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**OLD YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES CATHERINE DUFFY AS ITS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**York, Maine**—Old York Historical Society (Old York) is pleased to announce that it has selected Catherine Duffy to lead the organization as its new Executive Director. Duffy is stepping into the role following the departure of Joel Lefever, who retired at the end of 2025.

“After completing a new strategic plan in early 2025, the Board of Trustees embarked on a nationwide search for its new leader. We are thrilled to welcome Catherine to helm our cherished museum and to help navigate a new era for Old York. Her extensive experience in the museum field, combined with her strengths in storytelling, community building, and fundraising will allow her to effectively share Old York’s unique history, cultivate and care for donors, and explore opportunities for the museum,” stated Old York Board President, Cheryl Farley.

Catherine Duffy is a native of New York state. After graduating with a BFA from Rochester Institute of Technology, Duffy embarked on a career in museums. She has gone on to lead many community-focused projects and exhibitions for institutions, such as Coastal Heritage Society (Savannah, Georgia), the Orange County Regional History Center (Orlando, Florida), The History Center in Tompkins County (Ithaca, New York), and The Strong National Museum of Play (Rochester, New York).

Most recently Duffy was employed as the Content and Curation Director for Coastal Heritage Society in Savannah, Georgia, where she led the curatorial department, as well as the organization’s fundraising and community engagement initiatives.

Duffy's work has been recognized with industry honors, including the American Association of State and Local History’s (AASLH) Award of Merit for Leadership in History and History in Progress awards. Her work has also received several Southeastern Museum Conference Gold Exhibition awards.

Catherine Duffy relocated to Maine with her family in 2024 and began her position at Old York on January 5, 2026. Duffy is enthusiastic about joining Old York, explaining “Old York Historical Society is a valued New England treasure, and I’m honored to have the opportunity to lead the organization through this new phase to ensure its enduring presence for another 125 years. I look forward to working with the Board, staff, and stakeholders to grow the organization’s impact in the community and beyond.”

## **ABOUT OLD YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Located at the heart of York Village, Old York is a vital part of the community. The organization, having celebrated 125 years of preserving York’s history in 2025, maintains 16 buildings and 20 properties, including two designated as National Historic Landmarks; has 4 full-time and 25 part-time employees; more than 20,000 artifacts and 50,000 archival materials in the library; and serves thousands of people annually through tours, educational programs, and special events. Its mission is to connect people with York’s important role in the history of New England. For more information, please visit [oldyork.org](http://oldyork.org).

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