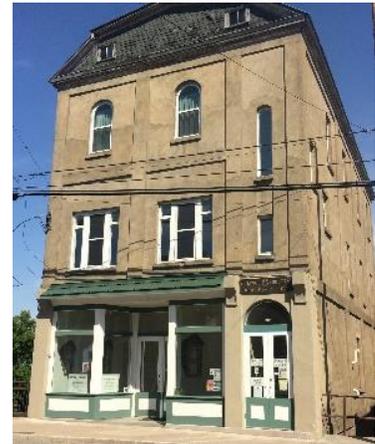


Re: Cloudsplitter Foundation awards a Leadership Grant to Tahawus Center  
From: Tahawus Center, Au Sable Forks. Fall, 2016  
Contact: Rebecca Kelly, 212-431-8489 office, 646-734-7151 (cell),  
For hi res photographs / additional comments, contact:  
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## CLOUDSPLITTER FOUNDATION AWARDS A LEADERSHIP LAUNCH GRANT TO TAHAWUS CULTURAL CENTER IN AU SABLE FORKS

**Tahawus Cultural Center (Appleby Foundation) was recently awarded a leadership grant of \$14,000 from the Cloudsplitter Foundation** to launch a strategic program to encourage leverage for the mutual goal of improving the livable, walkable, historic community of Au Sable Forks. The success of this campaign will restore the Center to *year round* activity. Capital improvement to the two upper floors requires a budget of \$70,000 to: 1) renovate the electrical service. and 2) to seal the building envelope and install heating.



**Jodi Keet (Cloudsplitter Foundation Trustee) remarked,** “*We were blown away by all the work you have done with the building and your vision for the Center. Cloudsplitter is happy to help you with this need (electrical repair work) and excited to be working with you on your exciting project.*”

The Cloudsplitter website cites “*These funds are strategic programs where the funds donated provide leverage towards our goals of improved ecology, more livable communities, or improving and expanding local organizations that share our goals. This frequently involves challenge grants and/or matching fund grants.*”

*Ta-ha-wus* is said to mean Cloudsplitter, referring to Mt. Marcy, the highest mountain in the Adirondacks. To its directors, Craig Brashear and Rebecca Kelly, that means - reach for the sky – because there is no limit to creativity and learning. Today – in the summertime - the **Tahawus Center** is *a place for ideas - with room to move*. Cloudsplitter is also the name they gave to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor dance studio. The building – the tallest in town – is 105 years old and had been sadly neglected and in long-boarded up condition when Appleby Foundation purchased it and began renovations in 2010.



**During the summers since the Center opened its upper floors to the public in 2013, these are the heart of the multi-activities at the Center.**

**The second floor Windows Gallery** has seen a range of community activities including each year from stunning exhibits showcasing local and visiting artists, museum pop-ups, a Women’s Workshop, the annual Science Lab for Youth, Kids Co-Motion early childhood dance, and special events for the Jay Art Tour, the North Country Ballet Ensemble, post film chats, and local meetings.

**The third floor Cloudsplitter Dance Studio** officially opened in August 2014 as one of the largest and most beautiful dance spaces in the

Adirondacks. The studio has now welcomed all kinds of projects from dance instruction for all ages – swing, ballet, English Country dance, hip hop, private lessons, yoga, rehearsals for community projects, and it has been the site of environmental symposiums.

**The larger vision is to offer a year-round diverse program** of arts, education, and social experiences which widen the horizon for all ages. Characterized by a productive training and a dynamic “learning” environment, the goal is to cultivate a “can do” approach to creative entrepreneurship, which also addresses the rural epidemic of “brain drain.”



### **History and Background**

In 1987 RKB was invited to create new ballets and to perform and teach in the Adirondack region. This began the long relationship resulting in the popular annual Onstage Performance Program at Lake Placid Arts Center, which for 29-years has provided a performance and training experience for over 40 rural youth each summer. That continues today.

**Tahawus Center was mentioned as one two cultural projects in the State’s Regional Economic Development Plan 2014 -** *To attract and nurture entrepreneurial pioneers to cultivate innovative clusters in our rural communities and to catalyze the highest per capita rate of small business start-ups in the State.* Tahawus was highlighted as part of its Strategy 2: *to recognize and support the role of active arts and cultural centers in attracting innovators and creating vibrant communities. Actions Year 1 through 5: Complete the development of the Strand Performing Arts Center in Plattsburgh Support other performing arts centers including the Tahawus Center project in Ausable Forks.”*

In Au Sable Forks, the Main Street Revitalization (now called Bridges) welcomes and works with Tahawus’ efforts to provide cultural activities for youth to seniors, and for residents and tourists, and to support developing strategies to retain young people in the Park with innovative programs.

The Tahawus Center continues to be a contributing element of Main street life, partnering and supporting its business neighbors in collaborative and complimentary projects, including most recently, participation in the Ausable River Valley Art Tour by donating exhibition space, the Ausable Valley Playground Commission for Youth, providing introductory dance for area youth in partnership with Ausable Dental), offering its 5<sup>th</sup> Science Lab for Youth in partnership with Casella’s Waste System, and creating a cultural film series with its neighbor the Hollywood Movie Theater.



**“The primary purpose of the Cloudsplitter Foundation** *is to improve the environment, both physical and cultural, in the Adirondacks and to make life easier, healthier, and more rewarding for the people who live there.” (Cloudsplitter Foundation)*

There are many entities residing and visiting in the Northern Adirondacks who share and support this vision and endeavor. The Tahawus Center is so very grateful for the Foundation’s encouraging launch to its project, and sincerely hope that others will find themselves in a position to help meet the challenge will join in to ensure success.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Kelly, [TahawusCenter@gmail.com](mailto:TahawusCenter@gmail.com). Tahawus Center is located at 14234 NYS Rt 9N, Main Street in Au Sable Forks. The mailing address is Tahawus Center, PO Box 984, Au Sable Forks, 12912.

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