



2024

“DO 6” Awards

The PA Route 6 Alliance recognizes individuals, groups, projects and communities that exemplify and advance the Alliance’s mission of protecting, preserving and promoting the scenic, cultural, historic and recreational resources across the 11-county corridor of PA Route 6.



Artisan of the Year Award

Presented to an artist or artisan group that exemplifies the goals of the PA Route 6 Artisan Trail program showing regional thinking and cooperation while promoting the arts along the corridor.

POP’S CULTURE SHOPPE, Tioga County

Pop’s Culture Shoppe provides a space for community members of all ages to enjoy games both old and new. Anja and Julian Stam’s hospitality keeps guests coming back. They are active community members and host the annual Wellsboro Comic Con. Anja and Julian started the Wellsboro Comic Con in 2022 as a way to thank the community for supporting their store, Pop’s Culture Shoppe, through 10 years of business. The Comic Con has since drawn thousands of attendees to celebrate “Classic Comic Creativity Wrapped in Retro Rural Charm.” Though organized and sponsored by Pop’s, the Wellsboro Comic Con takes place across multiple indoor and outdoor venues, demonstrating a commitment to enhancing the cultural and economic prosperity of the town by drawing visitors to cultural institutions such as the Deane Center for the Performing Arts, the Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center, and the Arcadia Theatre, as well as local retailers, restaurants, and hotels. In 2024, the Wellsboro Comic Con eliminated ticket sales, becoming a completely free festival focused on a mission to bring top-tier comic creators to Wellsboro without limiting who has access to meet and learn from these artists. Guest creators have visited from New York, California, and Ontario, and presented on topics including storyboarding, publishing, and cartoon-making. Using “Classic Comic Creativity Wrapped in Retro Rural Charm,” the Wellsboro Comic Con enhances the natural, cultural, scenic, recreational, and historical resources that Wellsboro and the surrounding area have to offer.



Heritage Partnership Award

Presented to a group, person or organization that has demonstrated excellence in historic preservation, cultural preservation, interpretation, and/or education through cross-corridor thinking and inter agency cooperation.

FORT LEBOEUF HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Erie County

The Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society’s campus, located in Waterford, includes four buildings and two sites. Their interpretive activities and collections focus on the area’s Native American history, French and Indian War era history, and heritage as a small rural community in south central Erie County. The society serves as the northern terminus of Washington’s Trail, which follows young George Washington’s journey through western PA during the winter of 1753-1754. The trail spans the MD/PA border to Waterford, and it can be explored using the Washington’s Trail markers, trail brochures, tours, and special events. The society is an organizational partner of Washington’s Trail, which is both an interpretive program and tourism promotion tool. Development of their 18th Century Teaching Garden began in 2019 and expanded the interpretation and living history demonstrations offered through the Fort LeBoeuf Museum, such as the Colonial era blacksmith shop and creekside canoe carving. It includes 11 raised beds for herbs, vegetables, and flowers, an area for fruit trees, a potting shed, compost area, and a chair makers shop. The demonstration garden has been well-received by visitors, becoming a must-see space within the society’s campus. The society also gave birth to Waterford Heritage Days, the community’s largest annual celebration that hit 50 years in 2023.



Heritage Leadership Award

Presented to a person(s), business or organization for meaningful contributions and/or through partnerships, by enriching our communities through landscape initiatives or historic preservation.

JANE VARCOE, Wayne County

Jane Varcoe embodies the heritage work PA Route 6 Alliance. She has served over a decade on the PA Route 6 Alliance Board and is currently an Honorary Director. Jane has been on Waymart Borough Council for 50+ years and a leading force in obtaining grant funding for various historical preservation initiatives and many quality of life efforts. One of Jane's great accomplishments was spearheading the Gravity Railroad Station including improvements such as a platform which made the Open Air Gravity Rail Car accessible to visitors. Jane is dedicated and involved with the Waymart Area Historical Society and the D&H Gravity Railroad Depot. Her home is historic as well and is part of the aforementioned D&H Gravity Railroad.



Heritage Tourism Award

Presented to a business or project that furthers economic and tourism development while respecting the heritage and cultural resources of the PA Route 6 Corridor.

MILFORD HOSPITALITY GROUP, Pike County

Milford Hospitality Group has undertaken a huge amount of historical preservation efforts with Forest Hall, the Milford Theater, Hotel Fauchere, Tom Quick, Cliff Park among other properties. The Rosado family has worked hard to maintain historic Forest Hall as an event space, art gallery and retail shops on the first level. Nearby, the historic Hotel Fauchere has continued to operate with guests' ability to stay on site, dine at the Delmonico Room or Bar Louis, and visit the nearby restored Milford Theater which has programming year round for arts and culture. MHG has taken on Apple Valley operating the restaurant and the village of shops as well. The Rosado family has made it a priority to work with local organizations including Grey Towers to promote the heritage of the community and preserve it for visitors well into the future. Milford Hospitality Group restores their city's landmark properties, encourages business-to-business growth, and is reestablishing Milford as a cultural destination, while protecting its historic culture and values.



Heritage Community of the Year Award

Presented to the designated Heritage Community, who are embracing their Heritage Tourism Work Plans and implementing worthwhile projects and showing impacts and results.

KANE, McKean County

Nestled in McKean County, Kane is a "Star in the Forest" community that has seamlessly blended its historic charm with a forward-thinking vision. From the preservation of its iconic landmarks and historic buildings to the celebration of its unique traditions and stories, Kane has worked tirelessly to maintain and share the cultural fabric that makes it so special. Kane has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to honoring its past while fostering a vibrant and inclusive community spirit. Through collaborative efforts, including the revitalization of the historic downtown district, the promotion of local arts and crafts, and the hosting of educational programs including active transportation planning and updating their Heritage Community WorkPlan. The community has been awarded a competitive PA Council on the Arts Creative Communities Initiative to lead local artists and residents for creative place making projects and activities including public art, community festivals, and creative small businesses. They received the 2024 Trailblazing Community of the Year Award from Pennsylvania Environmental Council. Kane has ensured that its history and heritage is not only preserved but also actively lived and appreciated by both residents and visitors.



Lifetime Achievement Award

Presented to a person or agency who exemplifies outstanding leadership and advances our mission through heritage development.

JASON KRISE, Bradford County

Jason Krise's remarkable service and enduring contributions to the PA Route 6 Alliance over the last 15 years of has played an instrumental role in shaping the vision and continued success of the Alliance. Jason's leadership on the PA Route 6 Executive Committee extends beyond strategic planning and governance; he has been a passionate advocate for the region, working to preserve its unique assets and ensure its future prosperity. Jason has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to preserving the cultural, historical, and economic vitality of the communities along Route 6. His efforts have left an indelible mark on the PA Route 6 community, making him a true steward of this iconic corridor. This award honors Jason's lifetime of service and dedication, celebrating his legacy as a leader, advocate, and champion of Route 6 and beyond. His leadership has not only preserved the past but also paved the way for a vibrant future.