

ERIE CANALWAY National Heritage Corridor	
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In partnership with the National Park Service

2022 | ANNUAL REPORT



In partnership with the National Park Service

A YEAR OF



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Established by an Act of Congress in 2000, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor spans 524 miles across the full expanse of upstate New York. It includes the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain canals and their historic alignments. The Corridor encompasses 4,834 square miles in 23 counties and is home to 3.2 million people.

ABOVE: Seneca Falls | ON THE COVER: Pittsford

“Let us then enter on the discharge of our exalted and solemn duties by a course of conduct worthy of ourselves and our country; which will deserve the applause of our constituents, insure the approbation of our own consciences, and call down the benediction of the Supreme Ruler of the Universe.” —Governor DeWitt Clinton, January 1, 1828, Message to the New York State Legislature

New York’s most vocal proponent of canals, DeWitt Clinton offered vision and hyperbole in equal measure when America was still young and full of bold plans. And yet, all these years later, why should we not still aim for a course of action worthy of ourselves and our country?

As we near the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal, our duty is still clear: ensure that the canals that transformed America continue to thrive and serve present and future generations. Numerous federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and stakeholders are up to the task. We are grateful to work in partnership with many of them to preserve and share our extraordinary canal heritage, promote tourism and recreation, and foster community vitality along this 500-mile historic waterway.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect our shared success. 2022 has been a year of engagement, investment, and impact, fueled by a year of support from our many financial contributors. Together, we are achieving more than any of us could do alone.

May the fruits of our labors prove worthy of applause from future New Yorkers.

Port Byron



Canal Society of New York State



2022 | By the Numbers



\$259,300

Grants awarded to 38 non-profit organizations and municipalities



\$1,442,137

Amount leveraged by working with municipal and nonprofit partners



362,681

Miles logged for the Canalway Challenge

432,100

People attended 27 sponsored events

2,500

Students from 24 districts attended field trips through Ticket to Ride

23,400

Website visits to our new online itineraries

287

Miles of the NYS Canalway Water Trail adopted by 66 volunteer stewards

3,000

Copies of the *NYS Canalway Water Trail Guidebook, Second Edition* printed

60,000

Erie Canalway Map & Guides distributed

19,500

Erie Canalway Calendars distributed



A YEAR OF

ENGAGEMENT | 2022

“Open Outdoors for Kids grantees are pioneering the ways kids and classrooms connect with national parks and experience—both in-person and virtually—the wonder and complexities of nature and history.”

—Will Shafroth, National Park Foundation President and CEO



CONNECTING KIDS TO THE CANALS

After two years without field trips, we were thrilled to once again have connected children and classrooms to meaningful learning experiences provided by canal museums and historic sites. More than 2,500 students from 24 school districts took part in field trips through the Erie Canalway Ticket to Ride Program. An additional 240 students visited National Parks in the Erie Canalway, thanks to funding from the National Park Foundation Open Outdoors for Kids Program.

In the coming year, we’ll be connecting more kids to the canals while also meeting the demand for virtual learning. We’ve developed nine dynamic 360 virtual tours of canal structures and three 360 tours of national parks with corresponding curriculum materials. In addition, we’re rolling out new lesson plans to bring the Seneca Lake Archeological Survey Project into the classroom. We are developing these expanded educational offerings thanks to partnerships with the National Park Foundation, NYS Canal Corporation, local teachers, and the Seneca Lake Archeological Survey Project team.

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Collaboration and coordination are keys to success for our programs. We hosted five regional meetups with 18 educational partners, conducted three field trip assessments, and developed new program standards to ensure continued high quality educational offerings.

- Albany Institute of History & Art, Albany
- Arkeel Museum at Canajoharie, Canajoharie
- Camillus Erie Canal Park, Camillus
- Chapman Museum & Glens Falls Feeder Canal Alliance, Glens Falls
- Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Chittenango
- Corn Hill Navigation/Sam Patch Boat Tours, Pittsford
- Erie Canal Discovery Center, Lockport
- Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse
- Explore & More, Buffalo
- Fort Stanwix National Monument, Rome
- Historic Palmyra, Palmyra
- MiSci, Schenectady
- Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester
- Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, Fort Hunter
- Saratoga National Historical Park, Stillwater & Schuylerville
- Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry, Seneca Falls
- Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence, Albany
- Women’s Rights National Historical Park, Seneca Falls





A YEAR OF ENGAGEMENT



CANALWAY RECREATIONAL HUB IN THE TONAWANDAS

Initial planning and collaboration turned to progress on the ground this year as we continued working with the City of North Tonawanda to develop a recreational immersion point at Gateway Harbor of the Tonawandas. With a grant provided by Erie Canalway, the city installed new bike repair stations, planted 20 new street trees, and continued to offer downtown walking tours. In addition, the city submitted a strategic investment plan of \$500,000 as part of its Downtown Revitalization Initiative to execute plans for the Recreational Hub Project. Wi-fi, solar phone charging stations, an ADA compliant kayak launch, wayfinding signage and new seating are included in the plan.



FINGER LAKES CANALWAY EXPERIENCE COUNCIL

Council members continued to play a key role in strengthening Erie Canalway's effectiveness and reach in the Finger Lakes Region. They met with local leaders throughout the year, spearheaded a meeting with tourism promotion agencies, and hosted an open house at Belhurst Castle in Geneva in September. These connections are vital steps to ensuring the Finger Lakes Region's strong canal heritage is preserved and promoted.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Kal Wysokowski, *Canandaigua, Committee Chair, Erie Canalway Commission*
- Judy McKinney Cherry, *Watkins Glen, Erie Canalway Heritage Fund Board*
- Kevin Clark, *Village of Fairport Office of Community and Economic Development*
- Paul Comstock, *Erie Canalway Heritage Fund Board*
- Nigar Hale, *Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce*
- Annette Jimenez Gleason, *Rochester Area Community Foundation*
- Susan Holland, *Ithaca, Erie Canalway Commission*
- Nicole Mahoney, *Canandaigua, Break the Ice Media*
- Bob Stivers, *Geneva, Stivers Seneca Marine & Lake Street Station Winery*

INSPIRING VISITORS

Erie Canalway guidebooks, itineraries, newsletters, social media, and other visitor information are inspiring and helping hundreds of thousands of visitors to plan trips to the Canalway Corridor each year. The most viewed pages of our website include cycling, boating, paddling, maps, and itineraries, which together received more than 215,900 views in 2022.

We released seven new regional multiday itineraries, that combine active recreation and sightseeing options, as well as suggestions for visitors to enjoy regional foods and beverages. Information about accessibility is included to make it easier for people of all abilities to experience the canals.

The Erie Canalway Map & Guide and popular Erie Canalway Calendar convey the distinctive sense of place and best ways to experience the Canalway Corridor. We are grateful to our dedicated network of more than 170 visitor centers, historic sites, and libraries who ensure that these materials reach residents and visitors alike each year.

"I LOVE NY works to ensure that all travelers feel welcome to plan a New York State getaway where they can find what they love. The new itineraries complement our efforts by highlighting the great things that visitors of all abilities can see, do and experience on New York's Canal System and in the surrounding communities."

— Ross D. Levi, Empire State Development Vice President and Executive Director of Tourism





A YEAR OF

INVESTMENT | 2022

BOOSTING TOURISM

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and the New York State Canal Corporation, through the Reimagine the Canals initiative, launched a new **Tourism Infrastructure and Event Grants program** to support community-driven tourism and recreation along the New York State Canal System. Thirty-eight non-profit organizations and municipalities received grants totaling \$259,300, which is expected to leverage \$1.2 million in additional investment. The grants supported 11 tourism infrastructure and amenity improvements and 27 events that were attended by an estimated 432,100 people.

Rotary Park and Marina in Little Falls received funds to improve facilities at this popular stop on the Erie Canal



Frank Forte

INFRASTRUCTURE AND AMENITY SUPPORT

- Buffalo Maritime Center, *Tugboat C.L. Churchill Acquisition*
- City of Fulton, *Indian Point Dock Renovation*
- City of Little Falls, *Rotary Park and Marina Improvement Project*
- City of Watervliet, *Watervliet Hudson Shores Dock Park Project*
- Fairport Industrial Development Agency, *Fairport Thomas Creek Wetlands Amenities*
- Schenectady County Department of Economic Development and Planning, *Mohawk Hudson Bike Trail Rest Areas*
- Town of Lyons, *Elm Street Pocket Park*
- Town of Macedon, *Canal Park Inclusive Kayak Launch*
- Town of Manlius, *Poolsbrook Accessible Hand Launch Site*
- Town of Saratoga, *Hudson River Boat Launch Improvements*
- Village of Watkins Glen, *Clute Park Accessibility Improvements*



Roc the River Ride, Rochester

Gary Gold—Albany Symphony Orchestra



TrailBlaze NY, Schenectady

“I cannot thank you enough for this great news for the Town of Macedon. We have been working hard on revitalizing and making all our recreational areas handicap accessible. The Erie Canal is one of Macedon’s top highlights, and we are looking so forward to everyone—residents, businesses, and visitors—enjoying our Town and all our amenities. Thank you again.”

— Kim V. Leonard, Town Supervisor, Macedon

EVENT SUPPORT

- Albany Symphony Orchestra, *TrailBlaze NY*
- Camillus Canal Society, *Towpath Day, Legacy of the Erie Canal*
- Canal Fest of the Tonawandas, *CanalFest 2022*
- Canal Society of New York State, *2022 New York State Canal Conference*
- Capital Region Chamber, *Waterford Canal Festival*
- City of Rochester, *Roc the Riverway Celebration*
- Explore Buffalo, *Canalside Walking Tours*
- Fulton Jazz Festival Inc., *Fulton Jazz Festival*
- H. Lee White Maritime Museum, *Oswego Paddlefest*
- Little Falls Family YMCA, *35th Annual Little Falls Canal Celebration*
- Macedon Public Library, *Macedon Heritage Festival on the Erie*
- Montezuma Historical Society, *Path to Freedom: The Eliza Story*
- National Women’s Hall of Fame, *2022 Induction Weekend Festival*
- Newark Chamber of Commerce, *Wine, Craft Beverage, and Artisan Festival/Music on the Erie*
- Parks & Trails New York, *Cycle the Erie Canal*
- Rochester Accessible Adventures, *First Mile/Next Mile on the Erie Canal*
- Rome Rotary Club, *Rome Canalfest 2022*
- Rotary Club of Rochester Southwest, *Roc River Ride*
- Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry, *Family History Day*
- Slow Roll Buffalo, *Reimagining the Canals by Bike*
- Sylvan Verona Beach Resort Association, *Canal Fest*
- The Arc Wayne, *4th Annual Color Wayne*
- Town of Waterford, *Tugboat Roundup*
- Upstate Foundation, *TRAIID on the Trails*
- Utica Bike Rescue, *Community Bike Days*
- Village of Fort Edward Canal Street Marketplace, *Locktoberfest*
- Village of Phoenix, *Locktoberfest*



A YEAR OF INVESTMENT



CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

Students from the Center for Cultural Landscape Preservation at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse undertook field work in summer 2022 as part of a pilot inventory of cultural landscapes along the New York State Canal System. Students assessed the canal and adjacent lands in the land-cut canal in Western New York and in the canalized river in the Mohawk Valley. Erie Canalway secured funding through the National Park Service to develop the inventories. Recommendations from the pilot project will inform efforts to complete a landscape inventory of the entire canal system that can be used for planning, preservation, and development activities.



“With a combination of visionary leadership and sound investment, we can unleash the untapped potential all across our Capital Region in ways that will support our residents, revitalize our communities, and strengthen our businesses.” — Congressman Paul D. Tonko

ADVANCING MATTON SHIPYARD

Continued investments in the **Matton Shipyard Preservation and Adaptive Reuse Initiative** paid dividends this year as we made significant and visible progress at this historic site in Cohoes. Most important, the Planing Mill underwent substantial stabilization. Contractors repaired or replaced windows, doors, and trim; painted the structure with a protective clear coat; and installed flood vents throughout the interior.

In partnership with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and with support from the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, we also installed five new interpretive signs adjacent to the site on the Empire State Trail. Each panel shares part of the history of this 20th century ship building and repair facility with visitors and passing trail users.

Funding was secured to continue additional building work, soil remediation, and shoreline stabilization. OPRHP awarded the project \$484,841 and Congressman Paul D. Tonko selected Matton as one of 15 projects in the Capital Region to advance for federal support (\$505,359) in the 2023 Federal budget. We hosted 40 federal, state, and local stakeholders for a meeting and site tour in June to solidify support for the project.

MATTON SHIPYARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- John Callaghan, Committee Chair, *Erie Canalway Commission*
- Barbara Blanchard, *Erie Canalway Commission*
- Alane Ball Chinian, *NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation*
- Art Cohn, *Affiliated Scholar: Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University*
- Carlos Cortes, *NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation*
- Joe Finan, *National Park Service (retired)*
- John Joyce, *NYS Canal Corporation*
- Mark Peckham, *NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (retired)*
- Joseph Seman-Graves, *City of Cohoes*



A YEAR OF

IMPACT | 2022

*“An incredible trip across New York State—
scenic, historic, amazing!”*

— Rose B. Duhan, Canalway Challenge 360-Mile End-to-End

LAKE
CHAMPLAIN



Niagara Falls
CANADA

Lockport

Medina

Pittsford

Rochester

Fairport

LAKE ONTARIO

Oswego

Brewerton

Syracuse

Green Lakes State Park

Rome

Little Falls

Amsterdam

Schuylerville

Mohawk River

LAKE ERIE

Buffalo

Seneca Falls

Seneca Lake

Cayuga Lake

Syracuse



Albany

Cohoes Falls



Hudson River





A YEAR OF IMPACT



EXPANDING THE CANALWAY CHALLENGE

Whether exploring New York State for the first time, reconnecting to the water and trail after many years, or accepting a new challenge, 2022 was a big year for participants of the Canalway Challenge. Finishers logged **362,681 miles**, the equivalent of cycling, walking, and paddling to the moon and halfway back. They hit the trail in new regions, and connected with friends, family, and even strangers, to discover all they can do along New York's extraordinary canals. Along the way, participants made more than **25,900 visits** to communities, restaurants, museums, and other attractions and generated an estimated economic impact of nearly **\$1 million**.

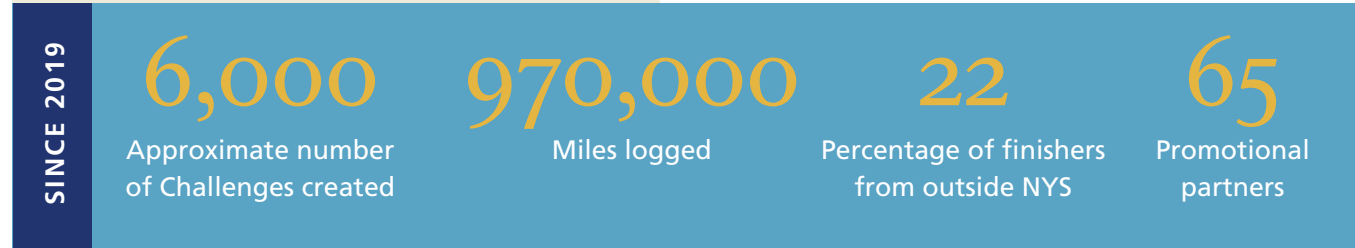
The Canalway Challenge received a **2022 New York State Tourism Excellence Award** from the New York State Tourism Industry Association (NYSTIA). This year's awards acknowledged contributions to the recovery and resurgence of tourism in New York State.



Since its start in 2019, individuals, teams, and organizations have created nearly 6,000 challenges and finishers have logged 970,000 miles. The Challenge has drawn participation from 28 U.S. states and four countries with an average of 22-percent of finishers coming from outside New York. More than 65 organizations serve as Promotional Partners to help us expand our reach.



Challengers braved the cold for the new FEBRUARY 15 Challenge.



Individuals, teams, and organizations created 1,848 Challenges in 2022.



I had the best time this year getting my miles with friends and family! We traveled all over biking, kayaking, walking, and exploring the Erie Canal. Thank you for coming up with this Challenge—I can't wait to try new locations next year!!! — Karen Fine, 360-Mile End-to-Ender



A YEAR OF IMPACT

STEWARDED THE NYS CANALWAY WATER TRAIL

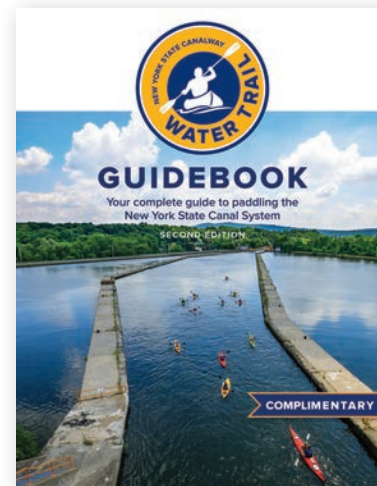
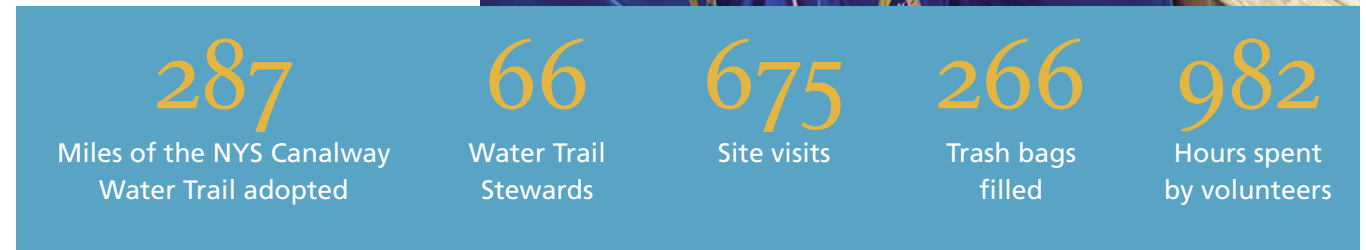
The 198th canal season brought excellent conditions for paddling and great news for the Water Trail. In June, the New York State Canal System, including the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca canals, received special recognition from the U.S. Department of the Interior as one of the nation's newly designated **National Water Trails**. This recognition solidifies the NYS Canalway Water Trail as a historic and recreational gem and brings significant recognition to our work to make the NYS Canal System a premier paddling destination.

PADDLE THE CANALS

Our third annual paddling event, designed to introduce people to the Water Trail, drew more than 100 people to the Erie Canal on August 6. The 5.5-mile guided paddle began in Baldwinsville and culminated at Onondaga Lake Park in Syracuse with a picnic lunch. Watch for news of our 2023 paddling event on the Champlain Canal in celebration of the Champlain's bicentennial.

STEWARDSHIP

We grew our group of Water Trail Stewards from 41 in 2021 to 66 in 2022, resulting in 287 miles of waterway adopted, an increase of 128 miles over last year. This dedicated group of volunteers made 675 site visits, filled 266 trash bags, and spent 982 hours cleaning and maintaining launch areas, and assisting visitors. What an impact!



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Released in October, the **NYS Canalway Water Trail Guidebook and Map Set, Second Edition** unlocks paddling adventures on the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca canals. The second edition includes more than 20 new launch sites, new outfitters and businesses, and updated information about camping and amenities.

NYS CANALWAY WATER TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Karl Beard, *NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (retired)*
- Fred Bonn, *NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation*
- Mike Cavanaugh, *American Canoe Association*
- Paul Comstock, *Erie Canalway Heritage Fund Board*
- Sasha DelPeral, *NYS Canal Corporation*
- Kris Fitzgerald, *2k Design*
- Scott Keller, *Hudson River Valley Greenway*
- Alex Kuttesch, *Montgomery County*
- Donna Larkin, *Upstate Kayak Rentals*

“These new trails will help expand community connections to green spaces where children can play, families can connect, and a love and appreciation for the outdoors can be nurtured.”

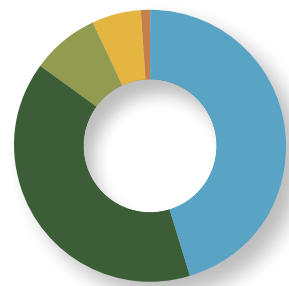
— Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland

A YEAR OF SUPPORT | 2022

DONATIONS, GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

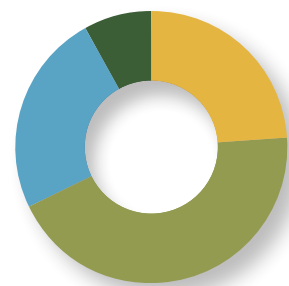
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022



SUPPORT & REVENUE	
Federal	\$840,829
State & Local	\$721,814
Contributions, Grants & Sponsorships	\$149,379
In-kind Contributions	\$104,673
Program Fees & Other	\$6,427
Total	\$1,823,122

By working with municipal and nonprofit partners, Erie Canalway leveraged \$1,442,137 in FY2022 in support of program and project activities.



EXPENSES	
Preserve & Share Our Extraordinary Heritage	\$813,043
Promote the Corridor as a World Class Destination	\$435,862
Foster Vibrant Communities Connected by the Waterway	\$437,151
Program Support, Management & Resource Development	\$168,261
Total	\$1,854,317

Thanks to the efforts of the upstate New York Congressional delegation, led by Representative Paul Tonko, Erie Canalway's authority to receive funding and its federal Commission were extended to 9/30/37. In addition, Erie Canalway's cumulative funding cap was raised from \$14 to \$16 million, providing space to receive another three years of federal funding at current funding levels.

* The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor benefits from the work of two entities—a federal Commission and the nonprofit Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc. These simplified financial statements reflect a summary of both entities. The Commission auditor is Jones & Company, PC. The Heritage Fund auditor is Cusack & Company, CPAs LLC. More detailed and audited financial statements for both entities may be requested by contacting our office. In addition, financial statements for the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund may be obtained from the NYS Office of the Attorney General's Charities Bureau, www.charitiesnys.com or (212) 416-8686.

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 Montgomery County and the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund
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Note: Donations through 12/21/2022. Our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions. Please contact us at 518-237-7000 x 207 with any corrections.



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TRANSITIONS

We lost a legend this year with the passing of Professor Thomas X. Grasso. Tom served as President of the Canal Society of New York State from 1979-2016 and as an Erie Canalway Commissioner from 2002-2019. His long legacy includes spearheading the creation of the Port Byron Old Erie Canal Heritage Park, bringing two World Canals Conferences to Rochester, heading Inland Waterways International from 2002 to 2010, leading international canal tours, and passing on his love for canals to generations.

Many thanks to Joe Finan and Brad Packard for their service to the Commission and Heritage Fund Board, respectively.

We will welcome several new Commissioners in 2023:
 Laura DiBetta, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
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 Cornelius Murphy, NY-24
 Steve Ranalli, Empire State Development
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