



2020 Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence

Overview

Stretching 524 miles across the full expanse of Upstate New York, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor encompasses 4,834 square miles in 23 counties and is home to 3.2 million people. The federal designation as a National Heritage Corridor recognizes the significance of New York’s canals to the state and the nation. However, the federal government does not own or manage national heritage area lands as it does with traditional national parks. Instead, people, businesses, non-profit historical, educational, and environmental organizations, towns, cities, counties, and the State of New York work together to protect the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and prepare for its future.

The Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence honors and celebrates the significant places of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and recognizes the excellence in advancing the goals of the Erie Canalway Preservation and Management Plan.

What’s your place?

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission encourages investment in places throughout the Corridor, including parks, trails, historic buildings and canal structures, streetscapes, and entire communities. The Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence calls attention to those places where people have come together to contribute their time, talent, creativity, enthusiasm, and hard work to make their part of the Canalway Corridor a vibrant place to live, work, and play.

Recognition of excellence is selected based on the applicant’s effectiveness in helping to advance one or more of the goals set forth in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Preservation and Management Plan in the place being nominated.

- The Corridor’s historic and distinctive sense of place will be widely expressed and consistently protected.
- The Corridor’s natural resources will reflect the highest standards of environmental quality.
- The Corridor’s recreation opportunities will achieve maximum scope and diversity, in harmony with the protection of heritage resources.
- The Corridor’s current and future generations of residents and visitors will value and support preservation of its heritage.
- The Corridor’s economic growth and heritage development will be balanced and self-sustaining.
- The Corridor will be a “must do” travel experience for regional, national, and international visitors.

Please note that while planning is essential to the success of any project, planning alone does not qualify for this award.

Benefits of designation include:

- Recognition plaque
- Statewide and regional media releases
- Development of a written case study that describes the place and the actions taken to protect and showcase its significance
- Listing on Erie Canalway website of Best Practices for the Corridor
- Enhanced visibility and pride

A formal presentation of awards will take place at Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission meeting in June.

What is eligible?

Unlike a grant application, the Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence celebrates *place* first and seeks to acknowledge the activities, projects, and people who have worked to make them great. **We want you to tell us what makes the place you are nominating great.** It may be the preservation of historic or cultural resources, a festival or event, a community art project, hospitality program, greening or conservation efforts, or something completely unique. The scale and scope of projects undertaken will be specific to each place.

Do projects need to be completed? What is the time span for eligibility?

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor wishes to recognize places that *have been in existence and open to the public for at least one year*. Project work to enhance or protect the place may continue to evolve, but project work for which you are seeking recognition must be complete. We are not accepting plans as submission for this award. Because we are looking to recognize and replicate successful models, *how* a project is completed is more important than *when* it was established.

Who should apply?

Municipalities, community groups, private entities, and non-profit organizations are encouraged to submit an application. Multiple parties involved in a collaborative or regional project or event are especially encouraged to apply. However, your project does not have to be huge to be recognized. We invite communities and organizations working on smaller projects that are advancing the goals of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Preservation and Management Plan to submit an application.

What is the application process?

Written applications are due by **Friday, February 28, 2020**. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of judges who will select up to three finalists to receive a site visit. Site visits will occur by the first week of May 2020. The judges will select final award winners based on the written application and site visit.

For more information

Miyoko Fulleringer, Program Manager
(518) 237-7000 #202
miyoko_fulleringer@partner.nps.gov

www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved/awards