



A Love Letter to Albany

by Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan

A Legacy of Opportunity

**“Legacy? What is a legacy?
It's planting seeds in a garden
you never get to see.”**

- Lin-Manuel Miranda

2014-2025

In her final State of the City address, Mayor Kathy Sheehan reflects on 12 transformative years of leadership in Albany, weaving together a story of resilience, progress, and community spirit. This storybook captures the highlights of her tenure, showcasing how challenges were turned into opportunities that shaped the city's vibrant future. From groundbreaking infrastructure projects to innovative youth programs and bold environmental initiatives, Mayor Sheehan's legacy is one of collaboration and forward-thinking leadership.

Discover the vision behind key city projects, the voices of Albany's diverse communities, and the milestones that have defined an era of growth and connection. This book serves as both a celebration of the Mayor Sheehan's accomplishments and an invitation to dream of the Albany of tomorrow.

Once upon a time, nestled between the banks of the mighty Hudson River and the rolling hills of upstate New York, there stood a city brimming with history, resilience, and promise. Albany—a capital city where cobblestone streets whispered tales of yesteryears, and its skyline stretched toward a hopeful future.

In this city, a young journalism major named Kathy Sheehan first found her calling. Though not born an Albanian, she felt the city's heartbeat the moment she arrived. It was a rhythm of hard work, unity, and untapped potential. Kathy knew she was meant to be part of its story.



Kathy's journey began humbly yet boldly, as she stepped into the role of Albany's City Treasurer. In her tenure, she saw the city's challenges up close: financial hurdles, aging infrastructure, and neighborhoods yearning for revitalization. Yet, she also saw its possibilities.

She worked tirelessly to bring transparency to the city's finances, championing fiscal responsibility while laying the groundwork for innovation. It was in this role that Kathy began planting seeds of progress, forging bonds with community leaders, small business owners, and residents—listening, learning, and shaping a vision for what Albany could become. She saw the city not just as it was but as it could be: a beacon of progress and inclusivity.



In 2014, Kathy Sheehan made history becoming the first woman to serve as Albany's mayor. Her election was more than a personal milestone; it was a reflection of a community ready to embrace change. With a heart full of hope and a mind set on action, she vowed to tackle the city's most pressing challenges.

Under her leadership, Albany transformed. Major infrastructure projects breathed new life into its streets and parks. Historic corridors like Clinton Avenue and Madison Avenue saw traffic calming measures, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian improvements, making the city safer and more accessible for all. Lark St., once bustling but worn, was reimagined, its sidewalks ready to welcome a new generation of business owners and residents. These initiatives were the fruition of seeds Kathy had planted years earlier, setting a course for sustainable growth and development.



**Kathy Sheehan's
Swearing-In
Ceremony
January 1st, 2014**

Kathy's tenure began with a commitment to stabilizing Albany's finances. She introduced measures that increased transparency and accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars were spent wisely. By consolidating resources and modernizing outdated systems, Kathy eliminated deficits and created budgets that reflected the city's priorities. Her fiscal stewardship not only solved immediate issues but set the stage for Albany's financial resilience for decades to come.



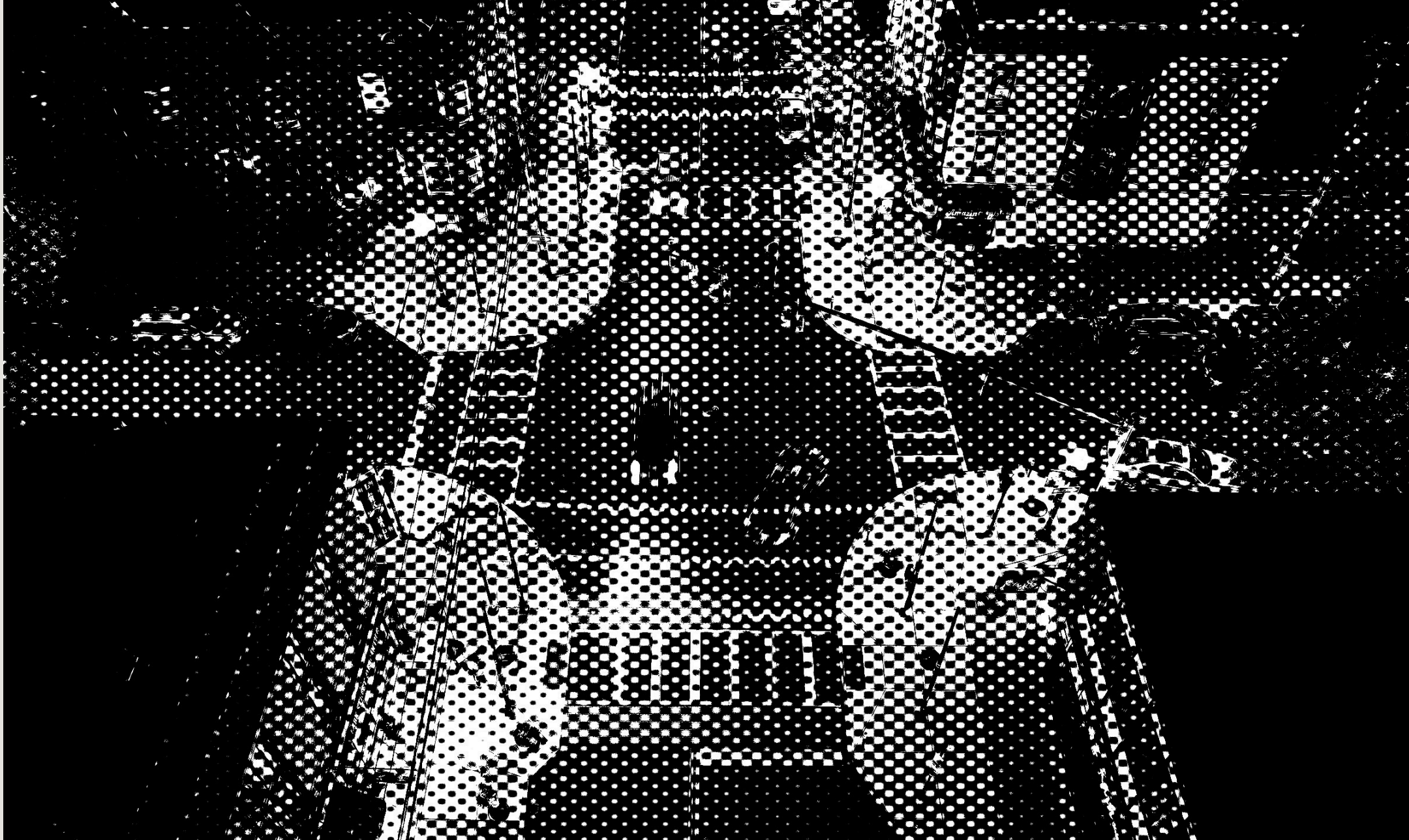
Recognizing the need for innovation, Kathy transformed City Hall into a hub of efficiency and accessibility. She launched online portals for permits and payments, making government services easier to navigate for residents and businesses alike. Kathy prioritized open data initiatives, fostering transparency and encouraging public engagement with city operations. These initiatives reflected her ability to lay the foundation for a modern, inclusive city government.

Kathy championed programs and policies that spurred economic growth. From attracting new businesses to supporting local entrepreneurs, her leadership invigorated Albany's economy. Initiatives like the Clinton Market Collective created opportunities for startups and artisans, while partnerships with organizations like Youthful Impact opened pathways for workforce development. Each program was a testament to her long-term vision—planting seeds of prosperity that would grow for years to come.

Empire Live
Ribbon Cutting

605 Restaurant
Ribbon Cutting





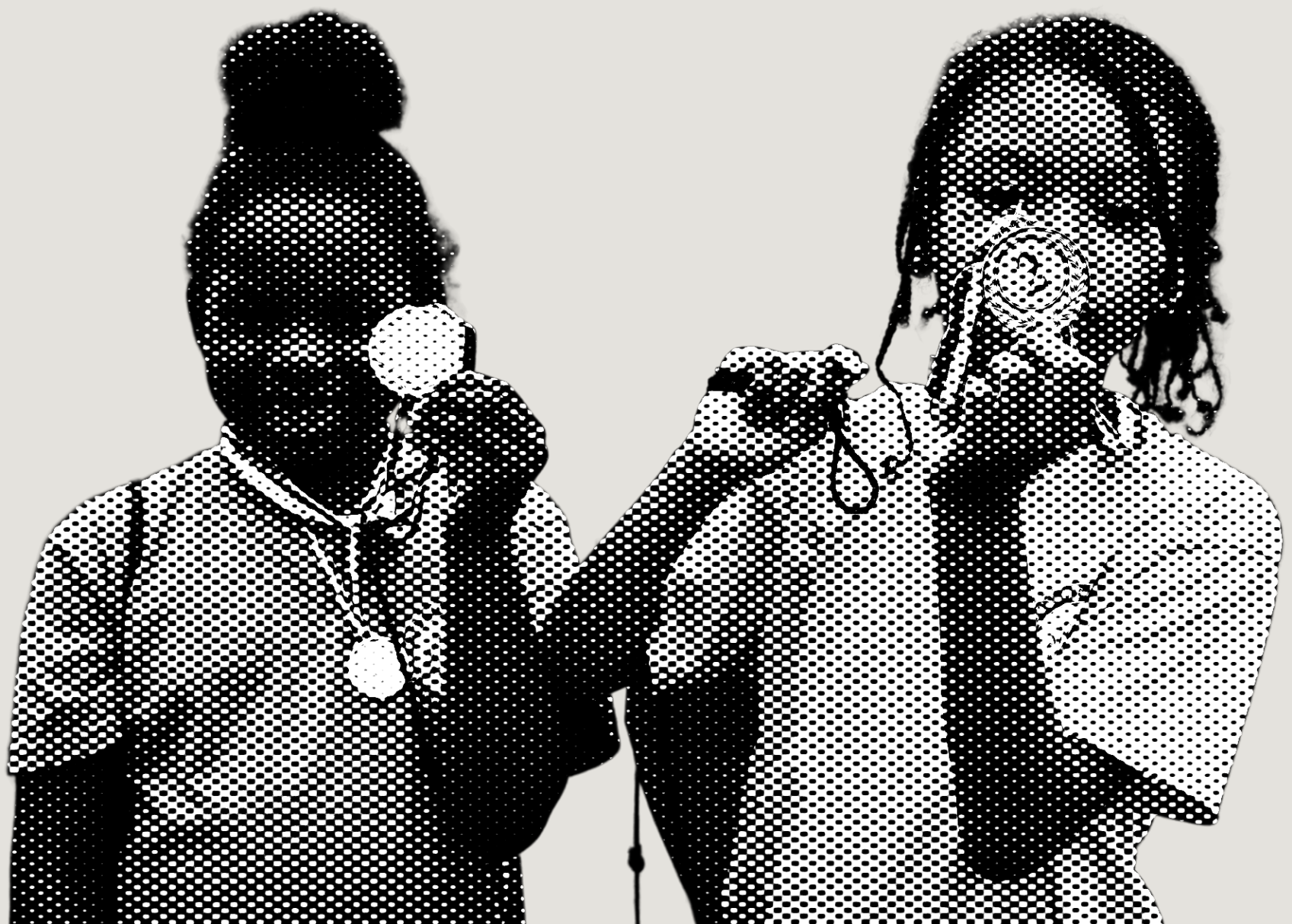
Lark St. Revitalization Project

Under Kathy's leadership, Albany's infrastructure saw unprecedented investment. Streets were repaved, sidewalks rebuilt, and bridges repaired. Projects like the Central Avenue Reconstruction and the Clinton Streetscape revitalized neighborhoods while prioritizing pedestrian safety and sustainability. These efforts were not just about immediate improvements but about laying the groundwork for a city equipped to thrive in the future.

Public safety was a cornerstone of Kathy's administration. She worked closely with law enforcement and community leaders to implement data-driven strategies that reduced crime. Initiatives like community policing and investments in mental health services strengthened trust between residents and first responders. These measures laid a solid foundation for safer neighborhoods and stronger community relationships.



Kathy believed that every resident deserved a high quality of life. She expanded access to parks, improved recreational facilities, and supported arts and cultural events that brought the community together. Programs like the Summer Youth Employment Program provided meaningful opportunities for young people, fostering pride and purpose. Each initiative reflected her belief that community well-being grows from the seeds of opportunity and care.



Understanding the importance of safe and affordable housing, Kathy tackled the city's housing challenges head-on. She supported the development of new housing units and the preservation of historic properties. Programs aimed at combating homelessness and providing resources for low-income families ensured that all Albanians had a place to call home. These initiatives established the groundwork for a future where everyone could thrive.



Kathy's vision extended to the city's physical spaces. She spearheaded projects that modernized public buildings, upgraded utilities, and enhanced public transportation. Investments in green infrastructure, like stormwater management systems, made Albany more sustainable and resilient to climate change. Each project was a seed planted to ensure Albany's physical spaces matched its potential.



Albany now stands on the brink of a transformational era. Governor Hochul's commitment to invest \$400 million in Downtown Albany promises to energize the city's economy and bring new vibrancy to the community. The development of the National Semiconductor Technology Center will position Albany as a leader in innovation, creating jobs and opportunities for generations to come. A new Lincoln Park Pool is being erected just west of the Empire State Plaza, a new Albany West Community Center is taking shape in one of the City's most underserved neighborhoods, the Albany South Recreation Center is getting a much-needed overhaul, and City Hall will soon have a new roof. These landmark projects are the fruits of a vision planted and nurtured under Kathy's leadership.



But transformation doesn't happen by chance—it happens by design. Every project, every investment, every policy over the past 12 years has been rooted in a singular goal: to prepare Albany for this moment. From revitalizing neighborhoods to fostering economic growth, to championing sustainability and equity, Mayor Sheehan's vision has been to build a foundation strong enough to support these transformative investments and the future they promise.

As her final year as mayor drew to a close, Kathy Sheehan reflected on all that had been accomplished. Albany had grown stronger, greener, and more connected under her leadership. Yet, for all the buildings and projects completed, it was the seeds she had planted in the hearts and minds of Albany's people that she cherished most.



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Kathy Sheehan's story is not just a chapter in Albany's history; it is a testament to what can be achieved when a leader loves her city deeply and wholly. From treasurer to mayor, Kathy's journey was a love letter—written in progress, penned with purpose, and sealed with the hope that Albany's best days are still to come.



About Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan

Kathy Sheehan is serving her third term as Albany's 75th mayor, focusing on creating a city of opportunity with a commitment to equity and responsive governance. Under her leadership, Albany has invested over \$100 million in infrastructure improvements, prioritized neighborhoods impacted by historical inequities, and enacted groundbreaking equity and policing reform legislation.

During her tenure, Albany has seen \$1 billion in new development, with another \$900 million in the pipeline. Mayor Sheehan's innovative streetlight program has reduced carbon emissions, improved safety, and saved millions in taxpayer dollars. She is also leading efforts to plant 2,025 trees by 2025 and combat climate change through expanded electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Mayor Sheehan played a crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing vital resources and securing \$81 million in federal funding for transformative city projects. Before becoming mayor, Kathy served as Albany's Treasurer and as vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of a medical device company. She holds degrees from Albany Law School and

Bowling Green State University and resides in Albany's Arbor Hill neighborhood with her husband, Bob.

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP, A VISION FOR ALBANY

For over a decade, Mayor Kathy Sheehan has turned challenges into opportunities, shaping Albany into a thriving, inclusive, and forward-thinking city. From infrastructure revitalization and historic preservation to innovative community programs and bold climate initiatives, this is the story of how one leader's vision empowered a city to grow stronger together.

Join us as we celebrate 12 years of transformative progress, honoring the people, places, and projects that define Albany's past, present, and future.

“Leadership is not complaining –
It's rolling up your sleeves and getting
things done.”

-Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan

Discover the Legacy. Nurture the Seeds. Embrace the Future.



— OFFICE OF —
MAYOR
KATHY SHEEHAN
THE CITY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK