



Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York

ESTABLISHED 1756

In support of Resolution No. 421 recognizing April 6 annually as Tartan Day in the City of New York.

New York City, quite simply, would not be the extraordinary metropolitan center it is today were it not for the contributions of the Scots and their descendants who made it their home over the past four centuries. Places and landmarks throughout the city carry the names of those who have been designated by historian Carol Thompson Gallagher as “the Scots who built New York.” Almost any resident of the city will immediately recognize neighborhoods such as Lenox Hill and Carnegie Hill as well as such noteworthy structures as Carnegie Hall or Gracie Mansion, along with the many neighborhood Carnegie Branch Libraries all attesting to the contributions of Scots with a strong commitment to civic and social responsibility. New York Scots have also contributed to the formation of the United States. Alexander Hamilton, the nation’s first Secretary of the Treasury, who laid the foundation of our current Federal Reserve System, is very likely the best known of this group, but several Scots were signers of the Declaration of Independence, including three from the city of New York.

The cultural life of New York owes much to the early Scottish community leaders fundamental in the establishment of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, the New-York Historical Society, and Columbia University. New York-Presbyterian Hospital equally owes its existence to Scots who saw the need for excellent medical facilities in a growing metropolis. Scots were champions of a free press. The original *New York Post* was established by Alexander Hamilton, and Whitelaw Reid was a long-time editor and publisher of the *New York Tribune*.

In fact, Alexander Hamilton truly deserves his own special mention within New York City Council Resolution No. 421. Among his numerous and notable accomplishments, he founded the Bank of New York in 1784, Chartered in 1791, an institution which endures even today in the form of BNY Mellon. However, in its earlier existence, Bank of New York was essential to securing the first loan obtained by the United States. Indeed, other loans by the bank led to the construction of the Erie Canal and the New York City subway system one of the single most important elements of New York City’s flourishing success. Resolution No. 421 could hardly be considered final or complete without a resounding acknowledgement of City and country founding father, Alexander Hamilton!

A common bond connecting the aforementioned prominent Scots was membership in the Saint Andrew’s Society of the State of New York. Founded in 1756, the Saint Andrew’s Society is now the oldest philanthropic organization in the state. For 267 years, the Society has been the embodiment of the Scottish diaspora in New York, providing relief for the poor, philanthropy to hospitals, scholarships to students for study in both the United States as well as in Scotland, and promoting Scottish heritage and culture for the benefit of all New Yorkers particularly by way of New York City’s annual and ever popular Tartan Day Parade.

We, the undersigned, on behalf of The Saint Andrew’s Society of the State of New York are enthusiastic in supporting Resolution No. 421 and thank the Council for its recognition of the significance of this date, April 6, as well as the important and lasting contributions of Scots to the great city of New York.

Respectfully submitted,

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In support of Resolution No. 421 recognizing April 6 annually as Tartan Day in the City of New York.

New York City, past and present, owes much of its vibrant character and the creation of some of its most important early institutions to the “astonishing contributions” of the Scots, as noted by award-winning historian Duncan A. Bruce in *The Mark of the Scots* (1996). The express purpose of Tartan Day is to recognize, understand and commemorate the historic contributions of Scottish Americans to the US.

Now in its 25th year, Tartan Day continues to set the stage in New York City for participants from Scotland and the diaspora to renew their cultural and social ties, and to provide a platform to explore new partnerships. Four key pillars represent the strong kinship between Scotland and New York City:

1. **Civic Scotland:** Both the Scottish executive, otherwise understood as the Scottish government, and Scotland’s Parliament recognize Tartan Day as a platform for diplomacy, both cultural and commercial.
2. **Academic Scotland:** Scottish universities participate in New York every year, including the universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Strathclyde, Dundee, and St. Andrews, in order to connect with alumni, either Scots living in New York or Americans who have studied in Scotland.
3. **Creative Scotland:** Young creatives in the fields of fashion, culinary arts, visual arts, music, drama and dance along with other creative fields and industries focus on this day to connect, share ideas, and build relationships with their peers in New York.
4. **Visit Scotland:** Visit Scotland, Scotland’s tourist authority, introduces New Yorkers to the wealth of Scottish adventures whether in the great cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen, with their remarkable artistic and cultural attractions, or, further afield, the outstanding beauty and outdoor experience of Scotland’s majestic countryside, including the Highlands and Islands.

These four active areas of kinship - from civic to academic, creative to travel - are historic affinities that continue to thrive even now and, one would expect, well into the future. The enduring strength and depth of these ties, and the distinctive nature of this cultural footprint on our great City, warrant the perpetual recognition and annual celebration of April 6th as Tartan Day in the City of New York. We heartily endorse and support NYC Council Resolution No. 421.

Respectfully Submitted,

Creative Cities International, LLC (CCI)

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