



**City of Albany**  
**Office of Special Events & Volunteer Services**  
**City Hall - 4th Floor, Albany, New York 12207**  
**(518) 434-5412 fax: (518) 426-0759**

The City of Albany Office of Special Events takes pride in offering FREE high quality events and entertainment to the City of Albany residents and visitors. All event components are funded via vendor fees and sponsorships, without city funding. While the economy and bad weather were both cumbersome production factors in 2009, each event succeeded in producing a balanced budget, and in entertaining attendees.

Staff continued to take on additional duties as event complexity increased, and expenses were cut. Staff continues to be cross-trained in all aspects of event production so everyone can assist when and where needed.

Coordination between Albany Police, Albany Fire, Albany Water, and General Services continues to be an extraordinary experience as all departments work well together to produce these large scale events.

In 2009, the OSE produced the 61<sup>st</sup> Albany Tulip Festival, an 11-week Alive at Five Concert Series, the Father's Day Pops Concert, The September in the City Art Fair, The All America City Jazz Festival, The Hudson 400 Commemoration and Winterfest. These events presented the outstanding local, regional and nationally recognized musical talent, as well as an assortment of high quality crafters and artists.

The OSE also assisted in co-production of 9 community events, and provided staff and technical support for numerous press conferences and special ceremonies.

The Albany Tulip Festival experienced record crowds, and an increased number of crafter applications. The Friday Night concert was presented by Army Materiel Command Band which serves the soldiers & civilians of the US Army Materiel Command stationed at more than 140 locations worldwide. In efforts to alleviate traffic and parking congestion, CDTA provided free shuttle service to Washington Park, and a "Bike to the Fest" campaign was introduced. Recycling was in effect with bins on site and a display by DGS explaining the City's recycling efforts.

The Albany Tulip Queen established the Tulip Fund at the community Foundation. The web site [www.albanytulipqueen.com](http://www.albanytulipqueen.com) was instrumental in promoting the Tulip Queen programs, and nominations for the 2009 Tulip Queen increased 34%.

Alive at Five celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009, and included one additional concert, increasing the series to 11 weeks. Albany was proud to host such talent as Blues Traveler, Tower of Power and the famous "Village People". A partnership with Albany County Stop DWI helped deliver the message of the importance of a Designated Driver. Recycling efforts included requiring all vendors to use ONLY #1 or #2 plastics and recycling bins at every concert.

The Riverfront Jazz Festival was renamed the All America City Jazz Festival and this year included a Civic Fair with non-profit organizations promoting their cause.

Albany's Hudson 400 Commemoration was part of the New York State Quadricentennial celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage. Albany's event focused on a historic perspective with emphasis on the two cultures that met on this land 400 years ago- the Native Americans and the Dutch. Thirty members of the Stockbridge Munsie band of Mohicans, who are direct descendents of the original tribe of Mohicans that lived on the banks of the Hudson River, traveled from Bowler Wisconsin to participate. The Half Moon was placed at temporary docks, and a group of hearty re-enactors set up camp and lived as the Dutch did more than 4 centuries ago. The day saw many family attendees enjoying living history.

The Last Run 5K, part of Albany Winterfest, sold out prior to the event - the first time in the 13 year history of the race. Maximum capacity for the route is 1,000 runners. The festival was re-organized to a street festival on Broadway.

The overall mission of the OSE to bring quality free entertainment to the public, while maintaining a balanced budget and increasing corporate sponsorship continues to be priority for the staff and we look forward to continuing to provide this service to the public.

Susan T. Cleary  
Director  
City of Albany Office of Special Events