

PREFACE



The American Italian Heritage Association and Museum (AIHM) is located at 1227 Central Avenue, Albany, New York. Its mission is to promote and maintain an understanding of the Italian American experience. The campus of the AIHM consists of three separate buildings, including a former Catholic Church which has been repurposed to house the Museum, Cultural Center and Gift Shop. It contains 10 exhibit rooms and a Hall of History. The Museum has been awarded a Preservation Merit Award by the Albany Historic Foundation. Preservation Merit Awards are granted to examples of restoration, rehabilitation or adaptive re-use that inspire other preservation efforts and serve as a model for best practices. It also was designated the Best Small Museum in the Capital District by the readers of Metroland magazine.

The Museum also maintains a library offering a multi-media collection depicting the Italian American experience. The facility, which contains a cultural center, serves as a venue for scholarly study as well as various activities of a cultural nature such as the offering of Italian language and cooking classes.

The AIHAM has members in 41 states and several countries. Membership is open to both people of Italian heritage as well as others that share an interest in Italian American Culture. The AIHAM holds monthly membership meetings that often feature guest speakers offering presentations centered on Italian American topics of interests; it also publishes a quarterly newsletter.

The AIHAM seeks to cooperate with other ethnic organizations in the Capital District. All activities are conducted by volunteers. Revenue is generated by membership dues and various forms of fundraising.