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Independence Seaport Museum’s President & CEO to Retire at the End of the Year

John Brady has served as ISM’s President & CEO since 2011.

PHILADELPHIA, PA (August 12, 2020) – John Brady announced today that he plans to retire as President & CEO of the Independence Seaport Museum at the end of the year.

"It has been an honor to work with great staff, volunteers, board members, and Philadelphia's cultural community to transform the Seaport Museum into a vibrant institution. The Museum strives to feature every aspect of our region's waterways, and features the significance of those waterways to all people in the region," says Brady. "I am proud of the work we have done to help raise awareness of the waterways, and the industries associated with them, while emphasizing the importance of water quality."

Before taking on the leadership role, Brady was director of the Museum's Workshop on the Water, which he brought to national prominence in the world of traditional boat building. That experience led the Museum to an investment in hands-on learning as a way to fully engage high school students. "One of the great joys of the CEO position is learning more about the waterways in the realms of history, science, and art from very talented people with expertise in each of these fields. Their talents are front and center in the galleries. Tides of Freedom, Patriots and Pirates, and River Alive!, are the three permanent exhibits created on my watch by the leaders at the cutting edge of the areas of study encountered in each exhibition. It has also been a real pleasure to see Philadelphia and Camden embrace their waterfronts and to play a role in that effort."

Accomplishments in John Brady’s ten-year term include doubling attendance as well as doubling the endowment. Building renovations have included opening the structure to Penn’s Landing and the Delaware River, on the ground level and renovating the galleries. Outdoor docks were expanded to accommodate the 15,000 people a year who enjoyed the Museum’s small boat rentals before the shutdown. The Museum’s two National Historic Landmark ships
have been reinterpreted, and extensive work has been done to secure the *Olympia* - the world’s oldest steel warship.

Brady also serves on the Boards of Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Tall Ships America, and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance. In 2019 he was named Person of the Year by the Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Society.

“It has been my pleasure and honor to work with John for many years. With his leadership, the Independence Seaport Museum has been transformed into an institution with a successful expanded mission that includes an environmental perspective on the Delaware River in addition to the Museum’s historical and artistic interpretations of this great waterway, this area’s maritime history and the city of Philadelphia,” says Peter H. Havens, Chairman of the Board of Port Wardens. “In order to appropriately fill the Presidency of Independence Seaport Museum, the Board has decided to conduct a national search for John’s successor. It is also the Board’s intent to retain John as an advisor to the Museum, so that his institutional knowledge is not lost and his connections with the maritime community are maintained for the benefit of the Museum.”

An internal board committee has been convened to oversee the national search. More information can be found on our website, phillyseaport.org.

**About Independence Seaport Museum**

Independence Seaport Museum increases the awareness, knowledge, and experience of our waterways by highlight the important role of the Delaware River through direct contact with our collections, exhibits, and the water. Our boating programs provide direct access to recreation and the scientific study of the water from the standpoints of biology and physics while art is used to represent the importance of competing uses of the river. Through our historic ships, Cruiser *Olympia* and Submarine *Becuna*, we provide the ideal platform for examining the interaction of society and water over our nation’s history. Our educational student outreach programs ensure generational awareness of the Museum’s mission. Learn more about the Independence Seaport Museum at phillyseaport.org.

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