



Erie Canal Artist-in-Residence

Position Summary: The Erie Canal Museum, located in downtown Syracuse, New York, showcases the only remaining weighlock building in the United States. The Museum collects and preserves Canal material and provides engaging educational experiences that champion an appreciation and understanding of the Erie Canal's transforming effects on the past, present and future. Established in 1962, the Erie Canal Museum shares 200 years of Erie Canal history through interactive displays, original artifacts, and public programs. As part of the Erie Canal Museum's 2023 program, *Ode: Exploring the Erie Canal through Art*, and in partnership with the New York Power Authority (NYPA), the New York State Canal Corporation (Canals), and NYPA's Reimagine the Canals (RTC) initiative, the Erie Canal Museum is seeking an Artist in Residence for a period of one (1) year. The Erie Canal Museum is committed to building a diverse and inclusive workforce. We strongly encourage members of traditionally underrepresented communities to apply.

The Residency will focus on a year-long creative inquiry into the Canal and the logistics of Canal maintenance and operations: what is required to keep the Canal in a good state of repair so that it is reliable, safe, and financially sustainable. The Canal Corporation is frequently asked to both fix the aging Canal infrastructure and extend the length of the Canal navigation season: two requests that can be at odds with each other. The public is not exposed to or aware of the nature and scale of the challenge to keep the Canal in shape operationally. This Residency is for Artists who wish to engage with the Canal and adjacent Trail, Canals staff, New York's Canal communities, and visitors. It is an opportunity to reflect upon the Canal's physical, environmental and social condition; materiality; and context.

For more information about the Erie Canal Museum, visit: [Erie Canal Museum](#). For more information about the New York Canal Corporation, visit: [About the Canal Corporation - New York State Canals \(ny.gov\)](#). For more information about the New York Power Authority, visit: [About NYPA](#). For more information about the Reimagine the Canals Initiative, visit: [Reimagine the Canals \(RTC\) Initiative \(ny.gov\)](#).

Residency Structure: The Residency will begin with a (4) four-month Research Phase: a time for the Artist and the Canal Corporation to establish mutual trust through shared exposure to each other's work and process. The Artist will be assigned a sponsor who will facilitate introductions and connections. The Artist will shadow Canals staff and attend meetings, trainings, and site visits. The Research Phase ends with the Artist proposing a project, designed in collaboration with Erie Canal Museum, Canals, and RTC, to execute/implement during the remaining months of the Residency.

The Implementation Phase of the Residency is marked by approval of the project proposal and initiation of the work. The Artist will be tasked with communicating to the public the physical, social, and/or environmental context of the Canal and Canal work. The Artist must

engage with the public: the Artist must host at least (3) three public-facing events for the public to engage with and observe the Artist's process. The Artist's project may consist of an event, a performance, a temporary work of art, a video, a mural, a permanent art installation, or other similar work. In consultation with the artist, work(s) from the project will be retained by the project organizers. Throughout the Residency, the Artist, Erie Canal Museum, Canals, and RTC will have regular virtual or in-person check-in meetings to assist in project development.

Location: The Artist's work shall be focused on the New York State Canal system which includes the Erie, Oswego, Cayuga-Seneca and Champlain Canals. A workspace is not included in this Residency, though the Artist could potentially activate Canal buildings, such as a vacant powerhouse, as a temporary workspace and/or for public engagement if agreed to by Canals.

Artist Fee: The total funding for the one-year Residency is \$40,000, which will be paid in equal monthly payments. The \$40,000 is inclusive of the Artist's fee and the costs of the deliverable/work product. The Artist is responsible for all budgeting and estimating, for managing their own budget, and for submitting monthly invoices in a timely manner. There will be no additional funding.

Application: All Artists interested in applying are required to submit the following:

1. Statement of Interest (up to 500 words): Explain why this Residency is of interest to you and what you hope to explore during the Residency. Describe how your previous work relates to the Residency focus area, i.e., making maintenance visible, and how you might approach sharing your work during the Residency with the public.
2. Artist's Statement (up to 300 words): Provide a statement describing your artistic practice.
3. Resume or CV (maximum three pages): Provide a resume or CV highlighting any experience relevant to this application, particularly community engagement, working with multiple stakeholders, and working in upstate New York.
4. References: Provide the names, phone numbers, and email addresses for (2) two professional references.
5. Work Samples: Provide (5) five examples of recent work. For video or audio, provide links with maximum lengths of (5) five minutes each. For written work, submit samples of maximum (3) three pages each. Provide a list of the submitted work including title, date, materials, size. Provide short descriptions of each work as needed.

Selection Process: The applications will be reviewed by a panel of representatives from the Erie Canal Museum, Canals, and RTC, and invited arts professionals. The applications will be evaluated for the following:

- Clarity of the Statement of Interest and relevance to the Residency focus area
- Quality of prior work and relevance to the Residency focus area
- Evidence of experience with community engagement and a socially-engaged art practice
- Evidence of successful collaboration with multiple stakeholders

Finalists will be asked to interview with the selection panel.

Eligibility: The selected Artist should be deeply interested in the New York State Canal system, the physical landscape of upstate New York, and community planning and development; have demonstrated experience with social interventions through artistic practice; and have a desire to work specifically within government systems. Additionally:

- Only individual artists or artist collectives may apply; artists representing non-profit and for-profit organizations may not apply
- Artists must be (18) years of age or older
- Artists must be eligible to work in New York State
- Artists may not be currently enrolled in school on a full-time basis
- Preference may be given to artists who have lived or worked in Canal communities

Schedule: The Residency begins with a four-month Research Phase, during which the Artist will spend time at Canal Corporation facilities meeting staff and learning about its operations and initiatives while also introducing their art practice and process to Canals staff. The Research Phase concludes with a proposal from the Artist outlining one or more public-facing participatory projects that will be implemented in partnership with Erie Canal Museum, Canals, and RTC during the remaining period of the Residency. It is expected that the Artist will commit a minimum of 40 hours a month to the residency.

- Application Deadline: Friday, October 21, 2022; applications packages should be submitted as PDFs via email to Natalie Stetson, Executive Director, at employment@eriecanalmuseum.org with " Erie Canal Artist-in-Residence " in the subject line by 11:59 pm on Friday, October 21, 2022.
- Finalist Interviews: Week of November 14, 2022. Interviews will be conducted virtually.
- Artist Notification: Week of December 5, 2022
- Residency Start: January 1, 2023
- Residency End: December 31, 2023

The Erie Canal Museum is an American Alliance of Museum accredited history museum with the mission to preserve the only existing weighlock building in the United States, collect and conserve Canal material, champion an appreciation and understanding of Erie Canal history through educational programming, and promote an awareness of the Canal's transforming effects on the past, present and future.

The Erie Canal Museum recruits and hires employees without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or sexual preference, and treats all employees equally with respect to compensation and opportunities for advancement, including upgrading, or promotion. The Erie Canal Museum supports the Americans with Disabilities Act and will take such measures insofar as possible to assist employees who need accommodation.

Reference checks are conducted for all positions.