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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Erie Canalway News Release

Release date: Immediate
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Date: 4/3/08

Arts Forum to Explore Public Art and Art Trails along Erie Canalway

WATERFORD, NY: What if...*The Erie Canalway became the Longest Outdoor Gallery in the nation?* That's one of the questions artists, community leaders, and canal enthusiasts will be exploring during a daylong Arts Forum to be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 17, 2008 at the Arkell Museum in Canajoharie. Hosted by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the forum seeks to investigate ways to use the arts to stimulate community connections, recognize the region's heritage, and invite people to further explore the Erie Canalway.

Nationally recognized planner and place-making expert Ronald Lee Fleming of the Townscape Institute will speak at the forum and attendees will be encouraged to share their views during roundtable discussions.

"The unique combination of arts, heritage, and landscape within the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor presents an exceptional opportunity for canal communities to come together to foster community pride, attract new visitors, and stimulate the creative economy through the arts," says Hannah Blake, Community Planner for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

Already, a number of arts initiatives are taking place along the Erie Canalway, including Art Walks on Water based in Brockport, Mural Mania in Lyons, Canaltown Studios and Art Trails based in Jordan, and Art and Pottery Trails in Ithaca and the Capital District. The forum aims to bring these and other arts initiatives together to explore possibilities for Corridor-wide connections.

For more information or to register for the Arts Forum, visit: www.eriecanalway.org.

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