



**Media Contact:**

Billy Cook

[Billy@enroutemarketing.com](mailto:Billy@enroutemarketing.com)

239-734-5150 (m)

**INDEPENDENCE SEAPORT MUSEUM PRESENTS *THE 2022 ECOTOPIAN TOOLKIT PROJECT*  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PENN PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES**

Philadelphia, PA | February 23, 2022 – The [Independence Seaport Museum](#) (ISM) is partnering with the [Penn Program in Environmental Humanities](#) (PPEH) to lead discussions and create solutions that address environmental issues. The partnership centers around PPEH's [2022 Ecotopian Toolkit Project](#), an annual program that encourages creators to develop sustainable tools and share knowledge that addresses current and future ecological challenges.

From now through December 2022, ISM will work with PPEH to examine issues through a multi-faceted, rotating exhibit and host workshops to explore the uses of the proposed tools. Community members and ISM's [River Ambassadors](#), an environmental program for local high school students, will help toolmakers test and implement their tools during the development process.

Aspiring toolmakers can submit proposals to be reviewed by a jury comprised of notable environmental experts from the region, including Founding Director **Bethany Wiggin**, ISM's Youth Programs Supervisor **Alexis Cabrera**, landscape architect and artist **Kate Farquhar**, and environmental activist **Terrill Haigler**. Multiple toolmakers will receive micro-grants of \$1,000 to explore, prototype, and develop their tool for use in the watershed and Delaware River. Candidates can submit their proposals on PPEH's website ([HERE](#)) from now through March 1.

***The Ecotopian Toolkit Project*** is intended to engage the broader community in reflection, participation, and action. Throughout 2022, toolmakers will work with ISM and PPEH to lead a series of participatory public workshops featuring their tool and share its applications with the community. At the conclusion of the ***Ecotopian Toolkit Project***, these tools will be available for the public to use in the global fight for climate and water justice.

"Independence Seaport Museum is very pleased to partner with PPEH for this year's *Ecotopian Toolkit Project*," said **Peter S. Seibert**, ISM's President & CEO. "Thousands of Delaware Valley residents have learned about the importance of protecting our natural waterways through our River Ambassadors program and award-winning *River Alive!* exhibit. This is perfectly timed with the Museum's plan to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act by highlighting its legacy and impact on our waterways."

**[Learn more about ISM's three-phase timeline for the \*Ecotopian Toolkit Project\* below:](#)**

**Phase One: *Join the Conversation!* (now through April 2022)**

ISM launched a new exhibition for [The Ecotopian Toolkit Project](#) that invites guests to share “ecotopian” tools they already use or ones they might need. Located near ISM’s award-winning [River Alive!](#) exhibit, all tools and knowledge shared with ISM will be compiled into a research library available to the public.

**Phase Two: *Join the Exchange!* (May to August 2022)**

ISM’s exhibit will be updated to display the toolmakers selected for the *Ecotopian Toolkit Project* and the tools they’ve proposed to protect life in the Delaware River Watershed. The community and ISM’s River Ambassadors are then invited to help explore these tools with the toolmakers through public workshops and programming.

**Phase Three: *Tools for a Healthy Watershed* (September to December 2022)**

The final phase of the exhibition will showcase the toolmakers and their developed concepts tools for water justice. The Toolmakers’ process through all phases of the program will be documented in a print catalog and public online resource. By creating access to these tools and ideas, communities can use them in their own inquiry, conversation, and actions.

As Toolmakers develop their tools, ISM will announce additional programming to allow visitors to learn more about these projects and their potential impact on the Delaware River Watershed. Learn more and follow the latest news around the *Ecotopian Toolkit Project*, visit [www.phillyseaport.org/exhibits/ecotopian2022/](http://www.phillyseaport.org/exhibits/ecotopian2022/).

Independence Seaport Museum’s River Ambassadors program is a WorkReady provider. The River Ambassadors program is supported by the William Penn Foundation and Riverways.

**Interviews:** Please contact [Billy Cook](#) to schedule interviews with ISM's President & CEO Peter S. Seibert, ISM’s Assistant Director of Exhibitions & Design Daniel Kennedy, PPEH’s Founding Director Bethany Wiggin, and PPEH’s Program Coordinator Mia D’Avanza,

**Photos:** Live [HERE](#)

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**About Independence Seaport Museum**

Independence Seaport Museum encourages visitors to discover Philadelphia's river of history and world of connections. Stewards of Cruiser *Olympia* and World War II-era Submarine *Becuna*, ISM is home to a boatbuilding workshop, interactive exhibitions, and one of the largest collections of historic maritime artifacts in the world. Visitors can explore the historic and beautiful Delaware River first-hand by renting a boat from the Museum or by participating in one of our kayak excursions. The Independence Seaport Museum is the premier, year-round destination on the Penn's Landing waterfront. Visit daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and see our full schedule of programs and events at [phillyseaport.org](http://phillyseaport.org).

**About the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities:**

Founded in 2014, the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities (PPEH) fosters interdisciplinary environmental collaboration and scholarship at the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia and beyond. PPEH’s four core commitments include: broadly interdisciplinary, collaborative research on the environment across the arts and sciences; arts-driven inquiry into place, particularly our campus and the City of Philadelphia as well as urban ecology in other global contexts; public engagement, particularly in and with environmental justice communities and concerns; and the creation and growth of living archives via practices of urgent collection. Learn more by visiting [ppeh.sas.upenn.edu](http://ppeh.sas.upenn.edu).