

 Breathing  
Lights

A WINNER OF THE BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES PUBLIC ART CHALLENGE

ALBANY  
SCHENECTADY  
TROY

BreathingLights.com  
#BreathingLights

OCT-NOV  
**2016**  
NIGHTLY 6PM-10PM



Supported by

**Bloomberg  
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Presenting Community Sponsors





Breathing Lights is a temporary public art installation scheduled for October and November 2016 illuminating the windows of hundreds of vacant homes in the cities of Albany, Schenectady and Troy with a diffuse glow that mimics the rhythm of human breathing. Buildings will be lit nightly between 6 and 10pm.

The Breathing Lights installation serves as a platform for engagement centered at three neighborhood hubs, one in each city. Events and programs are designed to give voice to the children and adults living in communities with high rates of vacancy and offer resources for local residents interested in buying and renovating vacant homes. Through youth media projects, building reclamation clinics, community arts presentations, gallery talks, policy discussions and more, Breathing Light's goal is to create an evocative, inclusive experience that brings attention and beauty to our cities' vacant buildings and showcases an arts-based approach to stimulating local and regional revitalization.



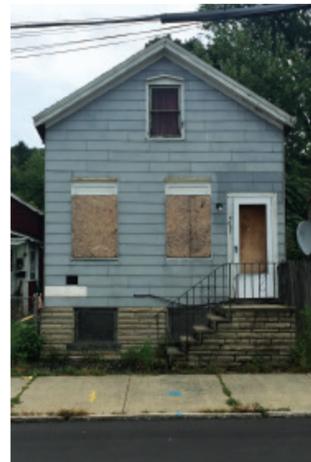
## HOW TO VIEW BREATHING LIGHTS

- 1**  
Come to one of many community hub events. See Calendar for details.
- 2**  
Take a shuttle or walking tour. Look for the or icons on Calendar.
- 3**  
Explore on your own using the included maps. Illuminated nightly 6pm-10pm  
  
Visit [BreathingLights.com](http://BreathingLights.com) for detailed information, events, and updates.

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hyers + mebane  
  
Program Guide Design  
The Foundry for Art Design + Culture



# Breathing Lights

THREE MAYORS WORKING TOGETHER

## BRINGING ATTENTION AND BEAUTY TO OUR CITIES' VACANT BUILDINGS

"This innovative temporary art installation serves as a national example of how art can be both beautiful and socially conscious."

Dear Residents and Visitors of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy:

Our Capital Region is rich in culture, and the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy all have unique and overlapping artistic resources. The collective power and potential of the entire region is exemplified by the Breathing Lights project.

Made possible through a highly competitive grant from the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge, Breathing Lights is the culmination of more than a year of hard work and collaboration across all three cities. We are deeply grateful for the dozens of incredible artists, cultural institutions, universities, and community based organizations in Albany, Schenectady, and Troy that came together to ensure the success of this unique opportunity.

During October and November, Breathing Lights will illuminate the windows of hundreds of abandoned buildings in Albany, Schenectady, and Troy. Concentrated in high-vacancy, economically-disadvantaged neighborhoods, Breathing Lights will draw attention to these buildings' plight, but also to their potential as livable homes.

This innovative, temporary art installation serves as a national example of how art can be both beautiful and socially conscious. We encourage you to visit the Breathing Lights website at [BreathingLights.com](http://BreathingLights.com) to learn more about City Weekends in Albany, Schenectady, and Troy, and other events, and to learn more about viewing the installation.

We hope you take the opportunity to experience Breathing Lights with your neighbors, and engage in thoughtful consideration and conversation about the future of our region's cities and neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kathy Sheehan  
City of Albany

Mayor Gary McCarthy  
City of Schenectady

Mayor Patrick Madden  
City of Troy

## THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE LIGHTS



**ADAM FRELIN, ARTIST'S STATEMENT** As an artist I am always surprised by what I find myself drawn to. It is always unpredictable to me, and I have had to learn how to trust my creative instincts. When I look back at the artwork I have made over the years, I notice that many of my projects take place in unexpected outdoor locations. As well, several pieces of mine involve using light in certain locations and landscapes at night. Working on a scale I have only dreamed of, Breathing Lights brings together both of my interests in an exciting and meaningful way.

Our lighting effect suggests an imagined occupancy. It references the life that once existed within these houses. Equally, it anthropomorphizes each building into a living creature. With hundreds of vacant buildings illuminated throughout the area, Breathing Lights alludes to a metaphorical life force residing beneath our entire region, coming out in these particular, architectural nodes.

Most public artworks are on display in sanctioned and easily accessible locations. Despite its unprecedented scale, Breathing Lights will quietly take place within neighborhoods that have been ignored for decades. Because of this, our primary audience becomes the people who live around these abandoned buildings: people who may lack for beauty in their urban environment and who deserve it.

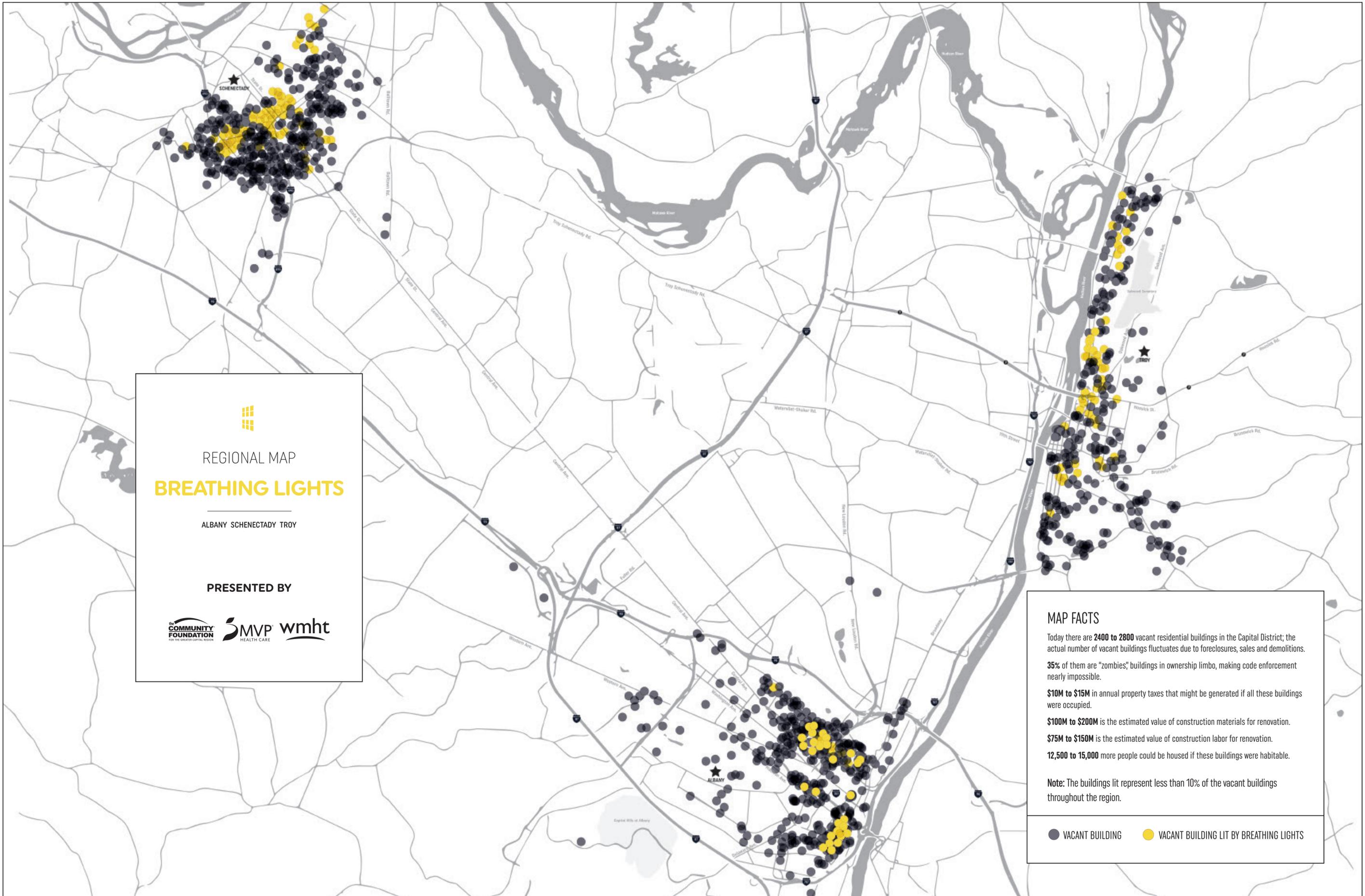
After two months of illumination, all of our lighted buildings will return to darkness. This may prove to be saddening, or incite a call for action. Either way, Breathing Lights will allude to a life that, whether it continues or ends, was once lived.

**BARBARA NELSON, ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT** I have always loved cities, their density, motion and mix of people and purposes. As an architect my business is buildings, but I am more interested in the public space that forms between buildings – where we come together as a society. How we treat our common ground and what we do there are indicators of social health.

As a designer, I am more drawn to problem solving than to style. As a human, I am concerned for the planet. Cities are critical to the preservation of open space for agriculture and biodiversity. So I am drawn to the challenge of preserving cities as sustainable and healthy places to live. A healthy city includes diverse neighborhoods, but if one neighborhood struggles, the whole city suffers.

Abandonment of buildings is an extension of our "throw away" culture. Vacancy infects a city like cancer; it weakens neighborhood resilience and resistance to other problems. Behavior declines, property values decline, and physical health is negatively affected. So when asked to consider a prevalent urban issue, I immediately focused on vacancy.

Breathing Lights does not shine a light on the vacancy problem. It enables our vacant buildings to shine a light on us, to call on us for answers. The installation will draw people to places they wouldn't normally visit, to meet people they wouldn't normally meet. Breathing Lights is theatrical. It will set the stage for creative response, problem solving, and difficult conversations about the interdependence of society, the cities we live in, and the broader implications of our choices.



  
 REGIONAL MAP  
**BREATHING LIGHTS**  
 ALBANY SCHENECTADY TROY  
 PRESENTED BY  




**MAP FACTS**

Today there are **2400 to 2800** vacant residential buildings in the Capital District; the actual number of vacant buildings fluctuates due to foreclosures, sales and demolitions.

**35%** of them are "zombies," buildings in ownership limbo, making code enforcement nearly impossible.

**\$10M to \$15M** in annual property taxes that might be generated if all these buildings were occupied.

**\$100M to \$200M** is the estimated value of construction materials for renovation.

**\$75M to \$150M** is the estimated value of construction labor for renovation.

**12,500 to 15,000** more people could be housed if these buildings were habitable.

**Note:** The buildings lit represent less than 10% of the vacant buildings throughout the region.

VACANT BUILDING
  VACANT BUILDING LIT BY BREATHING LIGHTS



## COMMUNITY HUB PROFILE ALBANY BARN

56 2nd Street | Albany, NY 12210  
518-935-4858 | [AlbanyBarn.org](http://AlbanyBarn.org)

Breathing Lights events and programs are centered at a neighborhood hub in each city and were designed to provide resources and give voice to individuals living in communities that have high rates of vacancy.

Albany Barn believes that art is a powerful tool to address the needs of a community and give voice to those who often go unheard. We are pleased to host Breathing Lights and to illuminate the possibilities and hope often unseen in the vacant spaces in our community. We look forward to the opportunity to host difficult, and meaningful conversations, and to connect our neighborhoods to the knowledge and resources helpful to beginning the journey of reclaiming spaces and uplifting people.

Albany Barn is dedicated to providing a community arts space and creative arts incubator in Arbor Hill—a place for artists to live, work, and inspire. In addition to welcoming thousands of guests annually, Albany Barn works with hundreds of youth and adult artists—providing the space, tools, and knowledge to develop creative work, nurture collaboration, and seize opportunities to thrive in our region's creative economy.

PHOTO CREDITS

Middle Left & Bottom: Mary Darcy, All Over Albany  
Opposite Page: Albany Barn Facade, T.R. Laz Photography



"Breathing Lights will reveal the beauty of the local culture and history of my neighborhood."

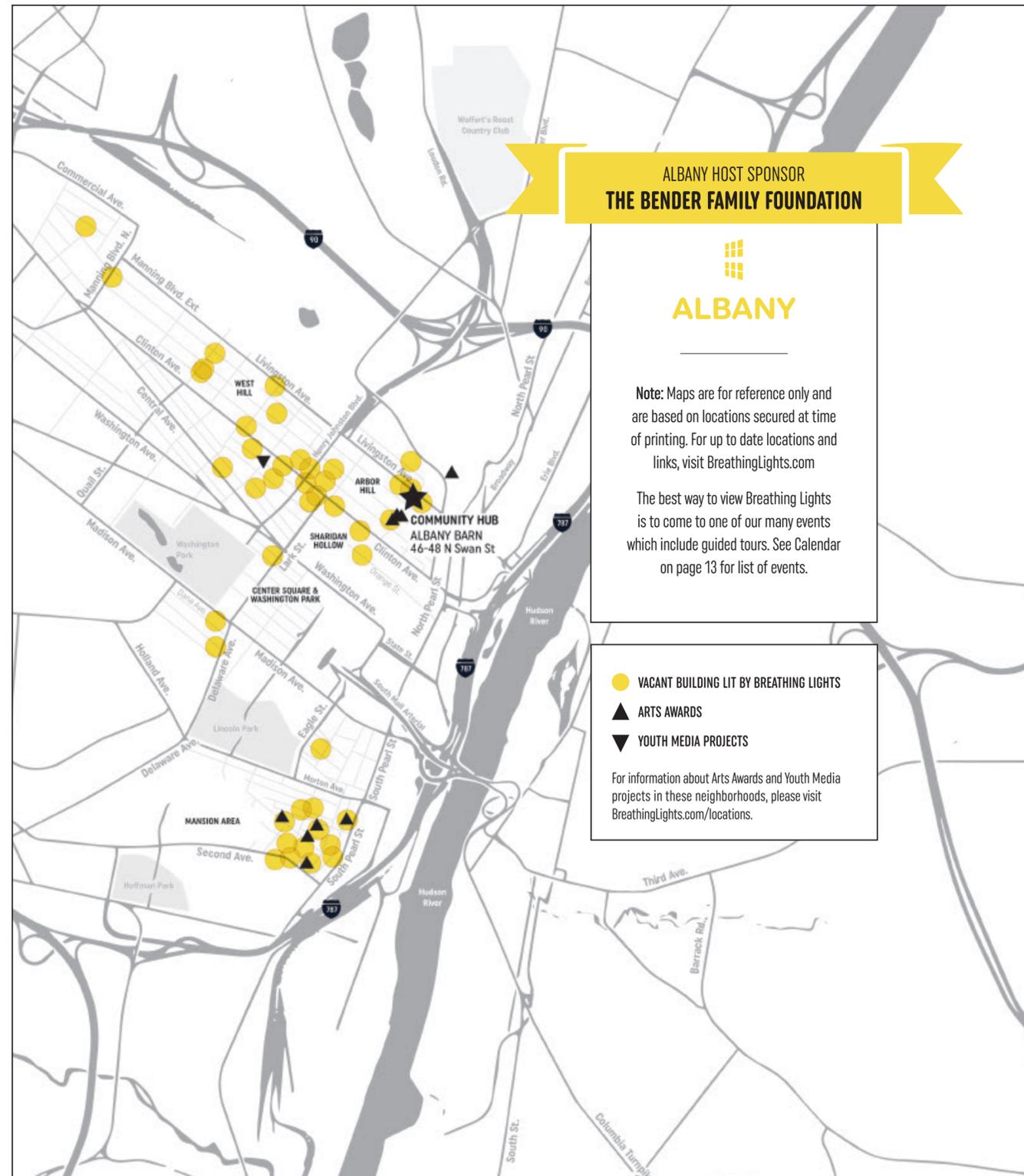
**MICHAEL ORTEGA**  
NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR



### YOUTH MEDIA PROJECTS IN ALBANY

In Albany, Youth FX created a series of experimental documentary vignettes that explore the concept of home, community and belonging. These films are a form of resistance and empowerment, telling stories of racial profiling, police brutality, and the refugee and immigrant experience from the perspective of young artists of color. The stories are deeply personal, highlighting the oppression and injustice these young people deal with, which causes a feeling of a loss of home. Their aim is to force viewers to confront the realities of young people living in communities that have been systematically and historically marginalized. Several of the pieces were originally developed by director Noelle Gentile as part of the multimedia theater production of "Which Way Is Home," a collaboration between Albany High School, Capital Repertory Theatre, National Coalition Building Initiative, arts letters & numbers and Youth FX.

To view Youth Media pieces, visit [BreathingLights.com](http://BreathingLights.com) or come to the combined premier event on Nov. 13th. See Calendar for details.



ALBANY HOST SPONSOR  
**THE BENDER FAMILY FOUNDATION**

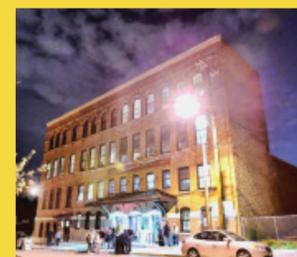


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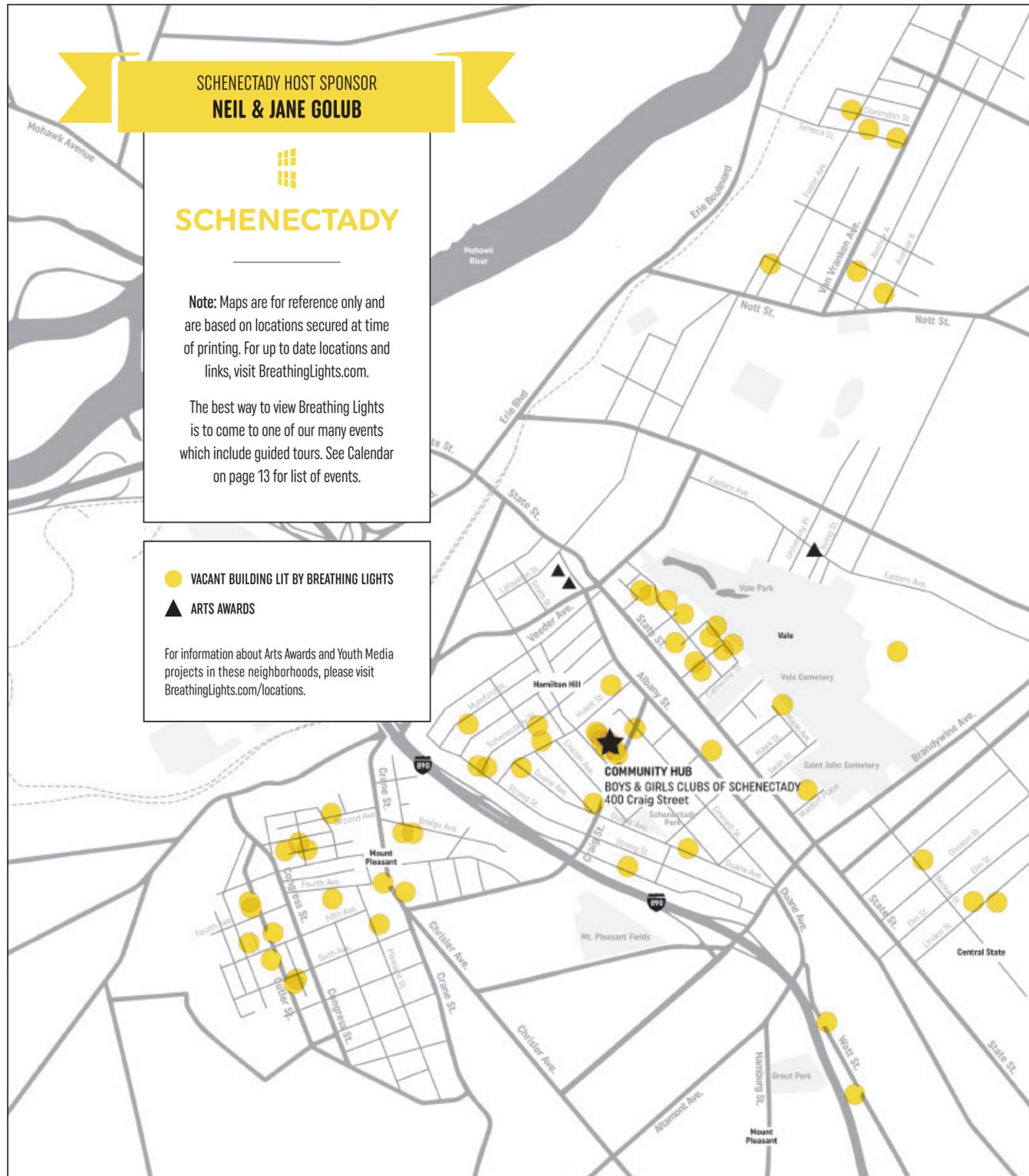
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- VACANT BUILDING LIT BY BREATHING LIGHTS
  - ▲ ARTS AWARDS
  - ▼ YOUTH MEDIA PROJECTS
- For information about Arts Awards and Youth Media projects in these neighborhoods, please visit [BreathingLights.com/locations](http://BreathingLights.com/locations).

FRI-SAT  
**NOV 4-5**  
ALBANY  
CITY WEEKEND



Join us in Albany for several events November 4-5th. On Friday, Nov. 4th (Albany's 1st Friday), Albany Barn will host a community celebration showcasing creations made from architectural salvage found by youth engaged in neighborhood scavenger hunts, and opening presentations of select Arts Awards community projects. On Saturday, Nov. 5th, Breathing Lights will be featured at the Historic Albany Foundation's annual BUILT art show and auction (tickets required). See Calendar for details.



SCHENECTADY HOST SPONSOR  
**NEIL & JANE GOLUB**

**SCHENECTADY**

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- ▲ ARTS AWARDS

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FRI-SAT  
**OCT 28-29**

**SCHENECTADY CITY WEEKEND**



Join us in Schenectady October 28-29th, when the Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady will host several events, including its annual Halloween party for kids and youth in the neighborhood. This event will feature the work completed by participants in Schenectady's Breathing Lights Youth Media program and walking tours with neighborhood ambassadors. The weekend culminates with a community discussion entitled **Housing is a Human Right**. See Calendar for details.



COMMUNITY HUB PROFILE  
**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SCHENECTADY**

400 Craig Street | Schenectady, NY 12307  
518-370-5591 | [BGCschenectady.org](http://BGCschenectady.org)

Breathing Lights events and programs are centered at a neighborhood hub in each city and were designed to provide resources and give voice to individuals living in communities that have high rates of vacancy.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady is proud to act as the Breathing Light's hub in Schenectady. Our mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. The goals of Breathing Lights are exciting. We see a direct correlation between shining the light on the potential of distressed neighborhoods and the hope people feel who reside in those communities.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady works with over 12,000 young people annually and is the largest pure youth development organization in the region. With 22 sites and extensions, our organization is perfectly placed in neighborhoods where hope and opportunity are sometimes in short supply for residents. With the help of many partners, like Breathing Lights, young and old alike in the community are able to see a positive light and path for themselves and their families.

We believe that everyone deserves to live next to beautiful things—whether in the suburbs, rural areas or the middle of Schenectady. Breathing Lights and the concept of showcasing the potential of abandoned homes through beautiful temporary art is a symbol that all is not lost, that there is hope. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady is so pleased to be part of this important project, as it may be the catalyst for permanent positive change.




"Breathing Lights can drive some positive change and help the community to do genuine things to help."

**DEYKER EDWARDS**  
NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR



SCHENECTADY YOUTH MEDIA SPONSOR  
THE SCHENECTADY FOUNDATION

**YOUTH MEDIA PROJECTS IN SCHENECTADY**

Told By Us (TBU) Productions is a nonprofit founded by Prince Sprauve, offering disadvantaged youth an outlet for creative expression through music and film. TBU inspires participants to improve academic performance, embrace responsible behavior, and promotes awareness of social issues. TBU created three projects: "Lights On", a music video filmed in a vacant house, original song written and recorded by Trevor Yarter, Alexis Rivera, Josh Cseh and Steven Rivera. "Vacancy" is a poem written by Hope Edwards, describing the emotional responses vacant houses invoke and comparing the emptiness of a person and a house. "Community Hero" is a documentary about Joe Piazza's renovation of a vacant house, now his primary residence. TBU hopes these projects will inspire others to take notice and invest in Schenectady.

To view Youth Media pieces, visit [BreathingLights.com](http://BreathingLights.com) or come to the combined premier event on Nov. 13th. See Calendar for details.





### COMMUNITY HUB PROFILE

## THE SANCTUARY FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA

PO Box 35 | 3361 6th Avenue | Troy, NY 12180  
518-272-2390 | [MediaSanctuary.org](http://MediaSanctuary.org)

Breathing Lights events and programs are centered at a neighborhood hub in each city and were designed to provide resources and give voice to individuals living in communities that have high rates of vacancy.

The Sanctuary for Independent Media is a community-based arts center and the Troy hub for Breathing Lights. We have been dealing with the scourge of vacant property for more than ten years, and will be long after these lights are turned off. Over the past decade, ten abandoned buildings, and empty lots on our one-block of 6th Avenue in North Central Troy have been a daily fact of life for us. We are surrounded by hundreds more.

The problem is complex—it devolves to a tragically flawed economic system that produces too few winners and far too many losers, coupled with pervasive racism. If stemming the tide of abandoned properties seems like a tall order, add to it the challenge of meaningful social change. What is to be done?

The thousands of vacant properties in the Capital Region, the hundreds of thousands throughout New York State, and the millions around the country, bear silent witness to failure—lost opportunities, broken promises, shattered dreams.

We hope Breathing Lights will help focus attention on the root causes of urban blight and the enduring inequality that afflicts people struggling to survive in neighborhoods filled with abandoned buildings. Our future depends on it.

PHOTO CREDITS L TO R  
Amiri Baraka, photo by Brenda Ann Kenneally  
Petrie Dish at the Sanctuary, photo by Jon Flanders  
Uptown Summer 2016 at The Sanctuary for Independent Media, photo by Ellie Markovitch  
Uptown Summer '15 audio reporters at Freedom Square, photo by Kathy High  
Youth Media Sanctuary producers interview Mayor Madden, photo by Steve Pierce



"We want the lights to turn off the darkness in lost, forgotten areas. Our only desire is for Breathing Lights to rekindle life in our community."

**JOYCE & MAC HENDERSON**  
NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADORS



"Breathing energizes and rejuvenates life, which is what I believe Breathing Lights can do in my community."

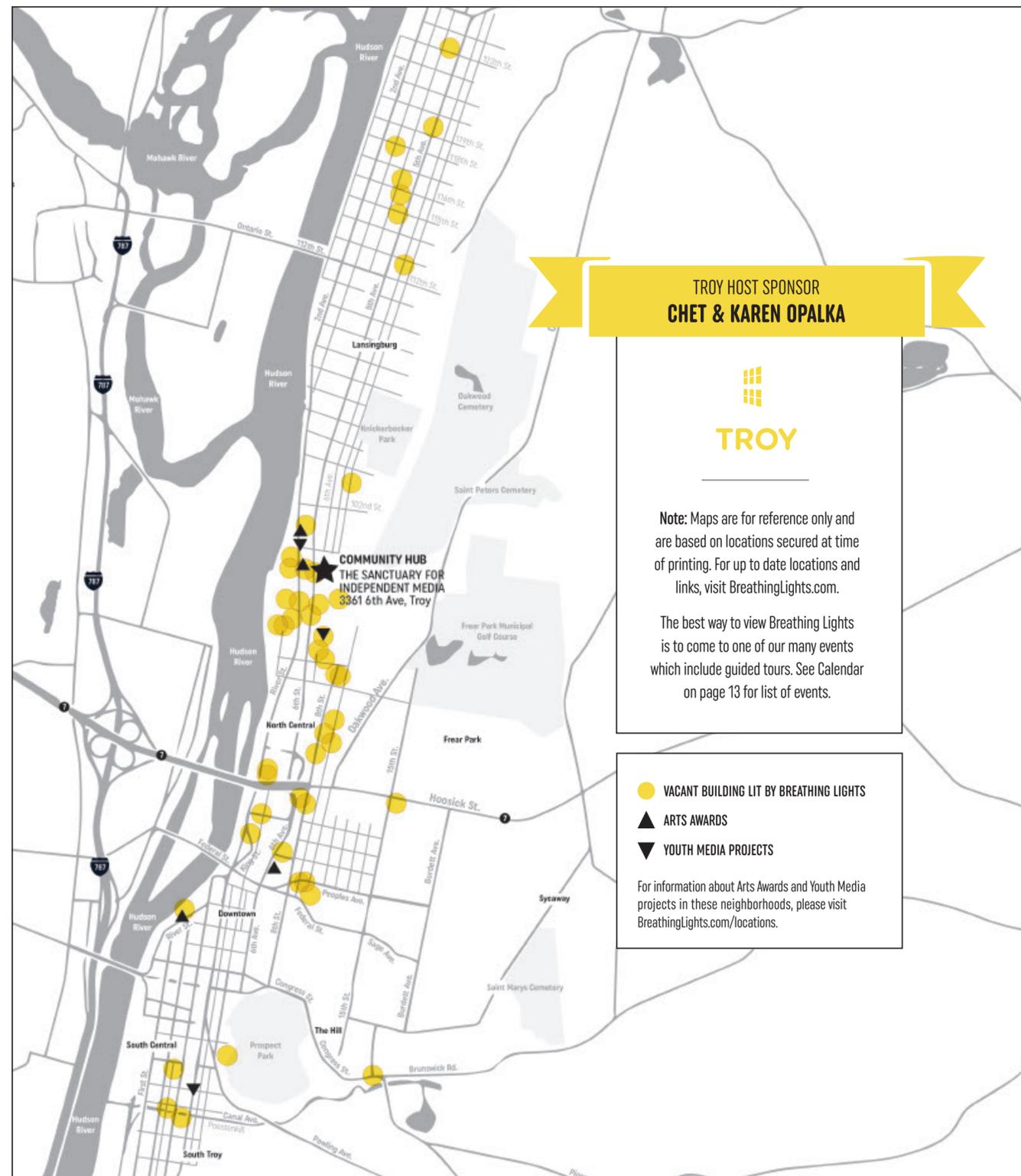
**SHAWN MACLEAN**  
NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR



### YOUTH MEDIA PROJECTS IN TROY

Youth Media Sanctuary teaches multimedia skills to young people in North Troy. Youth producers created four documentary portraits on the theme of abandoned buildings in their economically devastated neighborhoods. "Jerry's House," by Kai Griffin, Bryanna Mangual, Diajah Grier, Milan Miles, and Andrew Pintro, tells the story of a family forced out of a deteriorating rental "now abandoned," with a happy ending of owning a home. "Safer than Yemen?" by Bryan Mangual, Rachel Lord, and Arianna Young, explores violence through the lens of a corner bodega, opened by 1920s Italian immigrants, now transferred to Yemeni owners. "Lex & Orange," by Shatora Buckman, Jahsendah Dann, and Ayisha Menko, shares a razed childhood neighborhood. "Sadie's Grandmother's House," by Sadie Anson, recounts restoring a vacant building into a loving home. "Abandoned Building Haikus" were also created, in collaboration with the "Breathing These Words" poetry workshop. Produced by Media Mentors Jamel Mosely, Kathy High, and Branda Miller.

To view Youth Media pieces visit [BreathingLights.com](http://BreathingLights.com) or come to the combined premier event on Nov. 13th. See Calendar for details.



TROY HOST SPONSOR  
**CHET & KAREN OPALKA**



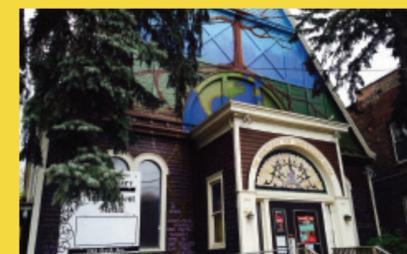
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FRI-SAT  
**SEP 30-OCT 1**  
TROY  
CITY WEEKEND



Join us in Troy on Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st. During Troy Night Out on Friday, Sept. 30th, join us in North Troy at Freedom Square, and at sites around the Sanctuary, Collar Works, and downtown at The Arts Center of the Capital Region, for several exhibition openings related to Breathing Lights. On Saturday, Oct. 1st, the Sanctuary will celebrate its annual StoryHarvest at Freedom Square, a family-friendly event featuring local music and food, and guided walks led by neighborhood ambassadors. See Calendar for details.



## SHOWCASING TALENT COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECTS

The Breathing Lights Arts Awards Competition was created to commission a series of projects related thematically to Breathing Lights to take place during the installation. Winning projects were chosen based on their artistic excellence and their ability to expand Breathing Light's engagement with diverse audiences. Visit [BreathingLights.com](http://BreathingLights.com) for up-to-date information about site locations and performances.



**DEWITT GODFREY**  
INFLARE

DeWitt's work and teaching investigates the role art plays in community. Innovative public art, with unusual forms in unexpected locations, helps us experience the familiar and reevaluate our place in the urban environment. His projects are inextricably site specific/dependent, emphasizing the relational existence of form within contexts of material, process, public space, and collaboration. The sculptures' cylindrical elements form a community of similar yet distinct individuals—an aesthetic, structural, and material ecosystem. His sculptures are the result of a dialogue with site, client, and community. His sculpture *Inflare* negotiates the intimate relationship of the space in the built environment. Location: Monument Square, Troy, NY.



**RACHEL FALCONE & MICHAEL PREMO**  
HOUSING AS A HUMAN RIGHT: 28TH AMENDMENT

Imagine if the most prosperous country in human history ensured the stability, health, and housing of its people? Where could we go from there? Building on years of gathering stories in communities at the front lines of the struggle for home, Rachel and Michael share an installation exploring an alternate future to the housing crisis: the passage of the first U.S. Constitutional amendment ensuring that every citizen has the right to adequate housing. Featuring intimate audio narratives, musical conversations, and large-scale photographs, *28th Amendment* shows audiences the possibility of a world we can create together. The installation will open with a town hall meeting of the future, inviting residents to envision next steps after the 28th Amendment has passed. See Calendar for details on opening event.



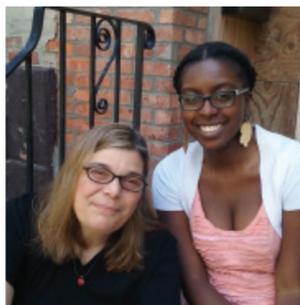
**JAMEL MOSELY**  
ARBOR HILLSTORY

*ARBOR HILLSTORY* (Arbor Hill + History) is a collection of photo and video works documenting the stories of people who are mostly longtime residents and staples of their neighborhood, Arbor Hill. Through these candid, conversational stories, viewers will be able to connect to an often-disparaged community that is filled with a lot of love, pride, and history. Location: Albany Barn. November 4th through 30th. See Calendar for opening information.



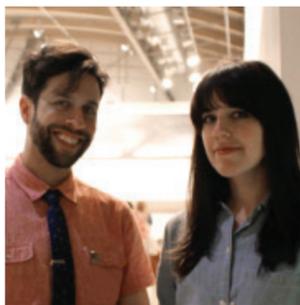
**MICHAEL KENNEDY**  
SRO: SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY

Set in a single room occupancy for women located in downtown Albany, *SRO: Single Room Occupancy* follows three residents as they struggle to avoid homelessness, keep the support they receive, and work toward improving their daily lives. Each performance of *SRO* will be followed by a short performance by the Creative Action Playback Theater Company, focusing on the topic of "home." Playback Theater provides an opportunity for audience members to share stories from their own lives and to see them played back as theater, on the spot. See Calendar for performance dates.



**NANCY KLEPSCH & DANIELLE COLIN CHARLESTON**  
BREATHING THESE WORDS

Danielle and Nancy will host scattered-site poetry readings with writers curated from the Troy community and from workshops with youth and seniors. The readings will take place in Breathing Lights neighborhood hubs and on walking tours in surrounding neighborhoods in October and November. See Calendar for event details.



**IRA MARCKS & CAROLINE CORRIGAN**  
SHINE A LIGHT

A collaboration between illustrator and author Ira Marcks and graphic designer Caroline Corrigan, *Shine a Light* is an illustrative exploration of the world in and around Breathing Lights and a creative experiment in 2-D print design that will give Breathing Lights visitors an intimate look into the communities behind the project.



**BRENDA ANN KENNEALLY**  
STORY CANDLES: MOBILE MEMORY BANK

Brenda Ann transforms a 16-foot cargo trailer into a participatory traveling installation that honors the lives of children from Breathing Lights's communities whose lives have ended too soon. The "memory bank" is a collection of words, pictures, and audio reflections culled from these communities that form an open-ended collage to keep the stories of these young people alive. See Calendar for *Story Candles* events and workshops.



**JILLIAN HIRSCH WITH AVILLAGE**  
SOUTH END MOSAIC PROJECT

*Avillage* created small mosaics on buildings throughout Albany's South End. Jillian designed each to provide a commentary on the vacant buildings in the neighborhood and to catch the eye of passers by. The center of each mosaic is a photo taken by youth enrolled in Albany's Summer Youth Program and RADIX as they explored their feelings and ideas about abandonment in the South End. See Calendar for walking tour information.



PROVIDING RESOURCES

## BUILDING RECLAMATION CLINICS



In each city, a series of three educational workshops, Toolboxes A, B, and C, will be led by experienced speakers covering: the basics of homeownership, selecting a property, qualifying for a mortgage, selecting contractors, and sustainable building materials. Information and resources will be shared about the dozens of housing and advocacy service organizations in the Capital Region. Rehab Heroes, successful homeowners who have purchased, and renovated difficult properties, will share their experiences, and lessons learned.

PRESENTED BY:



**BENDER SCIENTIFIC FUND**  
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

TOOLBOX  
A

### NO PLACE LIKE HOME

**ALBANY** | November 9, 2016  
**SCHENECTADY** | NOVEMBER 15, 2016  
**TROY** | October 22, 2016

Financing, selecting and purchasing a home requires hard work and personal commitment, especially when considering a vacant building that requires extensive improvements. This workshop will help people determine whether a building in need of repair is the right choice in relation to their budget, schedule, and skills. Learn how to determine what you can afford and about the homebuyer resources available in your city. Traditional and non-traditional ownership models will be discussed. Recommendations for house hunting will include advice on how to work with realtors and why you might want to consider constructing a new home on a vacant lot.

TOOLBOX  
B

### THE HOME STRETCH

**ALBANY** | January 28, 2017  
**SCHENECTADY** | December 8, 2016  
**TROY** | December 7, 2016

So, you are interested in purchasing a house that needs a LOT of work before it can be lived in? Learn how to find the right property and establish a realistic renovation budget. City and Land Bank representatives will explain how to submit purchase proposals, and qualify for special grants or loans. Learn about the cost impacts of hazardous materials common in older buildings. Understand the basics of building codes and zoning regulations, how they apply to residential, commercial, mixed-use buildings, and home-based businesses. This workshop includes guidance on when to bring in design and construction professionals and prepares you to make a realistic offer on a property so that you are not surprised by unexpected costs.

TOOLBOX  
C

### HOME SWEET HOME

**ALBANY** | February 8, 2017  
**SCHENECTADY** | January 2017  
**TROY** | March 4, 2017

Congratulations! You purchased a building and you have a plan for financing the work it needs. Learn about home repair education courses available in the region and the process for obtaining building permits, zoning variances, and site plan approvals. Get guidance on working with contractors and technical professionals, and on what to do if an agreement goes bad. You have worked hard for this home; make it work for you financially with tax credits, deductions, and rentals. Now that you are in the house, become a contributing member of the community. Improving the neighborhood protects your investment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [BreathingLights.com/learn](http://BreathingLights.com/learn)



## SHARING EXPERIENCES REHAB HEROES

Rehab Heroes are local individuals who have successfully rehabbed a vacant or abandoned building in Albany, Schenectady or Troy, and have expertise in navigating the complicated issues and tasks required to bring a previously vacant structure back to life. Rehab Heroes will serve as mentors to prospective homebuyers and rehabbers, and will speak at Building Reclamation Clinics. See Calendar for details.



## FRI 9/30

## TROY CITY WEEKEND

**6-9PM | NORTH TROY PEOPLES' HISTORY MUSEUM & STORY CANDLES OPENING**   
NATURE Lab, 3334 6th Ave., Troy

Brenda Kenneally's **North Troy Peoples' History Museum** explores the changes and evolution of families in this neighborhood and is sited in the former home of the family she chronicled for her project "Upstate Girls." After the family was forced to leave, the building was left vacant and fell into disrepair. It was acquired by the Sanctuary and repurposed into a community bio art space.

**Story Candles** bears witness to lives in our community that began and ended too soon. In the way that empty buildings symbolize larger social policies and attitudes, the loss of a child's life tells us about the time in which they lived.

Lighting a candle is a physical reminder of the preciousness of all children, and a symbolic reaffirmation of our shared commitment to them.

**FULL RUN:** 9/30–11/30. By appointment.  
Contact the Sanctuary at [info@mediasanctuary.org](mailto:info@mediasanctuary.org) or (518) 272-2390.

**6-9PM | YOUTH MEDIA SANCTUARY PREMIERE**   
The Sanctuary for Independent Media, 3361 6th Avenue, Troy

Watch Youth Media Sanctuary videos produced during Uptown Summer '16, plus Vacant Buildings, Vanished Dreams portraits, on the Sanctuary's large screen.

**6-9PM | VACANT BUILDINGS, VANISHED DREAMS OPENING**   
Freedom Square, 39 5th Avenue, Troy

In collaboration with the Workforce Development Institute, this media arts mapping project includes walking tours led by Neighborhood Ambassadors and expresses working people's economic, social and personal experiences as they struggle to survive amidst urban blight. Featured videos include works by Youth Media Sanctuary, media artist Julie Casper Roth and artist Melissa Sarris.

**5-9PM | INSIDE BREATHING LIGHTS OPENING PUBLIC RECEPTION**   
The Arts Center of the Capital Region, 265 River Street, Troy

A behind-the-scenes look at **Breathing Lights**, one of the region's most ambitious public art projects ever. Learn about the technology and concepts behind the lighting effect, how the project was sited and documented, and how it connects with neighborhoods across the region.

**FULL RUN:** 9/17–10/16. Visit [ArtsCenterOnline.org](http://ArtsCenterOnline.org) for gallery hours.

**6-9PM | RECLAMATION OPENING RECEPTION**   
Collar Works, 621 River Street, Troy

**Reclamation** brings together 14 emerging and under-represented artists creating work that relates to the act of returning something to a former state. Synonymous with improvement, recovery, recycling, repossession, and redemption.

**FULL RUN:** 9/30–10/22. Visit [CollarWorks.org](http://CollarWorks.org) for gallery hours.

**FRIDAY 9/30 IS TROY NIGHT OUT**   
• **6-9PM** Shuttle loop among the Arts Center, Collar Works, Freedom Square, and through the **Breathing Lights** Troy installation.

• Neighborhood Ambassadors will lead walking tours from Freedom Square.

## SAT 10/1

## TROY CITY WEEKEND

**2-6PM | STORYHARVEST: CHILL SMITH, BREATHING THESE WORDS & COMMUNITY PARTY**  
Freedom Square, 35 5th Avenue, Troy, where 6th Ave. meets 5th Ave. at 101st Street

Breathing Lights Troy hub, The Sanctuary, will host its 6th annual outdoor fall event, cultivating community through food, stories, and music by local DJ collective Chill Smith. The event will feature **Breathing These Words** poetry readings, with local poets Nancy Klepsch and Danielle Colin Charlestin performing their own and community-based poetry readings at the Freedom Square Art Stage, plus walking poetry tours through the neighborhood, in collaboration with participants including Troy Boys & Girls Clubs and Troy Area Senior Service Center. North Troy Peoples' History Museum and **Story Candles** shows will also be open. Neighborhood Ambassadors will continue walking tours of **Breathing Lights** installation around the surrounding North Central Troy neighborhood.

• **2-7pm** Shuttle loop among the Arts Center, Collar Works, Freedom Square and through the **Breathing Lights** Troy installation. Inside **Breathing Lights** and Reclamations shows will also be open on Saturday.

## TUE 10/4

**7PM | MAKING BREATHING LIGHTS**   
100 Washington Ave., Albany, University Art Museum, University at Albany-SUNY

**Breathing Lights** lead artist, Adam Frelin, lead architect and community engagement director, Barbara Nelson, and project director, Judie Gilmore will discuss the project and the two years of planning and engagement leading up to the installation. Their presentation is part of public programming in connection with the University Art Museum's exhibition **Future Perfect: Picturing the Anthropocene** on view through Dec. 10th.

## WED 10/5

**5:30-6:30PM | TAX CREDIT WORKSHOP**   
Albany Barn, 56 Second Street, Albany

Join the State Historic Preservation Office and Historic Albany Foundation for a workshop on how to use Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits to make the most out of rehabilitation and adaptive reuse projects. Find out if you are eligible for a tax credit for repairs you make on your older home or property.

## FRI 10/14

**6-11PM | 5TH ANNUAL FUSION – ALBANY BARN'S ANTI-GALA**   
Albany Barn, 56 Second Street, Albany

Join Albany Barn and Albany Chefs' Food & Wine Festival for the 5th annual **FUSION** anti-gala, a celebration of art and industry to support Albany Barn. Event includes live music and art installations, unique food and drink pairings by Chef Michelle Hines Abram, and silent auction. Visit [AlbanyBarn.org/fusion2016](http://AlbanyBarn.org/fusion2016) for tickets.

• Shuttle tour through **Breathing Lights** Albany installation starting at 9pm.

## FRI 10/14

**6:30-8PM | PUBLIC ART DIALOGUE: NATIONAL EXPERTS**   
Collar Works, 621 River Street, Troy

**Breathing Lights** Project Director Judie Gilmore will facilitate a discussion among some of the nation's leading experts in public art, community-based art, and social practice who will share their recent projects and expertise.

## FRI 10/21

**7:30PM | SR0: SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY**   
Albany Barn, 56 Second Street, Albany

Pay what you can

Written and directed by Michael Kennedy, **SR0: Single Room Occupancy** is set in a single room occupancy for women located in downtown Albany. It follows residents as they struggle to avoid homelessness, keep the support they receive, and work toward improving their daily lives. The play will be followed by a short performance by the Creative Action Playback Theater Company, focusing on the topic of "home." Playback Theater provides an opportunity for audience members to share stories from their own lives and see them played back as theater, on the spot.

## SAT 10/22

**7:30PM | SR0: SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY**   
Albany Barn, 56 Second Street, Albany

Pay what you can

See above for description.

## THU 10/27

**6:30-9:00PM | FILM: HERMAN'S HOUSE & DISCUSSION**   
Opalka Gallery, Sage College of Albany, 140 New Scotland Avenue, Albany

**Herman's House** (2013) is a film about Herman Wallace, the longest-serving prisoner in solitary confinement in the US. When artist Jackie Sumell asked him to describe his dream house, she never imagined where the project would take them. The film is a document of their 12-year friendship and a testament to the transformative power of art. After the film, Barbara Nelson, lead architect of **Breathing Lights** will lead a discussion. This event is a collaboration with POV, PBS' award-winning nonfiction film series, and WMHT.

**BREATHING LIGHTS  
IS ILLUMINATED NIGHTLY  
6PM-10PM**

BUILDING RECLAMATION CLINICS 

Learn the basics of homeownership, from selecting a property and qualifying for a mortgage to choosing contractors and sourcing sustainable building materials. For details and dates of full series of workshops, see page 12 or visit [BreathingLights.com/learn](http://BreathingLights.com/learn).

## FRI 10/28

## SCHENECTADY CITY WEEKEND

**6:30-9:30PM | BIG HALLOWEEN BASH & BREATHING LIGHTS COMMUNITY PARTY**   
Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady, 400 Craig Street, Schenectady

**Breathing Lights** Schenectady hub will host its annual Halloween party for kids and youth in the neighborhood. Activities will include premier of Youth Media projects created by youth in workshops at Proctors Mediaworks, walking tours of **Breathing Lights** with neighborhood ambassadors, and trick-or-treating.

• Shuttle through **Breathing Lights** Schenectady installation, with stop for sneak preview of **Housing is a Human Right: 28th Amendment** exhibition at Renaissance Hall, 824 Eastern Avenue, Schenectady. (See 10/29 event listing for details)

## SAT 10/29

## SCHENECTADY CITY WEEKEND

**1-4PM | BREATHING THESE WORDS POETRY WORKSHOP**   
Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady, 400 Craig Street, Schenectady

Join poet Danielle Colin Charlestin and tell your story. Write about a vacant building in Albany, Schenectady or Troy, and share it. As the saying goes, if these walls could talk what would they tell about their past and what they "need"/we need from each other in the future? Participants will create an original piece of poetry under the facilitation of a certified teacher, open mic host and published poet. To find out more, email [nkskroy@aol.com](mailto:nkstroy@aol.com) or call (518) 526-1942.

**6-9:30PM | HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT: 28TH AMENDMENT OPENING & CONVERSATION**   
Renaissance Hall, 824 Eastern Avenue, Schenectady

Imagine if the most prosperous country in human history ensured the stability, health and housing of its people? Join us for an opening reception at 6pm, and a conversation starting at 7pm, on the future of housing and home in the Capital Region. This project is a collaboration with diverse local and regional housing and community organizations.

**FULL RUN:** 10/29–11/30. By appointment. Contact [info@mediasanctuary.org](mailto:info@mediasanctuary.org).

## FRI 11/4

## ALBANY CITY WEEKEND

**3-7PM | UN-TRASH THE BLOCK PARTY & BREATHING LIGHTS COMMUNITY PARTY**   
Albany Barn, 56 Second Street, Albany

**Breathing Lights** Albany hub, Albany Barn, will host a family-friendly event, where youth and adults can work with community artists to create sculptural works, collages, and more from found objects, architectural salvage, and recycled materials. Activities will include walking tours of **Breathing Lights** with neighborhood ambassadors and premier of Youth Media projects created by Youth FX.

• Shuttle through **Breathing Lights** Albany installation

**3-9PM | ARBOR HILLSTORY OPENING**   
Albany Barn, 56 Second Street, Albany

Albany native, videographer Jamel Mosely, explores the people and stories of Arbor Hill's past and present through candid interviews and photo sessions aimed at capturing the human experience of this historic and culturally rich, but stigmatized, neighborhood.

**FULL RUN:** 11/4–11/30. By appointment. Contact Albany Barn (518) 935-4858.

**5-8PM | NEW NEIGHBORS EXHIBITION OPENING**   
Stage 1, 46-48 N. Swan Street, Albany

**New Neighbors** is an interactive exhibition exploring vacant buildings and spaces in Albany's neighborhoods with light-hearted imagination. Artist Tim Fealey's photography sets the scene for imaginative creatures and features created in collaboration by the artist and local youth to add whimsy and vibrancy to our city's untended spaces.

**FULL RUN:** 11/4–11/30. By appointment only. Contact Albany Barn (518) 935-4858.

## SAT 11/5

## ALBANY CITY WEEKEND

**3-5PM | WALKING TOUR OF SOUTH END MOSAIC SITES**   
Start: Lot with garden next to 46 Alexander Street, Albany

Join artist Jillian Hirsh and community members as they showcase the multiple mosaic sites installed throughout the neighborhood, and talk about their process and content.

## ALBANY CITY WEEKEND

## SAT 11/5

**1-5PM | STORY CANDLES WORKSHOP, ALBANY**   
Crafter's Studio at Albany Barn, 56 Second Street, Albany

Artist Brenda Ann Kenneally will facilitate a group of people who have lost young people in their lives. The scrapbooks they create will be added to the traveling exhibition. After the workshop, the **Story Candles** installation will be open to the public until the lights go out that night.

**5:30-9:30PM | BUILT – ART SHOW & SILENT AUCTION**   
New York State Museum, 222 Madison Avenue, Albany

Celebrate **Breathing Lights** at the Historic Albany Foundation's annual fundraiser, art show, and silent auction. This year artists were asked to submit for the silent auction artwork related to the region's vacant and abandoned buildings. Visit [Historic-Albany.org/built](http://Historic-Albany.org/built) for tickets.

**9:30-11:30PM | BREATHING LIGHTS/BUILT AFTER-PARTY**   
Albany Barn, 56 Second Street, Albany

Join us as we move the party from **BUILT** to Albany Barn, where we will feature a local DJ, dancing, and food. Free admission for artists.

• Shuttle available to take guests from NY State Museum to Albany Barn, through the **Breathing Lights** Albany installation

## SUN 11/6

**12-6PM | STORY CANDLES WORKSHOP, SCHENECTADY**   
Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady, 400 Craig Street, Schenectady

Artist Brenda Ann Kenneally will collaborate with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady to facilitate a group of people who have lost young people in their lives. The scrapbooks they create will be added to the traveling exhibition. After the workshop, the **Story Candles** installation will be open to the public until the lights go out that night.

• Walking tour of **Breathing Lights** with neighborhood ambassadors

## SUN 11/13

**12-9PM | THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD FILM FESTIVAL**   
The Sanctuary for Independent Media, 3361 6th Avenue, Troy

A community event to celebrate the media mentors and Youth Media makers from Albany, Schenectady, and Troy and to view compelling films around the theme of urban struggles and hopes.

## THU 11/17

**5:30-7PM | BUILD YOUR BLOCK: A PANEL DISCUSSION ON NEIGHBORHOOD EQUITY**   
Albany Barn, 56 Second Street, Albany

Speakers will discuss the history of gentrification and displacement in low-income communities and communities of color, and whether this is an unintended consequence or part of the larger problem of systematic oppression. Panelists will reflect on their experience and expertise, as well as offer actionable steps to hedge against displacement in the wake of revitalization and economic development plans in our inner-city neighborhoods. An open floor will be provided for attendees to share concerns, experiences and ideas.

## SAT 11/19

**4-6PM | STORY CANDLES WORKSHOP, TROY**   
The Sanctuary for Independent Media, 3361 6th Ave., Troy

Part of an afternoon Creative Resistance Skill-Share, Kenneally will share strategies for participatory community practice, including the process behind her scrapbooks and **Story Candles** workshop.

• **6-8PM** Shuttle through **Breathing Lights** Troy installation.

HOST SPONSOR OF EVENTS  
MVP HEALTH CARECELEBRATING COMMUNITIES  
EVENTS CALENDAR

All events are free unless noted.  
Registration is only required for paid events.  
See listings for details.

## SAVE THE DATES!

## Breathing Lights Finale Celebration &amp; Policy Summit

April 7-8, 2017

Proctors, 432 State Street, Schenectady



Shuttle



Family friendly



Housing resources



Walking tour



Art focused



Event fee



## GIVING VOICE

# OUR HOPES FOR THE PROJECT

Neighborhood Ambassadors are residents who represent the neighborhoods of Breathing Lights and are offering tours, interviews, connections and leadership throughout the project.



**LISA CROMPTON**  
NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR  
ALBANY

"I feel Breathing Lights will emphasize the vibrant community that already exists throughout our neighborhood."



**JERRY FORD**  
NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR  
TROY

"I hope Breathing Lights sheds light on the bigger picture—not just that buildings are abandoned, but that families have been abandoned."



**JEFFERY ALLEN NELSON**  
NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR  
SCHENECTADY

"Breathing Lights is the breath of fresh air and spark of light which the community needs to move forward in a positive direction for the next generation."



**JEANNETTE NICHOLSON**  
NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR  
TROY

"Blight has drained our community of its vitality and will to survive. I hope Breathing Lights will focus the critical mass to reverse the decline."



**MARION PORTERFIELD**  
NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR  
SCHENECTADY

"I hope Breathing Lights brings a heightened awareness about vacant buildings and a realization that finding a solution is beneficial to all."



**ISAIAH TEELING**  
NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR  
SCHENECTADY

"One of the greatest aspects that Breathing Lights highlights is the potential that Schenectady has to improve itself, if people just pay attention."

## HOW TO VIEW

1

Come to one of many community hub events. See Calendar for details.

2

Take a shuttle or walking tour. Look for the or icons on Calendar.

3

Explore on your own using the included maps. Illuminated nightly 6pm-10pm

Visit [BreathingLights.com](http://BreathingLights.com) for detailed information, events, and updates.

## SAVE THE DATES

# BREATHING LIGHTS FINALE CELEBRATION & POLICY SUMMIT

PRESENTED BY:  
MVP HEALTH CARE & THE SCHENECTADY FOUNDATION

# APRIL 7-8, 2017

PROCTORS, 432 STATE STREET, SCHENECTADY

# THANK YOU!

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