



2025 GINGERBREAD GALLERY

Submissions will be on display November 21, 2025 - January 11, 2026.

Each year the Erie Canal Museum Weighlock Gallery transforms into a festive 1800's canal town street scene with gingerbread creations on display in storefront windows. In a typical year, we see over 4,000 visitors!

Gallery Highlights

- Celebrate the Erie Canal bicentennial! Judges will be looking for the best Erie Canal themed creation and will award a ribbon for the winner.
 - Confectioners Competition: Anyone can join! Cash prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100 are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. The entry fee for this category is only \$25.
 - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons are awarded for all categories and will be announced the week of December 9.
 - People's Choice Award: Chosen by visitors to the Gallery who vote for their favorites. Award is announced around the New Year.
 - All Gingerbread submissions receive one complimentary Family Pass good for admission for up to six people.
- ★ The first Gingerbread Gallery at the Erie Canal Museum celebrated the architecture of local buildings. It was once a one-day event, but is now many weeks long!
 - ★ Gingerbread has been baked in Europe for centuries and can take on the form of a thin, crisp cookie or "snap" cake or bread.
 - ★ The German fairy tale Hansel & Gretel popularized the creation of gingerbread houses. These elaborate decorations have become traditions during the holiday season.
 - ★ Gingerbread, in architecture and design, is a term used to describe elaborately detailed embellishment.

Gingerbread Creation Delivery

Drop-off will be by appointment only between Monday, November 10 and Sunday, November 16, 2025. We will call you after you submit your entry form to schedule a drop-off time.

Creation Rules and Guidelines

- Erie Canal themed submissions are encouraged, but not required. You can find inspiration and examples of buildings, communities, locks, boats, animals and other Canal themes by visiting eriecanalmuseum.org/gingerbread/inspiration.
- The decision and interpretation of the Creation Rules and Guidelines are at the discretion of the Erie Canal Museum. Our decisions and interpretations are final.
- Gingerbread creations will be judged in five categories: Confectioners, Youth, Senior, General, and Corporate Challenge. Judging is based on overall appeal, originality, creativity, and difficulty.
- All gingerbread creations must be made from 100% edible materials. Lights are allowed, but will be turned off during the judging period.
- The use of cardboard (with the exception of the base), plastic, glue or any other non-edible materials will disqualify your creation from judging.
- Please ensure that your creation is proportional to its base and does not exceed 24" x 24" (many of the display cases are smaller than 24" x 24"). Creations exceeding the size limit may not be displayed.

Creation Entry Form

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the Erie Canal Museum Gingerbread Gallery, a Syracuse tradition! Complete the Entry Form [online](#) or return the PDF version to the Museum no later than **Wednesday, November 5, 2025**.

Questions? All questions may be directed to Steve Caraccilo, 315-471-0593 or steve@eriecanalmuseum.org.