

Thousand  
Islands  
**ARTS**  
**CENTER**  
Home of the  
Handweaving Museum

# THE CAMPUS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Weaving our future together.

# Introduction to the THOUSAND ISLANDS ARTS CENTER

The **Thousand Islands Arts Center** is a nonprofit institution that provides year-round creative arts and culture programming for visitors of all ages. Serving locals, seasonal residents and tourists alike, we are the only arts center in the region and the only Handweaving Museum in the country.

Our mission is to advance art, craft and our unique handwoven textile collection through education and exhibition.

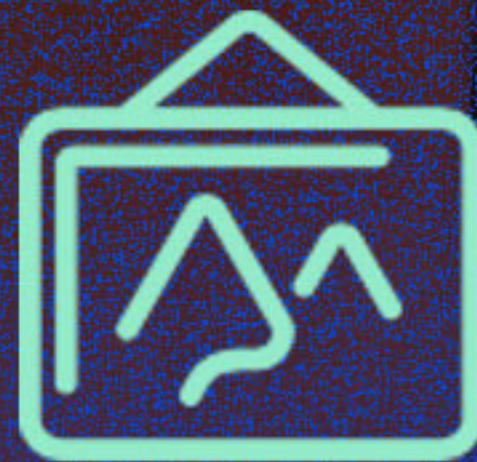
Located in the picturesque Village of Clayton, New York, the Thousand Islands Arts Center ~ Home of the Handweaving Museum stands as a beacon of cultural enrichment and artistic expression.

For over half a century, it has been the heart of the community, offering diverse exhibitions and educational opportunities. Help us enhance our capacity to serve the community and become a center of excellence for art and craft inspired by the natural beauty of the Thousand Islands.



# EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

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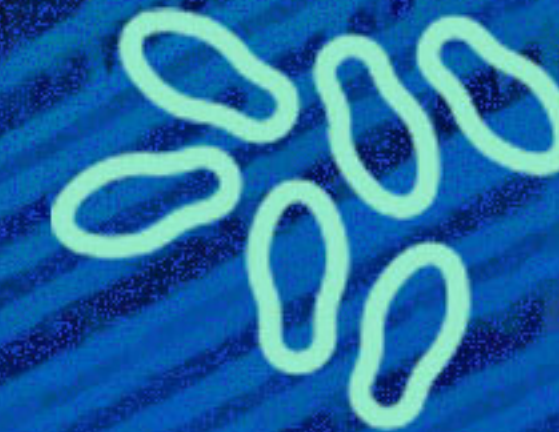
## ROTATING EXHIBITIONS

The Center maintains a year-round exhibition schedule, featuring local, regional and international artists



## ART AND CRAFT CLASSES

A full array of art and craft classes and workshops are offered annually



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Workshops and events enhance the rich cultural experience of our community

As the Arts Center has flourished, it has outgrown its original home, hindering access to its invaluable handweaving collection and library. Recognizing this need for growth and modernization, the Arts Center is embarking on a transformative journey with a major capital campaign, its first in decades. Preserving the historic 19th-century house on John Street, our artistic presence will now be extended to James Street, where a new building will welcome visitors onto a campus that fosters creativity, artistry and culture.

# HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

1877s

The home that houses the Art Center is constructed by Jacob Putnam. It later becomes the home of the faith healer Antoine Tetrault.

1966

The Craft School purchases 314 John Street and holds the first class with 44 students.

1990

The Craft School is issued a charter from the State of New York introducing the name Thousand Islands Craft School and Textile Museum.

2006

The pottery studio is built, adding pottery to the artistic disciplines offered.

2015

The Arts Center undergoes renovations and expanded gallery space.

1962

Thousand Islands Craft School is founded.

1982

The Craft School is recognized by the NY State Department of Education as a cultural agency and educational organization and applies for 501(c) (3) non-profit status.

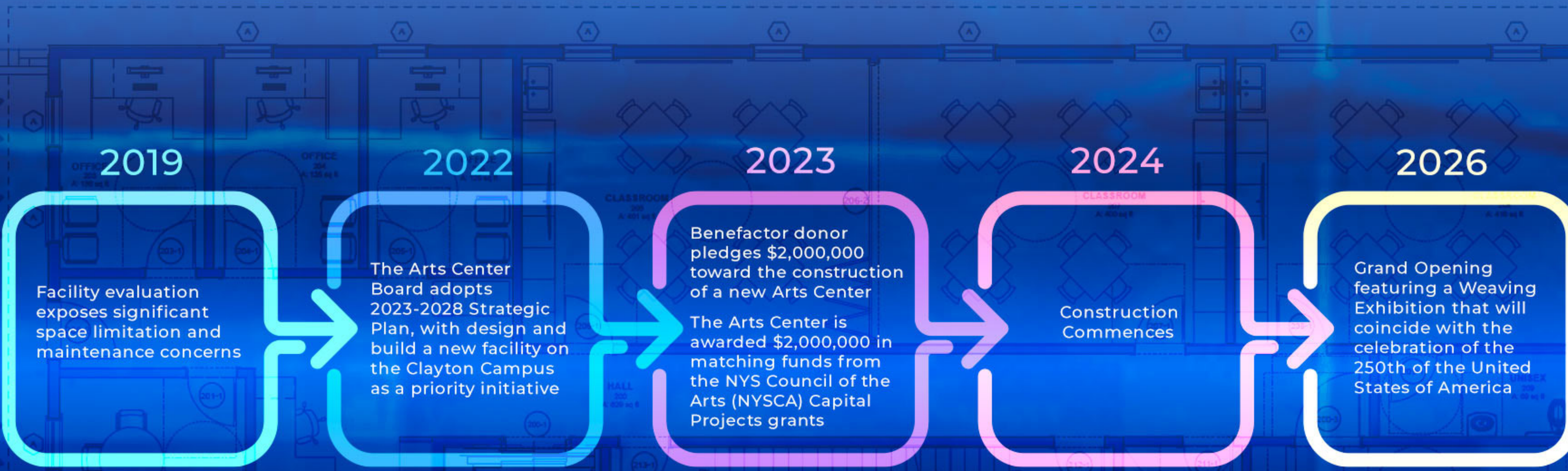
1996

The organization adjusts its name to promote itself as the American Handweaving Museum and Thousand Islands Craft School.

2009

The organization rebrands itself and begins doing business as Thousand Islands Arts Center Home of the Handweaving Museum.

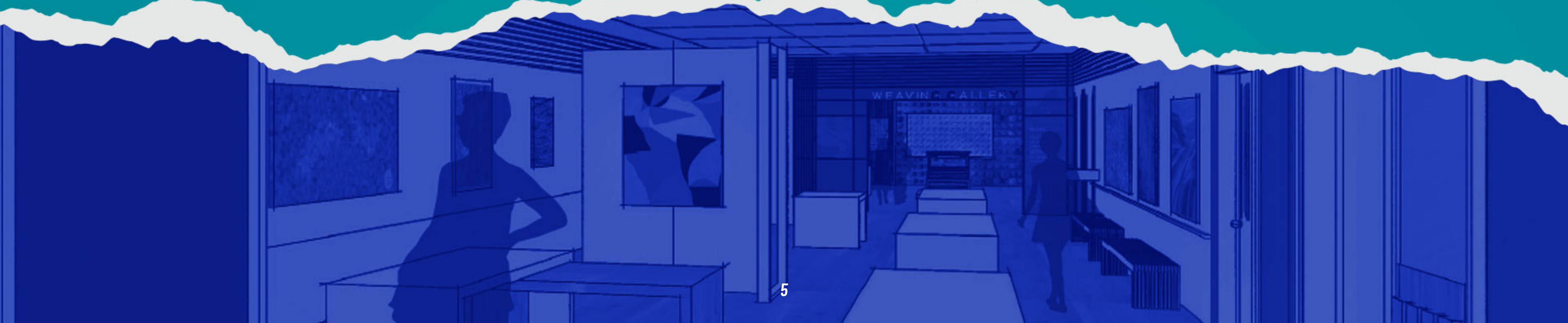
# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE





We are creating a vibrant cultural hub that not only showcases our world-class handweaving collection, but enables us to respond to the growing community demand for accessible arts programming.

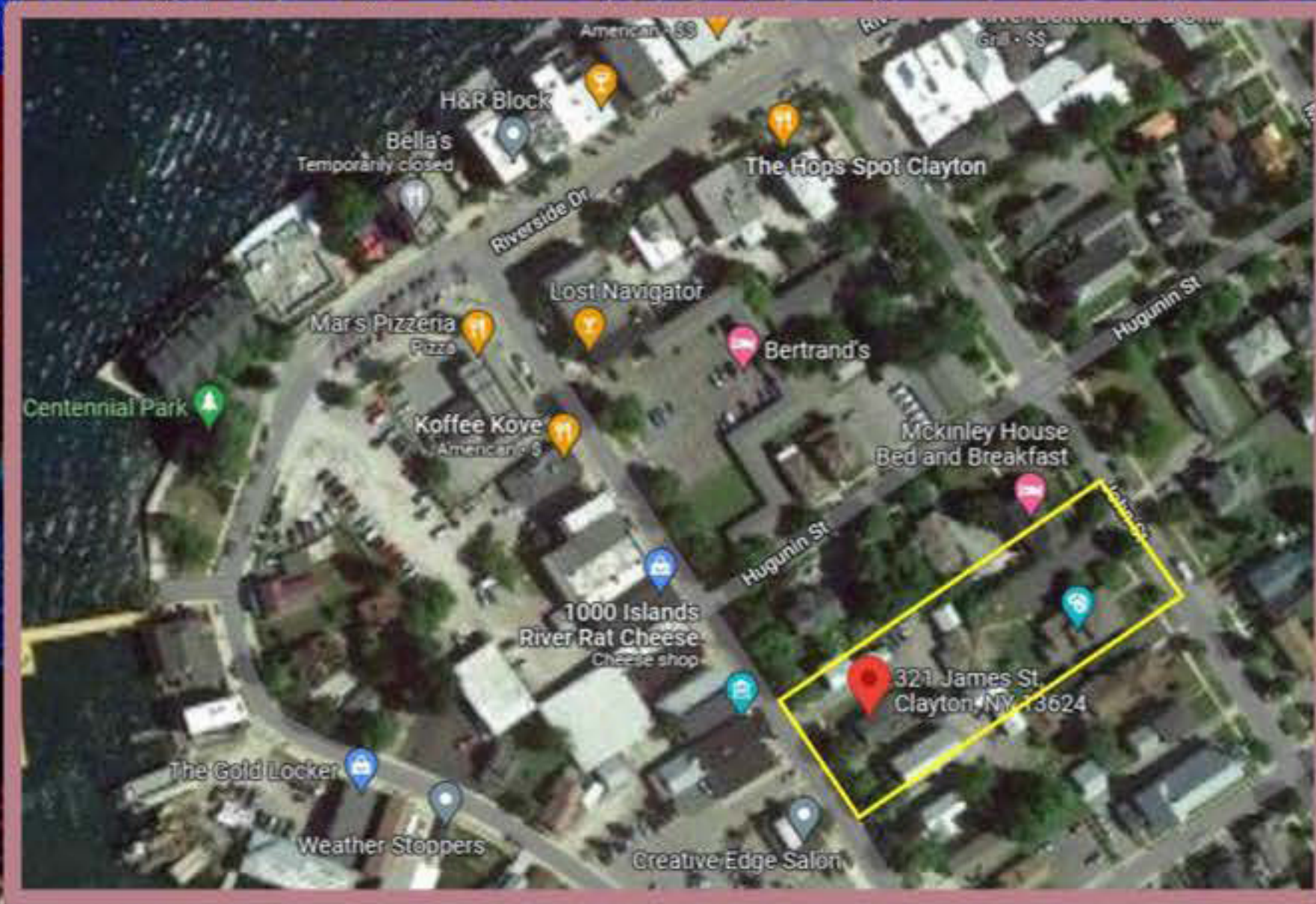
The Campus Capital Campaign addresses key priorities to attract visitors and support Clayton's growth and prosperity - including accessibility, artistry and cultural relevance.



# BUILDING A NEW FACILITY

**Located on the the Arts Center campus** and reorienting our primary entrance to 321 James Street, one of two main Village thoroughfares, the new facilities will feature galleries, classrooms, a pottery studio, a weaving studio, as well as parking and green space.

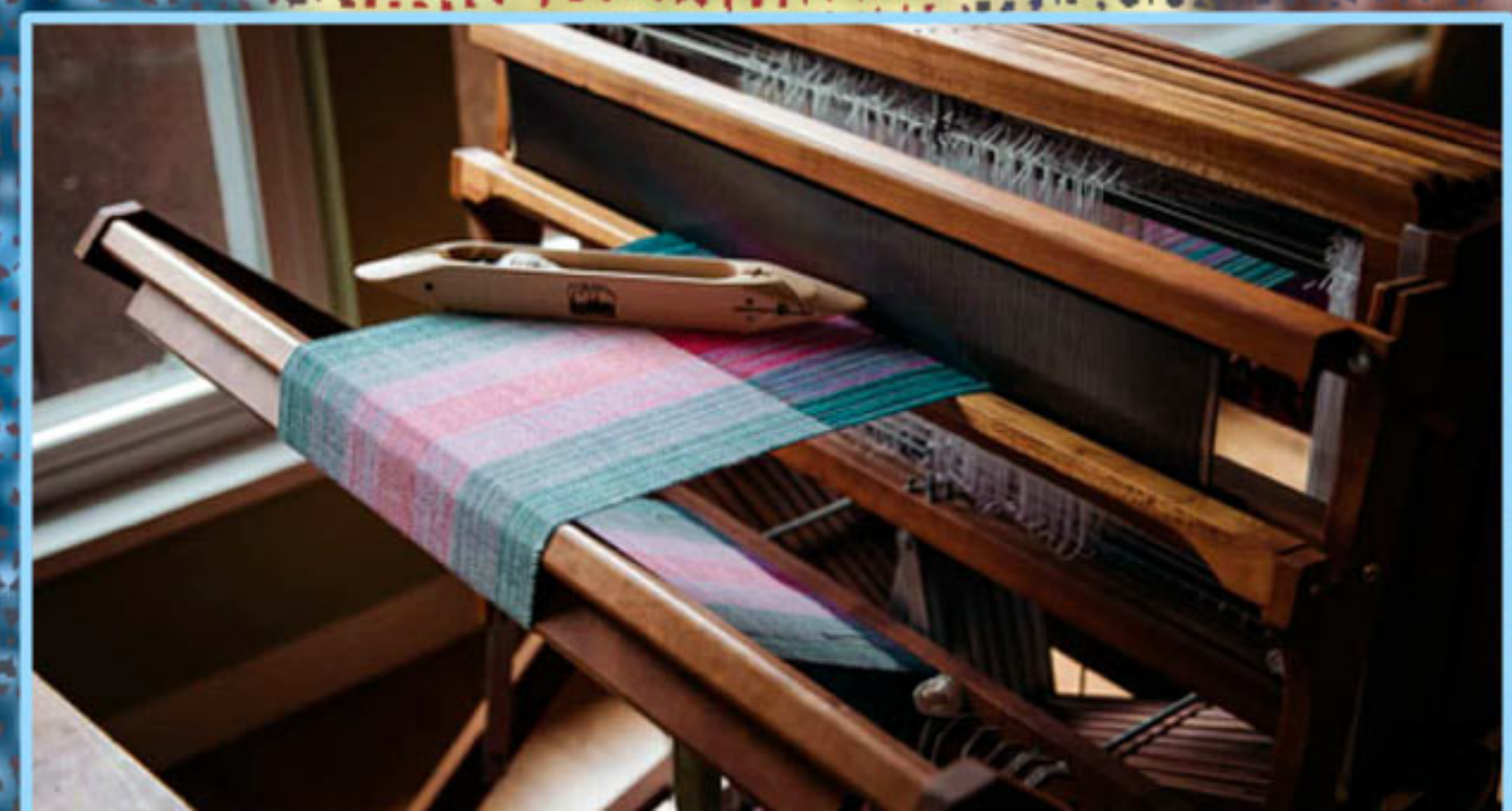
**Targeted for completion in 2026**, the new building will enable us to celebrate how the thread of the past is woven into the present, forge new partnerships, attract new visitors and enrich lives for the next 50 years.



# THE ARTS CENTER

**FOUNDED IN 1966**, the Arts Center programs offer a year-round opportunity for visitors of all ages to engage with art and explore their creativity. Programming includes:

- Rotating annual exhibits which include a strong variety in medium, function, style and cultural significance.
- Over 90 classes offered annually highlight more than 10 disciplines including weaving, drawing, fiber arts, painting, photography, pottery and basketry.
- Year-round afterschool arts programs, as well as children's summer camps.
- A full service pottery studio offering adult and children's classes, private lessons and events.





# THE HANDWEAVING MUSEUM

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**THE ARTS CENTER** is home to the only museum devoted to American handweaving.

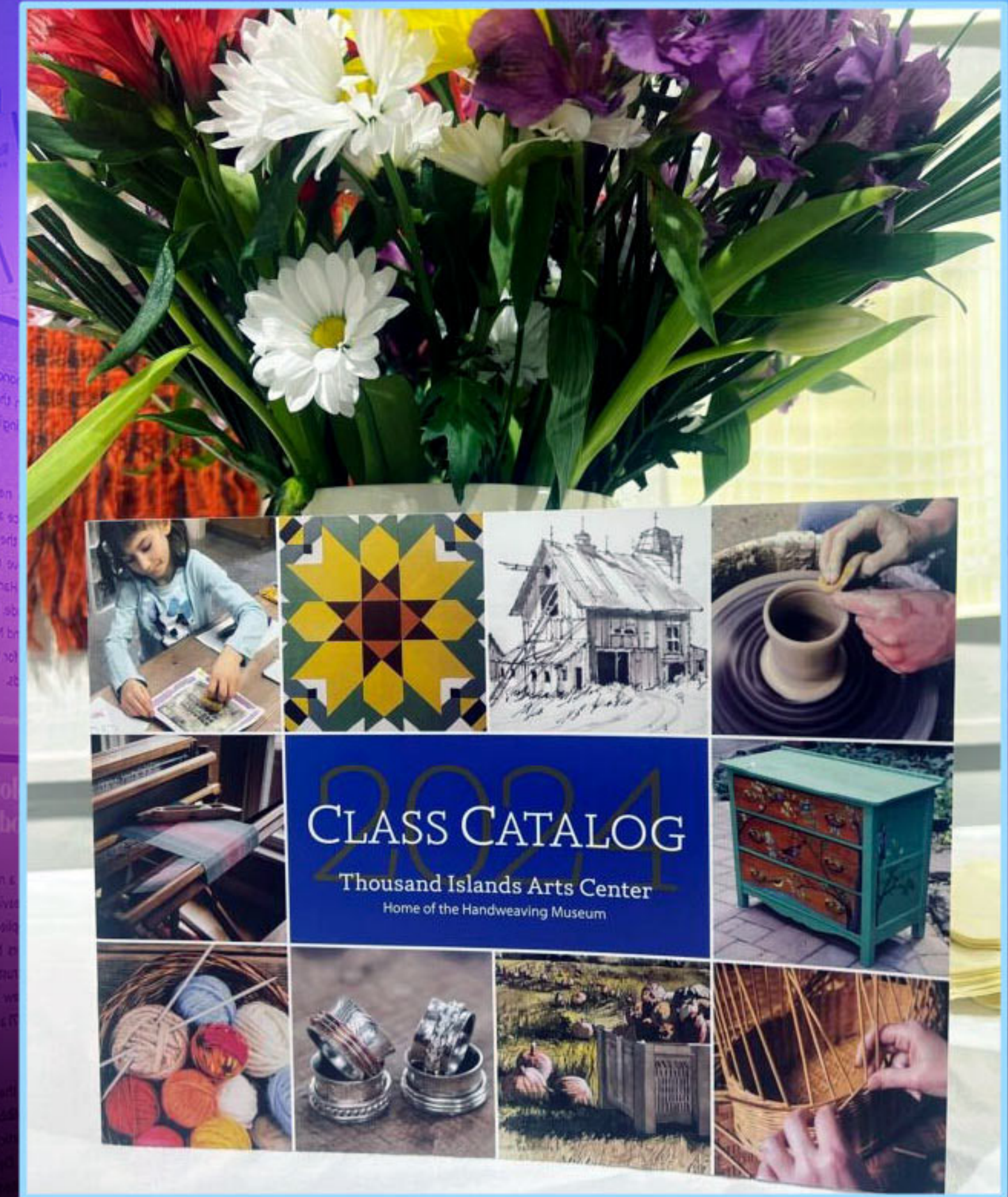
Our permanent collection is considered one of the most extensive dedicated to weaving in the country. With the primary focus on 20th century American weavers, the museum includes:

- Over 20,000 textiles from around the world, dating from ancient Egypt to the present.
- The collection features the works of international weavers, as well as pieces woven by our community.
- A digital database of approximately 11,000 photographs.
- A 2,250+ title research library, including books, manuscripts and periodicals.
- A living museum in the form of our weaving studio where visitors can observe weavers at work.
- Our annual Weaving History Conference, now in its 29th year, attracts academics, scholars and fiber enthusiasts from across the US, Canada and Europe.

# SUPPORTING LOCAL ARTISTS AND THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

The demand for arts related programming and experiences is growing exponentially, and the Arts Center wants to grow to address the need. Clayton is a thriving community with young families moving to the area for the quality of life as well as a burgeoning retired population.

An expanded Arts Center campus will enable us to offer more programming, exhibits, events, feature more artistic disciplines and expand our community engagement year-round.



# OUR COMMUNITY

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**LOCATED ON THE SHORES OF THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER** on the Canadian border, Clayton, New York, in the Thousand Islands, draws hundreds of thousands of visitors a year from all over the world who come to enjoy the great outdoors, visit the Antique Boat Museum, Boldt Castle, Clayton Opera House or explore our vibrant downtown. We are located just 20 miles north of the U.S. Army Fort Drum military base, home of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry).

Since 2019, Jefferson County has seen a 117.8% increase in tourism dollars spent. In 2022, visitor spending and tourism-related employment grew to \$322 million.

In 2023, USA Today selected Clayton as the **#1 destination** for Best Small Town Cultural Scene.



**THE THOUSAND ISLANDS ARE MADE UP OF APPROXIMATELY 1,800 ISLANDS** that straddle the Canada–US border in the St. Lawrence River as it emerges from the northeast corner of Lake Ontario. Clayton, NY is approximately 1.5 hours north of Syracuse, 5.5 hours from New York City and 6 hours from Boston. Annually, international visitors arrive from Ontario Canada via boat, car and tour company.



The project aligns with the priorities of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council and is supported by the Clayton Local Development Corporation and the Thousand Islands International Tourism Council.

The design of the project will be managed by the Arts Center in collaboration with Taylored Architecture, PLLC, and Klepper, Hahn, & Hyatt Engineering. Construction will be provided by the Black Horse Group, a local NYS Women Owned Business Enterprise (WOSB) and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB), that has operated in the region since 2006.

“I believe this (project) represents a transformational opportunity for the organization and the entire region.”

- Mark Walczyk, NY Senator, 49th Senate District

“This grant will attract new visitors to the Arts Center and the region. The Thousand Islands Arts Center is a pillar of the community.”


- Scott Gray, NYS Assemblyman 116th District

# GET INVOLVED

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US** on this exciting journey by making a contribution to the Arts Center Campus Campaign. Your support will not only help us reach our fundraising goal but also ensure that the Arts Center continues to thrive as a vital cultural asset for Clayton and beyond.

- Founder \$1,000,000+**
- Benefactor \$500,000-\$999,999**
- Sustainer \$100,000-\$499,000**
- Steward \$25,000-\$99,999**
- Patron \$10,000- \$24,999**
- Ambassador \$2,500-\$9,999**
- Partner \$1,000-\$2,499**



The logo for the Thousand Islands Arts Center is centered in a white-bordered box. It features the text "Thousand Islands" in a light blue font, "ARTS CENTER" in a large, bold, white font, and "Home of the Handweaving Museum" in a smaller white font below. The background of the box is a gradient from light blue at the top to dark blue at the bottom, with a thin green horizontal line separating the top and bottom sections.

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Islands  
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The Arts Center Campus Campaign represents a bold new chapter in the story of the Thousand Islands.

With your help, we will transform our vision into reality, creating a dynamic space where art flourishes, minds expand and communities come together.

Together, let's weave a brighter future for the arts in Clayton.

This project is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Updated 11/4/24

To learn more, please contact:  
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[www.tiartscenter.org](http://www.tiartscenter.org)