

LOCK BY LOCK: *Why the World Needs to Know About the Champlain Canal*

Project Description for 2018 CFA grant applications

Grants from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the NYS Canal Corp, will allow Lakes to Locks Passage to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal system with a multi-media project featuring the unique heritage and cultural assets of the Champlain Canal.

This project will feature the knowledge, culture, traditions, and creativity of the people who built, work, and live in the Champlain Canal region. These cultural assets provide the vitality and meaning for an identity and brand unique to the Champlain Canal, one that will inspire people to explore and discover the canal communities of Washington, Saratoga and Rensselaer Counties.

In the spring of 2018 Lakes to Locks Passage sponsored a series of meetings and workshops for Champlain Canal community members. Through these sessions we discovered compelling stories and heritage, as well as unique museum and art collections that illustrate how the Champlain Canal allowed people to travel great distances, spread ideas, and spur the growth of communities. This is all largely unknown to the general public. Today, many boaters consider the Champlain Canal the most scenic and interesting landscape of the entire NYS Canal system, but it lacks brand distinctiveness from the Erie Canal. It is now time to change that by telling the story of the canal that connects the Hudson River at Waterford to the southern end of Lake Champlain at Whitehall.



Our project has three components for **NYSCA Arts and Cultural Impact Programming** support:

- Create scripted stories and compose music that gives voice to an engaging, downloadable audio tour of the Champlain Canal region to enhance online historical content and travel tools.
- Design a multi-media exhibit for the Champlain Canal Visitor Center in Schuylerville that presents the knowledge, culture, traditions, and creativity of the region. The exhibit will provide an immersive experience that will strike an emotional chord, so the visitor will gain an appreciation for the Champlain Canal heritage and share it with others. It will also encourage people to experience the Champlain Canal by boat, bike, or foot.
- Present an online art gallery for the *Art of the Champlain Canal* to include historical and contemporary depictions of the Champlain Canal. A feature of the online exhibit will allow people to upload their own images to the gallery.

NYSCA grant request by Lakes to Locks Passage is \$49,500. The match has been secured.

The Town of Saratoga is supporting the Lock by Lock project by applying to the **Canalway Grants Program** for two components of the project:

- Fabrication and installation of canal-themed exhibits at the Champlain Canal Visitor Center in Schuylerville to direct people to explore the locks and beyond—downtowns, museums, parks, and other places of interest.
- Interior construction of the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors Center to complete the building's electrical circuit distribution system, distribution panels, lighting, WiFi, communications, alarm fixtures, and media/exhibit support fixtures.

Canal Corp grant request by the Town of Saratoga is \$150,000.

Lakes to Locks Passage has secured \$200K National Scenic Byway Funds to meet the match for both projects. Lakes to Locks Passage has a \$100,000 line of credit from the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region for cash flow management of reimbursement grants.