

Jeanne Johnson
Vice President
Ridgewood Historical Society
650 E. Glen Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Monday, July 28, 2025

Dear Members of the New Jersey Historic Sites Council,

On behalf of the Ridgewood Historical Society, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the proposed *History & Cultural Center of Bergen County* at the John A.L. Zabriskie House in the Village of Ridgewood.

As caretakers of some of the region's oldest and most meaningful historic treasures, we understand the importance of preserving and promoting Bergen County's rich cultural and historical legacy. A dedicated center would create an inclusive and welcoming space where residents and visitors can learn, connect, and be inspired.

Ridgewood is the ideal location for such a project. Centrally located and deeply committed to historic preservation, our village is already home to vibrant institutions like the Ridgewood Public Library, the Bolger Heritage Center, the Ridgewood Arts Council, the Schoolhouse Museum, and active civic groups. A countywide cultural center would build on these strengths and offer people of all ages a new reason to come together around history, art, and community.

We view this initiative as a valuable opportunity to strengthen collaboration among schools, artists, cultural groups, and historical societies across Bergen County. It promises to bring history to life through hands-on, intergenerational programming that fosters civic pride and a deeper appreciation for our shared heritage.

Perhaps most importantly, this project would finally give the beautifully restored John A.L. Zabriskie House the purpose it rightly deserves. Saved from demolition and lovingly brought back to life, the house has remained unoccupied since its unveiling. This center would allow it to thrive again as a hub of community and connection.

The Ridgewood Historical Society is proud to partner with the Village of Ridgewood and the Ridgewood Public Library to help bring the History & Cultural Center of Bergen County to life. We strongly urge your support for this important initiative.

Warm regards,



Vice President
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