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## Erie Canalway News Release

For Immediate Release, January 13, 2012

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### Grants Boost Erie Canal Education, Preservation, and Tourism

WATERFORD, NY- The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission, in partnership with the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, awarded \$43,700 in grants to assist organizations with canal-related education, preservation, and tourism projects.

Seven organizations from Albany to Buffalo received funding, including three in the Capital Region: **Albany Institute of History and Art (Albany)**, **New York Folklore Society (Schenectady)**, and the **Schenectady Museum & Suits–Bueche Planetarium (Schenectady)**. Additional recipients include: The Buffalo Zoo (Buffalo), Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum (Chittenango), Erie Canal Museum (Syracuse), and The Public Broadcasting Council of Central New York/WCNY (Syracuse).

“Distributing grants is critical to helping organizations develop new programs or advance their missions, especially in tight economic times,” said Judy Schmidt Dean, Commission Chair. “We are pleased to be able to fund these worthy projects in 2012.”

“Congratulations to the groups which have been awarded these grants by the Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor Commission,” said **Congressman Paul Tonko**. “With these grants, they can continue their work to highlight the history and importance of the Erie Canal and how it helped shape our region and our country.”

The **Albany Institute of History and Art** received \$5,500 to develop a lesson plan that uses art and artifacts from the Institute’s collection to help students explore the history and use of the Erie Canal. The program will be offered via video conferencing and hosted on the Institute’s website.

“The Erie Canal was vital to our nation’s growth, and we are eager for students throughout New York State to learn about its importance,” said David Carroll, Director of the Albany Institute of History & Art.”

The **New York Folklore Society**, in partnership with the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse, received \$7,000 to present a two-day symposium, Music of the Erie Canal, exploring the connections between

the Erie Canal and traditional music in New York State. The symposium will involve panel discussions, musical performances, and the development of a post-symposium interactive website.

“The New York Folklore Society is thrilled to be able to partner with the Erie Canal Museum on this project, which wouldn't have been possible without this support from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor,” said Ellen McHale, Executive Director. “The symposium will uncover distinct musical traditions that have been directly shaped and forged by the Erie Canal. We look forward to bringing these traditions to light.”

**Schenectady Museum & Suits–Bueche Planetarium** received \$6,030 to develop a mobile audio tour exploring the history and impact of the Erie Canal in downtown Schenectady. The tour will highlight the technological development that enabled the canal's construction, the canal's impact on the lives of the people who lived near it, and how the canal brought growth and new businesses to Upstate New York.

“We are thrilled to deliver stories about the history of technology in our region using the latest communication technology, which will engage visitors with the highly interactive learning styles they've become accustomed to today,” said Kerry M. Orlyk, Schenectady Museum & Suits-Bueche Planetarium Executive Director.

The **Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor** spans 524 miles across the full expanse of upstate New York, encompassing the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain canals and their historic alignments, as well as more than 230 canal communities. **Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission**, in partnership with the National Park Service, collaborates with government agencies, communities and organizations to protect and promote the canal corridor for all to use and enjoy. The **Erie Canalway Heritage Fund** is dedicated to charitable, educational, and civic purposes within the confines of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

[www.eriecanalway.org](http://www.eriecanalway.org)

**SEE BELOW FOR FULL 2012 GRANT PROGRAM AWARD DESCRIPTION**

# 2012 Erie Canalway Grant Program Awards

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor awarded \$43,700 in grants in 2012 to assist organizations with canal-related planning, preservation and education projects.

## **Albany Institute of History and Art**

Project Name: Erie Canal Lesson Plan

Description: The Institute will develop a lesson plan that uses art and artifacts from the Institute's collection to help students explore the history and use of the Erie Canal. The program will be offered via video conferencing and hosted on the Institute's website.

Amount: \$5,500

Type: Education

Location: City of Albany

County: Albany

Canal: Erie Canal

## **The Buffalo Zoo**

Project Name: Erie Canalway Connections

Description: The Buffalo Zoo, in partnership with the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, will develop a new education program to focus on the interconnectedness of people, the local environment, and the Erie Canal, both past and present. The program will challenge students to consider how the Erie Canal affected (and continues to affect) not only people and society, but also domestic animals, wildlife, and natural habitats in New York State.

Amount: \$5,500

Type: Education

Location: City of Buffalo

County: Erie

Canal: Erie Canal

## **Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum**

Project Name: Cultural Landscape Report

Description: The report will provide recommendations and strategies for enhancing Chittenango's dry-docks and historic character within the context of the museum's long-term plans. In particular, the report will document critically needed repairs and improvement projects, including the rehabilitation of the existing dry dock, its gates, and visitor walkway.

Amount: \$7,000

Type: Preservation of Historic and Cultural Resources

Location: Village of Chittenango

County: Madison

Canal: Erie Canal

## **Erie Canal Museum**

Project Name: The Locks of the Erie Canal (Exhibit)

Description: This project will fund the preparation and exhibition of 57 original pen and ink drawings of Erie Canal locks and other canal structures by Syracuse artist Ray Sax. Work will include matting, framing, proper storage, and temporary exhibition for the exhibit.

Amount: \$6,156

Type: Interpretation and Orientation

Location: City of Syracuse

County: Onondaga

Canal: Erie Canal

**New York Folklore Society**

Project Name: Music of the Erie Canal Symposium  
Description: The New York Folklore Society, in partnership with the Erie Canal Museum, will present a two-day symposium exploring the connections between the Erie Canal and traditional music in New York State. The symposium will involve panel discussions, musical performances, and the development of a post-symposium interactive website.  
Amount: \$7,000  
Type: Interpretation and Orientation  
Location: City of Schenectady  
County: Schenectady County  
Canal: Erie Canal

**Schenectady Museum & Suits–Bueche Planetarium**

Project Name: Erie Canalway Audio Tour  
Description: The museum will develop a mobile audio tour exploring the history and impact of the Erie Canal in downtown Schenectady. The tour will highlight the technological development that enabled the canal's construction, the canal's impact on the lives of the people who lived near it, and how the canal brought growth and new businesses to Upstate New York.  
Amount: \$6,030  
Type: Interpretation and Orientation  
Location: City of Schenectady  
County: Schenectady Counties  
Canal: Erie Canal

**The Public Broadcasting Council of Central New York (WCNY)**

Project Name: The Erie Canal: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Minutes  
Description: WCNY will produce six interstitials focused on people who tell the story of the canal as it is today. WCNY plans to air the interstitials on television and radio, upload them to its website, and make them available to affiliates from across New York State.  
Amount: \$6,531  
Type: Interpretation and Orientation  
Location: Various Locations  
County: Onondaga (Council Location)  
Canal: Erie Canal

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