

## Dear Friend of the Sing Sing Prison Museum,

As we complete another exciting and eventful year, it is a good time to extend our sincere appreciation for your loyal support. **We are writing to ask you to continue that support with a financial contribution to our annual appeal.**

The good news is that, after nearly a decade of organizational work and bringing people together online and in person, the Sing Sing Prison Museum (SSPM) is planning to open a visitor center and exhibition in Ossining's Olive Opera House in April 2026. This is a pivotal step towards our goal of becoming a leading prison museum in the US and fulfilling our inspiring mission **to share stories of incarceration and reform, past and present, and to imagine and create a more just society.**



### OUR MANY NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025 INCLUDE:

Received a **\$2.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment** to develop collections, programming, and an exhibition on religion and incarceration. We spent this year training a diverse team and launching an ambitious three-year program to record 200 oral history interviews with people impacted by the justice system.

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Sponsored a multimedia program called **UNSUNG** in partnership with **Life Stories, Musicambia, and the Ossining Public Library**, combining music, film, and community conversation that has attracted over 500 visitors on site and online.

(PICTURED ON NEXT PAGE; TOP LEFT)

Launched **"Sink or Sing" walking tours** that explore the history of Sing Sing Prison, the evolution of US penal philosophy, and innovative examples of reform. This year, 1040 people have attended our tours. Museum educators, including several formerly incarcerated individuals, lead the tours and strengthen our work with their knowledge and lived experience. We have also developed a robust program of private tours, which visitors can reserve via **our website**.

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OUR MANY NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2025 ALSO INCLUDE:

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Partnered with the **Buffalo Maritime Museum** to host the Erie Canal Boat Seneca Chief in Ossining, with over 500 attendees. We observed the bicentennials of the Erie Canal and Sing Sing Prison, raising awareness about their intertwined histories.

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Welcomed **five paid interns from Mercy University** and **two Teshuvah Fellows from New York City's Central Synagogue**, who created interpretive materials for our collection, conducted research, wrote blog posts, and developed an interactive map to be featured in our new exhibition.

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Engaged audiences of all ages at conferences, webinars, senior centers, and schools, and maintained our collaboration with **Teatown Plantfest and teachers and students at Ossining High School**.

(TEATOWN PLANTFEST PICTURED ABOVE; BOTTOM LEFT)

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Continued the **Short Attention Span Book Club** in partnership with Hudson Valley Books for Humanity, our great neighbor at the Olive Opera House.

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Grew our audience through a media campaign installed in Metro-North trains, advertising our programs on social media, and partnering with local influencers to promote our walking tours. **People are paying attention to our work:** our newsletter has grown to almost 5000 subscribers, our average monthly Instagram views have increased 64% since 2024, and our "Sink or Sing" advertising campaign reached over 14,000 views on Facebook and Instagram.

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**Expanded our staff** by hiring a full-time Collections Curator and Program Manager, part-time office support, and a team of museum educators.



Along with this good news, we must candidly report that the SSPM faced major challenges this year. Nationwide cuts to federal grants led to a significant loss of funding for the Visitor Center. While 2025 marked the 200th anniversary of Sing Sing Correctional Facility, the moment was far from celebratory. New York State's correctional system has experienced a year of internal turmoil and public scrutiny. Policy changes and program disruptions at Sing Sing and other facilities resulted in confining the incarcerated population in their cells and reducing access for most rehabilitation and education programs, including SSPM.

**These events have served as a reminder in real time of SSPM's essential role in documenting stories of incarceration and reform and continuing innovative programming that reflect the lived experiences of all members of the justice-impacted community.**

Our mission is more critical than ever. As America prepares to observe its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we must recognize that only by engaging with the challenging and painful stories of our past can we appreciate the progress we have made—and what work still must be done.

Through the museum's exhibits, programs, and collections, we strive to share stories of incarceration and reform compassionately and fully. Our board, staff, and visitors span the justice-impacted community: formerly incarcerated individuals, corrections officers, victims, families, and elected officials. We contribute to the nationwide conversation around prisons and reform, and inspire visitors to imagine and create a more just society. We shed light on the important work others are doing, and we build empathy and awareness.

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IN 2026, WE WILL:

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Officially observe the **Sing Sing Prison's bicentennial**, open and rededicate a time capsule at the Sing Sing Correctional Facility, and create an online exhibit to share this important aspect of Sing Sing's material history with the public;

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Open and operate the **visitor center and exhibition** at the Olive Opera House on a regular weekly schedule;

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Continue the renovation of the Olive Opera House and complete the construction of **two exhibition galleries and a collections storage space**;

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**Expand public programs** through riverfront tours, webinars, film screenings, book talks, and collaborations with Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, Rehabilitation Through the Arts, Columbia University's Center for Justice, the Ossining Public Library, and other education and reform organizations.

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**Conduct 50 oral history interviews** and complete the plan for preservation and access.

# SING SING PRISON MUSEUM

To sustain this good work, we turn to you for your support. Your donation allows us to fulfill our mission at a time when public support has become unreliable. When progress seems slow or impossible, it is by sharing stories, bringing people together, and imagining more just futures that we inspire ourselves and others to make those futures a reality.



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PICTURED RIGHT:  
ARTIST RENDERINGS OF SSPM'S VISITOR CENTER  
AND EXHIBITION AT OSSINING'S OLIVE OPERA HOUSE

You can donate to the annual fund through our website at [singsingprisonmuseum.org/donate](https://singsingprisonmuseum.org/donate).

To donate by mail, please complete the enclosed card and send a check to:

Sing Sing Prison Museum  
30 State Street  
Ossining, NY 10562

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT SSPM INCLUDE:

Purchasing Sing Sing Prison Museum merchandise from our [online store](#), open from November 17th - 30th.

Volunteer with us! Our volunteer program, launching in 2026, is an excellent way to help us fulfill our mission.

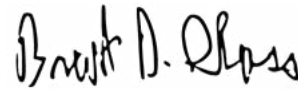
Attend a walking tour or public program—and invite your friends!

THANK YOU!

Sincerely,



Bob Elliott  
President



Brent Glass  
Executive Director



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