



2026 GINGERBREAD GALLERY

Submissions will be on display November 20, 2026 - January 10, 2027.

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

- 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 14.
 - 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 Creation Delivery

Drop-off will be by appointment only between Monday, November 9 and Sunday, November 15, 2026. We will call you after November 4 to schedule a drop-off time.

- ★ Gingerbread, in architecture and design, is a term used to describe elaborately detailed embellishment.

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. We love tall creations for the storefront windows.

Creation Entry Form

Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the Erie Canal Museum Gingerbread Gallery, a Syracuse tradition!

Registration will close on Wednesday, November 4, 2026 or when we get 50 registrations, whichever occurs first. Complete the Entry Form [online](#) or return the PDF version (available [here](#)) to the Museum via mail, fax, or email.

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