



2021-2023 Erie Canal Research Fellowship

Position Summary:

The Erie Canal Museum, located in downtown Syracuse, New York, showcases the only remaining weighlock building in the United States. The Museum collects and preserves Canal material, and provides engaging educational experiences that champion an appreciation and understanding of the Erie Canal's transforming effects on the past, present and future. Established in 1962, the Erie Canal Museum shares 200 years of Erie Canal history through interactive displays, original artifacts, and public programs. As part of the Erie Canal Museum's ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Museum will hire a two-year Fellow dedicated to advancing the Museum's goal of telling a more inclusive Erie Canal story. The Fellow must be passionate about ensuring that museums represent communities' full diversity and committed to expanding the narrative traditionally told by the Erie Canal Museum to include more about marginalized populations and environmental history. The Erie Canal Museum is committed to building a diverse and inclusive workforce. We strongly encourage members of traditionally underrepresented communities to apply.

This project is part of the Reimagine the Canals plan spearheaded by Governor Andrew Cuomo that works to explore how the nearly 200-year-old Erie Canal could be reimagined for the 21st century, so that this transformative waterway will remain relevant for the next 200 years. Through this Fellowship program, the Erie Canal Museum hopes to explore the impact of the Canal and how it affects the lives of New Yorkers today in ways that are not traditionally discussed. This project aims to represent more New Yorkers through the stories we tell and to foster a greater connection to the Canal and its impact, both positive and negative, on the world today. Our goal is to both broaden our audience and also broaden the perspective of canal enthusiasts.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Develop a project that explores the intersection between environmental and social/societal themes that directly relate to the ongoing story of New York's canal system;
- Work with Museum staff to identify and then cultivate relationships with an external network of project collaborators with expertise in the two defined subject areas of marginalized populations and environmental history;
- Work with Museum staff to integrate social and environmental themes into Museum exhibits, programs, and practices;
- Lead the development and delivery of a one-day symposium that supports project goals and objectives; and
- Present and publish findings through a variety of approved academic conferences and publications.

Qualifications:

- Eligible candidates must have completed at least one year of graduate course work by June 2021 and must have availability to work full time. Work schedule can be flexible.
- Students and Graduates in social sciences, humanities, museum studies, or related fields are encouraged to apply.
- Applicants must have excellent written and verbal communication skills and the ability to work independently and as a member of a team.
- Experience and willingness to work closely, respectfully, and effectively with members of the public as well as staff, volunteers, and board members is required.
- Travel around the Canal Corridor will likely be a large component of the project, so candidates must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Vehicle is not required.

Additional Details:

The Fellow receives a \$39,000 annual salary and full time benefits package along with travel and professional development allowances.

Employment Dates: August 30, 2021 – August 27, 2023 (Dates can be negotiated if needed.)

While the fellowship is not fully virtual, the ability to work on site daily at the Erie Canal Museum is not a requirement.

To apply, candidates should send a cover letter of no more than 1,000 words addressing your intellectual/academic interests, how work at Erie Canal Museum can help you further your professional goals, and your qualifications for this position; a resume or Curriculum Vitae; a writing sample not to exceed 1,500 words; two reference letters (academic and professional); and undergraduate and graduate transcripts (unofficial acceptable).

Applications packages should be submitted as PDFs via email to Natalie Stetson, Executive Director, at employment@eriecanalmuseum.org with "Erie Canal Research Fellowship" in the subject line. Application deadline: April 15, 2021.

No phone calls please. All applicants will be notified of outcome no later than June 15, 2021.

The Erie Canal Museum (ECM) is an American Alliance of Museum accredited history museum with the mission to preserve the only existing weighlock building in the United States, collect and conserve Canal material, champion an appreciation and understanding of Erie Canal history through educational programming, and promote an awareness of the Canal's transforming effects on the past, present and future.

ECM recruits and hires employees without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or sexual preference, and treats all employees equally with respect to compensation and opportunities for advancement, including upgrading, or promotion. ECM supports the Americans with Disabilities Act, and will take such measures insofar as possible to assist employees who need accommodation. Reference checks are conducted for all positions.