



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRELAND'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES TO VISIT THE HUDSON VALLEY

KINGSTON, NY On Saturday, August 30, 2014,

The Irish Cultural Center Hudson Valley will welcome

Her Excellency Anne Anderson, Ambassador of Ireland to the United States,

at a reception held in her honor. The reception – a fundraiser for

the construction of the new Center, will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 PM

at The SteelHouse Restaurant, 100 Rondout Landing, Kingston.



Ms. Anderson – Ireland's 17th Ambassador to the U.S. , has previously served as Ireland's Ambassador to the United Nations, the European Union, France, and Monaco, and is the first woman to hold each of these positions. Focused on economics with a goal of increasing tourism and cultural exchange between Ireland and the United States, Ms. Anderson will travel from Washington, DC to Kingston in support of the construction of the proposed new Irish Cultural Center on Abeel Street in the city's Rondout district – a neighborhood that thrived as a melting pot of European immigrants in the 1850s.

The Irish Cultural Center will be built on land formerly occupied by the headquarters of the D&H Canal Corporation -- the site where, for decades, waves of Irish, German, Polish, and Italian immigrants walked up Company Hill Path to the Pay Master's Office to collect their weekly wages. Though demolished in 1936, the Renaissance Revival-style building that once stood on the site inspires the exterior design of the new center; a fifteen-thousand square foot building overlooking the historic Rondout Creek with classroom, performance, and retail space on three floors.

Says ICCHV president Robert Carey, "We think of the center as a mini university open to the entire Hudson Valley - a place for anyone interested in Irish culture and history to experience – and celebrate

– the best in traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, literature, crafts, and sports.”

Event Chairman Paul Tully adds, “We’re so honored that the Ambassador is coming to the Hudson Valley to highlight our efforts to create a year-round destination downtown. We’ll host film festivals here, along with cooking and craft classes, staged readings and other literary and musical events. The Center will become a community hub -- and a real economic driver that will contribute to the vibrant culture of the Rondout district.”

Scheduled speakers at the reception include New York State Congressman Chris Gibson, state Assemblymember Kevin Cahill, and Kingston Mayor Shayne Gallo; guests will enjoy live music and authentic Irish foods, and event attendees include members of the Irish and Irish-American communities in the Hudson Valley, New York City, and Albany -- including celebrated actor and author Malachy McCourt and Nancy Carey Cassidy, daughter of former New York State Governor Hugh Carey.

The following morning – at the 10:45am dedication of the building site, Ambassador Anderson will raise the Irish flag prior to the opening ceremonies for the 13th annual “Hooley on the Hudson,” a day-long waterfront celebration of all things Irish with activities for families and live performances on three stages.

The city of Kingston – New York State’s first capital – is located ninety miles north of New York City and sixty miles south of Albany. Downtown Kingston – the site of the proposed new Irish Cultural Center Hudson Valley – is an artist community labeled by *Business Week* online as one of “America's best places for artists” and is home to a large number of art galleries. The city holds many festivals in the neighborhood – also known as *The Rondout* -- including the Music in the Park Series, the Artist Soapbox Derby, and numerous other waterfront events.

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The mission of Irish Cultural Center Hudson Valley is to preserve and promote Irish arts, culture and history for a new generation. For more information, visit www.icchv.org or e-mail: info@icchv.org