5 murals in the Town of Bethlehem, a multi-piece art installation at the trail terminus in Voorheesville, assisted the Albany County Executive's office with a public safety campaign and hosted four community Chalk Art Events. ART is funded through business sponsors, private donors and grants.

2021 SHARE THE TRAIL

ART partnered with the Albany County Executive's office for the Share the Trail public safety campaign. A call for proposals was put out in early spring, resulting in nine high quality and interesting concepts for signage along the trail. Oh my! Murals, from New York City, was selected for their colorful and readable designs.



While the original proposal called for 9 installations along the length of the trail, funding constraints resulted in a scaled back version, with three murals installed in the fall of 2021 - one in Albany, Slingerlands and Voorheesville. Should additional funding become available, it will be a simple process to fill in additional messages.

On Saturday October 2nd, Tyler from Oh my! Murals was on site and hosted a kid friendly activity in conjunction with the

Chalk the Walk event. He invited children to paint a Share the Trail banner, which was later hung along the trail. Additionally, the County Executive’s Office hosted an unveiling event at the Slingerlands trail head, where the second mural is located.

SPECIAL EVENTS



ART hosted the 4th Annual Chalk the Walk event on Saturday October 2, 2021. In keeping with past events, the weather was beautiful and participants seemed to thoroughly enjoy the day. Thirty artists participated and over \$320 was raised to help support future ART installations. Community businesses generously provided prizes for the top 3 adult and child artists. The Spotlight News covered the [event](#) as well, helping to raise awareness.

Charles Duncan, an art historian and ART volunteer, hosted “Let’s Talk about ART” on October 2nd in front of Andrea Hersh’s mural, located in Delmar at the corner of Hudson Ave and Adams Street. This conversation was open to the public and provided trail users the opportunity to discuss the piece as well as the role of art in public settings.

FUNDRAISING

ART hosted its first online art auction in May. Thirty artists submitted 43 original pieces of art, with all but 5 selling in the auction, and resulting in over \$6,000 raised. Several of the participating artists were highlighted in a feature [article](#) in The Spotlight. Both artists and people purchasing artwork expressed their enjoyment of the event.

LOOKING TO 2022

The ART committee is looking forward to a busy 2022 with plans including new art installations, a re-refresh of the Cherry Avenue bridge piers mural, a new spring community event to complement Chalk the Walk in the fall and a return of an in person fundraising event for the spring or summer.

Art on the Rail Trail (ART) is a volunteer committee of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. ART's mission is to support and improve the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail by creating public works of art along the Rail Trail. These original, commissioned art installations encourage local and regional visitors of varying ages and physical abilities to enjoy this amenity, engaging the diversity of trail users and benefiting the local economy.

For more information about ART, www.mohawkhudson.org/art or email art@mohawkhudson.org.