

May 2021



on the Move

Local maritime news, events and history from the Chicago Maritime Museum

Museum Reopen will Feature New Interactive Lobby



As part of the CMM redesign, key characters from Chicago's maritime history come to life in the form of recorded narrated greetings to CMM patrons as they enter the lobby of the museum.

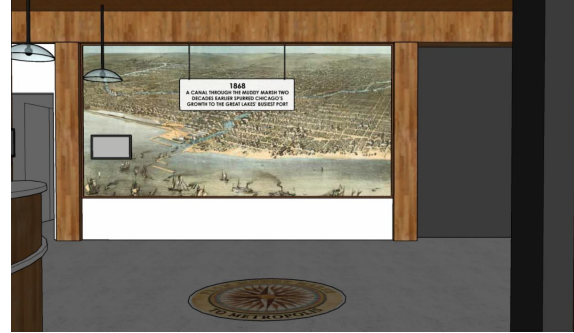
The new lobby design, proposed by Lafferty Van Heest & Associates, will offer visitors the opportunity to explore Chicago's history through imagery, film, and storytelling. Entitled From Muddy Marsh to Metropolis, Louis Jolliet, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, Gurdon Hubbard, and Daniel Burham will greet visitors for a virtual walkthrough of Chicago's maritime history.

French fur trader Jolliet tells the story of meeting natives who reported an easier route from the Mississippi River to Lake Michigan with a short portage through a marsh called Shikaakwa (Chicago). Du Sable, whom some believed to be a former Haitian slave, tells how he established the first settlement in Chicago. Hubbard, Chicago's first mayor, speaks to the burden of wading through the marsh of the

Chicago portage to bring goods between the Mississippi and Lake Michigan. And architect Burnham enlightens visitors on his vision for Chicago where the city's magnificent lakefront would exist for all Chicagoans.

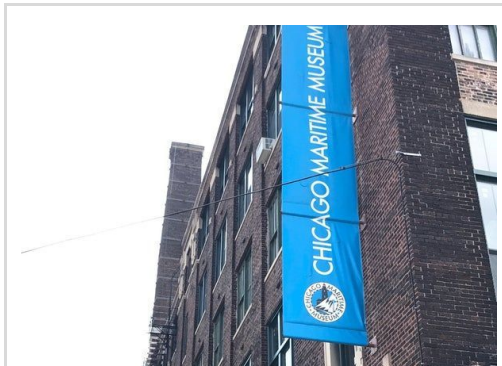
The lobby redesign represents the first stage of a museum update that will feature new exhibits focused on topics such as waterway stewardship, diversity in sailing, and underwater exploration. The Covid-19 pandemic and May 2020 flood, caused the museum to close in the spring of 2020. Museum board members, staff, and volunteers used this opportunity to reconsider presentation and use of space to offer a more engaging exploration of maritime history for CMM patrons.

After restoration to pre-storm conditions, the museum looks forward to a soft opening in June and a grand opening in late summer to introduce the redesigned lobby. A more comprehensive redesign, including new exhibits, is planned for 2022.



CMM Featured on WTTW and the Chicago Sun-Times

Redesigned Maritime Museum
Preps to Reopen This Summer



WTTW Chicago Tonight speaks with curator Dylan Hoffman on the museum's summer reopening as part of their In Your Neighborhood series. [Watch the interview segment here.](#)

New Deal-era Mural
Finds New Life at CMM



Commissioned in 1936, the *History of Ships* mural had a tumultuous past before finding a new home at the CMM. [Click here to read more.](#)

the Curator's Corner by Dylan Hoffmann

Board Member Captain Dave Truitt Donates
Charlotte Ann Model to CMM



The model ship Charlotte Ann, donated by CMM board member Captain Dave Truitt, was accessioned into the museum's collection this month.

The restored 87-foot Charlotte Ann built in 1888, treated tourists to luxurious days on Lake Michigan. The ship's original function was to dredge oysters out of Delaware Bay and later, during Prohibition, she served as a midnight rum runner.

The boat's working life almost ended when it was discovered partially submerged and burned to the waterline in the Hudson River by an

entrepreneur, John Woodside, who rebuilt the craft for use as a charter vessel in the Caribbean in 1971.

Windward Yacht Charters brought her to Chicago in 1984, where she sailed as a charter ship for several years. Captain Truitt purchased the boat shortly after, rebuilt her, and continued to entertain people on evening cruises along the lakefront.

The museum's model shipbuilder, Glenn Braun, is fine-tuning the Charlotte Ann model for a future exhibit.

Exploration Awaits Along Historic I&M Canal



Designated America's first National Heritage Area in 1984, the I&M Canal is enjoying a renaissance as a recreation area. [Click here to read more.](#)

Op-Ed: The Pros and Cons of Turning Chicago's Lakefront into a National Park



Turning the lakefront over to the federal government would transfer the operating costs to federal taxpayers. Then again, giving control of the lakefront to the National Park Service bureaucracy might go too far in locking in the status quo. [Read more on the discussion here.](#)

Maritime Event Calendar

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum [website calendar page.](#)

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area or story ideas to Mary Ann O'Rourke at maorourke58@gmail.com.

Ready to join or renew your membership?
Information about our membership offers can be found [here](#).
If you need further membership support please email us at cmm@chicagomaritimemuseum.org

We hope you've enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.

