



# **NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 JOINT BUDGET HEARING**

**February 26, 2026 – 9:30AM**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / ARTS**

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**Panel A:**

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| 1. New York State Department of Economic Development<br>Empire State Development | Hope Knight<br>Commissioner<br>President & CEO |
| 2. Department of Financial Services  | Kaitlin Asrow<br>Acting Superintendent         |
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**Panel B:**

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| 3. NYS Office of General Services     | Jeanette Moy<br>Commissioner       |
| 4. New York State Council on the Arts | Erika Mallin<br>Executive Director |
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**Panel C:**

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| 5. NYS Office of Cannabis Management | Susan Filburn<br>Acting Executive Director |
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**Panel D:**

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| 6. Columbia University Irving Medical Center | Ross A. Frommer<br>VP for Government Affairs |
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7. United Postdoctoral Researchers of  
Rockefeller-UAW

Dr. Sara Martina Parigi  
Member

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Panel E:

8. New Yorkers for Culture & Arts

Lucy Sexton  
Executive Director

9. ArtsNYS

Elizabeth Lane  
Executive Director

10. New York State Alliance for Arts Education

Gully Stanford  
Advocacy Co-Chair

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Panel F:

11. IBM

Dr. Jamie Garcia  
Director, Strategic Growth &  
Quantum Partnerships

12. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)

Martin A. Schmidt  
President

13. Strong Economy For All Coalition

Michael Kink  
Executive Director

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Panel G:

14. New York State Trial Lawyers Association

Andrew Finklestein  
President

15. New York Insurance Association (NYIA)

Cassandra Anderson  
President

16. National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

Sean McLaughlin  
Regional Vice President  
State Affairs, Northeast

17. American Property Casualty Insurance Association

Kristina Baldwin  
VP State Government  
Relations

18. Big I

Travis Wattie  
AVP for Government  
Relations

19. Professional Insurance Agents of New York (PIANY)

Brad Lachut  
Director of Government &  
Industry Affairs

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Panel H:

20. Cannabis Farmers Alliance

Steve Halton  
Vice President

21. Association of New York Cannabis Processors

John Vavalo  
President

22. Empire State Green Standard Alliance

Herb Barbot  
Chair