

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Gothic Athenaeum Announces Launch of New Cultural Institution Dedicated to Preserving and Advancing Gothic Culture

New York, NY — February 20, 2026 — *THE GOTHIC ATHENAEUM*, a proposed nonprofit cultural institution, has officially announced its public launch with the release of an introductory video and website outlining its mission and long-term vision.

Founded by Sir William Welles, The Gothic Athenaeum is dedicated to the preservation, study, and advancement of Gothic culture through a three-pillar institutional model: The Archive, The Cultural Center, and The Community Center.

“For close to five decades, Gothic culture has shaped music, literature, fashion, visual art, and the lives of countless individuals,” said Welles. “Yet much of that history exists in fragile and informal forms. The Gothic Athenaeum seeks to preserve that legacy while cultivating its future.”

Three Pillars of the Gothic Athenaeum

The Archive will focus on the preservation of Gothic cultural materials, including printed ephemera, independent publications, recorded media, fashion artifacts, visual art, and oral histories. The goal is to create a professionally managed collection that safeguards materials that might otherwise be lost to time.

The Cultural Center is envisioned as a space for exhibitions, lectures, workshops, readings, research initiatives, and artistic residencies. It aims to treat Gothic creative expression with the seriousness afforded to other cultural traditions while providing a forum for scholarship, artistic exchange, and public engagement.

The Community Center will serve as a welcoming and inclusive gathering space designed to strengthen connections within the Goth community across generations. The Athenaeum seeks to foster dialogue, collaboration, peer support, and creative development in a structured and respectful environment for both young and elder Goths alike.

Together, these three pillars establish a framework for what organizers describe as “an enduring cultural institution worthy of the community it represents.”

Early Stage Development

The Gothic Athenaeum is currently in its foundational phase. The newly launched website (GothicAtheneum.org) outlines the conceptual framework of the organization and invites artists, archivists, historians, mental health professionals, long-time scene participants, and interested community members to become involved.

The organization plans to pursue formal nonprofit incorporation and tax-exempt status in the next stage of development.

Invitation to the Community and Press

The announcement video introduces the project's vision and calls for participation from individuals who wish to contribute materials, expertise, or support.

“This is not a nostalgia project,” Welles stated in the launch video. “It is an effort in stewardship; to ensure that Gothic culture is documented, respected, and preserved on its own terms.”

Members of the press, cultural institutions, and interested collaborators are encouraged to visit the website to learn more about the initiative and its long-term objectives.

Media Contact:

William Welles

Founder, The Gothic Athenaeum

Email: w.welles@GothicAthenaeum.org

Website: www.GothicAtheneum.org