

The Michigan Maritime Museum
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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 09/08/22****

Michigan Maritime Museum Announces Grand Opening of Maritime Heritage Center

South Haven, MI – The Michigan Maritime Museum is pleased to announce the Grand Opening of the new Maritime Heritage Center on their campus in South Haven, marked by a celebration on September 30, 2022. Barely a year after the demolition of the previous museum building, the new facility is now completely finished and the public is welcome to explore and celebrate this exciting milestone!

To celebrate, admission to the Museum's campus will be free all day September 30 with ice cream and beverages served on the patio as supplies last. The public will be able to explore the whole campus, including the new Maritime Heritage Center which boasts 17,000 sq. feet of exhibit, event and programming space. The centerpiece of the new facility is the inaugural exhibit, *Full Steam Ahead: The Golden Age of Great Lakes Passenger Steamships*, where guests can explore the history and stories of the luxury passenger steamers that traveled the Great Lakes in the early twentieth century. The exhibit's designer will be on hand in the morning to answer questions and guide guests through this immersive experience. Outside, enjoy beautiful views of the Black River while walking along the new deck and boardwalk towards the many other exhibits on the Museum's campus, including the recently opened McClendon Small Craft Barn. "Our physical transformation goes way beyond one beautiful new building," said Executive Director Patti Montgomery Reinert. "We are truly debuting a brand new campus that will allow us to tell complete and complex stories about our state's maritime heritage in exciting and interactive ways."

The date of this grand opening - September 30 - is a significant one in the history of this ambitious project. Two years ago to the day, the Museum closed on its purchase of the historic Jensen Fishery property which laid a firm foundation for the Launching a Legacy capital campaign. After raising nearly \$8 million, Phase One of this project is now complete, expanding the campus to include new exhibit space, increased riverfront access, and ample event venues for educational programming and community events alike. Noted Reinert, "the level of support our community and our donors have shown us is truly inspiring."

Join the Michigan Maritime Museum to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Maritime Heritage Center on September 30, 2022! Admission will be free all day, with ice cream and beverages available as supplies last.

About the Michigan Maritime Museum: The Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven is a premier West Michigan destination, dedicated to preserving and interpreting the rich heritage of the Great Lakes. With many interactive exhibits, dynamic programming and a whole fleet of historic vessels, there's always something to do on our campus! Visit michiganmaritimemuseum.org to learn more.

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