



Canalway Partners is seeking qualified artists/groups to create large-scale lanterns from recycled and upcycled materials for the sixth annual Towpath Trail Lantern Parade on **March 13, 2027 at 6 PM**. This spring forward stroll invites Clevelanders to craft lanterns out of recycled materials and join local artists like you to welcome spring to the banks of the Cuyahoga River.

In 2027, we are celebrating 200th anniversary of the first voyage along the Ohio & Erie Canal, which launched a journey of transformation that fueled our young nation's growth, and propelled new ideas, people and products into our state. In honor of this remarkable journey, Canalway is looking for lantern designs that are inspired by the places, people and ideas that were moved by the Canal, grew up along the Canal, or are connected to Canal history.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: Monday, January 4, 2027 at 11:59 PM EST.

About Canalway

Canalway Partners is a non-profit organization that preserves natural and cultural experiences of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area for the future and connect people to place for the prosperity of all.

About the Lantern Parade

The Towpath Trail Lantern Parade on March 13, 2027 is a celebration of light, creativity and sustainability welcoming spring to the banks of the Cuyahoga River. The public is also welcome to participate in the parade by creating a lantern from recycled materials and a battery powered light. The parade will start and end at Sokolowski's Overlook and include a 1.4 mile roundtrip along the Towpath Trail. The goal of this event is to connect participants to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail, spotlight local artists, and encourage sustainability.

Request for Artists – Towpath Trail Lantern Parade

Scope of Project:

Lantern design should follow these guidelines:

- Lantern must be made mostly of recycled materials and upcycled supplies.
- Lantern Design should be inspired by the places, people and ideas that were moved by the Canal, grew up along the Canal, or are connected to Canal history in whatever way you interpret this.
- Completed lanterns must be up to 10' feet tall and less than 6' wide. Lanterns should not be less than 3' in height or width.
- Lantern design must include a framework that allows it to be carried or worn by no more than five people. Artists are required to provide their own assistance if more than one person is required to carry the lantern.
- Lanterns are to be lit by battery or solar powered lights. No candles or flames are permitted.
- Lanterns may be kinetic but not motorized.

Artists are required to:

- Attend the event and carry their lantern in the parade on **March 13 from 5:30 PM** until the end of the event (approx. 8 PM). The event will occur rain, snow or shine. The parade will begin on the Towpath Trail at the Sokolowski's Overlook, with parking at 1429 Abbey Ave, and include a 1.4 mile walk (total). The walk includes both a downhill and uphill portion with an approximately 7% grade. Artists are encouraged to visit the site prior to the parade to confirm lantern mobility. Please let us know if you require any special accommodations to participate physically in this event.
- Engage with community members, discuss their lantern and act as judges in our community lantern contest.
- Provide a 100-word description of their lantern prior to the event for promotion by Feb. 10.
- We ask artists who have been awarded to help promote the Parade by submitting designs, photographs, or videos of their building process and to be available for television or newspaper interviews, if possible.
- Artists may be invited to participate in a media campaign that includes press releases, paid and organic social media posts, and email communications with 14,000+ subscribers.

Compensation: Artists will receive a stipend of \$1,000. Canalway can pay 30% of the award upon approval of an accepted proposal and receipt of an invoice and W9 from the artist. Canalway will pay the balance within 30 days of the completion of the event.

Submission Timeline:

- Submissions are due by 11:59 PM on Monday, January 4, 2027.
- Selected artists will be notified by Tuesday, January 12, 2027.

Submission details:

To be considered, submit all required details online:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/C4tmsfv5GL>

Questions about the submission process can be emailed to McKenzie@canalwaypartners.com

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