



Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence

Overview

The Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence honors and celebrates the significant places of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and recognizes 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, or play.

Recognition for 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.

Application FAQs

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Can I nominate my own site?

Yes. In fact, you may be the best person to make a compelling case for its merits and recognition.

4. 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 so that jurors may evaluate how well it has sustained excellence. Because we are looking to recognize and replicate successful models, *how* a project is completed is more important than *when* it was established. Please note that while planning alone is essential to the success of any project, planning alone does not qualify for this award.

5. What is the application process?

Written applications are due by Friday, **February 25, 2011**. Applications will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary, independent panel of judges with expertise in areas such as planning, historic preservation, communications, tourism, and community renewal. *Do not assume that the judges are already familiar with your site*. Judges will select up to three finalists to receive a site visit. Site visits will occur by April 30, 2011. The judges will select final award winners based on the written application and site visit.

6. When will the awards be announced?

The awards will be formally announced and presented at the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission meeting in June.

7. What are the benefits of designation?

- 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

8. Where can I find out about past winners?

The first recipients of the Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence were recognized in October 2008. Information about past winners is available on our website at www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved, click on “Awards Program.”

For More Information

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www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved_awards.htm

**About the Erie Canalway
National Heritage Corridor**

The exceptional scenery, history, culture, and natural resources of the 524-mile New York State Canal System and the communities along its shores earned this unique region designation as the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in 2000. It is managed by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission, in partnership with the National Park Service, and state and local agencies and organizations, who work to ensure that the canal corridor’s nationally significant treasures are preserved and accessible for all to enjoy.