



NEW YORK STATE **CANAL** CONFERENCE  
**2021**



**Reconnect**  
to the *Water.* to the *City.* to the *People*

September 26 - 28, 2021  
Rivers Casino & Resort  
Schenectady, New York

Thank You for a Spectacular Summer #OnTheCanals!



Many Seeking Outdoor Fun  
Experienced Free Excursions &  
Enjoyed Hassle-Free Camping

# On THE CANALS

You helped us make special Canal memories, for those from near and far, filled with rich history, welcoming communities and spectacular natural settings.

Watch for more each season



NY Power Authority

Canal Corporation



Reconnect  
to the Water, to the City, to the People



Conference Location  
Rivers Casino & Resort  
1 Rush Street  
Schenectady, NY 12305

## Thank You To Our Sponsors



# WELCOME

*On behalf of the Canal Society, I welcome you to the New York State Canal Conference.*

*We are glad you're here!*

The theme of this year's conference is reconnecting—to the water, to the city and to people. Over the next few days we will explore the city of Schenectady, the Mohawk River, and Erie Canal and will learn about the electric city's renaissance—how Alco, one of the nation's oldest brownfields has been transformed into the Mohawk Harbor. We will tour the Stockade District and visit Schoharie Crossing Historic Park. We will hear from a nautical scientist about shipwrecks uncovered in the depths of Seneca Lake.

We will connect to other cities. Places like Amsterdam, Geneva, Medina, Oswego, Rochester, and Fairport are making significant investments in their downtowns and waterfronts. Long-faded and ghosted structures are being rebuilt and readapted. Main Streets are brimming with craft breweries, farm markets, bistros, and shops. Entrepreneurs are bringing innovation and creativity to commerce in unexpected ways. The results are impressive.

The canal is developing into a first-class destination for recreation and leisure travel, where kayaks, canoes, and boats ripple in the water. Canalway trails and paths buzz with bicyclists and pedestrians. We will learn from a panel of experts how to market these assets to visitors, using new strategies that apply to today's tourism industry.

Teddy Roosevelt said this about our national parks, "We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."

I think the same can be said about the Erie Canal, our national heritage area, an incredible 524-mile waterway. Our good fortune indeed.

Enjoy the conference!

**Kal Wysokowski**

Chair

2021 New York State Canal Conference

## KAL WYSOKOWSKI

*Committee Chair*

DAVID BROOKS  
DYLAN CAREY  
JAMES FARR  
GINA DABIERE-GIBBS  
TOM GRASSO  
DAVID KINYON  
SHANE MAHAR

MARTHA MALONE  
ELIZABETH MCANDREW  
BILL MILES  
ASHLEY QUIMBY-SIMONI  
BILL SWEITZER  
DAN WARD  
CRAIG WILLIAMS

DAM SAFETY



LOCK REHABILITATION



HYDROPOWER



WATERFRONT PLANNING



# AGENDA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

SUNDAY



**2:00pm**  
**Registration Desk Open**  
Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center

**2:00pm – 7:30pm**  
**Exhibit Hall Open**  
Location: Exhibit Hall

**2:00pm – 5:30pm**  
**Community Day**  
Visit the Farmers Market and Arthur’s Market in Downtown Schenectady. Refreshments and food are available at Druthers, The Landing Hotel and Rivers Casino.

**Paddle 12:00 noon to 2:30 pm:** Kayak from Kiwanis Park to Mohawk Harbor, led by NPS historian Duncan Hay, Upstate Kayak Rentals (direct rentals)

**Live Music 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm:** The world premiere of THE REMARKABLE, IRRESISTIBLE ERIE: Snapshots and Voices, a new concert produced and directed by Andy Spence. A cast of six singers and musicians will perform a 90-minute concert of mostly new and not well-known songs with a narrative about the people who lived and worked during the Erie Canal era. Sponsored by Old Songs, Inc. and New York Folklore.

**Pedal 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm:** Cycle on the Canalway Trail with ECNHC and PTNY and join a 15-mile CANALWAY CHALLENGE! Stop at Mabee Farms, return to Mohawk Harbor.

**6:00pm - 7:30pm**  
**Opening Reception & Welcome Remarks**  
Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
*Presented by:*  
*Brian Stratton, Director, NYS Canal Corporation*  
*Gary McCarthy, Mayor, City of Schenectady*  
*Opening reception sponsored by Schenectady Metroplex Development Authority*



**7:00am**  
**Registration Desk Open**  
 Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center

**7:00am – 8:30am**  
**Breakfast and Coffee**  
 Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center

**7:00am – 2:00pm**  
**Exhibit Hall Open**  
 Location: Exhibit Hall

**8:30am – 9:45am**  
**Opening Sessions**  
 Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
 Welcome Remarks  
*Presented by:*  
 Kal Wysokowski, Chair, NYS Canal Conference

“Reimagine the Canals: Progress Report, New Initiatives, and Future Collaboration”  
*Introductions by:*  
 Brian Stratton, Director, NYS Canal Corporation  
*Video presentation from:*  
 Gil C. Quiniones, President and CEO New York Power Authority  
*Presentations by:*  
 Ambrose A. Barbuto, P.E., Director of Waterways Maintenance; Angelyn Chandler, VP, Planning-Reimagine the Canals and Rebecca Hughs, Senior Director, Public Engagement  
*Q&A moderated by:*  
 Brian Stratton, Director, NYS Canal Corporation

**9:45am – 10:00am**  
**Morning Break & Exhibit Hall Open**  
 Location: Exhibit Hall  
*Morning Break sponsored by LaBella*



## 10:00am – 10:45am Breakout Sessions

**101 - Value Proposition: Historic Canal Structures and Vessels**  
 Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
*Presented by:*  
 Erin Tobin, VP of Policy, Preservation League of NYS

**102 - New York's Downtown Revitalization Initiative**  
 Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
*Presented by:*  
 Canal cities of Oswego, Mayor William Barlow; Amsterdam, Amanda Bearcroft, Director of Community and Economic Development; and Geneva, Sage Gerling, City Manager  
*Introductions by:*  
 Brian Stratton, Director, NYS Canal Corporation, Moderated by Kisha Santiago-Martinez, Deputy Secretary of State, Department of State Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure

**103 - Lock Tenders Tribute**  
 Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
*Presented by:*  
 David Kinyon, City of Lockport & Lockport Locks Heritage District Corporation

**10:45am – 11:00am**  
**Break**  
 Location: Exhibit Hall  
*Morning Break sponsored by Erie Canalway*



## 11:00am – 11:45am Breakout Sessions

**201 - Hudson Crossing Park on the Champlain Canal**  
 Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
*Presented by:*  
 Kate Morse, Executive Director, Hudson Crossing Park & Mike Bielweski, Board Member, Hudson Crossing Park

**202 - Why Schenectady? The Industrial History and General Electric Story**  
 Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
*Presented by:*  
 Duncan Hay, National Park Service

**203 - Marketing the New York Canal System: Part I**  
 Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
*Introductions and Moderated by:*  
 Bill Sweitzer, Director, Canal Marketing  
*Panel Presentations by:*  
 Heather McElhiney, Director of Tourism, Programs and Operations, NYS Division of Tourism, I Love NY  
 Jean Mackay, Director of Communication and Marketing, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor  
 Darby Racey, Program Manager, Reimagine the Canals

**12:00pm – 1:30pm**  
**Lunch**  
 Location: Exhibit Hall  
*Lunch sponsored by Boat U.S.*



*Presentations during lunch by Todd Garafano, Executive Director, Discover Schenectady & Bob Radliff, Executive Director, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor*

**1:45pm – 5:30pm**  
**Mobile Workshops**  
**Option 1:** Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site and Mabee Farm  
*Sponsored by NYS Canal Corporation*



**Option 2:** Guided Walking Tour of The Stockade District and Schenectady Ale Trail Beer Tasting (Mad Jack Brewing, Frog Alley, Arthurs Market)

# MONDAY

**6:30pm – 7:30pm**  
**Exhibit Hall Open**  
Location: Exhibit Hall

**6:30pm – 7:30pm**  
**Reception**  
Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
*Evening Reception sponsored by Bergmann*

**7:30pm**  
**Dinner & Awards**  
Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
Message from Congressman Paul Tonko  
*Introductions by:*  
*Bob Radliff*  
*Award Presentation:*  
*Spirit of the Canal Award by Craig Williams, President of the NYS Canals Society*

*Evening Dinner sponsored by GPI*



# TUESDAY

## 9:30am – 10:30am Breakout Sessions

**301: Mohawk Harbour Redevelopment**  
Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
*Presented by:*  
*Dave Buicko, CEO Galesi Group*  
*Todd Mueller, Project Manager Bergmann*

**302: ROC The Riverway: City of Rochester's Waterfront Investment and Revitalization**  
Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
*Presented by:*  
*Eric Frisch, Project Manager, City of Rochester*  
*Moderated by:*  
*James Farr, Director of Public Market, City of Rochester*

**303: Marketing the New York Canal System, Part II**  
Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
**Collaborative planning roundtable**  
*Moderated by:*  
*Heather McElhiney, Director of Tourism, Programs and Operations, NYS Division of Tourism, I Love NY*  
*Jean Mackay, Director of Communication and Marketing, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor*  
*Darby Racey, Program Manager, Reimagine the Canals*

# TUESDAY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

**7:00am**  
**Registration Desk Open**  
Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center

**7:00am – 8:30am**  
**Breakfast and Coffee**  
Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center

**7:00am - 8:15am**  
**Exhibit Hall Open**  
Location: Exhibit Hall

**8:30am – 9:20am**  
**Plenary Session - 202: What Lies Beneath: A Shipwrecks Survey Begins to Unlock the Secret of Seneca Lake**  
Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
*Presented by:*  
*Art Cohn, nautical archeologist, historian and Director Emeritus of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum*

**10:30am – 11:00am**  
**Morning Break & Exhibit Hall Open**  
Location: Exhibit Hall  
*Break sponsored by Galesi Group*



## 11:00am – 11:45am Breakout Sessions

**401: From Plan to Reality: Canal Communities Leverage Resources for Positive Impact**  
Location: Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center  
Panel Discussion:  
*Martha Malone, Executive Director, Fairport Office of Community + Economic Development*  
*Kimberly Baptiste, Bergmann VP*  
*Moderated by:*  
*John Steinmetz, Bergmann*

# TUESDAY

## 402: Elevating the Erie / Closing the Gaps: Completing the Empire Trail

This session will provide an overview of planning efforts in the Central New York region that led to the closing of the 14 mile gap in the Erie Canalway Trail system through Syracuse and Onondaga County in between the Towns of Camillus and DeWitt. This project utilized an international competition to spark community discussion and develop an inspirational community vision for the future of the historical Erie Canal Corridor within Onondaga County. The planning process helped to form strong partnerships, collaboration, and community support leading to the implementation of one of the most significant investments in the Empire State Trail across New York State.

Location: **Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center**

Presented by:

*Sam Gordon, Sr. PM for Environmental Design & Research, D.P.C.*

## 403: The Environmental Study Team: A Community Based Program Connecting Youth to the Erie Canal and Mohawk River

Location: **Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center**

Presented by:

*John McKeeby, Executive Director, Schoharie River*

*Eric Ayotte, Media Educator, Schoharie River Center*

*Kenneth Brooks, Team Leader, Schenectady Environmental Study Team Program*

Moderated by:

*Ellen McHale, New York Folklore*



[eriecanalway.org](http://eriecanalway.org)

Explore more than 500 miles of connected waterways and trails & experience the canals that transformed America.

**12:00pm – 1:00pm**

**Lunch**

Location: **Exhibit Hall**

*Remarks by Rossana Rosado, Secretary of State, New York State (invited)*

*Introduced by: Brian Stratton*

*Trail Tender Award*

*Presented by: Sasha Del Peral, Manager, Canalway Trail*

*2022 Canal Conference Presentation*

*Presented by: James Farr, Director of Public Market, City of Rochester*

**1:00pm**

**New York State Canal Conference Concludes**

Location: **Rivers Casino and Landing Hotel - Event Center**



# AWARDS



## Canalway Trail Tender Award



The Canalway Trail Tender Award was established by the New York State Canal Corporation to recognize outstanding efforts to advance the construction, maintenance and promotion of the Canalway Trail in New York State. The Canalway Trail is a 366 mile route located contiguous to the New York State Canal System, and makes use of sections of former canal towpath and adjoining public rights of way. The Trail is designed to encourage land-side use of the canalway corridor by bikers, hikers and other outdoor recreation users.

Since the year 2000, the State of New York has moved positively to “close the gaps” between the completed sections of Trail and the uncompleted sections of Trail. However, it was not until Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2017 unveiled ambitious plans for the Empire State Trail, a commitment to build out and connect the Canalway Trail to the Appalachian Trail, the Hudson Greenway Trail, the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, the St. Lawrence Seaway Trail and the Genesee Valley Greenway, that New York State positioned itself as a national leader in trail development.



### Jeanne Williams

Jeanne Williams is the Executive Director of the Feeder Canal Alliance whose mission is to preserve, promote and protect the historic Glens Falls Feeder Canal and Towpath Trail. Jeanne also chairs the Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group and is a board member of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Conservancy Board. For the past 15 years Jeanne has passionately endeavored to expand the access to and usage of New York State Canals and Canalway Trail. Her efforts with these groups were instrumental, in part, in making possible the development of the Empire State Trail going north from Albany along the Champlain Canal and her leadership continues to drive important future initiatives. Jeanne is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and has held positions with the National Museum of Racing, National Museum of Speedskating and with high schools teaching special education.

## Spirit of the Canal Award

The Spirit of the Canal Award is presented by The Canal Society of New York State at the New York State Canal Conference. The award recognizes the efforts of individuals and organizations to improve and promote the New York State Canal System.

### Duncan Hay

# SPEAKERS

### ERIC AYOTTE



### KIMBERLY BAPTISTE

Kimberly has been with Bergmann for almost 14 years, and currently serves as the Vice President of the NE Buildings group, focusing on multidisciplinary projects for a wide range of government clients. Much of Kimberly’s planning and design experience has occurred in Canal communities, from Lockport and Medina to Macedon and Rome. She has successfully managed multiple Local Waterfront Revitalization Projects for canal communities, as well as

Brownfield Opportunity Area projects, which incorporate master planning, economic revitalization, open space and recreation programming, site design and tourism strategies. She previously served as the President of the Western Erie Canal Alliance from 2018 until 2020, during which time she oversaw multiple grants and programs being lead by the organization. She offers a unique perspective on how investments in public space, recreation and tourist amenities can have a positive and long-lasting impact on communities and quality-of-life for existing and future residents.



### AMBROSE BARBUTO

Ambrose Barbuto is currently the Director of Waterways Maintenance for the New York State Canal Corporation. In this role, he oversees and manages all maintenance work for the organization. This encompasses all section and floating plant work across the State as well as maintenance engineering and other staff assigned to various HQ locations.

Ambrose joined the Canal Corporation in 1999 after a six-year stint with the NYS Department of Transportation. He has held various titles within the Canal Corporation and Thruway Authority, most recently as the Western Region Canal Engineer before taking on his current role in January, 2020. He graduated from the University of Buffalo and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of New York.



### WILLIAM BARLOW

As a lifelong resident of Oswego, Mayor Barlow graduated from Oswego High School in 2008 and attended college at Arizona State University where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Technology Management in 2012. Mayor Billy Barlow first got involved in government at the age of 22, running for a seat on city council, receiving 70% of the vote and took office in January of 2014. One year later, Barlow announced his candidacy for Mayor of Oswego in 2015, at the age of 24, and took office in January of 2016 as the youngest sitting Mayor in

the State of New York and the youngest Mayor in the history of Oswego. As Mayor, Mr. Barlow has revived the Oswego community by revitalizing downtown, developing the waterfront and restoring historic neighborhoods through strong code enforcement efforts, while lowering taxes and fees for city residents and improving city services. In 2019, he was re-elected as Mayor and sworn into his second term in January of 2020. In addition to being Mayor, he holds the position as the Central New York Regional Director for the New York State Assembly Minority under Leader Will Barclay, where he works closely with State Assembly members in state government. As a third-generation small business owner, he co-owns and operates Barlow’s Concessions, a family-run, food-concession business open at fairs, festivals and sporting events throughout the State of the New York and State of Arizona.



# SPEAKERS



## AMANDA BEARCROFT

Amanda Bearcroft is the Director of Community & Economic Development for the City of Amsterdam, as well as the newly appointed Executive Director of the Amsterdam Industrial Development Agency. She has developed and managed a wide range of planning projects during her career, including the city's DRI, waterfront revitalization plans, brownfield redevelopment plans, land use regulations and development projects, and

placemaking projects. Her experience centers around developing plans by linking the community needs with the priorities of local, regional, and state agencies.



## MIKE BIELKIEWICZ

Mike Bielkiewicz has spent over a decade compiling lore, legends, and historical stories of the Champlain Canal in Saratoga County. Mike has shared his presentations with hundreds of visitors and offers History Cruises along the Canal with Mohawk Maiden Cruises every summer. Mike has been a board member and volunteer for Hudson Crossing Park since 2011.



## DAVID BUICKO

David M. Buicko was appointed Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Galesi Group in 1986 and elected as President and Chief Executive Officer in 2016. He is responsible for the day to day operations of all the company's divisions including commercial real estate, industrial parks, distribution and logistics.

Mr. Buicko has participated throughout the country in the acquisition and development of over 12,000,000 sq. ft. of office and industrial real estate, in addition to over 20,000 apartment units. He also

serves as President of Distribution Unlimited, Inc., one of the largest third-party logistics companies in the Northeast.

Since 1985, he has been active in developing Brownfield projects including former military facilities as well as inner city sites. In 2010, he was recognized by the New York League of Conservation Voters for the construction of a 250,000 sq. ft. gold-level LEED certified building on a contaminated manufacturing site in Schenectady, NY.

## KENNETH BROOKS



# SPEAKERS



## ANGELYN CHANDLER

Angelyn is the New York Power Authority's Vice President-Planning for Reimagine the Canals.

Angelyn joined NYPA from the New York City Economic Development Corporation, where her work was focused on waterfront resilience, including flood protection design, and parks and greenways creation. Angelyn's work in architecture, urban design and landscape architecture ranges from large-scale park development to community-focused planning, design and preservation. Under her leadership, New York City and New York State have completed

significant projects to reconstruct compromised and under-utilized sites and infrastructure as thriving public spaces.

As Deputy Commissioner for Capital Programs at the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, Angelyn led the design and construction of park facilities across the state, including visitor centers, environmental education facilities, restrooms, cabins, trails and public art. She worked closely with the State Historic Preservation Office to advocate for the adaptive reuse of mid-century park structures and for the implementation of design excellence standards.



## ART COHN

Art Cohn is a nautical archaeologist and historian who over the past four decades has directed numerous shipwreck surveys and underwater documentation studies. Art has had a particular interest in helping to develop public policy for the protection of historic shipwrecks, aka, "Underwater Cultural Heritage." Art was Project Director for the five-year construction project to build a working-replica canal schooner Lois McClure, an clone of an 1862-class shipwreck documented in Lake Champlain, and for the next fifteen years, Art directed the outreach

program that traveled the schooner to hundred of ports and hosted tens-of-thousands of visitors in the US and Canada. Since 2018, Art has been the Principal Investigator for the Seneca Lake Survey Project, a program of discovery aimed at locating early canal-era watercraft, which will be the focus of his presentation. Since 9/11, Art has been a Firefighter and served as Chaplain for the Ferrisburgh Vermont Volunteer Fire Department.



## JAMES FARR

Jim has worked for the City of Rochester, Department Recreation for the past 40 plus years. Currently Jim is the Director of the Rochester Public Market and the newly opened LA Marketa at the International Plaza. Jim is currently is a Commissioner on the Eric Canal Heritage Corridor, a Board member of the Genesee WaterWays Center, President of Monroe County Cooperative Extension Foundation, Chairperson of the Ontario Beach Park Program Committee, a former board member and President of both the Farmers Market Federation of New York and

the National Association of Produce Market Managers and a member of the World Union of Markets. Jim is also the secretary and one of the founding board members of the Rochester Youth Sports Foundation.

Jim has BS in Business Administration with a minor in Economics.



## ERIC FRISCH

Erik Frisch is Manager of Special Projects for the City of Rochester's Department of Environmental Services / Bureau of Architecture and Engineering. He currently has responsibility for overseeing coordination of the ROC the Riverway initiative, a bold plan to transform Rochester's urban waterfront along the Genesee River, and the Inner Loop North Transformation, which seeks to redefine the remainder of the Inner Loop Expressway in Downtown Rochester. Prior to assuming his current role in 2018, Frisch served as the City's Transportation Specialist for

more than 11 years, where he managed the City's transportation planning, traffic calming, and traffic control functions. He has played a key role in many major City initiatives, including the Inner Loop East Transformation, Bicycle Master Plan implementation, Midtown Rising, and Downtown Two-Way Traffic Conversion. Erik served as a Program Manager with the Genesee Transportation Council prior to beginning work with the City in 2007. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Geography from Clark University in Worcester, MA and a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from the University at Buffalo (NY).

# SPEAKERS



## TODD GARAFANO

Todd Garofano will serve as the new executive director of Discover Schenectady, the county's tourism promotion agency.

Garofano has nearly 25 years of hospitality and tourism experience, including serving for eight years as president of the Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau. He resigned in April 2018 to pursue other interests.

The Discover Schenectady board of directors announced the appointment Thursday.

Garofano will start work later this month.

Garofano's past experience includes senior sales and marketing roles at Amtrak and Carlson Hotels Worldwide. In 2018 he received the Industry Leader Award by Meeting Professionals International – Northeast New York.



## SAGE GERLING

Sage Gerling, as the City Manager for the City of Geneva, administers city affairs and engages community partners to collectively reach the City's Comprehensive Plan's Vision of a Beautiful, Prosperous, Equitable, Connected and Sustainable Geneva. Sage manages the City's operations through the lens of Geneva's commitment to being a Triple Bottom Line organization, which focuses on being socially equitable, fiscally responsible and environmentally sustainable.

Through New York State and the City's investment of over \$25 million in Geneva's lakefront, downtown and the Finger Lakes Welcome Center in the past decade, Sage has had the privilege of shepherding the transformation of the waterfront and downtown into active recreational, tourist and local destinations. Working with New York State Department of State, Sage also led the City's Northend Brownfield Opportunity Area Nomination process and continues to move forward actualizing multiple neighborhood commercial and recreational recommendations. Prior to working in local government, Sage worked as a consultant with edr Companies doing land use and recreational planning and design projects for multiple New York communities.

An Austin, Texas native, Sage found the Finger Lakes when she attended Cornell University for her graduate degrees in Regional Planning and Landscape Architecture. She fell in love with New York State for its natural beauty, civic-minded residents and attention to preserving land and creating opportunities for all. Sage, her husband and two children are avid explorers of countless recreational and cultural amenities in New York State.



## REBECCA HUGHES

Rebecca Hughes serves as Senior Director of Public Engagement for the New York State Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority (NYPA). Her team is responsible for public and government relations across the 524-mile Canal System, engaging with a wide range of stakeholders on a broad range of topics. Rebecca strives to build coalitions through open dialog and transparent communication. Prior to focusing on the Canal Corporation, Rebecca led marketing and consumer engagement programs for several business units

at NYPA. These included NY Energy Manager, for the delivery of energy management and advisory services to commercial customers, and EVolve NY, to provide electric vehicle charging for retail customers. Before joining NYPA in 2017, Rebecca was responsible for administration of the Career Pathways program at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Career Pathways initiatives include on-the-job training incentive program for businesses, workforce development training programs, and sector-based strategy and industry engagement. Rebecca earned a bachelor's degree in politics from the State University of New York at Potsdam, and graduate certificates in labor law from Empire State College and in strategic marketing from Cornell University.



## SAM GORDON

Sam is a Senior Project Manager for EDR with over 20 years of experience in the planning and sustainability fields with a diverse background including neighborhood revitalization, greenway planning, energy planning, and mobility planning. He has worked in both the public and private sector, as well as internationally.

Sam served as the Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of DeWitt, a suburban community located along the eastern boundary of the city of Syracuse in Central Upstate New York. While with DeWitt between 2014 and 2019, Sam set out to reinvent the

Town through initiatives like Moving DeWitt, Elevating Erie, and the Mixed Use Village Floating Overlay District (now that is a mouthfull!) that focused on improving alternative mobility, sense of place, and quality of life within the Town.

In 2005, Sam worked with the Center for Environmental Studies in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain (which was selected as the European Green Capital in 2012). When he is not busy sorting through the challenges of the local planning and development process, he can be found running about with his wife and four amazing daughters; cycling in the great outdoors; sitting zazen; or trying his hand (and other's ears) on the acoustic guitar.



## DAVID KINYON

David Kinyon is Chairman of the Board of the Lockport Locks Heritage District Corporation. The Locks District Corporation oversees the operation and promotion of the restored Lockport Erie Canal Flight of Five Locks and works with the Greater Lockport Development Corporation to attract additional tourism-related commerce to Lockport's Canal Corridor. David Kinyon served as Chief Executive Officer of the Town of Lockport Industrial Development Agency from 2009 through 2015. Dave was responsible for marketing the 200

acre Lockport Industrial Park and the Transit North Project. In 2009, he played a key role in the attraction of the Yahoo! datacenter to the Lockport Industrial Park. He is former President of the Eastern Niagara Chamber of Commerce, a position he held for 23 years. During his tenure with the Chamber, he was responsible for the Four Lanes to Lockport Project. Dave also serves on the Board of Directors of the Canal Society of New York State, Canal NY Marketing & Business Alliance, Niagara County Historical Society, and Preservation Buffalo Niagara. Dave holds a Bachelors degree in History from St. John Fisher College in Rochester and a Master's degree in Public Administration from SUNY Albany.



## MARTHA MALONE

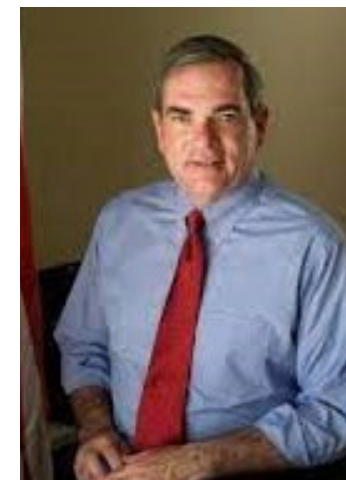
Martha Malone is the Executive Director of the Fairport Office of Community + Economic Development. Martha works collaboratively with business owners and their key personnel, real estate developers, government partners, professional service providers and lenders to support and encourage private investment and opportunities for job creation in the Village of Fairport NY. With the Erie Canal at the heart of the Village,

Martha works to preserve and enhance the Village's position as the Crown Jewel of the Erie Canal. In her role as Executive Director, Martha oversees the Industrial Development Agency, Urban Renewal Agency and Local Development Corporation. Martha holds an MBA from the University of Rochester Simon School and is National Development Council Certified Economic Development Finance Professional with over 20 years of Economic Development experience.



## JEAN MACKAY

Jean has served as the Director of Communications and Outreach for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor since 2007. She works collaboratively with federal, state, and local agencies and organizations throughout the 500-mile-long National Heritage Corridor to preserve canal heritage, promote tourism, and foster vibrant communities along the waterway. Jean is responsible for developing and implementing communications, marketing, and special programs.



## GARY MCCARTHY

Gary R. McCarthy has served as Mayor since April 2011, bringing with him more than three decades of experience in government and a reputation as a hands-on, accessible, public servant who believes that government can be a force for positive change in the lives of its residents. He was elected to a full four-year term as Mayor in November 2011 and was re-elected in 2015, and in 2019.

# SPEAKERS



## HEATHER MCELHINEY

Heather McElhiney (Mic-el-in-EE) has worked in the tourism in the tourism for over 15 years, and joined I LOVE NY in September 2019 as the Director of Tourism Programs and Operations. A graduate of the University of Albany, she started her career with The Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau, now better known as Discover Saratoga, in 1995. Heather held several positions during her tenure in Saratoga, most recently working as the Director of Heritage

Area Visitor Center, Tourism and Event Sales. Heather is lifelong Capital District resident and lover of all things outdoors, and is especially happy when she is on the water.



## ELLEN MCHALE

Ellen McHale currently serves on the Executive Board of the American Folklore Society and she serves as a trainer for the Veteran's History Project of the Library of Congress. She also serves as an elected town board member for the Town of Charleston, Montgomery County, NY.



## DAVE MELLEN

David R. Mellen is the Regional Manager of the New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC), a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority (NYPA). He is responsible for management of the 524-mile New York State Canal System. Prior to joining NYPA in 2020, Dave served as the Deputy Director of the NYSCC and previously as the Director of Construction Management. Before joining NYSCC in 2016, Dave served in progressively responsible engineering and management positions at the New York State Department of Transportation and New York State Thruway Authority over a career that began in 1989. He is also a visiting instructor at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, where he teaches construction management. Dave earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clarkson University and a master's in Construction Engineering and Management from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in New York.



## JOHN MCKEEBY



## KATE MORSE

Kate Morse has been Executive Director of Hudson Crossing Park since 2017, and was a volunteer during clean ups from before HCP was born. With over 14 years of experience in non-profits, Kate is currently the only staff member of Hudson Crossing Park and serves as the Chairperson for the Champlain Canal Regional Stakeholder Council for Canal Corporation's Reimagine the Canals initiative.



## GIL QUINIONES

Gil C. Quiniones has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Power Authority (NYPA), the nation's largest state-owned electric utility, since 2011. An internationally recognized leader, he is advancing sophisticated power generation and transmission, new technologies and clean energy sources with enhanced economic growth, job gains and progress in the climate change fight. Mr. Quiniones' energy career of nearly 35 years reflects a blend of experience in the regulated and competitive utility markets, the private sector, and state and local governments. Under Mr. Quiniones' leadership, NYPA is becoming one of the world's first "end-to-end" digital utilities. NYPA is also upgrading and modernizing its generation and transmission assets and promoting the growth of renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency and electric transportation. In addition, Mr. Quiniones has overseen the implementation of a long-range strategic plan and the development of a second, multi-year initiative that extends through 2030 and includes a comprehensive Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan. Mr. Quiniones' responsibilities significantly expanded in 2017 when he directed the integration of the New York State Canal Corporation into NYPA as a subsidiary and assumed responsibility for oversight of the 524-mile canal system, including the iconic Erie Canal.



## TODD MUELLER

Todd is a Dams and Waterways Engineer and Project Manager with Bergmann associates where he has worked since 2007. He is experienced in dam safety and waterway structures engineering for multi-disciplinary navigation, hydraulic, and dams projects. Evaluation, rehabilitation, and restoration of dams and navigation and waterfront and water control structures have been predominant of his experience in recent years.



## DARBY RACEY

Darby Racey joined the New York Power Authority (NYPA) in November 2020 as Program Manager for Reimagine the Canals, a New York State initiative to promote the use of its Canal system. In this role, she oversees various programs including On the Canals (OTC). OTC was introduced to promote recreation, local business and new camping destinations along the Canal system. Before joining NYPA, Darby spent more than three years as a contractor for the New York State Canal Corporation (Canals), serving in a wide variety of capacities including change management, budgeting and policy/procedure development. Prior to her work at NYPA/Canals, Darby was a consultant in the telecommunications industry in the areas of Process improvement, program/project management and change management. This followed a 20 plus-year career in operations and program/project Management in telecommunications, which included 10 years as a member of the executive management team at Contec Corporation in Schenectady. Darby received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University at Albany.

# SPEAKERS

# SPEAKERS



## BOB RADLIFF

Bob Radliff is the Executive Director of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, a public-private partnership that works to preserve and promote the historic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of a 524-mile long corridor and foster vibrant communities along its legendary waterways. Prior to joining the Corridor in 2013, he served for 17 years (1996-2013) as the Executive Director of the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region, a nonprofit financial institution capitalized by socially

concerned investors. From 2010-2013, he simultaneously served as the Executive Director of the Albany Center for Economic Success, a small business incubator and community development facility.

From 1990-1995, he was the Executive Director of the Albany Community Land Trust, a nonprofit corporation holding land in trust while providing long-term access to housing and other community needs.

Bob has an environmental science degree and an MBA from the State University of New York system.



## ROSSANA ROSADO

Rossana Rosado has served as New York's 67th Secretary of State since June 2016. From her award-winning 30-year media career to her service in NYC government, she brings a wealth of experience and insight to her role. Her boundless energy and creativity combined with her expertise in Latino affairs have proven to be invaluable assets to all New Yorkers.

In addition to general agency operational duties, Secretary Rosado works to support the Department's mission for economic planning and development, including spearheading the Strategic Implementation Assessment Team, which helps to inform the state's capital investments. She is also co-chair of the Council on Community Re-entry and Reintegration of New Yorkers and was most recently appointed co-chair of New York's COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Task Force.

Secretary Rosado's dedication as a public servant is both admirable and far reaching. She is committed to addressing diversity and leadership in her community daily. Under her leadership, Secretary Rosado has helped make the Department of State one of the most dynamic agencies in State government.



## JOHN STEINMETZ

John Steinmetz is a Principal Planner with Bergmann Associates. John has over 25 years of experience in both the private and public sectors as a planner, designer, and regulatory specialist. He has worked on numerous active transportation studies, and waterfront and downtown revitalization efforts, more than 35 comprehensive plans, over 40 land use and zoning efforts. His expertise in public participation, with over 250 public meetings facilitated, ensures a process and a design product that reflects the

values of residents and business owners. In 2018 he was recognized as the inaugural Upstate Fellow by the Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association. In April of 2020, he was inducted into the College of Fellows by the American Planning Association. John is an avid cyclist and regularly volunteers at the professional cycling events held in the Rochester area.



## KISHA SANTIAGO-MARTINEZ

Kisha Santiago-Martinez is at the forefront of efforts to advance sustainable, equitable and resilient development, expand New Yorkers access to offshore wind energy, improve climate resiliency and mitigation at regional and local levels, and protect and restores the State's coastal and ocean ecosystem from irresponsible development. As the head of the Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure, Ms. Santiago-Martinez oversees a wide range of policy initiatives and programs, including the New York State Coastal Management Program, serves on Governor's Climate Leadership Action

Council Executive Steering Committee, and is the current chair of the 5-State Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean.

To achieve sustainable community development, Ms. Santiago-Martinez oversees three signature planning and development programs: NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP), and the Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) program. The DRI is transforming downtown neighborhoods throughout the State into vibrant places of regional opportunity. The LWRP is aimed at helping communities activate their waterfront assets while strengthening its resilience to climate change and the BOA program creates effective revitalization strategies that turn blighted and formerly contaminated areas into productive and economically viable communities.

# SPEAKERS



## BRIAN STRATTON

Brian U. Stratton was appointed Director of the New York State Canal Corporation in April 2011, to oversee the operation and development of New York's 524-mile Canal System, including the historic Erie Canal. Prior to joining the Canal Corporation, Mr. Stratton was elected Mayor of the City of Schenectady on November 7, 2003 and re-elected in 2007. During his tenure, Mayor Stratton successfully identified and corrected the City's serious inherited financial problems, returning Schenectady's municipal credit rating from the lowest in New York State to investment grade,

including a sustained A- rating by Standard & Poor's. During his seven years as mayor, he worked with local leaders to attract more than \$300 million in new private investment in the City of Schenectady, creating and retaining more than 2,000 jobs.

As Mayor, Mr. Stratton also served from 2009-2011 as Co-Chair of the United States Conference of Mayors Water Council, leading mayors of more than 300 American cities in the discussion and national policy formation of issues impacting how cities provide safe and affordable water and wastewater services.



## BILL SWITZER

Bill Sweitzer, Director, Canal Marketing, joined the Canal Corporation's Public Affairs Office in February of 2012, serving as Deputy Director. For the past seven years he has helped lead the Canal Corporation's marketing and education programs and assisted in community outreach efforts across the state's Canal corridor. Bill has an extensive background in the hospitality industry, sales and customer service and has enjoyed success through connecting with people and building relationships.

Bill is from the Capital District and currently lives in Mechanicville. He enjoys hiking and camping with his family and is an avid fisherman.



## ERIN TOBIN

Erin Tobin serves as the Preservation League's Vice President for Policy and Preservation and has been with the League since 2007. Erin directs all aspects of the League's Public Policy and Technical Services Programs. She works collaboratively to set and pursue a statewide policy agenda that advances historic preservation in New York State at the federal, state, and local levels, and builds and maintains a statewide coalition to assist the League in achieving its goals. Erin also oversees the League's Technical Services and preservation grants programs, including oversight

of the Seven to Save Endangered Properties Program and all preservation workshops and community outreach.

Erin Tobin has held positions with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, New York Landmarks Conservancy, and Historic Albany Foundation. She serves on the City of Albany Historic Resources Commission, appointed in August 2018. Erin holds a Master of Science degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Arts in Architectural History from Binghamton University. She lives in the city of Albany with her husband, three children, and labradoodle.

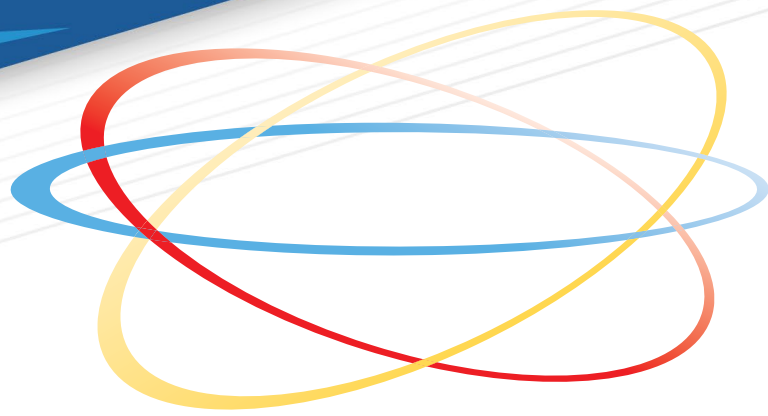


## PAUL TONKO

Congressman Paul D. Tonko is a seventh-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing New York's 20th Congressional District in the Capital Region, including the cities of Albany, Schenectady, Troy, Saratoga Springs, and his hometown of Amsterdam.

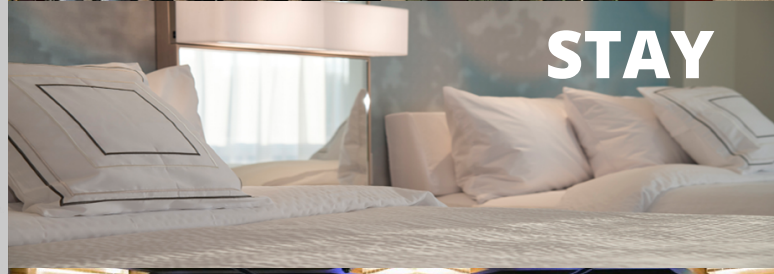
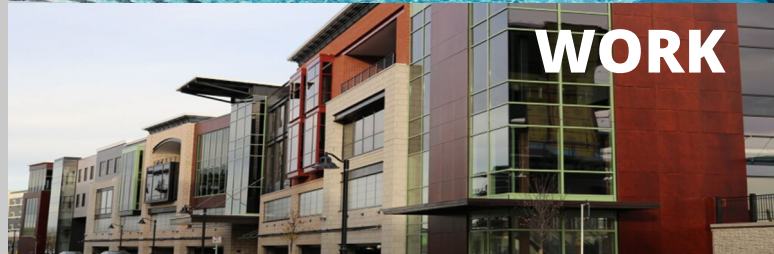
Rep. Tonko is a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and chairs the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change. He also serves on the Committee on Natural Resources

and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Prior to his election to Congress, he was President and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and served in the New York State Assembly for 25 years, including 15 years as Chairman of the Committee on Energy. He graduated from Clarkson University with a degree in mechanical and industrial engineering and is a former engineer for the New York State Public Service Commission.



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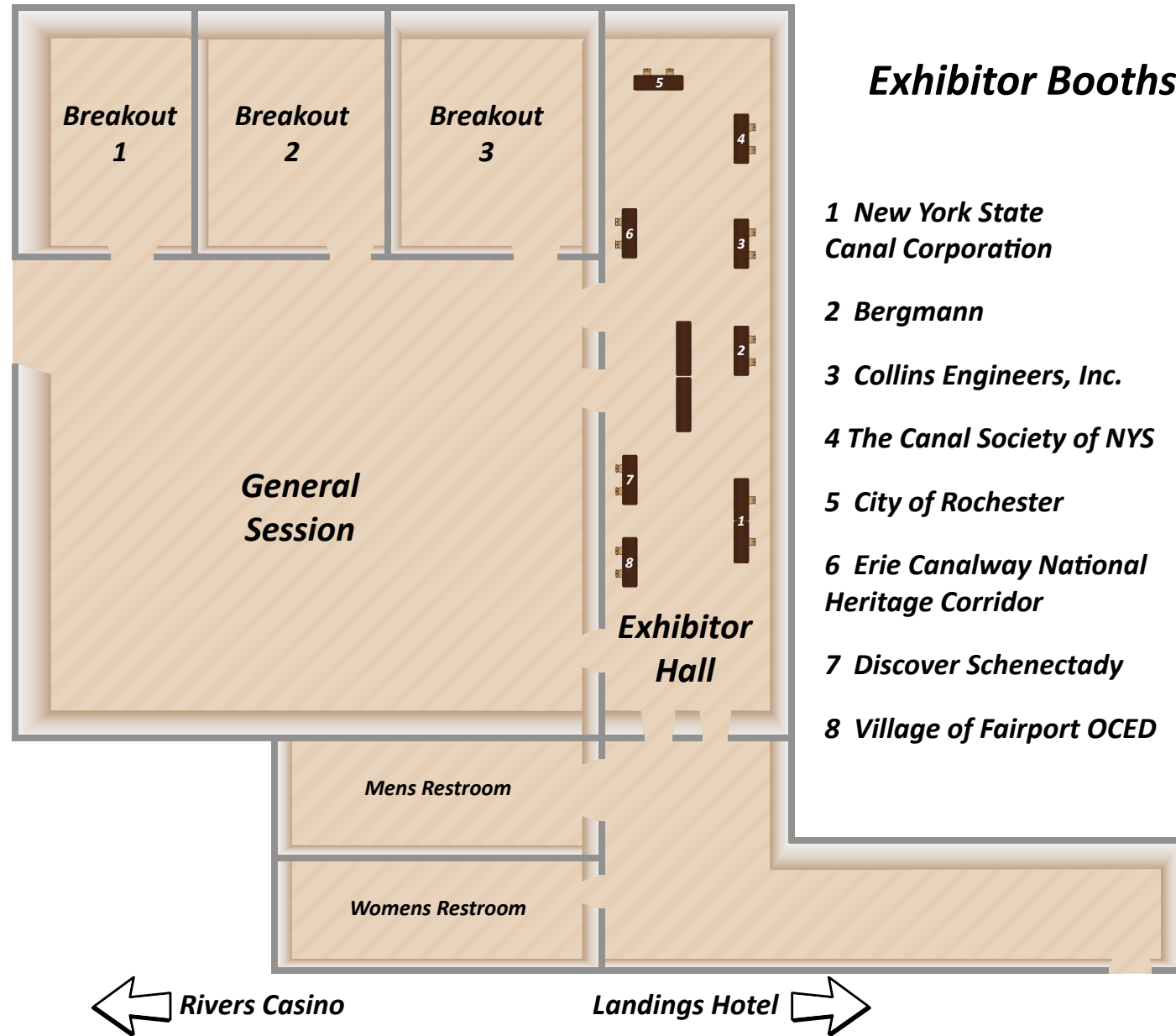
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The New York State Canal Corporation, a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority, owns and operates the 524 mile New York State Canal System, including its four historic canals – the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca – and the 360-mile Erie Canalway Trail. NYSCC is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the system’s waterway and assets for the benefit of recreational and commercial boating; trail users; canal communities and their residents; and businesses that rely on the Canal for their operations.



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