

Initiative targets Buffalo River land

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A long-dormant slice of land along the Buffalo River will come alive with cultural activity this summer thanks to a new initiative by the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp. to build the area into an entertainment and leisure destination.

The Arts Services Initiative, a recently formed cultural organization hired by the ECHDC to program events and activities along the river, announced a request for cultural, educational, recreational and other creative proposals this week. The organization will distribute up to \$82,500 for arts programming in the Buffalo River Fest Park, the Silo City grain elevators, Mutual Riverfront Park, Father Conway Park and on the Buffalo River itself.

According to the ASI, individual grants of up to \$10,000 each are available to cultural organizations and artists. Applications are due by noon April 25, and are available on the ASI's website, www.asiwny.org.

“The Buffalo River links the remarkable changes occurring at Canalside with the untapped potential of the Outer Harbor,” said ECHDC President Thomas P. Dee in a statement. “We hope to duplicate the success that has been achieved at Canalside by bringing vibrant and exciting programming to the Buffalo River and the Ohio Street corridor. ECHDC is pleased to be working with the Arts Services Initiative on this effort.”

Tod A. Kniazuk, the executive director of ASI, said in a statement that the grant “allows us to offer an opportunity to cultural organizations and artists, and it connects us to one of the most exciting and important efforts in the region.”

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