

## OUR MISSION AND GOALS

The Irish Cultural Center's mission is to promote, preserve and celebrate our rich Irish culture and heritage, with a focus on its historical impact on the Hudson Valley. The ICC HV is an artistic and educational resource for the entire community, and has several programs already in place.

Once our Irish Cultural Center has been constructed and we have a physical space, we will be able to greatly expand our educational and cultural programs and appeal to a wider audience of [community members](#). The ICC will become a vibrant destination of arts, community and history.

### CURRENT PROGRAMS:

- Gaelic language teaching – Traditional language classes are a popular feature, utilizing classroom space in several local Kingston buildings (Kingston Area Library, Art Society of Kingston, the Knights of Columbus and the White Eagle Benevolent Hall).
- Film presentations – The ICC has sponsored viewing of films produced and directed by Irish filmmakers. These have been hosted at the Art Society of Kingston, one of our Rondout neighbors.
- Poetry readings – Performed by Irish authors, these events have been held at supporters' homes in the Rondout neighborhood and at Art Society of Kingston
- Bag Pipe Lessons – Introductory lessons are currently on-going, as part of a long time offering in the area. Many participants have gone on to become members of the Ulster County AOH Pipe & Drum band.
- Radio Show - "The Irish Hour" has been airing Sunday mornings on WKNY for the past 30 plus years working out of the radio station's office in Kingston. [The show will be broadcast from the ICC](#) once completed.
- Athletic Recreation – The ICC organizes and coordinates popular running events:
  - Shamrock Run – Two-mile race preceding the Annual St. Patrick's Parade (a 28 year history). This in-demand race has grown from 300 to its current average size of 4,500+.
  - Kingston Cross-Country Summer Series - Six consecutive races (for adults and kids) during the summer. Each is run at a different local venue.
  - Hooley-on-the-Hoof - The Ancient Order of Hibernians has been celebrating Labor Day weekend with its Hooley-on-the-Hudson since 2001. Hooley-on-the-Hoof is a 5K run along the Rondout waterfront in celebration of this long time event
- Beautification – The ICC adopted the City of Kingston Company Hill Path adjacent to our locale, and has been committed to its improvement. We've cleared the entire area of debris and brush, creating a welcoming garden and path for all to enjoy.

## **SERVICES~PROGRAMS TO BE OFFERED WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ICC HAS BEEN COMPLETED:**

- Theater – Live performances for plays, readings and concerts, along with movie screenings. The 200 seat theater will occupy the ground floor as you enter the ICC from West Strand.
- Genealogical research and documents – We will house a collection of critical credentials and items reflecting the lives of Irish-Americans.
- Social Area (includes restaurant, tearoom and pub) – This facility will offer a limited menu of comfort foods and beverages with seasonal variations, best utilizing the local Hudson Valley produce and farm selections. The restaurant will also use its own herbs grown on site. The ICC garden already has thyme, lemon balm, mint and sage. Additional herbs will be grown in raised beds on the roof of the ICC.
- The kitchen facilities will double as a “Teaching Kitchen” for cooking classes. The ICC hopes to partner with the Culinary Institute of America (Hyde Park, NY) and other entities in this endeavor. Cooking classes will include, but not be limited to, Irish fare. We will also offer Italian, French, German, Greek and other ethnic cooking classes.
- Exhibition and Gallery space for local artists to display paintings, sculptures, photography and other art installations.
- Gift Shop – Retail space to provide Irish gifts, including Irish Fisherman sweaters, tee shirts, baby and children’s clothing, traditional Irish music CDs, souvenirs and other items.
- Currach Building and Racing – A currach is an ancient wood-ribbed boat covered with skins. The ICC currently owns one currach and we look to build more for use in racing on the Rondout Creek. The Maritime Museum and Center has generously offered space for building and storing currachs and they have expressed interest in co-sponsoring currach race competitions.
- Recording Studio – The studio will record the Irish Radio show, capture guest interviews, music performances, song and readings – with archiving for future use.
- Banquet facility – Will be located on second floor of the ICC and available for catering public and private events. It will include a kitchen facility which will also be utilized for cooking classes.
- The ICC Ground Floor Theater Stage and Second Floor Banquet Room will have specially constructed wood floors which will also be used to teach Irish Step Dancing and other traditional Irish dances. These spaces will also serve as a meeting place for the AOH and Ladies AOH and will be available to the community for meeting space as well.
- ICC Roof Top - The building is being built to Zero Net Energy standards. Step one is to install a green roof, including raised beds to grow herbs and vegetables to support the teaching kitchen and restaurant. The path of the Delaware and Hudson Canal, originating in Honesdale, PA and ending in Kingston at its connection with the Hudson River, will be clearly delineated on the roof’s green space. This “walkable” canal path will provide a unique teaching opportunity for community youth to learn local history and the importance of the D&H canal to enable the transport of coal to New York city in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We encourage student field trips to this insightful destination.
- Community Service – the ICC will continue to have an active role in improving our surroundings. Starting with our beautification of our property – we’ve cleared way for views of the Rondout Creek and created inviting garden beds, and improved lighting, for an enjoyable visit to our property