



Independence Seaport Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Independence Seaport Museum Awarded \$240,000 Grant from the William Penn Foundation

The grant, which is funded over the course of 36 months, will help the Museum expand its SAILOR and River Ambassador Programs.

PHILADELPHIA (January 5, 2021) - Independence Seaport Museum was awarded a \$240,000 grant (to be funded over 36 months) under the William Penn Foundation's Watershed Protection Program. This announcement came in November along with five other grant awardees, totaling more than \$2.6 million. Funding awarded to the Museum will expand its River Ambassadors program and develop a new SAILOR Ambassador program, both of which would be a paid work experience for high school youth.

"The Delaware River is cleaner today than it has been in many decades thanks to advocacy and science that resulted in smart regulations," said Andrew Johnson, Director of Watershed Protection at the William Penn Foundation. "Increased public access to our waterways—which is the right of every person in every community, including Philadelphia—is critical to ensuring continued support for these policies over time. We are proud to support Independence Seaport Museum's programs on the urban Delaware, which are cultivating the environmental stewards of tomorrow."

Participants will be taught STEM concepts through hands-on learning, in turn, empowering them to be active citizens in the protection of local waterways and the environment and provide opportunities to build 21st-century skills (such as leadership, collaboration, and critical thinking). These skills will be built in different ways based on the program, with River Ambassadors focusing on environmental science for guidance and the new SAILOR Ambassadors focusing on utilizing carpentry.

"We are incredibly grateful for the William Penn Foundation's support in this endeavor," says John Brady, President & CEO of Independence Seaport Museum. "With their assistance, ISM will be able to expand our educational on-water programs and instill, with the younger generations, a sense of proprietorship of our waterways and a desire to become ambassadors within their communities."

Cultivating the minds of future conservationists is critical to the continued health and longevity of our region’s waterways.”

Independence Seaport Museum’s River Ambassadors program is a WorkReady provider.

For more information about Independence Seaport Museum’s programs, please visit phillyseaport.org.

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 William Penn Foundation

The William Penn Foundation, founded in 1945 by Otto and Phoebe Haas, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia region through efforts that increase educational opportunities for children from low-income families, ensure a sustainable environment, foster creativity that enhances civic life, and advance philanthropy in the Philadelphia region. In 2020, the Foundation granted more than \$117 million to support vital efforts in the region.

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