



**39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
GINGERBREAD GALLERY**

Submissions will be on display November 22, 2024 - January 12, 2025.

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. The entry fee for this category is only \$25.
  - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 a one-day event on December 13, 1986 with over 700 visitors.
  - ★ 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 11 and Sunday, November 17, 2024. 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](http://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 four categories: Confectioners, Youth, Senior, and General. 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 out on the opportunity to be part of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Gingerbread Gallery, a Syracuse tradition! Complete the Entry Form [online](#) or return the PDF version to the Museum no later than **Wednesday, November 6, 2024**.

Questions? All questions may be directed to Steve Caraccilo, 315-471-0593 or [steve@eriecanalmuseum.org](mailto:steve@eriecanalmuseum.org)