



ABOUT THE

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

MISSION

The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum preserves and explores the history, environment, and culture of the entire Chesapeake Bay region, and makes this resource accessible to all.

VALUES

Relevance—We provide meaningful and accessible experiences to all of our communities and constituencies.

Authenticity—We seek to represent genuinely the people and cultures whose stories we preserve and tell.

Stewardship—We value the priceless assets entrusted to us—our collections, our campus and facilities, our financial resources—and accept their preservation and enhancement as our paramount responsibility. We support the volunteers and staff who perform our mission and make CBMM the rich enterprise it is.

VISION

As a vital community partner and industry leader, CBMM will create engaging, immersive, and transformative experiences that educate and inspire individuals throughout the Chesapeake Bay region and beyond.

IMPACT

By engaging in high-quality experiences that meet a variety of needs, CBMM's audiences will:

- Connect stories of the Chesapeake Bay to their own lives.
- Value the history, environment, and culture of the region.
- Act as stewards and advocates of the Bay and its cultural and environmental resources.

HISTORY

The only museum devoted to interpreting the entire maritime region of the Chesapeake, CBMM opened in 1965 on Navy Point, formerly a busy complex of docks, workboats, and packing houses on St. Michaels Harbor. CBMM was founded by interested citizens intent on preserving the Bay's history and traditions. More than five decades after that humble origin, it is now recognized as a world-class maritime museum and welcomes nearly 100,000 guests annually to an 18-acre campus that includes historic structures like the 1879 Hooper Strait Lighthouse, purpose-built exhibition galleries, a floating fleet of historic vessels, and a new Welcome Center set to open in 2023.

PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

CBMM's wide range of programming is designed to inspire and educate current and future stewards of the Bay and are designed to bring the heritage, ecology, and culture of the Chesapeake to life through experiential learning. Major seasonal events include annual festivals celebrating Chesapeake Bay culture, boats, seafood, and history, as well as concerts, photography and art exhibitions, and speaker series featuring nationally known authors and historians.

COLLECTION

CBMM's collection has more than 80,000 objects, all related to the Chesapeake Bay. Housed in the Norman & Ellen Plummer Center for Museum Collections and exhibited throughout our campus, the collection includes objects, watercraft, and library and archival materials representing the maritime history and waterfront community culture of the Chesapeake region. The Howard I. Chapelle Library—named for the renowned naval architect and CBMM benefactor—is a special collections library housing books, periodicals, photographs, media, manuscripts, ships plans and other materials focusing on the maritime history of the Chesapeake Bay region and Atlantic Coast.

VESSELS

CBMM's collection of authentic Chesapeake Bay watercraft is the largest in existence, highlighted by a historic floating fleet that is maintained the way these vessels were intended to be used and seen—afloat on the water. The collection seeks to represent the vessels that were developed and used across the history of the Bay and includes rare survivors that represent some of the last of their types.

WORKING SHIPYARD

CBMM's working Shipyard both preserves and represents the tradition of a working waterfront. CBMM's shipwrights and apprentices provide a tangible connection to the Chesapeake's rich story of boatbuilding through the preservation and maintenance of CBMM's floating fleet of Chesapeake Bay vessels and historic small boat collection, hands-on Shipyard education programs, and the construction, care, and preservation of the vessels of like-minded organizations and clients.