

PRESS RELEASE

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The History Center in Tompkins County Announces New Exhibit:

Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods

Ithaca, NY - The History Center in Tompkins County (THC) is excited to announce its new exhibit "[Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods](#)" will open July 2nd 2021. This exhibit has multiple components: a temporary (July 2021-February 2022) physical display of [six interactive exhibits](#) at The History Center Exhibit Hall on the Ithaca Commons, selected virtual exhibits available at thehistorycenter.net/virtual-exhibits, and public access to selected interviews from the *Women's Voices in Tompkins County: Oral History Collection*. The physical and virtual exhibits will open to the public on Friday, July 2nd following two weeks of closure in the museum (June 13th-31st) for the installation of the new displays. Due to COVID-19 we are limiting the number of visitors in the museum and encourage guests to make reservations in advance at thehistorycenter.net/schedule.

"Women continue to break ceilings and have continuously increased representation across communities. While we appreciate the obstacles they have overcome and the achievements women have made, it is important to look back and explore the stories of those women who have been overlooked. This exhibit celebrates the lesser-known stories of these pioneers in hopes of empowering those who visit." - THC Curator & Design Specialist Cindy Kjellander-Cantu

Breaking Barriers: Women's Lives & Livelihoods explores the lives of women in public and private spheres across the centuries through six interactive exhibits: Haudenosaunee Influence on Women's Rights (*Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation*), The Overlooked History of Women Working (*HistoryForge*), Serial Style (*Wharton Studio Museum and Cornell Fashion + Textile Collection*), Women's Social Clubs and Organizations, and Overcoming Barriers to Vote: Woman Suffrage Movement in Tompkins County. These exhibits will connect visitors with the rich and varied lives of women in Tompkins County through exploring the stories, artifacts, and community legacies they left behind. Learn more at thehistorycenter.net/breaking-barriers.

The *Breaking Barriers* exhibit is presented and made possible by Chloe Capital. Despite recent progress, less than 2% of female funders receive venture capital investment. Chloe Capital is investing in the next generation of women entrepreneurs and innovators across the United States. The company's mission to decrease gender and diversity gaps in entrepreneurship and venture capital is a natural fit to celebrate women changemakers in Tompkins County. Find out more about Chloe Capital at www.chloecapital.com.

The History Center in Tompkins County is proud to partner with the following women-owned businesses in Tompkins County to support this exhibit: [AdrinA-Dietra](#), [Hound & Mare](#), [Pickleball Mania](#), [The Second Knob](#), and [Hopshire Farm & Brewery](#).

About The History Center in Tompkins County

The History Center in Tompkins County (THC) is a generation-to-generation education and research center focused on engaging the public with the history of Tompkins County (located in the ancestral and contemporary lands of the Gayogohó:nq' Nation) and the Finger Lakes region. THC helps people use the tools of history to understand the past, gain perspective on the present, and play an informed role in shaping the future. The History Center is located within the Tompkins Center for History & Culture, a collaborative visitor center and event space on the Ithaca Commons home to twelve independent non-profits and community organizations.

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