



**DUTCHESS
TOURISM**

HUDSON VALLEY REGION NEW YORK

February 27, 2025

Dutchess Rev250 Programming Grant Committee
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the Pawling Historical Society's application for the 2025 Dutchess County Rev250 Programming Grant. This funding is sought for the Washington in Pawling exhibition and immersive project.

In reviewing the application and supplemental materials, this exhibition and use of innovative technology and storytelling fulfills the goals of the Dutchess Rev250 programming grant. It will bring new visitors to the John Kane House and Museum in Pawling to discover local history and connections to the Revolutionary War, while also encouraging exploration of this rural area of Dutchess County. The educational goals are well thought out and this program will engage visitors of all ages. Additionally, their strong promotional plan will ensure that the local community and visitors are aware of this unique exhibition.

The Pawling Historical Society maintains and manages an extensive archive and offers regular public programs. In 2023, visitors to Dutchess County, including those to Pawling, contributed \$756 million to the local economy, supporting over 9,800 tourism-related jobs. This grant, which will encourage visitors and residents alike to discover the John Kane House Museum, represents a great opportunity to promote local history and inspire exploration.

I hope that you will consider this funding request, which will support Pawling Historical Society's mission and advance Dutchess County's Rev250 programming.

Sincerely,

Melaine Rottkamp, CDME
President & CEO

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