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OHIO & ERIE CANALWAY ASSOCIATION AWARDS \$286,200 IN GRANTS TO FUND NORTHEAST OHIO PROGRAMS

Grants awardees include programs that enhance the Towpath Trail and the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area

Akron, OH – (October 3, 2019)— The Ohio & Erie Canalway Association (OECA) has awarded \$286,200 to 15 regional organizations for projects and programs within the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, which includes Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas counties.

The Ohio & Erie Canalway Association funded the projects through its Strategic Initiative Program, a competitive grant program that funds organizations and political subdivisions that enhance the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area—which extends 110 miles from Cleveland to New Philadelphia, OH.

A diverse array of 2019 projects will receive funding to support the following initiatives:

Corridor Wide:

- Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad: Renovation of Coach 6217, \$15,000

Cuyahoga County:

- Western Reserve Historical Society/Hale Farm: Steeple restoration, \$10,000
- Historic Gateway Neighborhood: Take a Hike Heritage Tourism program, \$10,000
- Historic Warehouse District Development Corp: Creation of Lighthouse Park, \$40,000
- LAND Studio Inc.: Design and plans for Hilltop Park, \$23,000
- West Creek Conservancy: Create wayfinding & signage strategic plan for Cuyahoga Water River Trail (that runs 93-miles), \$7,000

Summit County:

- Summit County Historical Society: Work related to the John Brown House, \$35,000
- Summit Metro Parks: Towpath Trail interpretation and fencing, \$30,000
- Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park: Complete work related to the Stanford Trailhead construction project, \$35,000

Tuscarawas County:

- Zoar Community Association: Creation and installation of Fort Laurens storyboards, \$6,200
- Historic Canal Dover Association: Dover Downtown and Riverfront revitalization and master plan, \$5,000

- Lawrence Township Trustees: Purchase a Lawrence Township Steiner, \$10,000
- City of Dover: Canal Dover Park, Wooster Ave. access engineering, \$31,000
- Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition: McDonnell to Bolivar Towpath construction, \$25,000
- City of New Philadelphia; East High Trail connectivity plan, \$4,000

OECA operates as a regional extension of its two founding organizations: **Canalway Partners**, representing Cuyahoga County, and the **Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition**, representing the southern three counties of Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas.

“We’re thrilled to award these grant dollars to organizations that work to keep our community a vibrant place to live and play,” said Tim Donovan, executive director of Canalway Partners.

Since receiving its National Heritage Area designation in 1996, the Ohio & Erie Canalway has leveraged upwards of \$350 million in federal, state, local and private investments throughout the region.

“We are extremely grateful to Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Rob Portman, Congresswoman Marcia Fudge, Congressman Bob Gibbs, Congressman Dave Joyce, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Congressman Anthony Gonzalez, and Congressman Tim Ryan for their tremendous support for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, Towpath Trail and connector trails,” states Dan Rice, president and CEO of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition and co-executive director of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Association. “Through their visionary leadership, we are creating a legacy for future generations.”

For questions or to view the full list of 2019 Strategic Initiative Program grant recipients and project descriptions, you may visit ohioeriecanalway.com.

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The Ohio & Erie Canalway Association is the 501(c)(3) non-profit designated by the U.S. Congress as the management entity for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area (www.ohioanderiecanalway.org). The Association operates as a regional extension of its two Founding Organizations, Canalway Partners (canalwaypartners.com) and the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition (ohioeriecanal.org) which represent Cuyahoga County and Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas counties respectively.