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## **INDEPENDENCE SEAPORT MUSEUM CELEBRATES THE WINTER SEASON WITH SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING, GUIDED TOURS, AND TOY DRIVE**

**PHOTOS:** [HERE](#)

**Philadelphia, PA | November 9, 2022** – [Independence Seaport Museum](#) (ISM) is ringing in the holiday season with new programming and events that give guests exciting opportunities to discover Philadelphia’s river of history and world of connections. Starting November 26, ISM’s staff will host a weekly, family-friendly education program, open a new pop-up exhibition on **Cruiser *Olympia*** highlighting its connection to Christmas, and much more.

### **Holiday 2022 Programming & Engagements**

This holiday season, ISM is bringing back [Sea-son of Lights](#), where visitors can look forward to festive decorations, special holiday exhibitions, and family-friendly, educational programming every week. From November 26 through December 31, join the education staff each Saturday to conduct mini-experiments; using items from ISM’s collection, guests will investigate the science of lights, nautical navigation, and more. Program times are scheduled for noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. and are included with general admission tickets to the Museum.

In addition to *Sea-son of Lights*, the holiday festivities continue outside the Museum at Penn’s Landing aboard the national historic landmark [Cruiser \*Olympia\*](#), the oldest floating steel warship in the world. On November 26, ISM will open a special new pop-up exhibition in the Admiral’s Cabin on *Olympia* titled [Christmas in the Adriatic](#), where visitors will learn about the ship’s ambassador peacekeeping mission after World War I.

On December 25, 1920, American forces in Europe participated in a Christmas celebration to benefit of children orphaned or impacted by the war as part of ongoing humanitarian relief efforts. While stationed in Venice, Italy, *Olympia* welcomed 700 children aboard and presented them with gifts and cards sharing seasonal well-wishes from America. An additional 300 to 400 gifts were delivered to children ashore who could not board the cruiser because they were either too young or too sick. The exhibition features archival photos taken from that day in 1920 and will shed light on *Olympia*’s peacekeeping efforts in the Adriatic Sea. *Christmas in the Adriatic* will be on display through December 31.

In the spirit of *Olympia*’s 1920 peacekeeping mission, ISM is partnering with Toys for Tots Philadelphia for the **Boatload of Presents Toy Drive** to bring gifts to youth across Philadelphia this holiday season. From November 26 to December 16, guests who bring a new, unwrapped gift to the Museum will receive their choice of \$2 off their general admission ticket, a guided tour of Submarine *Becuna*, or a guided tour of Cruiser *Olympia*. This discount is applied per item, per person, and only redeemable on-site at ISM.

Before leaving ISM, visitors are encouraged to stop by the **on-site museum store** to browse a curated selection of items made by local artisans to pick up the perfect holiday gift for the nautical lover in their life. Choose from Philly-themed scented soy candles, locally-made jewelry from As the Crow Flies and Co., Maison ceramic fish plates, GoSili reusable silicone items, and Madd Capp jigsaw puzzles for your holiday haul. Guests can shop at the store from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and until 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve. From November 25 to 27, guests will receive a free ISM floating pen with a \$25 purchase or a free mug with a \$50 purchase.

Unable to visit the store in person but still want to support the Museum? Consider visiting ISM's [online store](#), where shoppers can choose from a selection of houseware, apparel, and gift items. Online shoppers who place orders between November 25 and December 1 are eligible for 20% off their purchase. All gift shop proceeds are re-invested in the ISM's programs, historic ships, and collections.

ISM will be closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day but open until 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

### **Year-Round Programming**

Inside the Museum, guests can explore the largest maritime artifact collections in North America. The award-winning exhibition [River Alive!](#) gives visitors an up-close look at the wildlife, science, and wonder of the Delaware River and encourages exploration through various interactive components such as the Water Cycle Puzzle, Watershed Map, Continuum Wall, and more.

Featuring artifacts from the Museum's collection, [Tides of Freedom: African Presence on the Delaware River](#) offers gripping first-hand accounts that detail four key moments in Philadelphia's history that touch on enslavement, emancipation, Jim Crow, and Civil Rights. The exhibition features artifacts from the Museum's collection, gripping first-person accounts, and interactive elements. *Tides of Freedom* encourages visitors to explore the concept of freedom through the lens of the African experience along the Delaware River.

ISM's [Patriots & Pirates](#) exhibit shares rare objects that highlight the little-known story of America's conflict with pirates and Philadelphia's connection to the founding of the United States Navy. *Patriots & Pirates* also features Schooner *Diligence*, a stationary 102-foot vessel constructed by staff and volunteers from [The Seaport Boat Shop](#), a traditional boat shop located inside the museum.

The Museum continues its efforts to educate the public about its historical vessels and the important work of preserving them, with self-guided and guided tours of [Cruiser Olympia](#) and World War II-era [Submarine Becuna](#) all winter long.

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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).