

www.ElevatingErie.com

TOWN OF DeWitt



Department of State

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Improve and stimulate a healthy urban corridor

Activate recreation, ecology, social interaction

Submission Deadline: December 22, 2015

For the full competition brief and information about the sponsors visit the competition website www.ElevatingErie.com

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ELEVATING ERIE

INTRODUCTION

The creation of the Erie Canal was a paradigm shift for American progress in the 19th century, leveraging hundreds of miles of canal networks capable of generating cities out of swamps and ushering in a new era of exchange. Over a century later, what was the Erie Canal in the city has been capped over with urban development and sprawl. We are now presented with the opportunity to reposition Erie as the vehicle for a globally relevant, ecologically turbocharged urban corridor. The Elevating Erie ideas competition seeks proposals that consider our current global biodiversity challenges in urbanized regions by developing solutions specific to the Erie Canalway Trail along Erie Boulevard East in Syracuse NY. We encourage entries from diverse disciplines to provide ideas that will:

- + Improve and stimulate a healthy urban corridor
- + Increase biodiversity, leaf area index, habitat creation
- + Establish recreation within the corridor
- + Promote economic growth
- + Develop multi-modal connectivity

While the Erie Canal in Syracuse has been mostly paved over for 100 years, the corridor has remained significant to the region by transporting people and goods, and soon by providing for one of the longest recreation paths in the country. Considering the upcoming bicentennial of the Erie Canal in 2017, the City of Syracuse and Town of DeWitt have launched Elevating Erie, a competition to identify innovative ideas that will stimulate and guide positive future

development in the Town and the City. This jointly-sponsored ideas competition—made possible with funding from the New York State Department of State—invites proposals for connecting one of the most urbanized areas of the Erie Canalway Trail.

The future of the Canal can positively impact the ecology, economy, and the general health of the cities it traverses along its nearly 400-mile length. Creating a Biodiverse Boulevard is motivated by broad agreement that we have entered an era known as the Anthropocene, where the earth's ecosystems are significantly and negatively impacted by human activities. Rapid development threatens nearly one out of every three imperiled species in the United States. (1), and in the Eastern Great Lakes Lowlands eco-region more than 95% of the habitat is being lost to suburban development, industrialization, or pollution.(2) These negative impacts can be measured, and therefore altered, by the level of biodiversity at the city, block, and site scale. The Town of DeWitt and the City of Syracuse invite designers and ecologists, students and experts from around the world to submit their ideas for a biodiverse, multi-modal urban transit corridor along Erie Boulevard East. This call is to envision new ideas and strategies for ecologically responsible design within a post-industrial landscape, and to reconsider how infrastructure, economic development, and ecology can coexist in a mutually beneficial way. Entrants are asked to create a solution that enables social engagement, creates recreational assets, supports economic opportunities and generates urban-ecological mutualism with the goal of elevating a more holistic Erie Boulevard East, able to positively impact its host cities for the next generation. Put simply, to create a biodiverse boulevard.

THE SITES

BOULEVARD

BLOCK

BRANCH

BRIDGE

JURY

The best ideas, designs, descriptions and images will be selected by a diverse and distinguished jury. Each entry will be reviewed by the competition advisors who will ensure the proposals are in compliance with the requirements of this competition brief, and that they are relevant to the concept of a Biodiverse Boulevard. Approved entries will then be submitted to the Design Jury for review. Up to 12 proposals will be advanced as Finalists, where 8 proposals (across all categories) will be awarded an Honorable Mention based on design excellence, innovation, and the ways they generate the most positive impact for the future. The Jury will vote to select 4 winners, 1 from each category, that best address the issues and requirements of the competition, the challenges of the individual sites, and maintain a sense of pragmatism.

Please see www.ElevatingErie.com for specifics about the jury team.

SCHEDULE

Competition Opens: October 2015
Questions Deadline: December 15, 2015
Registration Deadline: December 22, 2015
Submission Deadline: December 22, 2015
Finalists Contacted: January 29, 2016
Winners Announced: February, 2016
Exhibition Opening + Publication: April, 2016

FORMAT OF SUBMISSIONS

Teams and individuals are encouraged to submit proposals. All submissions must address the program at the Boulevard-scale as the primary category. Beyond that, entrants may submit to multiple categories, increasing chances of recognition and being selected as a finalist. (see website for more information about the sites)

- Categories are judged separately, so it is possible for a single entrant to win multiple categories.
- Electronic board submissions must be sized at 24"x 36", oriented vertically. If entrants are submitting a text-heavy proposal then they should be sized at 11" x 17" with supporting images taking up entire pages when possible. Alternatively, text submissions can be at 8.5" x 11" with images submitted separately to ensure high resolution for exhibition printing.
- Image files should be no larger than 5MB.
- EACH board submitted MUST include the team name and contact information in the lower right corner.
- All materials must be submitted through the website under SUBMISSIONS after registration.
- Winning teams will be required to submit all supporting images as high resolution files separately for use in the exhibition, press releases, presentations, etc.

DELIVERABLES

- Drawings for Design Submissions:
- Plan at urban scale
 - Plan at site scale

- Transverse section across sites
- Perspective(s)
- Supporting diagrams
- Labels that identify elements
- Written statement explaining how the proposal addresses the program

Elements for Written Submissions:

- Sections clearly identifying specific responses to the program
- Ideas should be conceptually legible
- Submissions must be free of disciplinary jargon and accessible to laymen
- Ideas must be supported by at least 1 image (sketch, diagram, photo collage, rendering, etc)

PRIZES

Four winners will be selected, one from each category. Winning teams for the individual sites will each be awarded a new iPad Pro. The winning team for the overall connector will receive a \$3,000 cash award. Up to eight Honorable Mentions will be selected. Finalists will be specifically highlighted in an exhibition opening Spring 2016 at the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse NY, discussed publicly by the Jury at a gallery talk, included in a forthcoming publication on the competition and showcased at the 2017 World Canal Conference. All admissible entries will be displayed digitally during the exhibit and also displayed in an online gallery on the competition website.



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