

CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Albany Will Host The Corning Museum of Glass *GlassBarge* During its Summer 2018 Voyage

Discover Albany is a Proud Partner to GlassBarge during the Erie Canal Bicentennial Celebration

ALBANY, NY, March 15, 2018—The Corning Museum of Glass (CMoG) and Discover Albany today announced that the 2018 *GlassBarge* tour will visit the Albany region, making several stops. As the 2018 signature event for the statewide celebration of the Erie Canal Bicentennial, *GlassBarge* will offer free public glassmaking demonstrations at each scheduled stop during its four-month tour.

GlassBarge commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Brooklyn Flint Glass Company—now known as Corning Incorporated—relocating to Corning via the New York Waterways by canal barge. In celebration of this pivotal journey, CMoG is recreating the voyage with *GlassBarge*—a 30' x 80' canal barge equipped with CMoG's patented all-electric glassmaking equipment. In addition to sharing the story of glassmaking in Corning, the *GlassBarge* tour emphasizes the continued role of New York's waterways in shaping the state's industry, culture, and community.

GlassBarge begins its tour in Brooklyn on May 17 and will travel north on the Hudson River, then westward along the Erie Canal from Albany to Buffalo before making its way to the Finger Lakes. A ceremonial last leg of the trip will take place by land, concluding in Corning with a community-wide celebration on September 22.

"The Corning GlassBarge is an innovative project that combines history, technology, and artistry in a fun and engaging way," says Michele Vennard, President and CEO of Discover Albany.

"We look forward to welcoming the barge to Albany, as we continue to celebrate the Erie Canal Bicentennial, and the rich contribution this waterway made to America."

"We are thrilled to partner with Discover Albany to bring to life the historic waterway in their community," said Rob Cassetti, senior director, creative strategy and audience engagement at CMoG. "The Corning Museum of Glass has taken mobile glassmaking around the world, and we can't wait to share the beauty of this endlessly versatile material with our closest neighbors across New York State."

A flotilla of historic ships will accompany *GlassBarge*, including: the *Lois McClure*, a replica of an 1862 canal barge, and the *C.L. Churchill*, a 1964 tugboat, both part of the permanent collection of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. The museum will share the story of 19th-century canal life and how materials were shipped on New York's waterways. On the Erie Canal, *GlassBarge* will be moved by an historic tug from the fleet of the South Street Seaport Museum, connecting upstate and downstate by water.

Ticketing and Additional Information

GlassBarge will provide daily demonstrations from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. from June 21-24 in the Albany region. All demos are approximately 30 minutes long, and reservations are strongly encouraged through free timed tickets that will be available at www.cmog.org/GlassBarge. Reservations will open 4-6 weeks prior to each stop. Demos can also be viewed from shore without a reservation.

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will invite people aboard the *Lois McClure* to learn about what life was like on board a canal barge in the 19th century. Tours are first come, first served and do not require registration.

The *GlassBarge* journey will also be celebrated back in Corning with a re-installation of the Crystal City Gallery, which will share the story of how Corning became one of the premier centers for glass cutting in the United States.

GlassBarge is enabled through the generous support of grants from I LOVE NEW YORK, Empire State Development's Division of Tourism; the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA); and the New York State Canal Corporation through Governor Andrew Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council initiative.

GlassBarge Weekend Schedule

May 17-28: Brooklyn Bridge Park

June 1-3: Yonkers

June 8-10: Poughkeepsie

June 15-17: Kingston

June 21-24: Albany/Troy/Waterford

June 30-July 1: Little Falls

July 7-8: Sylvan Beach

July 13-15: Baldwinsville

July 20-22: Fairport

July 28-29: Lockport

August 3-5: Buffalo

August 11-12: Medina

August 17-19: Brockport

August 24-26: Pittsford

September 1-3: Seneca Falls

September 14-16: Watkins Glen

September 22: Corning

ABOUT THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS

The Corning Museum of Glass is the foremost authority on the art, history, science, and design of glass. It is home to the world's most important collection of glass, including the finest examples of glassmaking spanning 3,500 years. Live glassblowing demonstrations (offered at the Museum, on the road, and on the water) bring the material to life. Daily Make Your Own Glass experiences at the Museum enable visitors to create work in a state-of-the-art glassmaking studio. The campus in Corning includes a year-round glassmaking school—The Studio—and the Rakow Research Library, with the world's preeminent collection of materials on the art and history of glass. Located in the heart of the Finger Lakes Wine Country of New York State, the Museum is open daily, year-round. Children and teens, 17 and under, receive free admission.

ABOUT Discover Albany

The Albany County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc. was established in 1976 to promote the civic and commercial progress of the community through increased development of conventions and tourism. Today, the organization is known as Discover Albany. Discover Albany currently represents more than 300 member businesses and assists each year in hundreds of regional meetings. Discover Albany also operates the Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center, Henry Hudson Planetarium, and the Albany International Airport Information Center. The Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau Foundation was established in 1993 to provide educational opportunities and work with other organizations to secure grants and funding to advance regional travel and tourism projects. For more information, call 518-434-1217 or 800-258-3582 or visit www.albany.org.

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