



## CMM Receives One Million Dollar Endowment from Chairman Dave Truitt

*\$104,000.00 Raised at Waterways for All Benefit*



The Chicago Maritime Museum is pleased to announce that the organization is the recipient of the \$1,000,000.00 Capt. Dave Truitt Chicago Maritime Museum Endowment Fund. Announced during the museum's annual benefit, **Waterways for All**, on October 21,

Hosted by maritime musician Tom Kastle and Hall of Fame sailor Bill Pinkney, the **Waterways for All** benefit raised \$104,000 from generous donors and members. All donating CMM Festival participants received one-year memberships. CMM welcomed many new and

the endowment will provide an income stream that can be used to fund operations and projects.

"Tonight, thanks to the generosity and vision of our chairman, we are now the recipient of the largest gift ever to our museum," says Jerry Thomas, CMM Vice Chairman and Treasurer. "The endowment truly puts the Chicago Maritime Museum on the map in terms of sustainability and philanthropy. Most importantly, this gift is the start of sustainable operations funding to allow the museum to focus on providing our patrons and visitors with engaging maritime exhibits and lively educational events."

returning members, Festival proceeds will help fund the museum's operational expenses for 2021-22.

Participants enjoyed a preview of the museum's newly restored lobby, including interactive storytelling about the importance of the city's waterways by historical reenactors. The museum also plans to create an exhibit of the adventures of Chicago-born Captain Bill Pinkney, the first African American sailor to solo-circumnavigate the globe via the five great capes.

## CMM Big Hit at Chicago Open House



Despite a lingering pandemic, more than 500 people visited the Chicago Maritime Museum October 16 and 17 for *Open House Chicago*, a free public festival hosted by the CAC (Chicago Architectural Center), that offers self-guided tours of culturally significant sites across the city.

Warehouse, on the banks of Bubbly Creek. Museum board member, architect and avid sailor Dirk Lohan donated his design services to the space, which was completed in summer 2016. The Museum is a hub that convenes programs and discussions related to Chicago's waterways and is

According to the CAC, “The museum's home is in the Bridgeport Art Center, which was once the Spiegel Catalogue

home to a publications repository for scholarly research as well.”

## National Sailing Hall of Fame Honors Captain Bill Pinkney



Bill Pinkney was among the 11 inductees for the U.S. National Sailing Hall of Fame Class of 2021, honored with a lifetime achievement award for his significant impact on the sport.

[Read more here.](#)

## Curator's Corner by Dylan Hoffman

### *Admiral R.F. Whitehead Collection at CMM*

Richard F. Whitehead (1894 –1993) enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1912 at the age of 18. Enthusiastic to help his country, he served in WWI and WWII.

Training naval pilots during WWII, Then-Commander Whitehead devised a way to assimilate the threat of submarine attacks. The proposal involved converting a passenger steamer into an

aircraft carrier to train pilots on the waters of Lake Michigan.

The Navy purchased the Seeandbee - a large, coal burning, sidewheel excursion steamer - from the C. and B. Transit Company in 1942. The passenger ship was converted in Buffalo, New York, and in August of that year, the ex-Seeandbee was commissioned as the *USS Wolverine*. When the *Wolverine* was unable to keep up with the increasing demand for carrier qualified pilots, the Navy acquired another Great Lakes passenger steamer, the *SS Greater Buffalo* for conversion to its second training carrier – the *USS Sable*. The *USS Wolverine* and the *USS Sable* operated year-round, and by the time the war ended, more than 12,000 pilots had been qualified on the Lake Michigan carriers.



Whitehead served in the Navy until he retired as a Vice Admiral in 1956 and received numerous honors during his long career. He moved to Chicago and spent the rest of his days in the industrial field, applying the same intelligence and innovation that changed the outcome of a war. He passed away on March 11, 1993, at the age of 99.

Twenty-five items from Admiral Richard F. Whitehead's estate were donated to the Chicago Maritime Museum in 2001 by his long-term aide, Sam Rae. The Admiral Whitehead collection includes coats, pants, hats, vests, sweaters, and a necktie. The uniform is currently on display in the recently updated WWII Gallery.

## Trolling the Riverbeds



Magnet fishermen are finding treasure in the riverbeds of Chicago.

[Read more here.](#)

## Rebuilding a Better City After the Chicago Fire



Rebuilding efforts began immediately after the fire, but it would take years for the city to fully recover and thrive.

[Read More Here.](#)

## Maritime Event Calendar

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum [website calendar page.](#)

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area or story ideas to Mary Ann O'Rourke at [maorourke58@gmail.com](mailto:maorourke58@gmail.com).

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