

NEWS

From the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

D&L National Heritage Corridor Receives Smithsonian Affiliate Status

EASTON (June 3) – The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L) is America’s first National Heritage Area to be accepted into the Smithsonian Affiliate network. Following the merger of the D&L and the National Canal Museum in April 2017, Smithsonian Affiliations acknowledged the move by designating the D&L’s entire five county region (Bucks, Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon and Luzerne counties). This development allows the D&L to combine the nationally significant legacy of its historic transportation story with the breadth and scope of the Smithsonian at the National Canal Museum.

The D&L National Heritage Corridor preserves the historic pathway that carried anthracite and iron from Wilkes-Barre to Philadelphia. Today, the Corridor and 165-mile D&L Trail are a vital connection to nature, recreation, our nation’s industrial heritage, and more than \$250 million in annual economic impact.

“We are delighted to continue our Affiliate partnership in northeast Pennsylvania with the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor,” said Harold A. Closter, director of Smithsonian Affiliations. “Since 2002, the Smithsonian has collaborated with one of the corridor’s distinctive assets, the National Canal Museum. With this merger of two great organizations, the Smithsonian looks forward to expanding the realms of potential collaboration with the Corridor to include science as well as history.

During her comments, D&L Executive Director Elissa Garofalo read from a message she received from Harold A. Closter, Director of Smithsonian Affiliations. “The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor will be the first of its kind in the Smithsonian Affiliate network, a group of over 200 educational and cultural organizations that share the Smithsonian’s mission and commitment to the increase and diffusion of knowledge,” said Closter. Like the D&L Corridor, the Smithsonian cares deeply about the nation’s natural, cultural and historic resources and the powerful stories they tell. We too are dedicated to collaborating with communities to make science and history - encapsulated in trails, towns, people and artifacts - more meaningful and relevant to our everyday lives and inspirational to our future.”

Smithsonian’s forward-thinking designation firmly blends the D&L’s commitment to celebrating the region’s industrial heritage with the Museum’s educational programming and research opportunities throughout the five county Corridor.

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that preserves historic pathway that carried coal and iron from Wilkes-Barre to Philadelphia. Today, the D&L Trail connects people to nature, culture, communities, recreation and our industrial heritage. ###