



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Megan Salocks, meg@lcmm.org

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Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Receives CVNHP, LCBP Grants

Supporting free admission, a new exhibit, and educational programs

VERGENNES, VT - Lake Champlain Maritime Museum has received grant support totaling \$156,768 from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) and the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) to support free admission, planning new exhibits about the American Revolution, and educational programs for youth and adults.

“This strong collaboration and support from CVNHP and LCBP are vital to our mission to connect all people to Lake Champlain and create opportunities for all people of the Champlain Valley to learn from our region’s history, archaeology, and ecology,” said Chris Sabick, executive director of the museum. “This generous support in 2025 will allow us to continue to offer free admission and meaningful experiences for all our visitors to connect with Lake Champlain.”

Planning for a New American Revolution Exhibit

With support from CVNHP, the museum will undertake a comprehensive planning process to develop a new exhibit about the American Revolution to open in 2026 as part of the museum’s commemoration of the nation’s 250th anniversary. As part of this planning, museum staff, historians, and exhibit designers will collaborate to develop a new exhibit that will present previously untold stories of the American Revolution from the Champlain Valley and incorporate new archaeological research uncovered by the museum’s nautical archaeologists.

Museum Interpretation Internship

Also supported by CVNHP, the museum’s will welcome an intern for the 2025 season who will serve as an interpretive educator and docent for visitors to the museum’s campus. This role will focus on helping all visitors understand the impact of the American Revolution on the Champlain Valley through onsite exhibitions, museum research, and archaeological collections.

Free Admission, Pay-What-You-Can Camps, and Expanded Community Outreach

With support from LCBP, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will continue to offer free admission, pay-what-you-can camps and expeditions for all in 2025, with expanded direct outreach into local communities. This critical funding will keep the Museum accessible to everyone and provide the opportunity for all people to make personal connections with the lake and the region’s history.

Outreach at the Water's Edge: Public Engagement on Lake Champlain

With support from LCBP, the museum will hire two waterfront educators in the 2025 summer season to provide interpretation, programs, and safe, sustainable recreation activities for the public to foster a greater understanding of Lake Champlain's natural, cultural, and historic resources. The waterfront education team will use the museum's fleet of sailing dinghies, canoes, and kayaks for their work, ensuring everyone who wants to can have a firsthand experience with Lake Champlain, no matter their experience level.

The Giant Lake Champlain Basin Map Project

Funded by LCBP, the Giant Lake Champlain Map Project is an initiative to bring the lake into classrooms around the Champlain Valley to empower students and educators to understand the watershed and how to positive affect the future of the lake. The giant map is a 27' by 35' vinyl map of the Lake Champlain basin that creates unique hands-on learning opportunities for students of all ages at a huge scale. In 2025, through this project, the museum will visit ten school and community sites, engage with youth and educators, and develop three new lesson plans on watershed health for educators.

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 free access to the lake and its history, archaeology, and ecology, the Museum is open to all from late May to mid-October for 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.



The Exhibit Planning project has been funded by an agreement awarded by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) to NEIW PCC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP). The Museum Educator project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States National Park Service (NPS) under assistance agreement (P24AC02271) to NEIW PCC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The Giant Map, Removing Barriers to Access, and Outreach at the Water's Edge projects have been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement (LC00Ao 1141-0) to NEIW PCC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program.