



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Erie Canalway
National Heritage Corridor

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Erie Canalway News Release

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Jury Announced for Erie Canalway Heritage Award

WATERFORD, NY – The Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor Commission has named a jury to select recipients of the 2011 [Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence](#). The independent jury is made up of individuals from diverse backgrounds who share a common desire to help foster the distinctive sense of place of the [Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor](#).

“The jury is an invaluable part of our program’s success. Their thoughtful deliberations and expertise help us look at each applicant from many vantage points,” said Commission Chair Judy Schmidt-Dean.

2011 Jury

Lynn Bass, Economic Development Consultant
Lynn Bass Associates, Cooperstown

Rocco Ferraro, AICP, Executive Director
Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Lawrence Frame, P.E., Chief Transportation Planner
HNTB Corporation, Albany
Former Deputy Director, Canal Maintenance and Operations, New York State Canal Corporation

Valerie Knoblauch, President
Finger Lakes Visitor Connection

Erin Tobin, Regional Director, Technical and Grant Programs
Preservation League of New York State

The Heritage Award celebrates significant places in the National Heritage Corridor where people have come together to make their part of the Corridor a vibrant place to live, work, or play. This year’s award recipients will be announced in June.

For more information on the award and previous recipients: http://www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved_awards.htm. See below for jury bios.

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Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence

2011 Jury

Lynn Bass, Economic Development Consultant

Lynn Bass Associates, Cooperstown

Lynn recently started Lynn Bass Associates to provide community and economic development services to both municipalities and the private sector. Prior to starting her own business, Lynn was employed by Empire State Development where she was responsible for upstate community development activities for 14 counties located in the Mohawk Valley, Central New York, and North Country Regions. Lynn's professional career in economic development also includes working at the Office of the State Comptroller and serving as Director of Economic Development for Otsego County, where she managed and coordinated all activities of the Economic Development Department, Industrial Development Agency, Development Corporation, and Empire Zone Program.

Rocco Ferraro, AICP, Executive Director

Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Rocky has over 35 years of planning experience ranging from neighborhood to regional planning in both the public and private sectors. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Geography & Planning, at the University at Albany. Rocky served in a variety of capacities, including Awards Committee Chair on the Board of the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association. He presently serves on a number of local and regional boards and advisory groups, including the Chair of the Town of Clifton Park Planning Board.

Lawrence J. Frame, P.E., Chief Transportation Planner

HNTB Corporation, Albany

Larry has more than 33 years of diverse experience in the public sector, with a background in the fields of transportation, canals, and architecture. He recently retired from the position of Deputy Director of the New York State Canal Corporation, in charge of Canal Maintenance and Operations. At the Canal Corporation, Larry oversaw a workforce of more than 500 employees and was responsible for the Corporation's Capital Program. Larry currently is employed by HNTB Corporation as Chief Transportation Planner, working out of the Albany Office.

Valerie Knoblauch, President

Finger Lakes Visitor Connection

Valerie is President of Finger Lakes Visitors Connection, Ontario County's tourism marketing organization. Valerie, who has been in her position for 26 years, has been very engaged in tourism at the local, state and national level. She is currently President of the NYS TPA Council and in the past has held positions with NYSTVA and as a Board member of the U. S. Travel Association, located in Washington DC. She has received the I Love NY Individual Achievement Award and has been recognized with two Travel Industry Association Destiny Awards for innovative marketing and outreach. She is a frequent speaker on tourism panels related to strategic marketing and planning, destination management, and small business marketing.

Erin Tobin, Regional Director, Technical and Grant Programs

Preservation League of New York State, Albany

Erin serves as the League's primary field services staff person for Eastern New York, New York City and Long Island, working directly with local communities, organizations, individuals and elected officials on all aspects of historic preservation and community development. Erin also manages the League's grant and assistance programs in this region. In addition to her work at the Preservation League, Erin currently serves on the Property Committee of the Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region.