

Roundtable Questions for “500 Mile-Long Gallery” Concept

Roundtable Questions - Before lunch (11am – 12pm)

Existing Conditions – the Image of the Canalway Corridor

1.) If asked to describe what the canals of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor mean to you, what particular images or experiences/events would you use? Are there ceremonial items or sounds (buckets, cannon fire, etc.), working implements (buoys, lanterns, etc), native flora and fauna, canal characters, or folklore and folk art (songs, stories, and crafts) that evoke these images and experiences that could be used as part of a marker system throughout the Corridor? Are the images and experiences that you selected recognizable to the visitors from outside of the Corridor as well as to the residents? Are the images and experiences that you selected “accessible” to everyone including visitors of different ages and abilities and visitors who do not speak English?

Existing Conditions – the Place

2A.) If asked to provide a description of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the place, to someone who has never been to Upstate New York, how would you describe the area? What important landmarks would you describe? Are there distinctive examples of architecture, patterns in the landscape, vistas, gathering spots, native flora and fauna, or geology?

2B.) Would your description differ for the various regions of the Canalway Corridor or are there common themes throughout the Corridor? Identify the region if your descriptions reflect a specific area of the Corridor.

2C.) If you were offering this description in 1840 and in 1920 what would it include?

Existing “Infrastructure”

3.) Describe the existing potential for a Canalway-wide public art initiative. Please describe the existing infrastructure that would be appropriate to use for a “500 Mile-Long Gallery” project. Do adequate central locations, gathering places or other installation sites exist in Canalway communities? Could existing public art be incorporated into an outdoor gallery or should this initiative only develop new pieces?

Note: Think of “infrastructure” in the broad sense including staff, technology, funding, transportation systems, marketing, etc.

Roundtable Questions - After Lunch (12:45 – 2:15pm)

Articulating Goals

4.) Identify the goals of a “500 Mile-Long Gallery” project. Is one of those goals to ensure that the project has a heritage component?

Articulating Strategies – Visual Preference Exercise

5.) Take a minute to look at these selected examples of public art attached (numbers 1-12). Identify by number which ones you like the best and describe why?

(Note that we have purposely chosen works of art that are outside of the Canalway Corridor. While there are wonderful examples of public art work in the Canalway, we wanted to prompt discussion on work that is not as well known and does not draw a connection for you to personal events or people. We understand that it may be challenging and a bit unfair to comment on a 3 dimensional piece using a flat photograph. Feel free to provide comments on how you would, could, or should experience this in its context. For example, “I like this piece if it also moves or provides sound or if I can experience it by walking around it”).

Articulating Strategies – The Project Logistics

6A.) As you know, a project does not materialize from a good idea alone, although a good idea is very important. What other elements of a “500 Mile-Long Gallery” project would ensure its success? An overall plan? Funding for planning? Project funding? Community support? Certain activities? Please be specific by naming organizations and funding sources if possible. Please prioritize the importance of identified project elements if time allows.

6B.) What role should the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor play, if any, in this program or project in the future?

Roundtables - Reporting Out (2:30 – 3:30pm)

Vote for your top descriptions (questions #1 – 2C) **and top goals** (question #4) **(3:30 – 4:00pm)**