Final Renderings Revealed

Iconic atrium, sails motif, overlook balcony and exhibit floors refined for final Museum design

April 2019 Newsletter
National Coast Guard Museum Association

ISSUE FEATURES
Key Museum project stakeholders were inspired by an update presented on the eve of the 2019 State of the Coast Guard Address in Long Beach, CA. The group, who heard remarks from Admiral Karl L. Schultz, Commandant of the USCG, included Coast Guard veteran and leadership donor, J.D. Power III, along with several family members.

Updates regarding the design development of the Museum and the exhibits were accompanied by several conceptual renderings, including the J.D. Power III Polar Operations Gallery, which will appear in the Champions of Commerce Wing on the Power Family Stewardship Deck. Power’s service in EASTWIND inspired the gift naming and her father’s passion for the service informed Susan J. Curtin’s decision to follow in his footsteps and serve in the Coast Guard Reserve as a Port Security Specialist.

The March 20 event, held at Parkers’ Lighthouse in Long Beach’s Shoreline Village is the first public event for Curtin as the Museum Association Board Chair.

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—ADM Karl L Schultz
Commandant, USCG

As a National Museum, opportunities like this are important for us to raise awareness about the urgency to complete this tribute in recognition of the selfless service of Coast Guard members," Curtin said. "Tonight was special for me and my family members to see our father acknowledged for his support and dedication to the Coast Guard and the Museum. We will always appreciate and respect our family’s success owed in great part to the leadership and management experience gained through our father’s service."

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In March 2019, the middle phase of the architectural process, known as design development, was completed by the project design team, which includes architects, engineers, the pre-construction firm, estimators, Museum Association staff and our owner’s representative. The purpose of the design development phase is to refine the concepts developed during the schematic phase with considerations for the most efficient construction methods and value engineering.

The improvements to the design include a refined approach to the sails motif on the water side of the Museum, which yielded an opportunity for an overlook balcony facing City Pier and the Thames River. The atrium, which will feature the iconic Coast Guard rescue helicopter, was adjusted to facilitate the entry flow for visitors and increase the connection to other waterfront amenities in the area.

The majority of the development of the design took place on the inside as the pre-construction team has gained further insight from collaborating with the exhibit design firms contracted through the Coast Guard. Taking into consideration the preliminary layout of macro artifacts such as surf boats, Fresnel lenses, various simulators and other large assets, the team conformed the exhibit floors to meet load requirements.

“The vision comes into sharper focus each day. I know I speak for everyone at the Museum Association that we have the right team designing an incredible destination for people to learn and discover more about the Coast Guard,” said Museum Association President, CAPT Wes Pulver, USCG (Ret.) “The end product will be a tribute to our service’s heritage and gateway for its future. Engineers, innovators, and future Coast Guard men and women will discover their passion here.”

In the final design phase, detailed construction documents for the 80,000 square foot museum will be completed. That process is expected to be concluded this fall. See the updates online at: coastguardmuseum.org/renderings
In his remarks, Admiral Schultz left no doubt as to where he stands on the Museum project.

“Let’s get about the business of building this National Coast Guard Museum,” Schultz said. “There’s a national audience that needs to learn more about this Coast Guard. We’re all about making sure America understands that the men and women who have served over 228 years have a significant, important role to our nation.”

The event was planned around the State of the Coast Guard Address and other related special events described by Schultz. “We’re going to commission the Cutter TERRELL HORNE. It’s the 31st fast response cutter. Terrell Horne is a contemporary hero of the Coast Guard. He lost his life out here off the channel islands in the evening hours of December 2, 2012. He’s a modern hero and this is current history.”

Schultz went on to give a history lesson through the lens of the other vessels that will dock alongside the new cutter named for Coast Guard heroes like FORREST REDNOUR and BENJAMIN BOTTOMS.

“Forrest Rednour rescued 133 sailors on board U.S. Army transport DORCHESTER 76 years ago when it went down in the North Atlantic,” Schultz went on to speak of Benjamin Bottoms who was the radio operator for the Grumman Duck float plane launched from the Cutter NORTHLAND that went into Greenland to rescue an Air Force bomber that went down.

“He lost his life,” Schultz explained. “They landed the Grumman, first time on an ice cap in the history of the use of that aircraft, four miles from where that Air Force plane went down. Then they trudged across and brought two people back. And then went back to complete the mission a second day. He and the pilot, Jack Pritchard, lost their lives.”

The third vessel, the Cutter ROBERT WARD, recently commissioned in San Francisco, was named for a coxswain in charge of a landing craft on June 6, 1944 in the first wave of the Normandy invasion. S1 Ward distinguished himself by rescuing two other landing craft crews under heavy fire.

“These are the kinds of heroes that exist in the storied history of the United States Coast Guard. If you don’t go looking for that kind of information, you never hear about it,” Schultz said.

“I’m really excited to see the five themes in this museum: Lifesavers Around the Globe, Enforcers on the Seas, Defenders of Our Nation, Champions of Commerce and Protectors of the Environment. We’re in. We’re moving forward.”

Senator Appropriator Chris Murphy (D), with strong collaboration with Senator Richard Blumenthal (D) and Congressman Joe Courtney (D), continues to ensure that the anticipated $30 million in Federal funding for the Museum gets appropriated as the project experiences strong momentum.

In March, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill was signed into law by President Trump, and it included $5 million in support of the exhibit designs. This brings Federal support to $10 million and the overall total for the When the Most is Expected Capital Campaign to more than $47 million.

“We are grateful for the continued support of the Federal government, but the most important element in the DHS bill ensured that active duty men and women and their families received their paychecks, rather than needing to rely on food pantries and other forms of assistance,” commented CAPT Wes Pulver.

“We appreciate the tremendous support of the Connecticut delegation and the Nation in taking another important step toward creating a national museum to honor these patriots and heroes. Securing another $5 million appropriation toward our goal allows the exhibit design process to remain on track.”

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