

# Wassaic Project



## RESIDENCY HANDBOOK WINTER 2026



### MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

#### Mission:

- The Wassaic Project, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, uses art and arts education to foster positive social change. We nurture connections between our artists and our neighbors facilitating a mutual broadening of perspectives and respect across economic and cultural boundaries.

#### Vision:

- The Wassaic Project envisions a community in the Hamlet of Wassaic and its surrounding region that is socially inclusive, generous, cooperative, and economically vibrant.
- We engage in a collaborative effort with members of our community to develop programs that are creative, experimental, and accessible across the economic



spectrum.

- We strive to be actively anti-racist and to have diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility as an integral part of our programs and initiatives. We will continually evaluate, solicit feedback, and evolve our efforts to ensure their effectiveness.
- We build local pride and community vitality through an informed sense of the past and a clear, contemporary, innovative, and compassionate look toward the future.
- We foster the youth in our community and help them realize their full potential.
- We aim to be financially stable with a creative staff and multiple partners — nonprofit, public, and private.
- It is our hope that the work that we do in Wassaic will be shared nationwide and serve as a toolkit for community revitalization through the arts and the spirit of generosity. Above all else, we honor and respect our community.

### Values:

- Take pride. We're proud of the programs we run, the artists we support, and our community.
- It's better working together. We nurture partnerships between artists and our community rooted in the belief that collaboration, creativity, flexibility, and accessibility improve the reach and quality of our work and that connecting artists of diverse disciplines and viewers of varying backgrounds inspire new ways of looking at art and the world.
- Be accessible in all we do. Aim to communicate equally with as broad an audience as possible, through our programming, events, and initiatives, regardless of race, gender, orientation, as well economic, mental, or physical ability.
- Promote open conversation and dialogue. Connecting artists of diverse disciplines and viewers of varying backgrounds inspire new ways of looking at art and the world.
- **Be generous and respectful. We live in a diverse community and we celebrate that through our actions and our programs.**
- Be cool. We strive to be flexible, transparent, good-humored, and open-minded.
- Create things that are wonderful!

### EXPECTATIONS

Besides the General Rules listed above and the **Code of Conduct** outlined in your Residency Contract (included below), we ask that all artists-in-residence effectively communicate with Wassaic Project staff as best as possible. *What does that mean exactly?* Please be as honest, respectful, and open with us and each other as possible. The best way for the Wassaic Project to support you during your residency is for us (artists + WP staff) to communicate with one another.

The Wassaic Project is not a product-oriented residency. You are not required to



participate in any programming during your residency besides orientation (although participating in artist presentations at the start of your residency is highly encouraged). We do ask that if you do not want to participate in any programming that you please let us know, so we are all on the same page. We want to respect your time and space and believe that having a clear line of communication is key.

### **Wassaic Artist Residency Code of Conduct**

Your participation in the Wassaic Artist Residency Program (W.A.R.P) is voluntary and can be terminated at any point by the Wassaic Artist Residency at the discretion of its Directors, without financial compensation. Furthermore, your signature on the residency contract provided indicates that you have read the following codes of conduct and understand that violating any of the behavioral codes outlined below may result in my immediate expulsion from the program and the physical grounds.

As a participant in the Wassaic Artist Residency Program, I hereby agree to:

- Respect W.A.R.P facilities and grounds and will not vandalize, steal, or otherwise intentionally damage any property belonging to the W.A.R.P. or any of its faculty, staff, or participants.
- Follow all local and/or federal laws as they pertain to the use of illegal drugs abuse of prescribed drugs or the possession of firearms or other weapons while on campus.
- Conduct myself in a way that is not a danger to myself, the community, the environment, the other participants, the faculty or the staff of W.A.R.P

Furthermore, I have read the following definitions of sexual assault or harassment and discrimination and understand the behaviors outlined below will not be tolerated and may result in my immediate expulsion from the program and the physical grounds.

- Sexual Assault: W.A.R.P defines sexual assault as follows: any touching, fondling, or penetration by the accused, either directly or through the clothing, without indication of consent of both individuals or that occurs because of threat or coercion.
- Sexual Harassment: W.A.R.P defines sexual harassment (both overt and subtle) as a form of misconduct that is demeaning to another person and undermines the integrity of the employment relationship and is strictly prohibited. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:
  - Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment.
  - Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individuals; or Such conduct has the effect of



unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

• Discrimination: W.A.R.P defines discrimination as unlawful acts or harassment based on age, race, color, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, creed, ancestry, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, or any other status protected by local, state or federal laws.

Expulsion due to the violation of any of the outlined codes of conduct or because of sexual harassment and discrimination is at the discretion of the Directors and may be referred to the proper legal authorities.

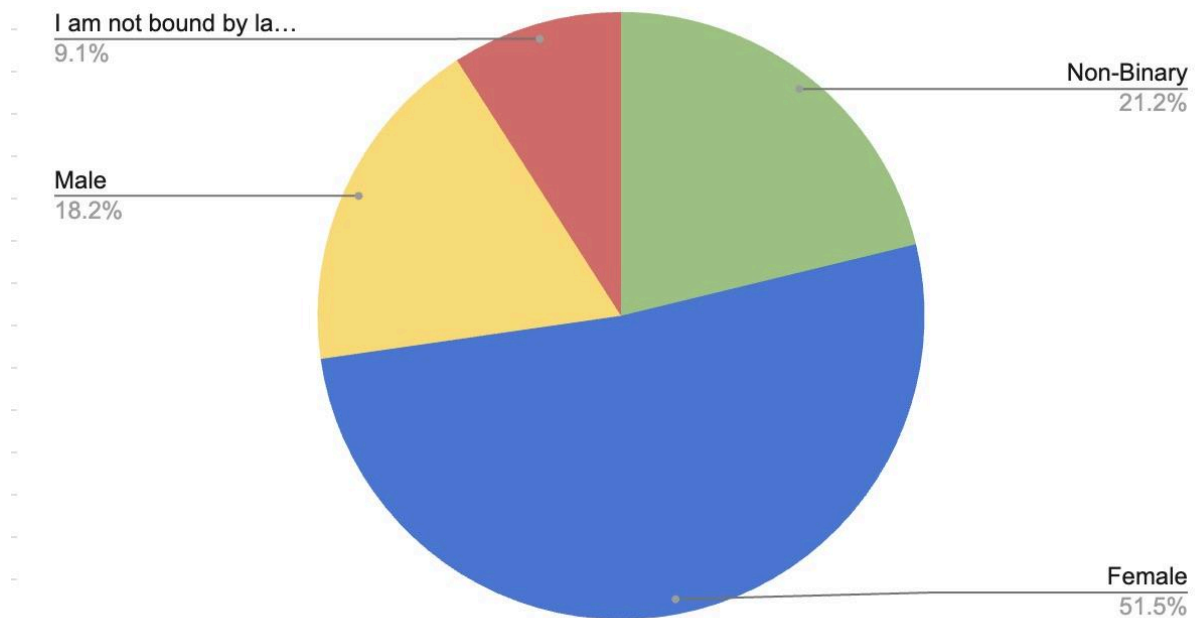
### **SURROUNDING AREA DEMOGRAPHICS**

The 3 largest ethnic groups in Amenia, NY are White, Non-Hispanic (76.0%), Hispanic (18.2%), and Black or African American (2.9%).

The public school in Amenia, Webutuck High School, is 76% White, 19% Hispanic, 3% Black, and 1% Asian. 70% of the students receive free or subsidized lunches, which is a major poverty indicator.

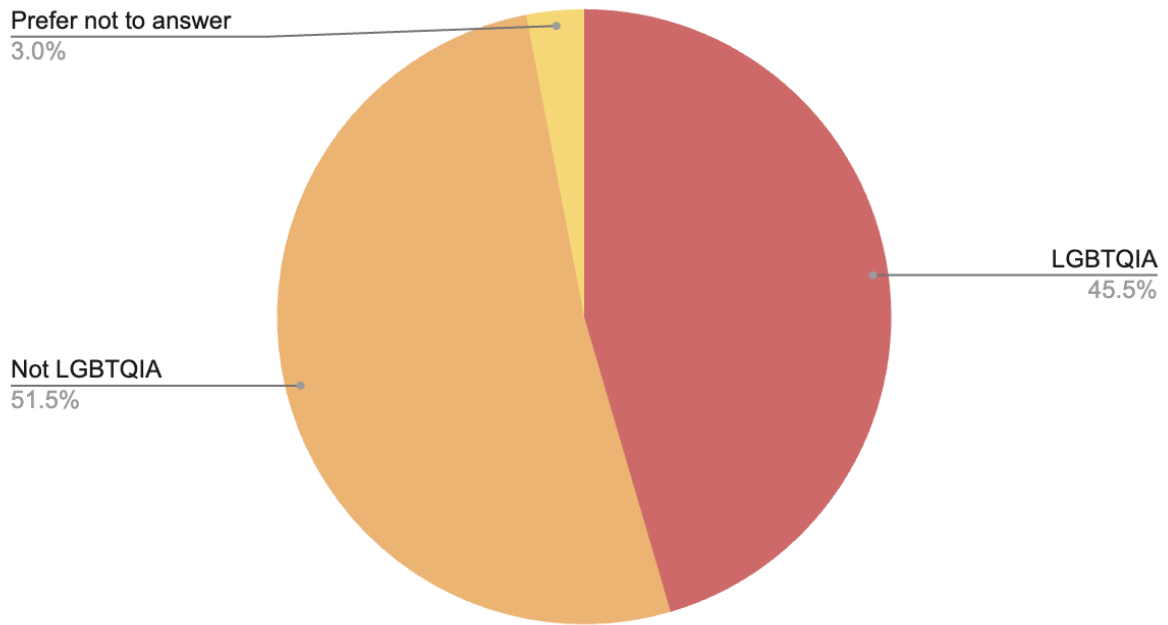
### **WINTER 2025 ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE DEMOGRAPHICS**

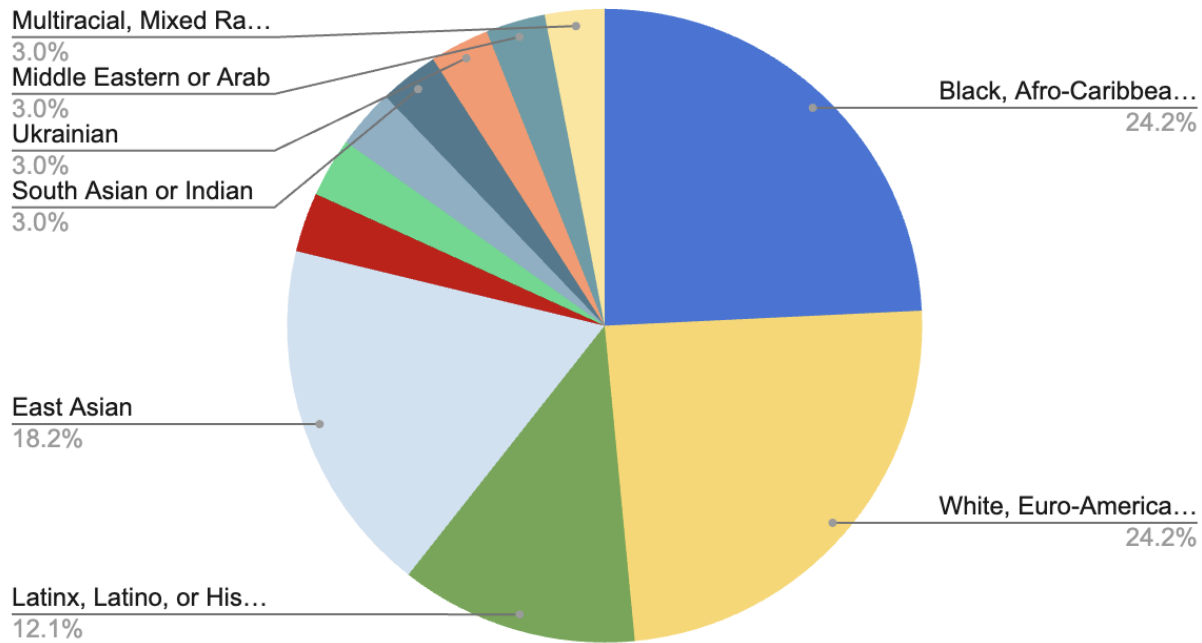
#### **Self-Identified Gender Identity**





### Self-Identified Members of the LGBTQIA Community





## GENERAL INFO

[Winter Residency Program](#) and [Residency FAQ](#)

### WASSAIC PROJECT STAFF

#### Your point people:

Director of Artistic Programming: Will Hutnick: [will@wassaicproject.org](mailto:will@wassaicproject.org)

Programming and Exhibitions Coordinator: Dani Klebes: [danielle@wassaicproject.org](mailto:danielle@wassaicproject.org)

Programming Assistant: Dane Cohen: [dane@wassaicproject.org](mailto:dane@wassaicproject.org)

#### Co-Directors:

Eve Biddle: [eve@wassaicproject.org](mailto:eve@wassaicproject.org)

Jeff Barnett-Winsby: [jeff@wassaicproject.org](mailto:jeff@wassaicproject.org)

Bowie Zunino: [bowie@wassaicproject.org](mailto:bowie@wassaicproject.org)

#### Additional staff:



Development Director: Bridgid Bergin-Davidson: [bridgid@wassaicproject.org](mailto:bridgid@wassaicproject.org)

Education Coordinator: Jill Winsby-Fein: [jill@wassaicproject.org](mailto:jill@wassaicproject.org)

Music Director: Tim Love Lee: [tim@wassaicproject.org](mailto:tim@wassaicproject.org)

## COMMUNICATION

### Who to contact

- If you have any questions about your upcoming residency, please contact our Director of Artist Programming Will Hutnick: [will@wassaicproject.org](mailto:will@wassaicproject.org).
- If you have any questions during your stay in Wassaic, please contact Dani ([danielle@wassaicproject.org](mailto:danielle@wassaicproject.org)) and Dane ([dane@wassaicproject.org](mailto:dane@wassaicproject.org))
- If you are in need of any supplies or maintenance during your stay, or have any concerns that you wish to share, please reach out to Dani or Dane via EMAIL, and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

### How to reach us

- If you have any non-emergency requests, please reach out to the programming team via EMAIL. We have found that this is the best way for us to keep work-related tasks within our working hours. Please only use your phone if it's an *emergency* or extremely time-sensitive.
- We are online/available/in the office Monday - Friday, from around 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Sometimes our jobs take us away from our desks, but we are always reachable during these times.
- Please use our WhatsApp group for all things fun and social!

### Work schedules

- Will/Dani: Monday - Thursday (off Fridays)
- Dane: Monday - Friday
- In the event of an emergency, all staff members live locally and are available to help. Please note that we will respond to non-urgent questions/requests during our respective working hours.

## WASSAIC PROJECT ADDRESS

37 Furnace Bank Road, Wassaic, New York 12592

(please note that our mailing address is different from the one above)

## TRAVEL TO WASSAIC

The Wassaic Project is accessible via Metro North from Grand Central, ~2 hours north of NYC. Please head [HERE](#) for the train schedule.

## RESIDENCY HANDBOOK + PHOTO DIRECTORY



A copy of this Handbook and Photo Directory of staff and artists-in-residence is located in the residency houses (Schoolhouse, the Lodge and HVA) along with printed copies of the Wassaic Project's COVID-19 Protocols and Guidelines.

### **GENERAL RULES + COMMON SENSE**

- No Smoking Inside. Our buildings are historic and made of wood, therefore, there is absolutely NO smoking inside any of the Wassaic Residency buildings. Please be extra careful with them.
- No Bare Feet. Our site is a constant construction site, so please be careful, and always wear shoes, there are nails and such lying around. Especially in the studios and shops!
- Be kind and respectful of the town. We are "newcomers" (relatively) in the hamlet of Wassaic and our relationship to the town is incredibly important. Please remember that your behavior reflects upon our program, and be respectful ambassadors for the greater good of artists everywhere.
- Be mindful that you will be living and working in very close proximity to one another. This demands a degree of respect for others, some folks don't want to hear your music blasting or come home to a dirty kitchen. At the same time, a degree of understanding is required, people make noise, get dirty, etc.
- If you have an issue or problem with another resident or guest, don't be passive, try to resolve it immediately in a calm and peaceful manner before it grows into something larger. If this does not work please contact Will or Dani to assist. Please always be respectful.

### **EMERGENCY - CALL 911**

The fire department and police stations are all close by. They know exactly where Maxon Mills and Luther Barn are. Please familiarize yourself with your house address in case of an emergency.

If a resident gets injured or requires medical attention, DO NOT drive them to the hospital. Call an ambulance.

### **WILDLIFE & ANIMAL CONTROL**

Due to the rural area that surrounds us, occasionally you may encounter wildlife. Amenia's Animal Control Officer is responsible for picking up lost and stray animals. If you see a lost animal, please report it by calling Amenia's Animal Control Officer (Maria Genovesi, 845-242-2069). If you have an issue or incident with a dog in town, call us immediately and report the incident to Animal Control.

### **DRINKING WATER**

The tap water in all Wassaic Project buildings is safe to drink. Some spaces that are used for



after school programs and summer camps require signs that say "non-potable water." Please disregard those signs. The water *is* in fact safe to drink.

### **FIRE ALARMS**

Wassaic's fire station will sound off a loud alarm whenever there is a fire/emergency. Please do not be alarmed if you hear this. It is loud enough to be able to hear it throughout the town so the volunteer firefighters know to report to the fire station.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The studios are within easy walking distance of all residency housing. Artists-in-residence are encouraged to bring a car if they have one, but if they don't, NYC is easily accessible by Metro North (\$40 round trip). Bikes are also a helpful mode of transportation around the hamlet. There are two bikes available for residents to use, as well as a bike pump. All stores and the Sharon hospital are a short car ride away.

### **WEEKLY TRIPS to TOWN**

Depending on artists-in-residences' needs, a shuttle service will make weekly trips to the grocery store/hardware store/etc on **Tuesday at 10:00 AM** (shuttle departs from the front of the Mill). Please let us know if you want/need to participate.

Instacart and HelloFresh are also now serving the area!

### **INTERNET PASSWORDS**

THE LODGE: The Lodge, pw: thelodge

THE SCHOOL HOUSE: School House, pw: Wassaic1

HVA: Myoptimum5e10a5, pw: 75-cordovan-8517

MAXON MILLS: WassaicProject, pw: ilovewassaic

LUTHER BARN: WP - auctionbarn



## **COVID-19 PROTOCOLS & GUIDELINES**

The Wassaic Project is dedicated to preserving the safety and health of its staff, artists, and community and has adopted the following protocols and procedures to mitigate the risk of exposure to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 in Wassaic Project spaces. We're a small organization. We do not have funding to add a full-time cleaning person and there aren't a lot of people on staff. Our hope is that we can all work together – taking on personal responsibility – to keep each other and ourselves safe. And that requires us all to be a team!

These protocols are to be followed by all Wassaic Project artists-in-residence and their families/guests/etc, as well as by Wassaic Project staff members. The Wassaic Project may adopt other or additional protocols, guidelines or procedures as the need to do so arises, in accordance with the guidelines of the [Center of Disease Control](#) (CDC) and other local health departments and government authorities.

### **NEGATIVE TEST + PROOF OF VACCINATION:**

All Wassaic Project artists-in-residence and their families/groups must have a negative COVID-19 test result from within [1] day prior to arriving at the Wassaic Project. (If for any reason this is not possible, please contact the Wassaic Project prior to your scheduled arrival.) We are also requiring all of our artists-in-residence to show proof of vaccination prior to the start of their residency.

The following protocols must be followed at all times while at the Wassaic Project.

### **SPACES:**

- Artists-in-residence and their families/guests must not enter spaces that are not currently open for use.



- Depending on local infection rates, and factors beyond our control, the Wassaic Project reserves the right to create a rotating schedule of building occupancy in Maxon Mills. A significant portion of time in Maxon Mills will, of course, be dedicated to artists-in-residence.

### **IN CASE OF ILLNESS:**

- All artists-in-residence and their families/guests/etc, along with Wassaic Project staff, are expected to familiarize themselves with [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
- Information on local medical facilities, including [Sharon Hospital](#) (50 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon, CT) and nearby [Urgent Care](#) (1100 State Rte 55, Lagrangeville, NY) can be found in the Residency Handbook.
- If anyone is experiencing symptoms, they should tell Wassaic Project staff immediately ([danielle@wassaicproject.org](mailto:danielle@wassaicproject.org)).
- The person experiencing symptoms should schedule a COVID test ASAP. Wassaic Project staff will assist in identifying local testing options or provide a COVID test.
- The person experiencing symptoms will be required to quarantine in their residency house until they receive test results.
- If anyone living in a residency house tests positive, they will be encouraged to seek medical care. Depending on the timing of such a circumstance, the number of people involved and other relevant facts, the Wassaic Project will consider allowing infected person(s) to recuperate in quarantine in their residency house. However, the Wassaic Project unfortunately does not have additional space/housing sufficient to ensure that will be possible in any particular instance, and it may be necessary for an infected person to vacate the residence and arrange to recuperate elsewhere.
- The Wassaic Project's staff cannot provide medical care or transportation to care facilities.

### **COVID-19 SELF ASSESSMENT TEST**

We have at-home COVID-19 tests available in the Mill for you (and in the residency houses), but if you prefer a non at-home test, HERE is where to get tested for COVID-19 in the area:

- Amenia Drugs - 5094 NY-22, Amenia, NY
- [CVS](#) - 3801 Route 22, Suite #3, Dover Plains, NY
- [CVS](#) - 108 Route 22, Millerton, NY
- [Valley Urgent Care](#) - 18 West Rd, Pleasant Valley, NY



## **RESIDENCY**

### **FIRST DAY + ORIENTATION + DINNER**

Check-in on the first day of the residency is **between 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**. All incoming artists-in-residence must be in Wassaic by 5:00 PM on the first day to attend **a mandatory orientation meeting at 5:30 PM** to go over the Residency Handbook, meet one another, and ask any questions that you might have.

If you are arriving by train we can arrange for transportation to Wassaic from the station and can bring you to the grocery store after you arrive as well. At 6:30 PM, the Wassaic Project will host a welcome dinner (either at the [Lantern](#) right in town or hosted by WP Co-Director/Board of Directors) for all new artists-in-residence and their families. Please let us know of any food allergies if you have not done so already!

### **WHATS APP**

Please download "WhatsApp" before your arrival to Wassaic. Each month we create a WhatsApp group which makes it very easy for artists-in-residence to communicate and get a hold of one another. If you don't have a smart phone and can't download WhatsApp, please let us know, and we won't use it that month. We don't want to exclude anyone!

### **GUESTS**

All guests are the responsibility of the hosting artist-in-residence and will need to sign a Guest Waiver upon their arrival. They must follow all residency rules and policies, including the Wassaic Project's COVID-19 Guidelines, sending a negative COVID test, and proof of vaccination.



## **PETS**

We allow artists to bring their dog(s) as long as they are people-friendly and other-dog-friendly. We have a zero tolerance policy for biting. We ask artists to contribute a \$100 impact fee if they are bringing a dog with them. Unfortunately, we cannot allow cats due to allergies. Anything else, ask us.

## **NEGATIVE TEST + PROOF OF VACCINATION:**

All Wassaic Project Guests must have a negative COVID-19 test result from within 1 day prior to arriving at the Wassaic Project. (If for any reason this is not possible, please contact the Wassaic Project prior to your scheduled arrival.) We are also requiring all of our artists-in-residence's guests to show proof of vaccination prior to their visit.

## **MAIL**

We check the PO Box #300 daily (Monday through Friday) and will drop off any mail/packages to your studio or house. Because of the amount of artists-in-residence that come through Wassaic every month, the Post Office will NOT give you your own mail. If we have already checked mail for the day and you're waiting for a time sensitive package and need us to check again, please let us know, we are more than happy to do so!

USPS typically only delivers to the post office in town. Fed-ex and UPS typically only deliver to the houses; however, sometimes they end up at the post office, so **please always include PO Box #300**, even if it is another mail carrier other than USPS.

You may ship supplies to yourself ahead of time, no earlier than two weeks before your residency start date. Please notify Dani via email BEFORE you send them so they know they are coming. We will store your supplies for you until you arrive.

## **MAILING ADDRESS:**

*For mail:*

Your Name  
% Wassaic Project  
PO Box 300  
Wassaic, NY 12592

*For packages:*

Your Name



% Wassaic Project  
37 Furnace Bank Road  
#300  
Wassaic, NY 12592

### **RESIDENCY FEE:**

Half of your residency fee is due a few months before the start of your residency. We will send you an invoice to pay the additional balance of your fee a month before you arrive at Wassaic.

## **HOUSING**

The residency houses – SchoolHouse, The Lodge and HVA (addresses below) – are within walking distance to each other and the studios. Each house has 3-4 bedrooms, a fully stocked kitchen, 1-2 full bathrooms, dining room, and a living room. Each of the houses are fully furnished and have a functional kitchen stocked with pots, pans, plates, glassware, coffee maker etc. Residents are responsible for making their own meals. We supply trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, cleaning supplies and hand soap.

**NOTE:** *Each bed has sheets, 2 pillows and a duvet, so if you require additional bedding that is up to you. Residents are responsible for bringing their own towels and any other personal items. (We do have spare towels if you forget yours!)*

During your stay here it is important to us that you are happy and comfortable. Please let us know if via email your house is missing the essentials (ie. glasses, coffee maker, knives, etc.). Sometimes items get mixed up from the houses, but we try our best to re-sort all kitchen supplies in-between months and residences. Please also let us know if you are low on the basic household supplies (toilet paper/paper towels/hand soap/cleaning supplies), and please let us know BEFORE you run out.

### **SOME THINGS TO NOTE**

Please note that **power outages** happen on rare occasions in inclement weather, especially during the winter months. Each house is equipped with a power outage emergency kit which includes candles, matches, flashlight, batteries, etc. Because cell service is spotty in this area (and if power is out in the residency houses it is most likely out where staff members reside), your point people might be unreachable for a period of time. We will do our best to properly communicate with artists-in-residence in the event of a power outage in a timely manner!



There is one **fire extinguisher** located in each house. The School House has one in the front entryway and The Lodge has one at the top of the basement stairs. Please don't move these unless it's an emergency. **First Aid kits** are also available in each house.

The train runs day and night through the hamlet. One of our resident houses is located very close to the tracks and the noise can be bothersome to people. We've found that it's something residents typically get used to, but we recommend bringing earplugs with you if you are concerned about **noise pollution**. Please contact us before your arrival if you anticipate that this may be an issue for you, and we will do our best to coordinate appropriate housing.

If you forget your toothbrush, blanket, socks, alarm clock etc., there is a shopping center a 5 minute drive from Wassaic that has a grocery store, dollar store and pharmacy where you can get anything you might need. CVS in Dover Plains is also only 10 minutes away.

### **Fire Safety–Burn Bans**

The local government issues burn bans in the area when there is an increase in wildfire activity and risk of wildfires due to drier-than-normal conditions.

The burn ban prohibits starting outdoor fires statewide for purposes of brush and debris disposal as well as uncontained campfires, recreational fires, and open fires used for cooking unless otherwise excluded below. This ban shall not apply to:

- Barbeque grills
- Contained campfires less than 3 ft in height and 4 ft in length, width, or diameter if contained in a fireplace, hibachi, or fire ring.

We ask that you exercise caution, and responsibility, and plan accordingly when engaging in recreational fires. Before starting a campfire or otherwise, please refer to our local government website for notices about burn bans and climate advisories at [ameniany.gov](http://ameniany.gov).

There is currently a burn ban until **5/14/2025**, and may be extended depending on weather conditions.

### **HOUSE ADDRESSES**

*The Lodge:*  
23 Furnace Bank Rd.



Wassaic, NY 12592

*The School House:*  
203 Old Route 22  
Wassaic, NY 12592

*HVA (Family Program):*  
19 Furnace Bank Road  
Wassaic, NY 12592

### **CODES**

The Lodge: 5083  
Schoolhouse (right side): 5083  
HVA: 2020

### **INTERNET PASSWORDS**

THE LODGE: Username-“23 furnace bank” PW- thelodge  
THE SCHOOL HOUSE: Username: “School House” PW- Wassaic1  
HVA: Myoptimum5e10a5, pw: 75-cordovan-8517

### **TRASH / RECYCLING**

All houses have recycling bins (orange) and Welsh sanitation garbage (black) bins out in front (Lodge and HVA share bins). You do NOT need to sort or bag any recycling – glass, cardboard, plastic, it’s all good! Please take trash and recycling outside on Sunday nights. Pick-up is Monday AM. **DO NOT SKIP A WEEK!** If anything (trash bags or recycling) does not fit in your houses’ bins, please use the large garbage and recycling containers in the Luther Barn field.

### **LAUNDRY: on site**

The Wassaic Project has 1 washer and 1 dryer available for use in the Lodge basement. Some detergent is provided. Please check in with the artists-in-residence who live in the Lodge to make sure it is not in use.

### **LAUNDRY: complimentary wash ‘n fold service!**

The Wassaic Project uses a weekly laundry service for all other artists-in-residence if they would like! Please place all items in laundry bags and/or clear trash bags and label with your name and house, and **leave in the Mill** by the front door near the bathrooms.

DROP-OFF: Monday/Thursday before 9:00 AM.  
PICK-UP: Monday/Thursday Afternoon



If you need a laundry bag, please let us know via email.  
*The code to the side door of the Mill is: 2768*

## **CLEANING**

We hire a professional cleaning crew at the start of every month. It is the responsibility of the artists-in-residence to maintain the cleanliness of the houses throughout their stay. Remember to please be respectful of our spaces. Residency houses and studio spaces will be stocked with basic cleaning supplies and necessities including sponges, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, hand soap, anti-bacterial sprays and wipes. Artists should fill out the [Artist Support / Materials Request Form](#) if any basic supplies are low and need to be replenished. Artists are responsible for purchasing any specialty supplies they may want that are not already provided by the Wassaic Project.

All residents are responsible for emptying their own trash bins in their studios and bringing waste bags to the dumpster. Dumpsters for regular trash and recycling can be found in the field outside Luther Barn. To respect your space and privacy, a cleaning crew will not come into your house and clean while you are in residence (unless you are in dire need!). If you need a cleaning crew into your house during your residency for any reason, please reach out to us.

## **CHECK IN**

Check-in happens **between 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM** on the first day of your residency. All incoming artists-in-residence must be in Wassaic by 5:00 PM for an **orientation at 5:30 PM**. If you are arriving by train we can arrange for transportation to Wassaic from the station.

## **CHECK OUT**

Departing residents must be totally **moved out by 12:00 PM** on the last day of your residency. Your studio, bedroom and entire residence must be returned to the way you found it when you first arrived. Please plan ahead. Be sure to strip all beds in your house that were used and bring this laundry to the Mill. Please also remember to take ALL food with you. **Please DO NOT LEAVE ANY FOOD BEHIND.**

# **STUDIOS**

## **SOME THINGS TO NOTE**

Our winter studios are in the mill. It is temperature-controlled and will be set to a moderate temperature.



You will receive 1–2 tables and a chair. We have installed lights in each studio, and have additional clamp lights, if need be. You are responsible for bringing everything that you need for your artistic practice. We do, however, have a utility closet with a few extra extension cords and clamp lights for you to use. Please return anything you borrow from this closet when you are done with it.

The studios are private, yet most do not have walls that reach the ceiling — therefore you must keep music/loud noise to yourself. Please be considerate of your neighbors.

Fire extinguishers are located on each studio floor. Please see the map on the studio bulletin board for extinguisher, first-aid kit, and exit locations.

**Leave studios in the shape that you received them.** We have fast changeovers throughout the season, so it is very helpful when artists clean up after themselves. Please keep in mind that before you arrived, someone cleaned your studio for you. Please show the next artist-in-residence the same kindness. If there are holes larger than a screw or large painted areas, you will be responsible for spackling and repainting your studio before your leave. Please communicate with us beforehand so that we can be sure to get you the proper materials.

## **SUPPLIES**

There are **no art supply stores in our area**. Please bring what you need with you. You may ship supplies to yourself ahead of time, but please coordinate this with Will before you ship (shipping addresses above). There is a FREE PILE of old materials/etc in the Luther Barn Auction Ring which is open for all artists to use and take.

## **INTERNET PASSWORDS**

MAXON MILLS:

network: WassaicProject, pw: ilovewassaic

LUTHER BARN:

Network: WassaicProject, pw: auctionbarn

## **WOOD SHOP**

The Wassaic Project will have a very **limited Wood Shop** available for our artists-in-residence during this time period (which will only include a chop saw, panel saw, and limited hand-held tools). There will not be a dedicated Wood Shop tech because of the limited equipment available; therefore, the equipment/tools will only be available to artists who already have a considerable knowledge and expertise.



We are in the process of expanding our Wood Shop (and seasonal Print Shop) this fall, and anticipate the construction to be complete within 1 year. This is exciting news for the future of the Wassaic Project, *and* we recognize that this might not be great news for you. Please communicate with us about how we can best support your practice during this time. We are always happy to help brainstorm creative ways to build things!

## **TOOLS**

Handheld Tools: A variety of tools are available to residents in our supply area across from the restrooms on the first floor of the Mill.

Power Tools: If you are not 100% familiar or comfortable with a tool, please ask our woodshop manager for a demo. We all need to be very careful and safe. Wassaic Project Tools have been spray painted with WP in either green or white. You are only allowed to use Wassaic Project Tools with prior permission.

Tool Labeling: Current staff members store their tools in the woodshop, these tools are clearly labeled and are NOT Wassaic Project tools. You should not be using them without permission. Residents should also label their tools and store them in their studios.

Clean up (IMPORTANT): The Wood Shop is a common space: **please clean up after yourself** and return all tools to their correct location. Please vacuum up any sawdust you may create in the shop when you are done. Machines will incur damage if they are not properly cleaned and taken care of.

## **KILN**

The Wassaic Project has a Paragon high firing kiln that uses the cones. This kiln has a low, medium and high setting that is adjusted manually. We also have basic ceramic tools and boards for use.

Max Firing Temp: We have cone 6 available to use (Cone 10 max).

Inner Dimensions: 25" deep x 28" wide

Kiln shelf size: 21" (one full shelf and two half shelves)

# **PROGRAMMING**

## **ARTIST PRESENTATIONS**

Artists-in-residence are encouraged to present their work at the start of their residency at an informal Artist Presentations night. Each artist will get 5 minutes (max) to present their



work, either via Google Slides, Powerpoint, PDF, spoken word, etc. This is a great opportunity for you to introduce yourself and your work to your fellow residents and the Programming Staff!

### **MEET N GREET**

We will set up a time and date for all Wassaic Project staff and artists-in-residence to safely get together and meet.

### **STUDIO VISITS**

We will be facilitating studio visits in-person (and over Zoom, occasionally) with 2 Visiting Artist/Critic(s) per month, along with studio visits from WP Co-Director [Eve Biddle](#), WP Director of Artistic Programming [Will Hutnick](#), and group studio visits with our embedded critics [Ghost of a Dream](#).

### **VISITING ARTISTS/CRITICS**

2–3 times a month, guest critics, curators, writers, and artists are invited to make one-on-one studio visits with all of our artists-in-residence. Before their studio visits, our visiting guest will give an informal presentation of their own work, or about the organization/gallery that they work for. Visits are ~20 – 30 minutes (depending on how many artists sign-up for a studio visit). Artists-in-residence will be given a Programming Calendar /sign-up sheet via Google Doc during their first week in Wassaic to sign up for studio visits. If you sign up for a studio visit, you are required to honor that commitment.

Head here for a list of our past [Visiting Artists/Critics](#).

### **OPEN STUDIOS**

We will be hosting Open Studios once a month (most likely the last Saturday of the month from 3:00 – 5:00 PM). Artists-in-residence are encouraged (but not required) to open up their studios to the public and share their work with our community.

### **PRESS**

Any press “coming” to the Wassaic Project to interview/feature you should be coordinated with our staff ahead of time. We are happy to provide any supplementary materials about the history of our project or our facilities.

### **WASSAIC PROJECT GAZETTE**

At the beginning of every month, the Wassaic Project Gazette goes LIVE featuring the projects/exhibitions/press of all residency and exhibition alum. If you’d like to be included, please send Dane ([dane@wassaicproject.org](mailto:dane@wassaicproject.org)) details of your project – title, date, location, etc – by the end of the month. Please also add [danielle@wassaicproject.org](mailto:danielle@wassaicproject.org) and [will@wassaicproject.org](mailto:will@wassaicproject.org) to your personal mailing list.



### **RESIDENT PHOTOS**

WP Co-Director Jeff Barnett-Winsby is available each session to take photos of all artists-in-residence in their studio. If you are interested, a sign-up sheet will be included in the Programming Calendar that we'll share at the start of your residency.

### **THE ART NEST**

The Art Nest, our on-site, free, drop-in Education Space, is open on Saturdays from 12:00 – 5:00 PM. During the summer, the Wassaic Project runs summer camps out of this space from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

Artists participating through our Family Residency program are welcome to use the Nest outside of camp and open Art Nest hours, but this is our highest traffic season and we appreciate your understanding while the space is less available than in other seasons. Please leave furniture, projects, and in-use materials where they are, and text Jill at 302-242-5847 if there are any materials you'd like to use or borrow beyond small basic supplies, or have questions about when is the best time to use the space. Please also be mindful about cleaning up after yourself and returning any materials the same day they are borrowed. Thanks!

### **CREATE YOUR OWN PROGRAMMING!**

If there is an artist, gallery or creative professional that you would like to come up and see your work, we are happy to contact them and invite them up for studio visits and/or Open Studios! Contact Will to coordinate. We are also open to movie night(s), potlucks, poetry readings, bonfires, field trips to MASS MoCA, Art Omi, Dia Beacon, Hudson, NY, etc. Let's make whatever you want/need happen, within reason.



## WASSAIC & THE SURROUNDING AREA

### HEALTH

#### URGENT CARE:

(closet – about 30 minutes away)

[Valley Urgent Care](#)

Pleasant Valley, NY

(845) 635-1590

(~40 min. away)

[MKMG Mount Kisco Medical Group](#)

*Poughkeepsie office:*

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

845-231-5600

*Rhinebeck office:*

Rhinebeck, NY 12572

(845) 231-5600

#### HOSPITAL:

[SHARON HOSPITAL/EMERGENCY ROOM](#)

Sharon, CT 06069

(860) 364-4141

#### VET:

Harlem Valley Animal Clinic

3017 Route 22,

Dover Plains, NY 12522

(845) 877-6852

Animal Emergency Clinic

84 Patrick Ln # 8,

Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

(845) 471-8242

[Copake Vet](#) (recommended)

Copake Falls, NY 12517

(518) 329-6161



**DUTCHESS COUNTY HELPLINE:**

Text or Talk: 845-485-9700

Experienced people who care and can help are available every day, 24/7.

[Dutchess County Helpline](#)

**FOOD / BEVERAGE**

**WASSAIC:**

Calsi's General Store

Cash & Checks only (I.O.U.s also accepted!)

Sharon is the owner

AMAZING farm-fresh eggs

Open Daily: 2:30 PM to 6:00 PM

[The Lantern Inn](#)

Open: Thursday through Sunday

Amazing pizza!

[Vitsky Bakery](#) / Ten Mile Table

Open: Friday - Sunday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**AMENIA:**

[Farmer's Market](#)

Fridays 3:00-7:00 PM

Amenia Town Hall

[Fresh Town](#)

(grocery store)

[Maitri Farm](#)

Friday pick-up at the farm! TBD winter hours...

[Cascade Spirit Shoppe](#)

[Back in the Kitchen](#) / Peggy's Sweet n' Savory

(awesome coffee/breakfast/lunch)

Open: Thursday through Sunday, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

[Four Brothers Pizza](#)



[Yi Kitchen](#)

[Avocado Cafe](#)

**MILLERTON:**

[McEnroes](#)

(organic market and farm stand, amazing lunch and breakfast sandwiches)

[Irving Farm](#)

(great coffee and lunch)

Open Daily, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

WIFI – great place to do work!

[52 Main](#)

(great dinner, tapas, happy hour)

[Oakhurst Diner](#)

(great everything!)

Open: Thursday through Monday

[Willa](#)

(fancy)

[Harney and Sons Tea](#)

[Avocado Cafe](#)

**SHARON, CT:**

[JP Giffords](#)

(coffee, breakfast, lunch)

[The Edward](#)

(wine bar)

[When Pigs Fly South](#)

**KENT, CT:**

[JP Giffords](#)

(amazing coffee, breakfast, and lunch)



[The Villager](#)

(breakfast and lunch, and amazing Mexican dinner night on Tuesdays!)

[109 Cheese Market](#)

(lunch, amazing cheese)

[Kingsley Tavern](#)

[Wilson's Bakery and Cafe](#)

[Swyft](#)

(delicious but \$\$)

**SALT POINT:**

[La Puerta Azul](#)

**MILLBROOK:**

[Babette's](#)

**STORES + SUPPLIES**

**POST OFFICE:**

18 West Main Street  
Wassaic, NY 12592  
(845) 373-8382

**PHARMACY:**

Armenia Drugs  
5094 Route 22  
Armenia, NY 12501  
(845) 373-8000

CVS

Dover Plains and Millerton, NY

**MISC:**

Dollar General  
3338 E Main St  
Armenia, NY



Catskills Art Supply  
800 Main Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY  
Closed on Sunday

AC Moore Art Supply  
Poughkeepsie, NY

**HARDWARE STORES:**

[HG Page](#)

Amenia, NY  
845-373-8900  
Weekdays 7 to 5  
Saturday 8 to 5; Sunday 10 to 2

[ACE Hardware of Kent](#)

18 Kent Green Blvd  
Kent, CT 06757

[Tractor Supply](#)

Amenia, NY  
(845) 373-8645

**LUMBER:**

[HG Page](#)

Amenia, NY  
845-373-8900  
Weekdays 7 to 5  
Saturday 8 to 5; Sunday 10 to 2

\*Small lumber stock. Softwood, hardwood, and plywood available. Hardware, plaster, hand tools, and small machines available.

[NYCitySlab](#)

Dover Plains, NY

\*Certified Black-owned business. Rough lumber only. Visits by appointment only. Please call 914-239-3556

[Berkshire Products](#)

Sheffield, MA

\*Standard lumber yard. Pricey live edge slabs available- already roughly milled.



**CERAMIC SUPPLIES:**

[Bailey Pottery](#)

Kingston, NY.

\*Store is open for curbside order pickup only. Call to order after choosing items on website- order takes 24 hours to prepare.

[Sheffield Pottery](#)

Sheffield, MA.

\*Store is open for curbside order pickup only. Call to order after choosing items on website- order takes 24 hours to prepare.

**AUTO:**

[Jack's Auto](#)

Wassaic, NY

845-373-9757

**THRIFTING & ANTIQUES**

**Sharon, CT:**

\$ [Bargain Barn](#)

Clothes, some houseware items, dishes, vintage clothes, very limited furniture

**Millerton, NY:**

\$\$ [Montage Antiques](#)

Antique furniture, some dishes

\$\$ [Millerton Antique Center](#)

Antique furniture, dishes, rugs, some clothes

\$\$\$ [Hunter Bee](#)

Fancy antique furniture

**Lakeville, CT:**

\$ [Lou's Relics](#)

Antique furniture, dishes, trinkets, etc



**Millbrook, NY:**

\$\$ [Millbrook Antiques Center](#)

Antique furniture, dishes, art, clothes

\$\$ [Millbrook Antiques Mall](#)

Antique furniture, dishes, art, clothes

\$ [Uncle Al's Thrift Shop](#)

Clothes, some houseware items, dishes

**Kent, CT:**

\$ [Quality Thrift Shop](#)

Thrifted clothes, houseware items, dishes

**ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS AND RESOURCES**

[Millerton Movie House](#)

Millerton, NY

[Four Brothers Amenia Drive-In!](#)

Amenia Intersection

[Ten Mile Distillery](#)

Wassaic

[Dutch's Spirits](#)

Pine Plains

**ART IN THE AREA**

[Standard Space](#)

Sharon, CT

[Geary Contemporary](#)

Millerton, CT

[Icehouse Project Space](#)



Sharon, CT

[Craven Contemporary](#)

Kent, CT

[Kenise Barnes Fine Art](#)

Kent, CT

[LABspace](#)

Hillsdale, NY

[The ReInstitute](#)

Millerton, NY

[ChaNorth](#) (residency program)

Pine Plains, NY

[Mother Gallery](#)

Beacon, NY

[Dia Beacon](#)

Beacon, NY

[SEPTEMBER](#)

Hudson, NY

[Pamesa Salisbury Gallery](#)

Hudson, NY

[ArtPort Kingston](#)

Kingston, NY

[Visitor Center](#)

Newburgh, NY

[Elijah Wheat Showroom](#)

Newburgh, NY

[Art Omi](#)

Ghent, NY



[Art Austerlitz](#)

Austerlitz, NY

[Hessel Museum of Art](#) at Bard

Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

[Storm King](#)

New Windsor, NY

[Hudson Valley MoCA](#)

Peekskill, NY

[Katonah Museum of Art](#)

Katonah, NY

[CB Gallery](#)

Katonah, NY

[HiLo](#)

Catskill, NY

[Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center at Vassar College](#)

Poughkeepsie, NY

[Neuberger Museum of Art at Purchase College](#)

Purchase, NY

[Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz](#)

New Paltz, NY

[The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum](#)

Ridgefield, CT

[Williams College Museum of Art](#)

Williams, MA

[MASS MoCA](#)

North Adams, MA

[Opus 40](#)



Saugerties, NY

[Collar Works](#)

Troy, NY

## **HIKES + PARKS**

[Macedonia State Park](#)

Kent, CT

[Rudd Pond + Taconic State Park](#)

Millerton, NY

[Bash Bish Falls State Park](#)

Mt Washington, MA

[Appalachian Trail](#)

Wingdale, NY + Kent, CT

[Hudson Valley Rail Trail](#)

Wassaic, Amenia + Millerton stations

[Mudge Pond](#)

Sharon, CT

Please be mindful and check for ticks regularly!



## **LYME DISEASE**

### *What is Lyme disease?*

Lyme disease is caused by bacteria (germs) that are spread by tiny, infected deer ticks. Both people and animals can have Lyme disease.

### *Where do cases of Lyme disease occur?*

In the United States, Lyme disease most commonly occurs in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions and in the upper Midwest. In New York, Lyme disease occurs throughout the state.

### *How is Lyme disease spread?*

Lyme disease is spread by the bite of an infected deer tick. The tick usually must be attached to a person for at least 24 hours before it can spread the germ. Deer ticks in Massachusetts can also carry the germs that cause babesiosis and human granulocytic anaplasmosis (also known as human granulocytic ehrlichiosis). Deer ticks are capable of spreading more than one type of germ in a single bite.

### *When can I get Lyme disease?*

Lyme disease can occur during any time of the year. The bacteria that cause Lyme disease are spread by infected deer ticks. Young ticks (nymphs) are most active during the warm weather months between May and July. Adult ticks are most active during the fall and spring but may also be out searching for a host any time that winter temperatures are above freezing.

### *How soon do symptoms of Lyme disease appear after a tick bite?*

Symptoms of early Lyme disease, described below, usually begin to appear from 3 to 30 days after being bitten by an infected tick. If untreated, symptoms of late Lyme disease may occur from weeks to years after the initial infection.

### *What are the symptoms of Lyme disease?*

Early stage (days to weeks): The most common early symptom is a rash (erythema migrans)



where the tick was attached. It often, but not always, starts as a small red area that spreads outward, clearing up in the center so it looks like a donut. Flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headache, stiff neck, sore and aching muscles and joints, fatigue and swollen glands may also occur.

Even though these symptoms may go away by themselves, without medical treatment, some people will get the rash again in other places on their bodies, and many will experience more serious problems. Treatment during the early stage prevents later, more serious problems.

Later stages (weeks to years): If untreated, people with Lyme disease can develop late-stage symptoms even if they never had a rash. The joints, nervous system and heart are most commonly affected.

- About 60% of people with untreated Lyme disease get arthritis in their knees, elbows and/or wrists. The arthritis can move from joint to joint and become chronic.
- Many people who don't get treatment develop nervous system problems. These problems include meningitis (an inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord), facial weakness (Bell's palsy) or other problems with nerves of the head, and weakness or pain (or both) in the hands, arms, feet and/or legs. These symptoms can last for months, often shifting between mild and severe.
- The heart also can be affected in Lyme disease, with slowing down of the heart rate and fainting. The effect on the heart can be early or late.

#### *Is there treatment for Lyme disease?*

People who are diagnosed with Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics. Prompt treatment during the early stage of the disease prevents later, more serious problems.

#### *What can I do to lower my chances of getting Lyme disease, or any other disease, from ticks?*

Prevention begins with you! Take steps to reduce your chances of being bitten by any tick. Ticks are most active during warm weather, generally late spring through fall. However, ticks can be out any time that temperatures are above freezing. Ticks cling to vegetation and are most numerous in brushy, wooded or grassy habitats. They are not found on open, sandy beaches, but may be found in grassy dune areas. When you are outside in an area likely to have ticks (e.g. brushy, wooded or grassy places), follow these simple steps to protect yourself and your loved ones:

- Use a repellent with DEET (the chemical N-N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) or permethrin according to the instructions given on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations



of 30% or less on older children. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear, and should not be applied to skin. More information on choosing a repellent and how to use repellents safely is included in the MDPH Public Health Fact Sheet on Tick Repellents at [www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/factsheets/factsheets.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/factsheets/factsheets.htm).

- Wear long, light-colored pants tucked into your socks or boots, and a long-sleeved shirt. This may be difficult to do when the weather is hot, but it will help keep ticks away from your skin and help you spot a tick on your clothing faster.
- Stay on cleared trails when walking or hiking, avoiding the edge habitat where ticks are likely to be.
- Talk to your veterinarian about tick control options (tick collars, repellents) for your pets.

After spending time in an area likely to have ticks, check yourself, your children and pets for ticks. Young ticks, called nymphs, are the size of a poppy seed. Adult deer ticks are the size of a sesame seed. Both nymph and adult deer ticks can spread the bacteria that cause Lyme disease; however, nymphs are of more concern. They are aggressive feeders and so tiny that it can be difficult to see them on the body, unless you are looking carefully. When doing a tick check, remember that ticks like places that are warm and moist. Always check the back of the knees, armpits, groin, scalp, back of the neck and behind the ears. If you find a tick attached to your body, remove it as soon as possible using fine-point tweezers. Do not squeeze or twist the tick's body, but grasp it close to your skin and pull straight out with steady pressure.

Know the symptoms of Lyme disease as described in this fact sheet. If you have been someplace likely to have ticks and you develop symptoms of Lyme disease, or any other disease carried by ticks, see your healthcare provider right away.



## **THE HISTORY OF THE WASSAIC PROJECT**



## **& THE HAMLET OF WASSAIC**

The history of the Wassaic Project, like the hamlet of Wassaic itself, reflects the vitality and dynamism of the shifting American landscape. The hamlet of Wassaic was born in the age of industry. Noah Gridley and Son Ironworks, a company that produced pig iron in the nineteenth century, served as a catalyst to the growth of the community. Supported by the Gridley family, Gail Borden continued industrial development in Wassaic, building his factory to produce Eagle Brand condensed milk. In the twentieth century the industry transformed yet again, led by the Maxon Mills Company, to feed production. However, as the twenty-first century approached, the success of industry in Wassaic declined. The exchange of goods largely depended on the Harlem Valley Railroad line, which in 1852 reached the hamlet and thrived as a long-distance commuter and freight line until the 1970s when freight service ended and track removal began. The construction of the new Route 22, which shifted the flow of traffic from the town's center to the outskirts, also proved detrimental to Wassaic's economy.

In the twenty-first century the hamlet of Wassaic found itself with three prominent buildings, the Maxon Mills, the Luther Barn, and the Wassaic House hotel, once active, left virtually unused. In 2005 the Maxon Mills, abandoned and in a state of decay, was urged to be demolished. The fate of the mill was reversed when a local organization lobbied to place the building on the New York State Register of Historic Places that same year.

Although a designated landmark, the Maxon Mills remained unusable until Anthony Zunino and his business partner Richard Berry, who both had a hand in developing the South Street Seaport Historic District, purchased and renovated the building. The historical integrity of the Maxon Mills was maintained through the renovation, which was guided by antique photographs of the building. The presence of the building's former functions is part of what makes the Wassaic Project a unique exhibition space. Artwork is displayed alongside enormous hoppers, bucket elevators, and other machinery on walls permanently transformed by the passage of grain. The gallery spaces themselves are dictated by the



shape of the seven-story building and the entire space serves as a welcome creative challenge for artists and guest curators.

The effort to preserve the Maxon Mills did not start with a master plan. It was saved because of its iconographic significance to the American landscape and its potential to revitalize the community of Wassaic. It was not until 2008 that a future was carved out for the former feed elevator when Eve Biddle, Bowie Zunino, and Elan Bogarin proposed utilizing the building to host a contemporary summer arts festival.

In an increased effort to serve as an anchor for Wassaic, the Wassaic Project has expanded programming beyond the summer festival to include a year round residency program, summer exhibition and a community-oriented K-12 and adult education programs.

## **THE WASSAIC PROJECT'S BUILDINGS**

### **MAXON MILLS**

The Maxon Mills, owned by the Maxon Mills Company, was built in 1954 and remained in active use as a feed elevator until the 1980s. The Maxon Mills Company operated by collecting assorted grains from farmers and distributing credit for the amount collected. Farmers had different varieties of grains to offer depending on where their land was located. The mill's function was to mix the grains to create a complete feed for livestock, especially cattle. The farmers who supplied the grain could then use the credit to purchase the complex mix of grain produced by the mill. In its heyday the Maxon Mills Company distributed grain to six counties, reaching as far as Vermont, using the railroad as its method of transport.

The Maxon Mills is not only significant historically but also architecturally. It is one of the last remaining wood-crib elevators in the country and railroad model-making enthusiasts use Maxon Mills as a prototype for the design of feed elevators. Currently, the Maxon Mills functions as the Wassaic Artist Residency's summer exhibition space.

### **THE WASSAIC HOUSE HOTEL**

The Wassaic House Hotel, built in the 1850s by Noah Gridley of Noah Gridley and Son Ironworks, was a direct product of the railroad and functioned as a leisure location where upper class railroad passengers could rest, dine, and socialize. The hotel abuts the Maxon Mills and now serves as an exhibition, artist studio, and office space.



### **THE LUTHER BARN**

The Luther Barn was built in 1875 by Noah Gridley and Son Ironworks. After World War II the Luther family purchased the barn and transformed it into a thriving center of commerce and communication between New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. The Luther Barn was a dynamic market; it was a space to sell, buy, and barter for an array of goods and, more famously, an auction ring for a variety of livestock. The Luther Barn played an important role as one of the few establishments that brought together farmers from all three states. The last auction was held in December of 2002. In 2009, the Wassaic Artist Residency reclaimed the Luther Barn; the former animal stalls have been adapted for artist studio spaces, and the former auction ring is used as a film screening room and a performance venue.

### **THE HARLEM VALLEY LINE**

The Wassaic train station was originally constructed adjacent to the Maxon Mills. The station was shifted to its current location in 2000. The railroad, which reached Wassaic in 1852 thrived as a commuter and freight line and extended as far as Chatham, NY and made connections as far as Albany, NY and North Adams, MA. The railroad replaced river transport and served as an important lifeline for commerce. Nevertheless, as automobile culture emerged so did accessible highways, turnpikes, and interstates. By the 1960s railroad service was cut back, severely affecting businesses. In 1972 the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) began the existing commuter service.