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We gratefully acknowledge the contributions and years of service of departing Board Members Michael Drabenstott, Bill Getchell, and Julia Maserjian, who each helped shape the current

D&L in unique and special ways.

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(As of June 2021)

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(Through May 2021)

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(Through June 2021)

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#### **MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP**

To Our Community,

The past two years have tested our abilities to adapt and change individually, as an organization and as a community. We faced a pandemic, a change in organizational leadership, plus significant floods in 2020 and 2021. We also welcomed many new faces on our team while wishing warm farewells to those who moved on to other journeys in their lives.

# These changes that challenge us as an organization also force us to balance the past and present, knowing that our current decisions shape the future.

Despite, and sometimes because of all the changes that have occurred, we have much to report about our ongoing projects and new initiatives.

In the following pages, you will learn of our work inventorying collections, telling diverse stories, promoting local business, supporting conservation projects, and connecting trail gaps – all in partnership to inspire connections.



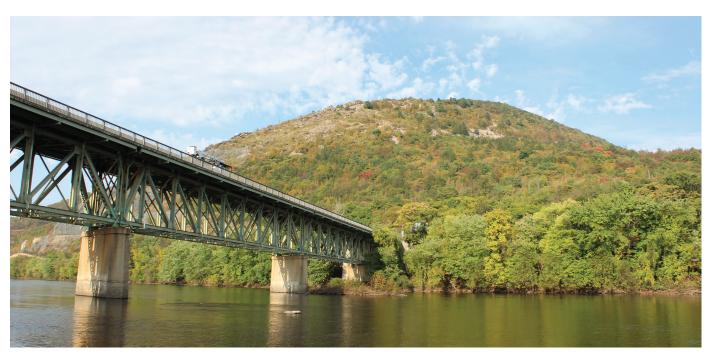
It seems appropriate here to quote the U.S. president that signed the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (then a Federal Commission) into law in 1988. President Ronald Reagan said, "We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." D&L looks forward to helping, connecting, and inspiring as many "someones" as possible in the coming years.

We are motivated by the passion and new ideas of our team and partners as we approach our 35th year and aim to do the best we can to preserve, interpret, and celebrate the rich heritage of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

Claire Wildermuth Sadler

**Claire Wildermuth Sadler** *Executive Director* 

Michael Drabenstott



#### **BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION**

When Elissa Garofalo was hired by the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, it was a federal commission that had spent 12 years planning. But in 2000, the D&L was charged with putting those plans into action and sought to find a true doer to make it happen.

As a small business owner and manager of one of America's first Main Street programs, Elissa was just the person. She held a variety of positions within the organization before serving as executive director for nine years.

On June 10, 2021, Elissa, who went on medical leave in 2020, retired after two decades with D&L. In September, we celebrated Elissa's health and retirement at the top of Blue Mountain Resort with partners and coworkers sharing memories.

During her tenure, Elissa led the organization through a period of extraordinary growth and change, including a merger with the National Canal Museum and the completion of the Mansion House Bridge in Jim Thorpe. It was under her bold leadership, and that of her predecessor Allen Sachse, that the organization took the calculated risk to diversify its funding as a non-profit.

Michael Drabenstott, 2021 D&L Board Chair, said, "We are grateful and thankful for Elissa's leadership. Elissa has been the face and the force behind so many of the D&L's accomplishments over her 20 years with us. She has a true, unbridled passion for the outdoors and our region's industrial history."

In an interview while still executive director, Elissa said that the best part of her job was seeing people realize connections to the D&L mission. "Today we're blessed with major partners and an amazing board of directors that is chock full with such champions."

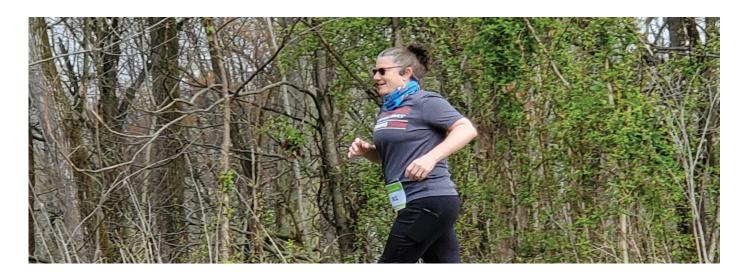


# **HEALTH & WELLNESS** Hitting the Trails for Health

by Gianna Caruso

Cindy lives close to the D&L Trail.

She first walked on it roughly fifteen years ago while geocaching, an activity where participants hunt for hidden objects through GPS coordinates posted online. But Cindy's relationship with the D&L Trail expanded as she began to include it into her health and fitness routine.



"I think it is nice, these programs; they are a community thing and fun to do. They encourage people to get outside and be active."





Cindy learned of the D&L Heritage Half Marathon from her running group at the Keystone Running Store, and has participated in the event twice. "The course runs downhill for the most part, which is appealing," said Cindy. "Of course, the stretches along the Lehigh River and the gorgeous foliage that falls as you run it help, too."

Cindy is also a longtime participant of the D&L's program in partnership with St. Luke's University Health Network, Get Your Tail on the Trail, hearing about it from Lehigh Valley Road Runners, a running club. She has participated in numerous challenges and has earned some notable badges (see left).

Bragging rights are a fun part of participating, comparing prizes and record times, but these programs are more than just that.

Cindy is open about how much she loves the D&L Trail, and is glad to see the gradual improvements made to it each year. She is still considering running the Heritage Half in 2022, but will definitely be participating in Get Your Tail on the Trail again.

For the D&L, hearing from our trail users is one of our most important appreciated sources feedback. As the years pass, we hope the D&L Trail remains a place that inspires both longtime users and new faces in their health and wellness journeys to connect with nature.

# Honoring Stories Often Untold

by Daphne Mayer

As operating the National Canal Museum proved to be challenging during the pandemic, we invested in new, unique ways to inspire people to learn about our region's industrial heritage.

After more than a year's development, the D&L launched the D&L Discoverer mobile app in Spring 2021. The D&L Discoverer mobile app helps users discover the cultural and natural heritage of the D&L Corridor while they're out on the trail or at home, offering several casual and in-depth tours.

The D&L was also awarded two substantial grants by the federal government, laying the foundation for us to preserve and share the Corridor's nationally significant transportation and industrial history over the coming years.

With the support of a Museums for America grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services, we began a three-year inventory project of the National Canal Museum's offsite collections. We're excited to reveal pieces of the past that have been hidden away for decades.

A grant from National Endowment for the Humanities has enabled us to research the untold stories of women and African-Americans in the Corridor. The results of this project have supported the museum's 2022 special exhibition, Beyond Rosie and Rivets: Industrial Women of the D&L Corridor, and will continue help us incorporate more diverse narratives in our programming.

Through these efforts, we are working towards inspiring an appreciation of history in new audiences while making our collections and programs accessible to all.

During 2021, the app was downloaded by 1,736 users who used the app in 5,827 separate sessions.



# **Bringing History to Life**



by Whitney Davison

Despite the challenges we faced during 2021, the D&L Museum and Education department was still able to find new and exciting ways to educate the Corridor's children.

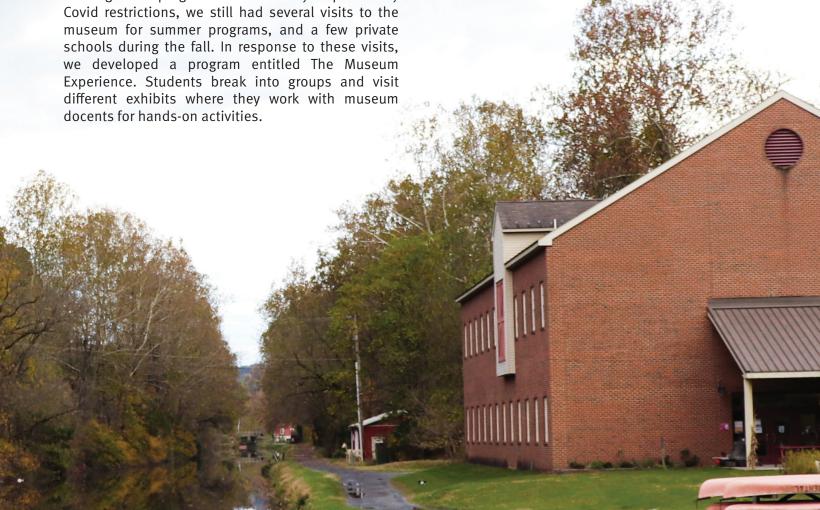
We ran a full year of programming through our new Kids on the Canal program, welcoming families into the museum with monthly child friendly activities that are ever-changing.

We also began a relationship with the local Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, offering hikes along the towpath. During one trip, close to 100 girls visited the National Canal Museum to learn about life along the canal.

Although our programs were heavily impacted by

Our virtual offerings have increased as well; we now offer 10 distinct virtual programs. This increases opportunities for schools to interact with us, as it removes distance barriers and proves to be much more cost-effective to schedule than in-person field trips. We have been able to maintain important relationships because of our virtual programs, and even as we return to in-person programming, we hope to continue utilizing them.

Although this year was challenging, we were able to educate hundreds of children in the Corridor and develop programs that will continue to inspire our community's children well into the future.





#### by Brit Kondravy

The vision of Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape (LVG) continues to become a reality as local municipalities, non-profits, conservation districts, and even educational institutions implement projects successfully linking Lehigh Valley communities to greenways, trails, and outdoor experiences. The projects highlighted below were made possible, in part, through funding provided by the Lehigh Valley Greenways Mini Grants Program, which is supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



Volunteers in the creek at the Gertrude Fox Conservation Area on Monday, Nov. 15.

# Riparian Buffer Work at Gertrude Fox Conservation Area and Monocacy Way, Bethlehem

In November 2021, the Monocacy Creek Watershed Association organized volunteers and planted 200 native shrub live stakes in an eroded stretch of stream bank at Monocacy Way, as well as an additional 200 live stakes in the stream bank at the Gertrude Fox Conservation Area.

# Nature Journals Added to Journaling Benches, Easton Parks

Led by Nurture Nature Center, journaling kits are developed to help educators bring learners outside to "observe, connect, and reflect on all the life around them." The journals can be found in various parks throughout Easton.

# Lehigh Carbon Community College Arboretum, Schnecksville

In December 2021, LCCC (Lehigh Carbon Community College) planted 24 trees, including native and climate-change resistant species. Biology Professor Holly Morris, one of the lead team members working with LCCC's Honors students on the project says, "The Honors Scholars are excited about their contribution to improving our environment. Later in the spring, 27 Honors students will be involved with making identification videos for the newly planted trees." The arboretum is a continuation of the college's vision to create micro-ecosystem on campus, with a goal of using such spaces for additional education and recreation opportunities.

# In total, fourteen projects were awarded an LVG Mini Grant in May 2021, representing an investment of \$75,000 in our community's economy, public health, green infrastructure, and natural resources.

We look forward to continually inspiring collaborative, strategic approaches to regional conservation and recreation opportunities within the Lehigh Valley for years to come.

# **Building Community & Sharing Experiences**



by Imogen Wirth-Granlund

# Throughout 2021, many chose regional road trips over flights to vacation destinations due to impacts from the pandemic; hotels and inns along the D&L Trail booked rapidly.

Responding to the increased need for lodgings, the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor presented two virtual workshops with Hello Social Co. entitled "Listing & Leveraging Short-Term Rentals" highlighting various opportunities for property owners.

In Carbon County, two new businesses emerged—Pocono Glamp and Gypsies Suite Retreat. Kara Scott, proprietor of Gypsies Suite Retreat, welcomed clientele from up and down the Eastern Seaboard to her historic home. Guests who stay at Kara's certified D&L Trail Friendly Business can grab a D&L Trail map, bathe with handmade soap from the nearby farmers market, and purchase framed photographs from a local artist.

Kara also serves as President of Bowmanstown Area Residents Connected (BARC), an organization involved with our D&L Trail Towns program. BARC leads a variety of community events, including weekly Monday Mile walks, an Earth Day yard sale, family movie nights, and its signature fundraiser—the BARC Community Dog Show. For the first time, BARC invited vendors to sell their wares directly to the public at the event, a boon to new businesses like Bowmanstown's Cloud Candles & More owned by teen entrepreneur Lauryn Harris.

Visitors and residents can walk under the railroad tracks by the Bowmanstown Diner and see a mural depicting the flora and fauna of our watershed. BARC, DLNHC, Lehigh Gap Nature Center, and Promiseland Murals collaborated to transform the formerly graffiti-covered tunnel which connects Bowmanstown to the D&L Trail. Designed and created with local residents, this mural encapsulates how Trail Towns like Bowmanstown cultivate homegrown talent and welcome newcomers to explore the natural beauty of our corridor.

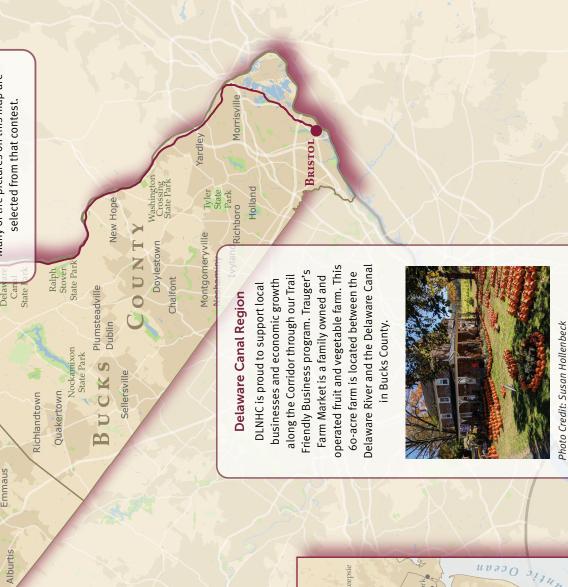


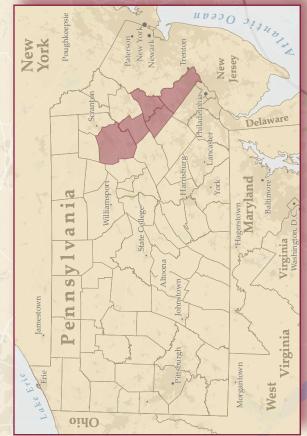
Teen entrepreneur Lauryn Harris promoted her business Cloud Candles & More at the Bowmanstown Community Dog Show.



Airbnb Superhost and BARC President Kara Scott paints a salamander on parachute cloth for the tunnel mural during the Community Paint Day at Trinity Lutheran Church.











Lehigh Valley Planning Commission to help develop 3.5-miles of the 14-mile

Lehigh Valley Loop

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and the National Canal Museum lost one of its founding fathers, John P. Miller, on September 17, 2021.



# Honoring a Life Well-Lived

**JOHN P. MILLER 1935-2021** 

John was instrumental in creating the first museum, The Canal Museum at the Forks of Delaware, on Delaware Drive in 1970. He was a charter member, the second president, and long-time treasurer of the Pennsylvania Canal Society (PCS), the collections of which are the core of the NCM's archives.

John's fascination with canals began when he was 6 and his father took him to watch coal being unloaded from canal boats. It further increased when Harry Rinker, the first president of PCS and first director of the Canal Museum, invited John and his wife Jacquie to PCS's first meeting in 1966. For the next thirty years, John juggled his work as an accountant with his passion for canals.

That passion led to adventures. As Hurricane Agnes threatened to flood the Museum in 1972, he and Rinker frantically moved the exhibits to the second floor of the building, and he then made the perilous journey to guard Lock 8 aboard the leaking A. Emerson, which became the NCM's first canal boat, the Josiah White. The early mule teams that pulled the canal boat even spent their winters on the Millers' farm.

For the 150th anniversary of the Lehigh Navigation in 1979, John wrote the Canal Museum's first publication, The Lehigh Canal: A Thumb Nail History. Until his last years, John sat on the boards of PCS, the National Canal Museum, and the D&L National Heritage Corridor.

Two months before he died, John sat for an oral history video with D&L historian, Martha Capwell-Fox. Though he knew that his long battle with cancer was coming to a close, he was his usual genial self. John's long life was well-lived, as he spent it doing as much good as he could for everyone.

by Martha Capwell Fox

# DONORS & MEMBERS A Message to Our Supporters

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor could not have accomplished all that it has without the overwhelming generosity of the individuals who share their time and resources with us.

As a private, not-for-profit organization, we rely on support from members and donors who care about our mission of connecting people to nature and the environment, health and wellness, industrial heritage, and economic development.

While much has changed since we formed in 1988, one thing is constant: It is because of supporters like you that we are able to connect the D&L Trail and celebrate our industrial heritage at the National Canal Museum. Thank you to each and every member of our community for making the Corridor so special. We are incredibly grateful for your generous support.

This list of donors and members celebrates those who made gifts, pledges, and pledge payments from Jan. 1 2021 to Dec. 31 2021. If you notice an issue with your name, or do not see your name, please let us know. You can contact Kathleen Ward, Director of Advancement and Marketing, at advance@delawareandlehigh.org with any questions or concerns.

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M = D&L Member

\* = denotes deceased individual

Ianet Stoakes M

Michael Stohr

Kimberly Stone

Henry A. Stoess, Irreovacable

Charitable Trustor Henry A. Stoess, deceased

## **Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Grant Programs**



The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor disperses funding to inspire collaborative, strategic approaches that further efforts to make the D&L Trail and adjoining trail networks safe, accessible, and enjoyable for all, while protecting and promoting the natural resources of the Corridor.

### **Total Amount: \$105,500.00**

#### Bethlehem Township \$7,288 provided (Trail Maintenance Grant)

Stabilize a box culvert that serves as a trail crossing, using compaction grouting.

# Coalition for Appropriate Transportation \$2,000 awarded (LVG Grant)

Trailside Family Bike Safety Checks Provide outreach to families & individuals through bike mechanical safety checks, demonstrations, & educational banners.

#### \$6,000 awarded (LVG Grant)

Enjoy the Ride LV!

Organizing & leading weekly bike rides, including: providing bike mechanical safety checks; educating about trail etiquette/traffic skills; training new & prospective leaders.

#### Lehighton Borough

#### \$2,015 provided (Trail Maintenance Grant)

Trailhead & trail surface repairs to fill in ruts, potholes, & other damage.

# Lehigh Canal and Recreation Commission \$7,617 provided (Trail Maintenance Grant)

Remove dead trees, resurface pot-holes & ruts on the trail, & purchase shed to store maintenance equipment.

#### Lehigh Carbon Community College \$10,000 awarded (LVG Grant)

Arboretum - Phase 1

Purchase, plant, maintain, and label 24 trees on LCCC's main campus.

#### **Lehigh County**

# \$5,000 provided (Trail Maintenance Grant)

Resurfacing potholes & ruts along the trail and installing a new trailhead sign.

# Lehigh County Conservation District \$3,700 awarded (LVG Grant)

Self-Guided Educational Trail in Grange Park

Creation of a self-guided trail with design & installation of 11 educational signs.

#### Lower Mount Bethel Township \$10,000 awarded (LVG Grant)

LMBT Township Official Map Development & adoption of an Official Map for Lower Mount Bethel Township (LMBT).

#### Lower Saucon Township \$5,000 awarded (LVG Grant)

Saucon Rail Trail Rehabilitation Site work & equipment rental to resurface 8,000ft of existing trail for safety.

# Monocacy Creek Watershed Association \$5,400 awarded (LVG Grant)

Riparian Buffer Work at Gertrude Fox Conservation Area & Monocacy Way Native plant stock & seeds, deer protection, educational signage, & live stake planting workshops.

#### North Catasauqua Borough \$3,900 awarded (LVG Grant)

Street Trees and Pollinator Garden Design & planting of three pollinator garden plots & nearby shade trees, pluss maintenance training for borough, staff, & educational programs for residents.

#### Nurture Nature Center \$2,000 awarded (LVG Grant)

Nature Journaling

Development, creation, & dissemination of nature journaling kits to local Lehigh Valley partners.

#### South Whitehall Township \$1,500 awarded (LVG Grant)

Jordan Creek Greenway Improvements The purchase & installation of two publication racks, two informational message boards, & landscaping around them.

#### RUNegades, Inc.

#### \$2,000 provided (Trail Event Funding)

Jim Thorpe Running Festival Supports multiple races along the D&L Trail to raise money for cancer & autism.

#### \$2,000 provided (Trail Event Funding)

Susquehanna Warrior Trail Half and Quarter Marathon

#### St. Luke's Hospice

#### \$1,500 awarded (Trail Event Funding)

10th Annual Charity Bike Ride

#### Valley Mountain Bikers \$5,900 awarded (LVG Grant)

Signs at Five Lehigh Valley Trail Systems
The purchase & installation of
approximately 200 trail signs across five
trail systems.

# Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley \$3,200 awarded (LVG Grant)

Little Lehigh Watershed Stewards The creation of a custom watershed map, forested riparian buffer, & a live-stake nursery.

#### Weissport

#### \$3,080 provided (Trail Maintenance Grant)

Repainting a bike lane onshare the raod portion of D&L Trail on Bridge St.

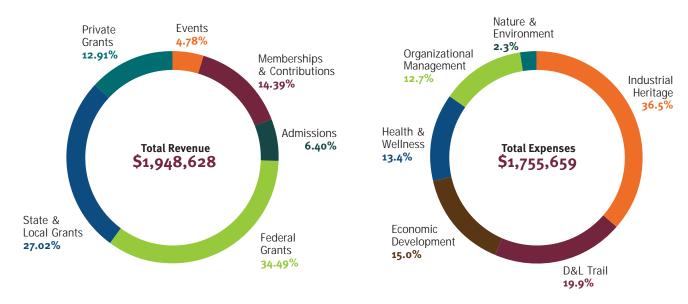
#### Wind Gap Borough

#### \$9,600 awarded (LVG Grant)

Rain Gardens in Wind Gap Park Purchasing materials & services involved in rain garden installation.

#### \$6,800 awarded (LVG Grant)

Wind Gap Park Trail Trail Signage Trail blades; five interpretive signs; two signs acknowledging sources of funding.



<sup>\*</sup>Expenses above do not include depreciation of fixed assets.

### **Connect Today to Support the DLNHC**

#### Volunteer in the National Canal Museum or on the D&L Trail

Volunteers are the strength of the DLNHC. Doing everything from trail maintenance to customer service in the museum, volunteers help us define our community-based mission and are an essential part of the DLNHC's accomplishments.

#### **Become A DLNHC Member**

Membership provides a foundation of support for all D&L programs and projects. We rely on that support now more than ever to keep connecting you to the things you care about—nature, vibrant communities, health, and our amazing history.

#### Partner as a Corporation

The DLNHC offers a variety of partnership opportunities that allow corporations to underwrite many of our programs including special exhibits, canal boat dinner cruises, and our Half Marathon. In exchange, corporations are provided the opportunity to showcase their business to the many people who attend our programs and events.

#### **Donate to the DLNHC Annual Fund**

By making a donation to the DLNHC, you can help ensure that our programs continue to serve the community. Your participation directly supports the work we do connecting the D&L Trail, preserving the nationally significant story of the transportation of anthracite coal, and maintaining the National Canal Museum and Josiah White II Canal Boat, where that story comes to life. Donations can be made in memory or honor of a loved one.



Learn more by visiting delawareandlehigh.org or using the QR code.



#### OUR MISSION

The Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor preserves, interprets and leverages the nationally significant history of the over 165-mile transportation route between Wilkes-Barre and Bristol, Pennsylvania. By building and maintaining public and private partnerships, we create four vital connections.

We connect people to the enduring industrial heritage of the Corridor through education and preservation of the historic historic sites and cultural resources.

We connect people to health and wellness through outdoor recreation by reclaiming transportation route Corridor. as the D&L Trail.

We connect towns and cities to opportunities for **economic development** along education. the D&L Trail and

We connect people to nature and the environment through conservation and

The Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc. is committed to advancing intentional strategies to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of our organization. We are dedicated to eliminating historic barriers as a result of an individual's race, gender, age, sexual orientation and/or gender identity, and level of physical ability.







Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc. 2750 Hugh Moore Park Road, Easton, PA 610.923.3548 • www.delawareandlehigh.org

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# Honoring Yesterday, Inspiring Tomorrow

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

