

Erie Canalway News Release

For Immediate Release, February 18, 2014

Grants Boost Erie Canal Education and Preservation

Three Capital Region organizations among recipients

ALBANY, NY – Ten innovative education and preservation projects will get off the ground this year with funding support from Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Congressman Paul Tonko joined representatives from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor to announce \$65,630 in grants, which will be matched by an additional \$478,000 in private and public project funding raised by grant recipients.

The grants are aimed at inspiring people to learn more about New York's legendary canals and further explore the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.



Capital Region grant recipients accept big checks from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. From left: Brian Stratton, (Director of NYS Canal Corporation), Tammis Groft (Director, Albany Institute of History & Art), Dave Sampson (Erie Canalway Heritage Fund), Congressman Paul Tonko, Ellen McHale (Director, New York Folklore Society), Bob Radliff (Acting Director, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor), Jay DiLorenzo (President, Preservation League of New York State).

Three organizations in the Capital Region are among the grant recipients: **Albany Institute of History & Art**, the **Preservation League of New York State**, and the **NYS Folklore Society**. They accepted big checks for their grant awards at a press conference at the Albany Institute of History & Art on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, at 10 am.

“I’m thrilled to hear that these fantastic organizations will be strengthened in their efforts to maintain the history of the Erie Canal and the rich character of upstate New York,” said **U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand**. “These investments will go a long way to help preserve the Erie Canalway Corridor, promote our natural heritage, and maintain access for our communities and tourists alike.”

U.S. Congressman Paul Tonko said, “I am very pleased the effort put in each and every day from our local organizations is being supported on a federal level with this funding. Our system of canals helped drive economic growth and cultural development in New York for years, and these grants will bolster our efforts to further advance the region, drive tourism, and celebrate our rich history. I look forward to seeing continued good work from the Albany Institute of History and Art, the Preservation League, and the Folklore Society for many years to come.”

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan said, “Using heritage resources for community and economic development is a smart strategy for Albany and for the region. We have so much here to build upon and showcase—kudos to the Erie Canalway and its grant partners for advancing this work.”

Erie Canalway Acting Director Bob Radliff said, “These projects help us capitalize on our exceptional heritage. We’re proud to work in partnership with our grantees to pass on the legacy of the Erie Canal through education, architecture, and cultural expression.”

Grants to Capital Region Organizations

- [Albany Institute of History & Art](#) received \$10,000 to offer teacher training opportunities using AIHA’s Erie Canal curriculum and online collection of primary source materials. They’ll also provide free access for students to online curriculum, which supports the Erie Canalway Ticket to Ride Program.
- Albany Institute Executive **Director Tammis Groft** said, “This grant will help us connect both teachers and students to our rich Erie Canal collections. It will allow us to expand our reach to people who are out of the local area and to those who are unable to travel to the museum. In addition, we are able to use new technologies to communicate remotely and share materials digitally. It’s a wonderful opportunity to work with such a prestigious organization like the National Heritage Corridor and we look forward to this partnership.”
- The [Preservation League of New York State](#) received \$5,750 to support its Industrial Heritage Reuse Project. The League will use Erie Canalway grant funds to host a symposium to bring together preservationists, developers, and community leaders to investigate issues and opportunities related to the rehabilitation and reuse potential of vacant and underused historic industrial buildings within the Corridor. The League will also produce a report of its findings. “This project will breathe new life into building types that once thrived along the Erie Canal, but are currently underutilized or vacant,” said **Jay DiLorenzo, President** of the

Preservation League. “Mills, power stations, and factories illustrate the history of their canal communities, and need to be seen as developable assets instead of liabilities. Through this project, with major funding from the J.M. Kaplan Fund, the League will provide selected owners with an assessment of building conditions and possible reuse options, code and permitting requirements, and sources of financial assistance. We’re grateful for the additional support from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, which will allow us to share these recommendations with a broader audience.”

- The [New York Folklore Society](#) received \$7,000 to coordinate a day of music and dance in Western New York celebrating immigrant contributions to the cultural heritage of the Canalway Corridor. Activities will coincide with the seasonal opening of the canal in May. A range of traditional and non-traditional music and dance activities will be highlighted, including cultural expressions from the time of canal building to today’s immigrant communities. **Director Ellen McHale** said: “The New York Folklore Society is thrilled to have the opportunity to work on this project with the Village of Brockport and the Erie Canal Museum, as it strengthens our mission to support the traditional arts of the entire state of New York. A collaborative project like this that unites institutions literally along the length of the canal simply wouldn't have been possible without support from Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.”

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Erie Canalway grants are made possible in part with funding from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#).

The **Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor** spans 524 miles across the full expanse of upstate New York, encompassing the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain canals and their historic alignments, as well as more than 230 canal communities. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission and the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund work in partnership to preserve our extraordinary heritage, to promote the Corridor as a world class tourism destination, and to foster vibrant communities connected by the waterway.

www.eriecanalway.org

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2014 Grant Program Awards

Ten innovative education and preservation projects will get off the ground this year with funding support from Erie Canalway Grants. Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is investing \$65,530 in grants, which will be matched by an additional \$478,000 in private and public project funding raised by grant recipients. The grants are aimed at inspiring people to learn more about New York's legendary canals and further explore the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany*

Title: Erie Canal in the Classroom
Description: Offer teacher training opportunities using AIHA's Erie Canal curriculum and online collection of primary source materials. Provide free access for students to online curriculum.
Amount: \$10,000
Type: Education & Interpretation
County: Albany

Connective Corridor (Syracuse University), Syracuse

Title: Let Us Continue
Description: Create an interactive public art mural highlighting the Erie Canal and other civic projects that showcase innovation, civic infrastructure, and creative place making in Syracuse.
Amount: \$7,000
Type: Education & Interpretation
County: Onondaga

Corn Hill Navigation, Rochester*

Title: Erie Canal Boat Tours for Rochester City School District
Description: Cover bus and tour fees for Rochester City School District students to experience American history on the Erie Canal firsthand through Cornhill's onboard cruises and education programs.
Amount: \$5,000
Type: Education & Interpretation
County: Monroe

Explore & More Children's Museum, Buffalo*

Title: Planning for *Moving Waters* exhibition.
Description: Plan and design an interactive exhibit on the Erie Canal at Explore & More Children's Museum in Buffalo, slated to open at Buffalo's Inner Harbor in 2016.
Amount: \$12,000
Type: Education & Interpretation
County: Erie

H. Lee White Marine Museum, Oswego

Title: Oswego Canal Photo Essay, "Then and Now"
Description: Develop a photo essay documenting changes in the Oswego Canal and adjacent landscape using historical and current day images. The exhibit will travel to multiple Oswego Canal communities for display.
Amount: \$4,000
Type: Education & Interpretation
County: Oswego

Montezuma Historical Society, Montezuma*

Title: Organizational Planning
Description: Chart a course for organizational development and sustainability to facilitate the continued preservation, interpretation, and enhancement of significant canal sites and historic properties in the Town of Montezuma.
Amount: \$3,113
Type: Planning/Capacity Building
County: Cayuga

New York Folklore Society, Brockport

Title: Day of Music and Dance in Brockport
Description: Coordinate a day of music and dance celebrating immigrant contributions to the cultural heritage of the Canalway Corridor. Activities will coincide with the seasonal opening of the canal (first week of May). A range of traditional and non-traditional music and dance activities will be highlighted, including cultural expressions from the time of canal building to today's immigrant communities.
Amount: \$7,000
Type: Education & Interpretation
County: Monroe

Preservation League of New York State, Albany

Title: Industrial Heritage Reuse Project
Description: Host a symposium to bring together preservationists, developers, and community leaders to investigate issues and opportunities related to the rehabilitation and reuse potential of vacant and underused historic industrial buildings within the Corridor. Produce a report on findings.
Amount: \$5,750
Type: Historic Preservation/Community Revitalization
County: Albany

Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester

Title: Canal Challenge for RMSC's Inventor Center
Description: Create a "design and build challenge" related to canal innovation and engineering for the museum's new Inventor Center children's interactive exhibit.
Amount: \$6,671
Type: Education & Interpretation
County: Monroe

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation, Buffalo*

Title: Immigration Patterns in Buffalo
Description: Develop public programming and invest in professional development activities related to the theme of immigration, tracing patterns of movement and settlement facilitated by the Erie Canal.
Amount: \$5,000
Type: Education & Interpretation
County: Erie

**This project is made possible in part with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*