



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Receives CVNHP, LCBP Grants** Grants support 2024 season, research, and educational programs

**VERGENNES, VT** - Lake Champlain Maritime Museum has received grant support totaling \$174,000 from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) and the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) to support free admission, research and programs exploring the canal boat era, and educational programs for youth and adults.

“Years of partnership with LCBP and CVNHP helps to make our mission to connect all people to Lake Champlain a reality creates opportunities where everyone can explore our lake and its history, ecology, and archaeology,” said Chris Sabick, Executive Director. “This year’s generous support will continue to create opportunities for everyone to explore our lake’s natural and cultural history.”

### **Free Admission, Pay-What-You-Can Camps, and Digital Access**

With support from LCBP, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will continue to offer free admission, expanded public programming, and pay-what-you-can camps and expeditions for all in 2024. This critical funding will keep the Museum accessible to everyone and provide the opportunity for all people to make personal connections with Lake Champlain that empower them to become lifelong stewards of the lake.

### **Sustainable Recreation for Underserved Communities**

In 2024, the Museum will utilize its fleet of canoes, kayaks, and sailing dinghies to offer regular guided programs focusing on critical lake issues. The Museum will collaborate with partner organizations John Graham Housing and Services and Open Door Clinic to connect with traditional underserved communities in the Lake Champlain Basin and target diverse audiences across a spectrum of different interest groups.

### **Museum Interpretation Internship**

Supported by CVNHP, the Museum’s Visitor Experience and Learning department will welcome an intern during the 2024 season, who will serve as an interpretive educator and docent for visitors to the Museum’s campus. In addition, the intern will have the opportunity to host interactive programs in the new exhibit, *Underwater Archaeology: The Stories of People and Canal boats on Lake Champlain*, opening this summer, as well as regular ecology demonstrations and walking tours of the Museum’s campus.

### **Metal Arts Camps**

Also supported by CVNHP, two weeks of Museum’s summer camp, Metal Arts Mania, will be available on the pay-what-you-can model in 2024. Metal Arts Mania focuses on the history and craft of mining and metal arts and will include experiences with professional metalsmiths and metal artists, as well as field trips to partner organizations that tell this important story in our region.

## Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Exhibit and Programs

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will connect the public with the environmental resources of the Champlain-Adirondack biosphere through a year of programming and a new exhibit, *Underwater Archaeology: The Stories of People and Canal boats on Lake Champlain*, which focuses on the history of canals and connected waterways. The exhibit and program series will encourage visitors to make personal connections to and grow as stewards of the tremendous natural and cultural resources of the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere.

The Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Network is an internationally recognized region of land designated by UNESCO in 1989. In all UNESCO Biosphere reserves, the goal is to improve the relationship between people and their environments. Through national and international connections, biospheres strive to link organizations like museums that share the goal of making connections between people and their environment, including local, regional, and international partners. Currently there are 28 other biospheres within the United States and a total of 738 recognized biospheres in 134 countries.

## Spitfire Preservation

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will move forward on the multi-year project to document and preserve the shipwreck of the Revolutionary War gunboat *Spitfire* in Lake Champlain for future public interpretation, supported in part by CVNHP. Work will include finalizing a research design for the excavations at the site ahead of the 250th anniversary of the battle and the American Revolution in 2026. This work is supported by numerous community partners and stakeholders via an Advisory Council and public meetings.

## About Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

Founded in 1985, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum connects all people to Lake Champlain, inspiring them to learn from the past, build together in the present, and create a sustainable future. Committed to increasing access to the lake and its history, archaeology, and ecology, the Museum is open to all from late May to mid-October with free admission. Year-round education programs serve more than 2,500 K-12 students, as well as hundreds of educators locally and nationally. For more information, visit [www.lcmm.org](http://www.lcmm.org).



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The Spitfire Preservation and Access, Metal Arts Camps, and Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Exhibit and Programming projects have been funded by an agreement awarded by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) to NEIWPCC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP). The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of NEIWPCC, LCBP, or the GLFC, nor does NEIWPCC, LCBP, or GLFC endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products mentioned in this document.

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