Pre-construction Begins
Design Team Expands

In July, soil testing began on the site of the future Museum.

Summer 2018 Newsletter
National Coast Guard Museum Association, Inc.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

On August 4th, we join with many friends across our Nation celebrating “Coast Guard Day” in honor of the establishment 228 years ago of the Revenue Cutter Service, the forbearer of today’s Coast Guard. On that day in 1790, the Nation’s first Congress, guided by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, enacted and President George Washington signed into law, the authorization to build a fleet of ten cutters whose responsibility would be to enforce the first tariff laws of our fledgling country.

That period in our history marks the last time that such a simple description could be applied to what has emerged as the longest continuously operating seafaring service in the United States. Today’s Coast Guard is complex, dedicated to eleven distinct missions and we are grateful to have Admiral Karl Schultz as the 26th Commandant to lead the Coast Guard at this critical time. On behalf of the National Coast Guard Museum Association, I welcome and congratulate him. Already, he has shown great support for the Museum and we look forward to further developments during his tenure.

We are closer than ever to having a National Museum to showcase the work of Coast Guard men and women throughout its proud history and to inspire the next generation of defenders of our Nation. I am delighted to report that we have moved from concept to pre-construction. Test borings commenced on the site in July to further inform our design team as to the subsurface dynamics of the project. The State of Connecticut committed the full $20 million in funding for the project. Upon the completion of our Museum Education Initiative, the Coast Guard has hired the interpretive design firm with the first $5 million in Federal funding appropriated for interior exhibits. Our dedicated Board of Directors and a more robust development team are energetically telling the story of the future Museum around the country.

We appreciate your resolute commitment, as we work together, to showcase for America the men and women of the United States Coast Guard through 228 years and into the future in the national Museum.

Semper Paratus,

Richard J. Grahn

CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN TEAM EXPANDS

The Museum Association has expanded its project team with the hiring of A/Z Corporation as the pre-construction manager and GEI Consultants to provide geotechnical services.

“Hiring these two experienced construction firms is an important step forward for the future National Coast Guard Museum and the Public Access Project,” said Richard J. Grahn, President of the NGCMA. “Beginning with the review of the schematic design and cost estimates, A/Z Corp will work closely with our architects and engineers to analyze the estimate and schedule and recommend construction methods and materials that will achieve the greatest possible cost savings for this world-class project.”

Perry Lorenz, President & CEO, commented, “A/Z Corporation is tremendously excited to contribute to this undertaking of transforming the vision for the museum into a landmark facility that honors the legacy, mission, service, and sacrifice of the men and women of the United States Coast Guard.”

AS SEEN ON THE COVER: GEI Consultants began conducting core samples at the Museum site in mid-July. The test borings will determine soil quality and the depth of bedrock, which will inform construction.
The visitor experience will be critical to the Museum. Over the past three years, beginning with the Museum Educational Advisory Panel (MEAP) and moving into the Museum Education Initiative (MEI), concepts have crystallized. Interactive and engaging instructional approaches have emerged in the form of educational and leadership development programming catering to pre-school students through adult learners and conference attendees.

This spring, the Museum Association presented its final report of the MEI to USCG leadership. In July, with this exciting vision, the USCG signed the Museum Preparations Contract to design the interior exhibits. The contract was awarded to Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH) with AldrichPears Associates as their subcontractor. The hiring marks the first significant investment of the $5 million in Federal funding appropriated to the Museum project.

SEARCH is a leading provider of cultural resources services to government and commercial customers and has completed projects for all branches of the armed services. Their work in maritime archaeology is highly regarded and they were recently contracted to provide historic preservation services to the Army Corps of Engineers.

AldrichPears has over 40 years of experience providing interpretive design for user experiences in museums on an international scale. AldrichPears provides their clients with guidance to take concepts, like those developed through the MEI process, and turn them into dynamic discovery centers for visitors.

The Museum Association looks forward to the creative work of these firms to develop interactive exhibits using digital technology for visitors of all ages.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCES NEW VICE CHAIRMAN POSITION

Much of the progress we are reporting in this newsletter is due to the tireless work of our dedicated Board of Directors. Under their leadership, our organization has transformed from an all-volunteer effort to include a talented professional staff working with a strong design and engineering team.

One board member whose association with the Museum project dates back to its earliest days is ADM Bob Papp. In his role as Chief of Coast Guard Congressional Affairs in the early 2000’s, he worked closely with the Connecticut Delegation on the Federal Law that authorized the Museum to be built in New London, CT.

His distinguished career included appointments as Commander on four cutters and Commander of the Atlantic Area, culminating in his service as 24th Commandant in 2010. In that role, he facilitated the signing of the agreement with the State of Connecticut, which cemented the land transfer of the Museum site along the Thames River by the City of New London to the USCG. Upon retiring in 2014, he joined the Museum Association Board of Directors.

Given his extensive involvement and support of the project, his peer members voted unanimously at the May 2018 meeting to select ADM Papp as the first Vice Chairman of the Board.

ADM Papp reacted by stating, “I am both delighted and humbled that the Board of Directors has asked me to take on increased responsibilities for the Museum project as we gain increased momentum. It’s an exciting time to be involved as we can look forward to tangible progress this year at the site, increased fundraising and new faces joining the Museum Association team.”
The Connecticut Congressional Delegation of Senator Richard Blumenthal, Senator Chris Murphy, and Congressman Joe Courtney along with Former Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael P. Jackson, affirm their leadership roles in working to establish the Museum. The Annual Secretaries’ Circle Breakfast on Capitol Hill on May 16 celebrated the new momentum around the project with the approval of the first installment of federal funding for interior exhibit design and preservation of artifacts. ADM James Loy inspired guests as the featured speaker.

Senator Richard Blumenthal commented, “The activities of the Coast Guard are often unappreciated, unheralded, sometimes unseen, including days when members of the Coast Guard put their lives on the line. We need to commemorate it in a museum in which, not just the Coast Guard, but the Nation richly deserves.”

The Museum Association is grateful to the Flag Officers and Senior Executive Service retirees who have taken a leadership role by contributing to our FLAGS/SES Campaign. In just a few months of active fundraising, the campaign, under the leadership of RADM John Faigle, has raised over $375,000 toward its goal of $1 million in support of the Museum.

Museum Association Executive Director, CAPT Wes Pulver said “Contributions from within the Coast Guard family are so important to this project. To me, it’s no surprise that those who led during their active duty are stepping up to help us now.”

“I count it a privilege to be involved in this tremendous project and I am inspired by the enthusiastic support of our retired FLAG/SES Corps.”

Raised during first three months of campaign: $375,000