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Independence Seaport Museum Recipient of National Endowment for the Arts’ Our Town Grant

“The Water’s Edge” will consist of two public artworks created through community engagement with collateral programming at six environmental education centers in the Camden/Philadelphia area.

PHILADELPHIA (June 25, 2020) – In a national announcement made on June 10, Independence Seaport Museum was named as one of 51 organizations awarded grant funding by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for its Our Town program. The Our Town program is the NEA’s creative placemaking grants program, which supports projects that integrate arts, cultural, and design activities that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes.

“These awards demonstrate the resilience of the arts in America, showcasing not only the creativity of their arts projects but the organizations’ agility in the face of a national health crisis,” said Mary Anne Carter, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. “We celebrate organizations like Independence Seaport Museum for providing opportunities for learning and engagement through the arts in these times.”

The Museum is the lead partner in “The Water’s Edge” project, a dual-stream art project that takes unique approaches to engage new and repeat visitors to six Environmental Education Centers (EECs) within 10 miles of the Philadelphia/Camden nexus. Each EEC will host different iterations of the two public artworks, designed by Adrienne Mackey and Sarah Kavage. Walk With Me by Adrienne Mackey is an interactive performance card game that invites play and exploration. Thatched, created by Sarah Kavage, facilitates communal sculpture-building using natural materials, creating installations that are also temporary spaces for gatherings, performances, and education.

“Our mission is to introduce as many people as possible to the importance and beauty of the Delaware River Watershed,” said John Brady, President & CEO of Independence Seaport Museum. “Hosting contemporary art in partnership with six other organizations in two states is one of the ways to do
“The Water’s Edge” is a program of the Alliance for Watershed Education (AWE). AWE is a regional initiative of 23 partnering environmental education centers that strive to provide meaningful opportunities to engage the thousands of outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the local trails and waterways, and to build a new constituency for protection of clean water among all those living near and visiting the region.

Independence Seaport Museum would like to thank its partner Camden County Environmental Center for its assistance in the grant process.

About Independence Seaport Museum
Independence Seaport Museum deepens the understanding, appreciation and experience of the Philadelphia region’s waterways through history, science, and art, plus experiences on the water. Along with National Historic Landmark ships Cruiser Olympia and Submarine Becuna, the Museum is home to a boatbuilding workshop, Citizen Science Lab, and a Makerspace. Guests are also able to explore the river with small boat rentals, on-water programming, and one of the largest maritime art and artifact collections in North America. Independence Seaport Museum is the premier, year-round destination on the Penn’s Landing waterfront. See our full schedule of programs and events at phillyseaport.org.

About the National Endowment for the Arts
Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America’s rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more.

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