



Erie Canal Artists in Residence

Position Summary: In partnership with the New York State Canal Corporation (Canals), the Erie Canal Museum is seeking three (3) Artists 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 Residencies will focus on a year-long lens-based study of the Erie Canal, contemplating its current condition, activating the landscape and public spaces, and considering its potential future. These Residencies are for Artists who wish to engage with the Canal and adjacent Erie Canalway Trail, Canals and Museum staff, Canal facilities, New York's Canal communities, and Canal visitors.

The 2024 Residencies will be dedicated to lens-based projects that reflect upon the Canal's physical, environmental, and social condition and history; materiality; and context. We will select an Artist and project to represent each of the three (3) geographic sections of the Canal system (see attached map).

Applicants shall propose a specific lens-based project for their Residency. Projects may be journalistic, documentary, or conceptual, and may include and/or be accompanied by text/writing. The subject of the project shall be identified by the applicant, but proposals must be a creative inquiry of the Canal and consider a fuller, more complete account of the Canal's past and present than what has traditionally been told. The applicant shall identify their target audience(s) and how their project will be shared with that audience and with the public-at-large.

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

Artist Stipend: The total funding for each Artist for the one-year Residency is \$10,000, which will be paid in (4) equal quarterly payments.

Residency Structure: Three (3) Artists will be selected for Residencies in 2024, one for each geographic section of the Canal (see map). Each Artist will be assigned a sponsor who will facilitate introductions and connections to Canals staff and access to Canal facilities as needed.

Artists must engage with the public. The three (3) selected Artists will participate in one (1) joint panel discussing their work, and then must individually develop at least one (1) additional public-facing event during the course of the Residency for the public to engage with and understand the Artist's process.

Each Artist's project should be lens-based. Artists may incorporate text and other media into their work. It is intended that final products from the Residencies will be used to develop a joint exhibition and catalog in 2025, as well as add to the Erie Canal Museum collection.

In consultation with the Artist, project organizers will retain work(s) from the project, as well as the right to publish, with prior Artist approval, selections from the project.

Throughout the Residency, the Artist, Erie Canal Museum, and Canals, will have regular virtual or in-person check-in meetings to assist in project development.

It is expected that the Residency is a part-time commitment for the Artist.

Location: The Artists shall focus on the New York State Canal system which includes the Erie, Oswego, Cayuga-Seneca and Champlain Canals, and the Erie Canalway Trail. A workspace is not included in this Residency.

Artist Stipend: The total funding for each Artist for the one-year Residency is \$10,000, which will be paid in (4) equal quarterly payments. Up to an additional \$2,000 per artist is available for reimbursement for production of a final product.

About the AIR Partners: The Erie Canal Museum, located in downtown Syracuse, New York, 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.

The Canal Corporation runs the New York State Canal System, which includes the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca Canals. Spanning 524 miles, the waterways link the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain. The Canal System includes the Erie Canalway Trail, a multi-use trail designed to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and cross-country skiers. Together, the Canals and Trail create a world-class recreationway that is a vibrant, scenic and unique New York resource.

2025 will mark the Bicentennial of the 1825 completion of what is now known as the Original Erie Canal. In 1918, the Barge Canal—the navigable canal we have today—which enlarged and realigned the Original Erie Canal to accommodate motorized commercial vessels, was completed. The Barge Canal was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2016; the Original Erie Canal still exists in fragmented sections. The New York State Canal Corporation is working to revitalize the Canal and its surrounding areas for a third century of use.

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

1. Statement of Interest and Proposal (up to 500 words): Explain why this Residency is of interest to you and what you plan to explore during the Residency. Describe your proposed lens-based project, including how it relates to the Residency goals, which section of the Canal system your project will focus on, how you might approach

- sharing your work during the Residency with the public, and your proposed final product. State how your previous work relates to the Residency focus area and ways you have previously engaged 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.
 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. If written work is included, please limit it to (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 and Canals, and the following invited arts professionals:

- Emily Blumenfeld, Partner, Via Partnership;
- Soudabeh Moradian, Filmmaker, and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Film and Media Arts, Syracuse University;
- Michael Royce, Chief Executive Officer, New York Foundation for the Arts

The applications will be evaluated for the following:

- Clarity of the Statement of Interest and Proposal, and relevance to the Residency focus area and goals:
 - Engage with the Canal and adjacent Erie Canalway Trail, Canals and Museum staff, Canal facilities, New York's Canal communities, and Canal visitors
 - Reflect upon the Canal's physical, environmental, and social condition and history
 - Consider a fuller, more complete account of the Canal's past, present, and future
- Scope of reach, feasibility and clarity of the plan to share the Artist's project with the Artist's intended audience(s)
- Clarity of the Artist's plan for engaging with the public—including one (1) public-facing event—during the course of the Residency
- Proposal of a final product that can be used in an exhibit and catalog
- Quality of prior work and relevance to the Residency focus area

Finalists will be asked to interview with the Selection Panel.

Eligibility: The selected Artist should be deeply interested in exploring the New York State Canal system and the physical landscape of upstate New York. Experience with social practice and working within government systems is preferred. Additionally:

- Only individual artists or artist collectives may apply; artists representing non-profit and for-profit organizations may not apply
- For artists applying as a collective, only one \$10,000 stipend will be awarded to the group

- Artists must obtain General Liability Insurance
- Artists must be (18) years of age or older
- 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 on January 1, 2024.

- Application Deadline: Sunday, September 10, 2023; 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 Sunday, September 10, 2023.
- Finalist Interviews: Week of October 9, 2023. Interviews will be conducted virtually.
- Artist Notification: Week of November 6, 2023
- Residency Start: January 1, 2024
- Residency End: December 31, 2024

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.

