



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 10, 2026

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Receives CVNHP, LCBP Grants

Supporting new exhibits, educational programs, and strategic planning

VERGENNES, VT - Lake Champlain Maritime Museum has received grant support totaling \$217,500 from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) and the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) to support creating a new exhibit about the American Revolution with interactive programs, educational programs for youth and adults, and a new strategic plan.

“This tremendous support from CVNHP and LCBP are critical to our mission to connect all people to Lake Champlain and foster new ways for anyone in the Champlain Valley to connect with our region’s history, archaeology, and ecology,” said Chris Sabick, executive director of the Museum. “This generous support in 2026 will allow us to expand our exhibit offerings and continue to offer meaningful experiences for all our visitors to connect with Lake Champlain.”

Implementing a New American Revolution Exhibit

With support from CVNHP, the Museum will fabricate and install a new exhibit to open in May 2026 focusing on the American Revolution in the Champlain Valley. This funding will also support development and execution of three in-person programs, and three digital experiences related to the new exhibit, offering multiple kinds of engagement to a multitude of audiences. In-person opportunities will include panel discussions, interactive public demonstrations, lectures, and exhibit tours.

Museum Interpretation Internship

Also supported by CVNHP, the Museum will welcome an intern for the 2026 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.

Virtual Reality Experience of Gunboat Spitfire

Funded by CVNHP, the Museum will partner with Champlain College students and professors to create a virtual reality experience using the 3D photogrammetry model of *Spitfire* produced by the Museum’s team in 2022. The VR Experience interactive will be one of three interactive stations in the new exhibit about the American Revolution in the Champlain Valley available free of charge to all visitors.

Lake Champlain Regional Virtual Archaeology Conference

With support from CVNHP, the Museum’s fifth annual Virtual Archaeology Conference will be held in February 2026. The conference will feature a deep dive by staff archaeologists and visiting partners on our ongoing research at Arnold’s Bay and plans for future excavations at *Spitfire*, another American Revolution site in New York waters.

Revolutionizing Interactives at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

Also supported by CVNHP, the Museum will partner with Vermont State University Castleton and Clinton County Historical Association to scan and print 2 three-dimensional copies of an exploded cannon from the American Revolution. The exploded cannon interactive will be one of three interactive stations in the Museum's new exhibit about the American Revolution in the Champlain Valley, opening in May 2026 in commemoration of the nation's 250th anniversary.

Revolutionary Artwork for Revolutionary Times

With funding from CVNHP, the Museum will partner with Juniper Creative Arts and local school groups to create a public mural on the grounds of the Museum around the theme of the Revolutionary War, focusing on perspectives from history. The mural will be unveiled with the opening of the new exhibit in May 2026.

Reuse & Recycle: Updating an Onsite Biosphere-Focused Exhibit

Funded by CVNHP, the Museum will connect the public with the environmental resources of the Champlain-Adirondack biosphere by updating an existing exhibit about the Clean Water Act. With the new added content about the Champlain-Adirondack biosphere, the Museum will host 10 public programs during our open season that will be free to the public.

Developing Sustainable Stewards: Free Lake Ecology Field Trips

Funded by LCBP, the Museum will offer watershed science programming to students in grades 4-12 via 15 Lake Ecology Field Trips, 2 Homeschool Field Trip Days, and support teachers in 5 schools to facilitate pre- and post-visit lessons with their students. Students will consider the impact of human action on our aquatic natural resources and action steps they can take to protect or improve the Lake Champlain Watershed, creating the foundation for a lifetime of environmental stewardship.

Expanding Sustainable Recreation

Also supported by LCBP, the Museum will hire an On-Water Educator to provide interactive and engaging public interpretation and sustainable recreational on-water programs to increase understanding and appreciation of the natural, cultural, and historical resources of Lake Champlain. The Educator will offer informal learning opportunities, interactive demonstrations on land, and sustainable recreation programs on the water using our fleet of canoes, kayaks, and sailing dinghies.

Sustaining Waterfront Infrastructure for On- and Near-Water Programming

Funded by LCBP, the Museum will retain a Waterfront Manager to ensure safe and continued access to our waterfront for hundreds of Museum visitors and visitors for much of our regular education and public programming.

Strategic Planning

Funded by LCBP, the Museum will work with Momentum Consulting and a dedicated team of staff, board, and community stakeholders to develop and approve the 2027-2031 Strategic Plan. This new strategic plan will incorporate and advance our existing organizational philosophy (mission, vision, and values) and our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and reflect our collective work to ask and answer major operational and programmatic questions.

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 Conference, Museum Interpretation, Revolutionizing Interactives, and VR Experience 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 Implementing Exhibit, Reuse & Recycle, and Revolutionary Artwork projects have been funded wholly or in part by the United States National Park Service (NPS) under assistance agreements (P24AC02271 and P25AC01705) to NEIWPCC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The Sustaining Waterfront Infrastructure, Strategic Planning, Free Lake Ecology Field Trips, and Expanding Sustainable Recreation projects have been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement (LC00A01871) to NEIWPCC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program.