

April 9, 2012 12:01 AM

Programming Proposals Sought for Buffalo River Corridor



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The Arts Services Initiative of Western New York today announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) for assisted programming along the Buffalo River between May 26 and October 31, 2012. A total of \$82,500 is available to qualified organizations and individuals to conduct programs and events at several sites along the River corridor, including:

- Buffalo River Fest Park;
- Silo City grain elevators and site;
- Mutual Riverfront Park ("Ice Boom Park");
- Father Conway Park; and
- The Buffalo River itself.

Funding for the grants is made possible by the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation. ECHDC was created in 2005 to spearhead the waterfront development effort with a mission to revitalize Western New York's waterfront and restore economic growth to Buffalo based on the region's legacy of pride, urban significance, and natural beauty. ECHDC's efforts touch the Inner Harbor, inclusive of Canalside, the Outer Harbor, and the Buffalo River. In March, ECHDC entered into a contract with Arts Services Initiative to administer programming along the Buffalo River. ASI was created in 2011 to develop capacity building, collaboration, and advocacy programs and policies for the cultural sector of the region.

"Arts Services Initiative is honored to have been selected by Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation to guide the process for programming along the Buffalo River this year," Executive Director Tod A. Kniazuk said. "Administering this 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 - waterfront redevelopment."

"The Buffalo River links the remarkable changes occurring at Canalside with the untapped potential of the Outer Harbor," added ECHDC President Thomas P. Dee." 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."

Individual grants of up to \$10,000 are available. Applications are due by noon on April 25, 2012 and are open to both non-profit and other organizations and individuals. The RFP and application are available now at www.asiwny.org.