

September 2021



on the Move

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

Renovated Lobby on Schedule for Early October Opening



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 Burnham will greet visitors for a virtual walkthrough of Chicago's maritime history.

French fur trader Jolliet tells the story of finding the relatively short portage between what is now the Chicago River and waterways leading to the Mississippi River. He imagined a canal that would someday connect the two.

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 the presentation and use of space to offer a more engaging exploration of maritime history for CMM patrons.

A celebration of those who funded and created

2021 CMM Festival “Waterways for All” Celebrates Diversity on our Waterways

CHICAGO MARITIME MUSEUM FESTIVAL

WATERWAYS *for* ALL

SAIL



Meet Charles Szymanski. Getting more people sailing on Lake Michigan is Charles’ passion. As president and founder of Rainbow Races, he works with Chicago-based LGBTQ organizations to inspire more people to discover the joys of sailing. Last month’s Rainbow Regatta Chicago at Belmont Harbor Yacht Club saw the largest increase ever of new sailors and first-time racers from the LGBTQ community.

Save the Date: October 21, 2021 6:30 p.m.

PARTNER WITH US TODAY
chicagomaritimemuseum.org



Following a successful inaugural event last year, the museum renews its efforts to engage key audiences to connect with CMM’s mission. “Waterways for All” will be the theme of the 2021 festival.

“This year, we hope to acknowledge and celebrate the many ways diverse groups interact with our waterways,” says CMM Vice-Chairman and president emeritus Jerry Thomas, who is leading the benefit.” With this video, we

The October 21st event will feature compelling video promoting diversity on Chicago's local waterways, including key historical maritime figures as well as a diverse group of modern-day open water enthusiasts.

hope to convey just how much our shorelines have been, and continue to be, revered and enjoyed in Chicago.”

The CMMFestival committee is busy planning an event that will also include engaging conversations, lively maritime folk music, and a chance to partner with, and support, the museum.

[Register here.](#)

We Need Your Help for Open House Chicago in October!



Once again the Chicago Maritime Museum is a featured venue in the Chicago Architecture Center's Open House Chicago, a free public festival on October 16-17 that offers behind-the-scenes access to over 350 buildings across Chicago.

The museum will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day.

As members, please consider volunteering for the event. We need your help as docents for the hundreds of visitors who will explore the museum on those days. To sign up as a volunteer, please contact Dylan Hofmann at curator@chicagomaritimemuseum.org.

To learn more about Open House Chicago go to <https://openhousechicago.org/>.

We take the health of our volunteers, OHC attendees, and site representatives seriously and have been paying close attention to the changing landscape as COVID-19 cases are on the rise. Open House Chicago and the Chicago Maritime Museum will follow all local, county, state, and federal health and safety guidelines with caution.

Join Waterider Kayaks

Bridgeport Art Center Launch Party



To celebrate their newest location, Wateriders is hosting a launch party on Friday, October 8 from 4-6 p.m. at their location in the Bridgeport Art Center down the hall from the Chicago Maritime Museum. Visitors may spend time in the new Wateriders facility and tour the museum.

Wateriders at Bubby Creek offers kayaking, paddleboarding, sculling, and even a new sport, Vin Sculling. For the first time, we are selling craft, the SeaEagle line of inflatable boats and boards. These high-quality inflatables seem a natural fit for this slow-flowing urban creek.

For more information go to: <https://wateriders.com/bridgeport/>.

Chicago Prepares to Mark 150 Years since the Great Chicago Fire



Started on the evening of Oct. 8, 1871, the fire ran and grew, swept by a strong wind from the southwest, eating its ravenous way north and toward downtown and beyond. [Read more here.](#)

What Are Those Giant Structures Out in Lake Michigan?



There are six water cribs remaining in Chicago, but only two are still in use. So what might happen to them in the future? [Read more here.](#)

Tiger Muskie Spotted off the Chicago Riverwalk



Lucas Mason photographed and videoed a tiger muskie earlier this month in the Chicago River.
[Read more 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.



