

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Albany Institute of History & Art

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIHA NAMED ERIE CANALWAY HERITAGE PARTNER

ALBANY, NY—The Albany Institute of History & Art has been selected by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission as one of four new heritage sites to join its Erie Canalway Partner Program, which offers technical assistance, coordinated tourism promotion, and networking opportunities for selected sites within the Corridor. With these additions, the program now includes 29 canal-related museums and cultural heritage sites.

“Our education programs connect our community to our collections through lifelong learning opportunities,” said Erika Sanger, Director of Education at the Albany Institute. “We have collected primary resource materials related to the Erie Canal from before its construction to the present day. These artifacts and documents help museum visitors and website users see how the Erie Canal has shaped our history and continues to influence New Yorkers and people across the nation.”

The Albany Institute of History & Art showcases a premier collection of art and historical artifacts on a broad range of subjects, including the Erie Canal. Visitors can see original drawings by Robert Fulton, Duncan Phyfe’s commemorative wood token box made from the first boat to navigate the Canal, paintings by E.L. Henry, hand drawn maps of the Erie Canal, and Simeon DeWitt’s surveying tools. The Institute’s research library houses primary source materials, including maps, documents, photos, and manuscripts related to the Erie Canal. An online resource collection will be launched in June 2012.

“Each one of our partners shares a different aspect of the canal’s role in shaping New York and the nation,” said Beth Sciumeca, Executive Director of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. “Some have important works of engineering, others have works of art or artifacts, and some highlight the value of the canal today. By working together, each place can provide a bridge to the next, offering a more complete picture for residents and visitors.”

Visitors to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor can plan their visit and find information about Heritage Partners and other sites of interest online at

www.eriecanalway.org/explore.

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The Albany Institute's distinguished collections and acclaimed exhibitions comprise the definitive expression of the cultural, historical, and artistic heritage of Albany and the upper Hudson Valley. From its world-renowned Hudson River School collection, to the famous Albany Mummies, to the wide range of performances, lectures, and festivals, to its outstanding educational and family programming, this distinctive and engaging institution provides visitors of all ages and interests with a splendid museum experience. One of America's oldest museums, the Albany Institute of History & Art was founded in 1791, during the presidency of George Washington, making it older than the Louvre, the Smithsonian, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Visit www.albanyinstitute.org for more information, and be sure to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/albanyinstitute).

The Albany Institute of History & Art is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM-5 PM and Sundays NOON-5 PM. The museum is closed on Monday and open for pre-registered groups only on Tuesday. The library is open Thursdays 1:30-4:30 PM and by appointment.

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