

Ahoy!

The Mariners' Museum and Park
FALL/WINTER 2024



Constructing A Vision

Laying the Groundwork for the Future

Message from the President

To our World of Champions,

I regularly speak and write about the servant leadership approach of our Mariners' Team. As I read through this edition of *Ahoy!*, I was struck by the impact that approach is having on our Museum and "Living" Collections, and on the communities that we serve.

Simply put, our Mariners' interpretation of servant leadership contains two elements:

- A leader's posture in an organization — and an organization's posture in the community — is in service of something bigger than themselves; and
- Job one of the servant leader is empowering and developing people.

In every article that follows, you will see our team's discipline to these two servant leadership elements. For example, from the posture of **servicing something bigger than themselves**, I am inspired by the way in which Sarah Puckitt, Calli Force, and Emily Ransone express their service to our amazing Archival Collection and the human stories that live within it as they "Save America's Treasures." Similarly, Josi Washington speaks for all of us when she describes our stewardship of the Mariners' Park as not simply "something we do" — we care for the Living Collection in service of the overall strength of our community and the broader ecosystem.

If job one of the servant leader is **empowering and developing people**, then Brandan Adams's instinct to connect Hope Rolon with our Multimedia Production Team is a great example of this element of servant leadership. Similarly, our Young Mariners Team's focus on mitigating the "summer slide" shows the intentionality with which our team is instinctively using every engagement to empower and develop others.

You and I, by the way, are not the only ones seeing this. Pay attention to Sabrina Jones's piece in the final pages of this edition. She highlights just some of the third-party recognition our Mariners' Team received this year as servant leaders in each of the community levels we serve:

- Local: Top Workplaces in Hampton Roads
- National: Finalist, Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal
- Global: Tripadvisor® Travelers' Choice Award (top 10 percent of institutions, globally, in delivering a high-level guest experience)

I hope you continue to take tremendous pride in your affiliation with our Mariners' Team and Mission. I certainly do, and my pride is only matched by my gratitude for our World of Champions — the partners and investors that grow and sustain our work.



Howard H. Hoege III
President and CEO



The Mariners' Museum and Park

Howard H. Hoege III
President and CEO

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Ahoy!

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On the Cover:

A snowy egret stands on a rock in the James River by Lions Bridge.

PHOTO: RAND MILAM

Meet a Mariner

HOPE ROLON

At just 14 years old, Hope Rolon is a voice to be reckoned with.

Let's rewind to last school year. Hope was in her final year of middle school, listening attentively to a presentation Mariners' Senior History Educator Brandan Adams was giving to her class. Adams touched on the topic of educational YouTube videos created with the help of the Multimedia Team, and Hope's ears perked up. Script-writing, voice acting, and storytelling? Little did Adams know, she was speaking straight to Hope's heart.

Many of us need years to discover what we want to do with our lives, and some of us are still figuring it out; Hope discovered her passion for writing and voice acting at a young age. Following the presentation, Adams connected Hope to the Multimedia Team, who invited her to spend a day shadowing them. This shadow day soon turned into Hope voicing three Mariners' YouTube Shorts — some of the first videos created in a new approach to reach even more students with educational content. So far, she has lent her voice to teach viewers about celestial navigation, astrolabes, and macroinvertebrates.

By voicing these videos, Hope was able to blend her love for voicework with her passion for storytelling. Not only that — she gave these videos a voice that truly represented the audience they were created for. For the first time, The Mariners' saw data proving that new student audiences were indeed being reached on YouTube; Hope is indisputably connected to this result.

Hope's passion for voice acting and writing is not just a hobby, but a long-held career aspiration. Specifically, she wants to be both an author and a voice actor. If this ninth-grader isn't impressive enough already, her work with The Mariners' extends beyond Multimedia; after her shadow day, Hope spent the summer as a Junior Volunteer in the galleries, where she engaged guests at a spice table.

When asked what's the one thing she wants everyone to know about her time with The Mariners', Hope emphasized the positive and encouraging work environment. She is unwavering in her excitement to return for more voiceover work, and on behalf of everyone at The Mariners', the feeling is mutual.

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Top: Hope volunteers in the Exploration Gallery, offering spices to children to smell or touch.

Right: Hope records the voiceover for a YouTube short in The Mariners' animated series.

Save America's Treasures:

Preserving History for Future Access



PHOTO:
AMANDA SHIELDS

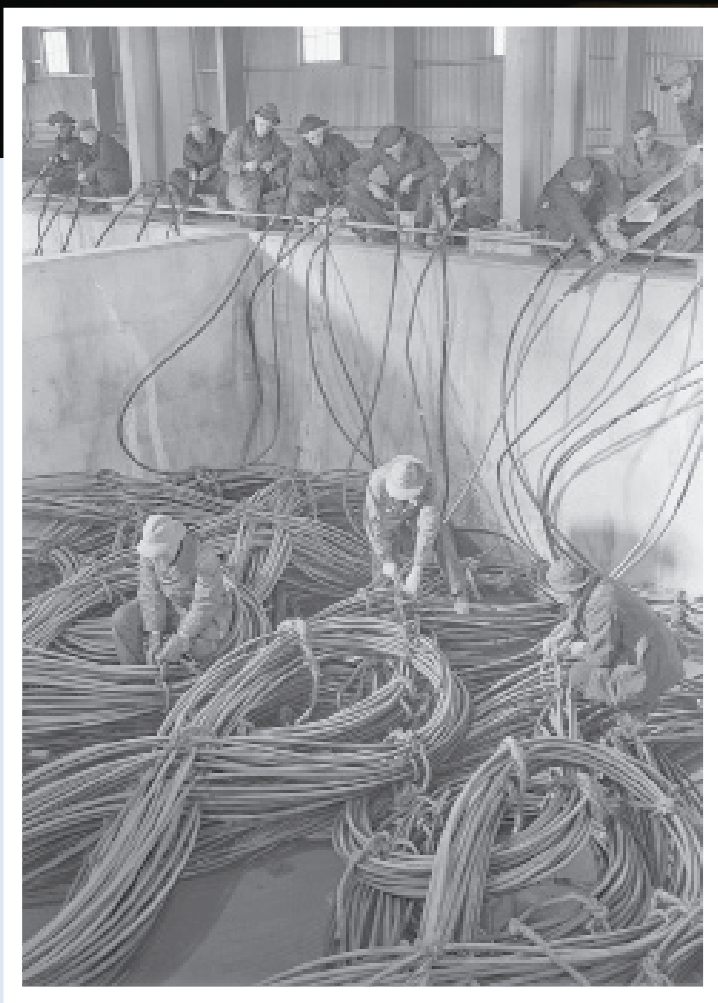
In October 2023, The Mariners' received a Save America's Treasures Grant to preserve our Museum's at-risk photo negatives. Several collections containing approximately 35,000 negatives — to be digitally preserved and rehoused by fall 2026 — were identified for the three-year-long project. The project is a vital step in increasing access to these negatives and ensuring their long-term preservation.

As the first year of the grant comes to an end, members of the Save America's Treasure's grant team — Calli Force, Emily Ransone, and Sarah Puckitt — highlight their efforts and discoveries over the past year.

A. Aubrey Bodine spent his career covering stories relating to Chesapeake Bay life for *The Baltimore Sun* newspaper, but he was not *just* a newspaper photographer. Bodine possessed an inner drive to make an everyday scene into a work of art. He often planned the time of day he would photograph a subject in a way that would enhance the scene; in some cases, he arrived before dawn to place his camera.

A photograph such as this one can be enjoyed for its composition alone, but there is also a story to be told here. The men above feeding the cable lead the eye down to these swirling shapes. Three men below are positioned to wrangle the heavy cable into figure eights, making the cable less cumbersome. Everyone is in sync, unaware of the camera. Without words, one understands the overall work ethic during WW2.

Sarah Puckitt, MFA
(Curator)



Above: Crew members coil cable in a figure eight aboard mine planter Gen. J. M. Schofield, 2/3/1942.

PHOTO BY A. AUBREY BODINE © JENNIFER B. BODINE

Top: Digitization Technician Emily Ransone preps and digitizes large-format negatives by Edwin Levick for the Save America's Treasures Grant.



Manager of Digital Services Brock Switzer helped create this color composite by digitally combining negatives that were shot using a tri-color camera.

One of my favorite aspects of this project is solving old mysteries with modern solutions.

We've discovered a unique film type in the Levick Collection: several black-and-white negatives are labeled with colors: "red," "blue," and "green." With a little research, we were able to piece together that these negatives were created using a one-shot tricolor camera that captures three images at once, and each black-and-white negative is run through a colored filter to create one composite color image, an early iteration of color photography. We are currently experimenting with modern technology to recreate the composite images!

These complex objects also present an interesting challenge regarding access. When describing these objects in the catalog record, how do our archivists accurately represent them? It's important that the metadata and arrangement of the digital surrogates allow our patrons to engage with the collection as originally intended by the creator.

Calli Force, MLIS
(Archivist)



A crowd waits outside the Baltimore Steam Packet Company (aka the Old Bay Line's) Tolchester Pier 16 on Light Street in Baltimore, MD in 1943. They're possibly boarding the steamer Francis Scott Key, most likely heading to Norfolk, VA.

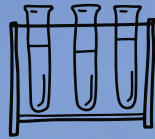
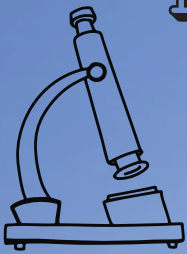
PHOTO BY A. AUBREY BODINE © JENNIFER B. BODINE

As the Digitization Technician, I digitize a variety of materials within the Collection; however, negatives have a special place in my heart. Like an artist's sketch, I view negatives as the starting point for a photographer's final idea. They are the stepping stones that bridge a moment in time to its final impression on history.

Working on this project has allowed me the privilege to see and preserve these historic images in their purest form, free from artistic manipulation, in the darkroom. I have enjoyed viewing the collections through an unfiltered lens. To date, I have digitized over 10,960 negatives. Each one has given me a glimpse into the photographer's world as they documented a scene. One of my favorite photos, taken by Aubrey Bodine, features a busy crowd lined up outside of a pier. Amidst a sea of confused and curious faces, a young boy makes direct eye contact with the camera, giving us an honest, smiley salute.

Emily Ransone
(Digitization Technician)

The Science of



Stewardship

Behind every great museum is a group of professionals dedicated to meticulously caring for the institution's stewarded objects. At The Mariners', our conservation techniques are informed by extensive research and a scientific approach to deciding how an object should be conserved. Mariners' Research Scientist Molly McGath, Ph.D. chats with us about the importance of conservation science and how decisions we make today impact the future of our Collection.

What is your educational and professional background?

My undergraduate work focused on chemistry, art history, and history. Then I received a master's in organic chemistry and a doctorate in materials science and engineering. I started my postdoctoral work at what is now The Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art and also worked at Johns Hopkins and the National Gallery of Art.

I was hired at The Mariners' by a Maritime Heritage Grant in 2018, which largely functioned to build a conservation science position at the Museum. I worked in several areas during my first year, including safety, supporting the *Monitor* project's scientific needs, and library and archives.



Molly prepares a sample of Mariners' Lake water for analysis on The Bronze Door Society-funded ion chromatograph.

The Mariners' was recently awarded another grant: a 2024 National Leadership Grant for Museums from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). What will the grant cover?

This grant focuses on developing a method to remove an “inherent vice” from an object. All of our waterlogged objects get imbued with sulfur, which degrades them — especially archaeological objects made from wood, textiles, and other organic materials. When they’re underwater, the materials primarily have reduced sulfur forms. When we excavate them and then re-expose them to oxygen, they undergo oxidation, creating strong acids like sulfuric acid. The reduced sulfur is very difficult to remove, and we're one of many institutions worldwide working on this problem. Through the grant, we're bringing on two new scientists to test methods of safely removing sulfur from objects. We're also getting a scanning electron microscope, which gives us better methods to visualize what is happening to our samples and eventually to our objects as we test.

What does the grant mean for The Mariners'?

It helps us to highlight growth opportunities for conservation science. Conservation science provides an understanding of how materials were made, used, and have aged over time, which impacts our conservation efforts and ability to assess the long-range survivability of our choices and our objects. Lots of our objects have inherent vices that pose challenges, and we want to keep working on them until we have some answers. I think we'll have a lot of great results by the end of the grant. But we'll need to continue enacting the grant research on objects, including the underwater USS *Monitor* objects, and hopefully, develop a system we can adapt to objects that have already been completed and dried out.

What led you to become a research scientist?

I liked the merging of science and history because they both answer questions of “Why?” Understanding how things are made and how they age helps explain the outcomes we're seeing. Increasingly, we're asking big questions that we can't answer immediately. But looking at the materialities of our objects helps us begin to understand.

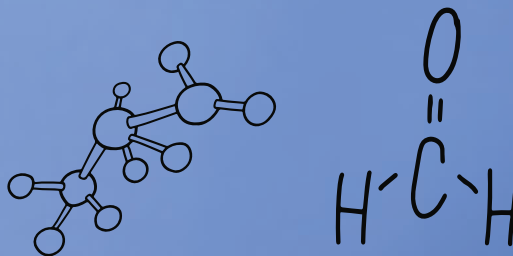
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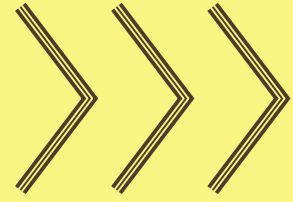


Molly conducts visible light reflectance spectroscopy on *Princess Carolina* timbers using The Bronze Door Society-funded colorimeter/spectrophotometer.



Forward Motion

in Mariners' Park Research



When I began my role as Park Stewardship Manager in August 2024 after working on the Education Team since 2018, I endeavored with Park Director Erica Deale to start an official environmental research program at Mariners' Park. As we aim to create a research legacy in the Park, The Mariners' Park Research Initiative provides a framework for current and future environmental research in the Park.

The main goals of the program include growing and sustaining: institutional Park knowledge, environmental partners, research safety procedures, and access (to the Park and its research). The hope is that, with more understanding of the Park through research, we can continue improving our natural resource management strategies, providing greater access and opportunities.

Current Projects in the Park

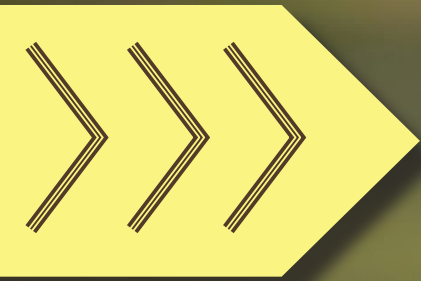
Our network of environmental partners has been investigating our Park for years. Study topics include bats, migrating birds, fish, plants, terrestrial insects, and living shorelines. Christopher Newport University (CNU) and Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) are two of many steady environmental partners actively researching Mariners' Park. We are working to continue serving the research community and creating access to other partners, including local school districts.

The Mariners' Team conducts environmental studies internally to understand the Park and improve resource management. An example is our robust water quality program involving Mariners' Lake® and Kettle Pond. In 2018, there was a devastating fishkill at Kettle Pond, and we had little knowledge of baseline water quality for Mariners' Lake or Kettle Pond at the time. This prompted our environmental science team, Erica, and I to start a water quality program, which still runs today. The water quality research was instrumental in getting boats back on the water after years of the Lake being closed to the public and influenced the expansion of our outdoor education programs.

Our staff continues to drive research efforts, including a bird study that Mariners' Horticulturalist Katrina Kelso is leading. With the Research Initiative framework, we will have more research opportunities on campus that increase involvement for staff and community members.

Top left: Andrea reviews results from Mariners' Lake water quality tests that students conducted as part of the B-WET program. During B-WET, educators guide students through a variety of tests, including water temperature, pH, turbidity, and salinity.

Top right: Erica Deale collects water from Mariners' Lake for testing.



Why Study Mariners' Park?

Our property sits in a unique, dynamic space. It is a sub-watershed of the lower James River surrounded by urbanization. Mariners' Lake watershed is approximately 4.8 mi² (3,088 acres), extending to City Center, through the CNU campus, neighborhoods, main thoroughfares, and into Mariners' Park. Mariners' Lake and Kettle Pond act as stormwater best management practices (BMPs) and help settle out the runoff pollution before the water flows into the James River.

In the face of growing urbanization, the forest in Mariners' Park has been ever-present, creating a buffer and habitat for countless species of plants, animals, and fungi. The freshwater Lake provides a home for aquatic animals. The shores of the James offer a glimpse into the lives of dolphin pods, pelicans, and oysters.

With green space in urban areas in decline, we have the opportunity to preserve our Park, especially when we as stewards learn more about our unique ecosystem. Stay tuned for more on the Mariners' Park Research Initiative!

Andrea Rocchio
Park Stewardship Manager
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Andrea observes a testing strip that was used to assess the water quality in Mariners' Lake.

Restoring Harmony

Grant Funds Bolster Long-term Sustainability in Mariners' Park

The Mariners' Living Collection — our 550 acre Park, 167-acre Lake, and Noland Trail — is a valuable community resource offering free access to outdoor recreation and environmental education experiences for hundreds of thousands of people each year. The Park also provides a unique space in the heart of the city for avid bird watchers, nature enthusiasts, and aspiring wildlife photographers to closely observe native animal species in a natural setting.

Recognizing the important role the Living Collection plays in our community, we have made significant investments in the Park over the past four years:

- In 2020, The Mariners' first Park Department was created.
- In 2021, The Mariners' Environmental Co-op was launched through a three-year NOAA B-WET grant to serve students through hands-on environmental programming in Mariners' Park.
- In 2023, we completed extensive capital improvements to effectively reopen Mariners' Lake and brought the maintenance of our natural resources in-house.
- In 2024, the Mariners' Environmental Co-op was permanently adopted through the Mariners' Lake Stewards program after the initial B-WET funding concluded this year.

As we look to the future, these investments have set the stage for The Mariners' Team to engage our community and advance restoration in Mariners' Park to benefit the wildlife species who call it home.

A great blue heron perches on a branch in Mariners' Park. Grant funds provided by The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) will support Mariners' Park habitat restoration efforts.



Newport News Public School students came to Mariners' Park on a field trip to plant eel grasses, test Mariners' Lake's water quality, and learn about local fish species found in the Lake and regional waters.



As validation of our success and approach, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) recently awarded The Mariners' Museum and Park a \$364,432 grant through the coveted Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) program. Funding will support an 18-month, large-scale restoration project consisting of three components:

1. Mariners' Park habitat restoration
2. Student engagement through the Mariners' Lake Stewards program
3. Community outreach

The goal of this project is to restore, enhance, and steward Mariners' Park as a vital ecosystem and sanctuary for wildlife, including 32 identified imperiled bird species, such as the American woodcock, yellow-crowned night-heron, and yellow-billed cuckoo.

From October 2024 to April 2026, our team will engage community partners and volunteers to eradicate invasive species and restore 100 acres of wildlife habitat. Without intervention, the present invasive species, including aggressive English ivy, would kill the native trees and crowd out the native host, cover, and food plants in the sites, threatening wildlife habitats. Community outreach events will also be held across



The Park Department cleared invasive plant species and planted native Mayapple Roots as part of the "Keep Virginia Beautiful" Grant.

the Peninsula to encourage our community members to extend habitat restoration beyond the Park through invasive species control and native plantings. The Mariners' Lake Stewards program will empower local students to take an active role in habitat restoration activities to benefit wildlife and people in their communities.

Once completed, this project will inform the creation of the Mariners' Comprehensive Park Plan and the selection of a Wildlife Management Plan to help ensure the health and sustainability of the forest, Lake, and wildlife for years to come.

Josi Washington
Grant Writer
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TESTING STRATEGIES

for the Center for the Collection

If you've visited The Mariners' lately, you probably noticed a few of our galleries are undergoing a dramatic transformation! Our team has been working diligently for several months to move hundreds of permanent Collection objects from an aging storage area into three of our galleries. These galleries had been empty or nearly empty for quite some time after undergoing renovations: namely, installing more efficient and reliable air handling units and changing flooring from carpeting (which traps debris and may harbor pests) to an epoxy-coated concrete or revealing the Museum's original terrazzo. These renovations are vital investments in better care for our Collection.

We're not only relocating Collection objects into more suitable environments; we're also testing accessible storage concepts before planning the specifications of a new Center for the Collection. Accessible storage is a solution to the significant barrier to serving our community that is quite common in the museum field: More than 90 percent of our Collection is in storage, inaccessible to the public. There is a very good reason for that: Museum professionals are charged with preventing damage to and slowing the natural degradation

of Collections so they can be utilized by future generations in addition to our current community. However, our current model of housing most of the Collection in traditional storage — in dark rooms behind closed doors — is preventing access to our community, which does not fulfill our mission.

We envision the Center for the Collection as an addition to our current building, filling an urgent need for more gallery and storage space. We hope that, for many parts of our Collection, we can balance the preventive conservation needs of Collection material (ideal temperature, humidity, light levels, and more) with accessibility and designate some of the spaces in the Center for the Collection as BOTH gallery and storage space simultaneously. This is what you see being actively applied in our galleries, and why those spaces do not look like a conventional museum exhibition. In our current testing phase, we're utilizing storage solutions like pallet racking that are in stock, not custom, so that we steward our resources better; in the future, we'll ask for your input on how this storage impacts your interaction with the Collection.

Top, bottom opposite: Guests observe Collection items on display in the Museum's galleries as part of our accessible storage concept.

Another ready-made storage solution we're currently installing is a "clean room." One of the roadblocks we encountered early in this accessible storage project was learning that the galleries' temperature and humidity are incredibly variable and closely influenced by outdoor weather conditions. These rapid fluctuations in environmental conditions can harm Collection material; for example, a painted wooden object like a figurehead can expand and contract, which can cause paint loss. We're theorizing that the clean room — essentially, a glass room that we will populate with Collection objects — will provide a buffer against the environmental fluctuations that we have been unable to mitigate using our HVAC system alone. Again, we will ask you if aspects of this type of display, such as having a glass wall between you and the Collection objects, affect your experience.



A newly constructed controllable micro-climate case, based on the design of a clean room, stands outside of the Exploration Gallery. The case will be filled with objects after undergoing environmental testing.

Be on the lookout as these galleries continue to evolve and we gain more clarity about what works — and doesn't work — in our efforts to lay the groundwork for the Center for the Collection. In addition to relocating the remainder of the objects into these gallery spaces, a few of the modifications on the horizon are improving object labels, implementing interpretive content, mounting the figureheads in upright positions, and collecting your feedback!

Sarah Elizabeth Kelly
Director of Collections Management
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Accessible storage is a solution to the significant barrier to serving our community that is quite common in the museum field: more than 90 percent of our Collection is in storage, inaccessible to the public.





Making Learning Fun

WITH MUSEUM SCAVENGER HUNTS

START HERE!



When children visit a museum, they may not be in the mindset of having an educational experience. More often, children view museums as places where they must be quiet and look at various objects but not touch anything. Or they may view museums as places to have fun and unique experiences but not necessarily to learn. At The Mariners', we believe that children can visit the Museum for a fun *and* educational experience.

While museum scavenger hunts are nothing new, The Mariners' has taken the initiative to utilize these playful activities to help enhance young visitor engagement. The idea was to create engaging activities in the form of scavenger hunts or quests that were not only fun but also enhanced different skills children learn in the classroom. It's no secret that children lose 25 to 30 percent of their schooling during the summer break.¹ Known as the "summer slide," this regression severely impacts math and reading. The Young Mariners' Team was tasked with creating a wide range of quests that addressed basic school-taught math and reading skills, helping to reinforce those critical skills outside of the classroom. Most children would turn their noses up to a scavenger hunt focused on fractions or proper sentence structure, but we harnessed our creativity to design questions that did just that.

For example, many quests ask young visitors to count different items in a particular gallery. This is an important math skill for younger children ages two to four. Other questions focus on more complex math skills. RMS *Queen Elizabeth*, currently on display, shows only half the model ship. One scavenger hunt question asks visitors to count how many lifeboats they see on *Queen Elizabeth*, then prompts them to deploy their basic multiplication skills to figure out how many lifeboats there would be if the entire model were visible. This multiplication question helps reiterate math skills for children ages nine to 12.

Children visiting the Museum can engage with various quests, expanding learning opportunities. Topics for these activities range from buoyancy, colors, shapes and patterns, and a decoder. The Mariners' also has quests for children wanting to enjoy the outdoors. A plant and animal quest is available for children to learn about the different flora and fauna that surround Mariners' Park. Likewise, we provide an early childhood quest that focuses exclusively on the ever-popular International Small Craft Center.



RANGER FACT:

We have 11 different species of turtles in the park! They love to swim under Bridge 2 and near the boathouse.

How many pinecones can you find in our Park?



With so many new activities, The Young Mariners' Team needed to make sure the questions weren't too challenging, so we developed a creative way to collect data. When guests finish the quest, they must also return their pencil. To collect pencils, the Young Mariners' Team created a question that asks visitors, "After completing the scavenger hunt, do you feel like a Mariner?" Visitors place their pencil in a box labeled Yes, Maybe, or No. Feedback has been positive, with returning visitors happy to have a wide range of selections.

As of Labor Day 2024, we offer eight new scavenger hunts, and we hope to continue providing multiple engagement opportunities for our young visitors. If you visit The Museum and see a young mariner completing a quest...shhhhh. Don't let them know they're also learning.

Brandon Adams
Senior Educator, History
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¹<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/summer-learning-loss-what-is-it-and-what-can-we-do-about-it>



2030 Are We There Yet?

Sustaining and Growing Impact for the Next Century

You may have heard: 2030 is just around the corner. What happens in 2030, you ask? It is The Mariners' Museum and Parks' 100th birthday! So what do you get someone turning 100? Well, since you asked, our wish is to continue as a strong community resource, remain accessible, and become a trusted leader in stewardship and engagement. You can help us by contributing in one or both areas: sustaining and growing.

Sustaining

Each quarter we huddle to talk about what we achieved. A few highlights are displayed in the graphic below.

All of these were possible because we committed to serving. When the elementary school couldn't pay for a program, we served. When a non-profit needed an open space to convene, we served. When a university wanted to conduct research in the Park, we served. When promising young adults needed employment and mentoring, we served. When a student with varied physical abilities needed a kayak adapted to participate in a program without restriction, we served.

If helping us stay the course is important to you, consider an unrestricted individual gift to the Mariners' Fund, allowing us to serve without limits. This fund keeps the lights on, helps us respond to emergency repairs for an aging facility, supports students regardless of their ability to pay, makes our Collection more accessible, and keeps the Park maintained and free — it is our mission in action each day.

Growing

If you've chatted at length with a Mariners' Team member lately, you may have inadvertently found yourself in a conversation about what the future holds. Whether it is the research scientist excited about the new SEM microscope



and how it supports breakthrough conservation research, an expanded outdoor learning space for little mariners, or the digital services manager imagining how 3D scanning could change the face of in-gallery engagement, it is no secret — there are many possibilities here at The Mariners'.

As we work to identify the next phases of growth in the Museum and Park, we expect to share more exciting projects like accessible storage in the galleries and extending the Mariners' Lake open season. If growth sparks joy for you, consider making a recurring gift to help launch the next phase of improvements in the area you care about most. To chat about all the options available, feel free to contact our Development Team to learn more.

Now can you see why we are so excited about turning 100? I am looking forward to celebrating this milestone together.

Sabrina Y. Jones
Senior Director of Advancement
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2024 Highlights:

Inside Business
The Hampton Roads Business Journal

5 CONSECUTIVE YEARS
based on employee feedback

TOP WORK PLACES 2020-2024

over 26,000 STUDENTS
served across the region through our educational programs



2024 FINALIST
National Medal for Museum and Library Service

The only VA museum awarded the highest national recognition for Museums.

tripadvisor
Travelers' Choice Award

Consistent positive scores placed us in **TOP 10%** of listings worldwide

USS Monitor's **SKEG COMPLETION**

THE LARGEST SINGLE COMPONENT ON MONITOR TO BE CONSERVED TO DATE

The Bronze Door Society



A Legacy in Stewardship

The Bronze Door Society is the oldest member-managed affinity group of The Mariners'. This active group of community leaders gathers regularly throughout the year to engage with one another and participate in moving the mission forward for a stronger, more vibrant community. The society is named for the spectacular set of maritime-themed bronze doors that were commissioned by Museum co-founder, Archer M. Huntington, and created by renowned American sculptor, Herbert C. Adams, specifically for the Museum's original entrance.

The BDS presents a check to members of The Mariners' Team.

From left: Sabrina Jones, Stewardship Coordinator Max Knowlton, BDS Steering Council Chair Carole L. Rekrut, Senior Individual Philanthropy Officer Sherri Fosdick, and Mariners' President Howard H. Hoege.

Annually, members convene to raise awareness and support for the Museum's Collections One night in particular, The Bronze Door Annual Dinner, hails as the flagship event that underwrites some of the most critical needs. This year, BDS earmarked \$110,000 for projects; however, by the end of the night, more than \$185,000 had been raised. There were nearly 100 BDS members and their guests in attendance for another memorable year! These projects, and others funded that night, increase our ability to document, treat, and display our Collections and have far-reaching impacts across the organization.

Special thanks to Dick and Easter Thompson, as well as Stuart and Cynthia Katz for funding two significant projects before this year's annual dinner.

Check out a couple of the projects funded below:

ColdJet PE-80 Dry-Ice Pelletizer \$40,500

Dry-ice blasting is an innovative cleaning method approved for archaeological metal artifacts that we use regularly for USS *Monitor* artifacts and objects in the Mariners' Collection.



Artec 3D Scanner \$40,300

Three-dimensional (3-D) scanning in the field of cultural heritage is becoming a standard tool used to support collections care, research, and access.



BronzeDoorSociety.org

For more information visit our website or contact Sherri Fosdick at 757-591-7730 or via email at sfosdick@MarinersMuseum.org.

Mariners' on the Move

The Mariners' Team has been out and about, spreading our mission around the city and beyond! Here are some of our favorite snapshots of the team partnering with other organizations and participating in events to expand our impact in the community.



Senior Director of Advancement Sabrina Jones (right) is photographed with Delegate Marcia Price during the Tech Center II ribbon cutting. Behind them sits the city's latest sculpture, "Starfinder," commissioned by the Newport News Arts Foundation.



Senior History Educator Brandan Adams (left) and Early Childhood Educator Amanda Abrill greeted families at Denbigh Early Childhood Center's Back to School Night.



From left: Park Stewardship Manager Andrea Rocchio, Science Educator Emma Ferrante, and Senior Science Educator Claudia Moncada hopped aboard a Chesapeake Bay Foundation boat for a tour of the Hampton River.



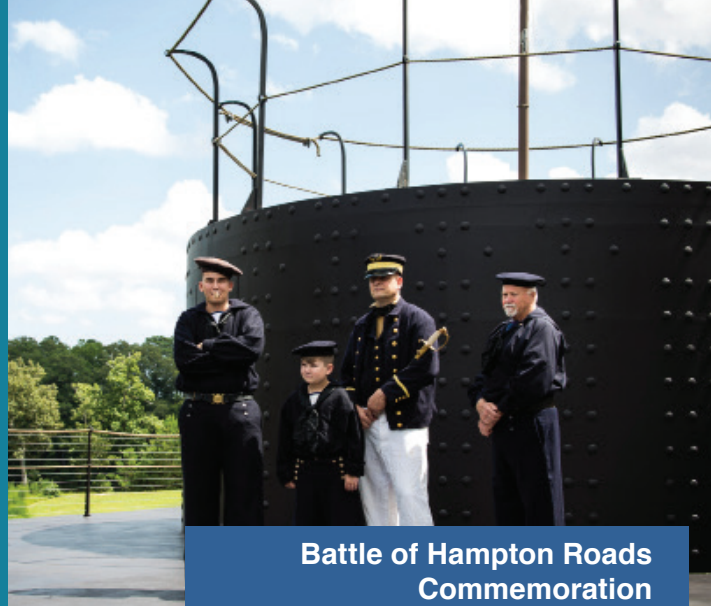
From left: Group Experiences Coordinator MaryAnn Steinmiller, Special Events Coordinator Riley Johnson, Assistant Curator of Community Engagement Erika Cosme, and Park Ranger Maggie Markley represented The Mariners' at the Made in Newport News: All American City Bash.



Little mariner Skylar mans an outreach table at a local library with her mom, Director of Park Department Erica Deale.



Mariners' Lake Program Coordinator Rob Nichols models an arm splint at a MEDIC SOLO Wilderness First Aid certification course in Charlottesville.



Battle of Hampton Roads Commemoration
March 8, 2025

Mark Your Calendar!

for these special events in 2025:

USS Monitor Legacy Program
Monthly - select Fridays

Battle of Hampton Roads Commemoration
March 8, 2025

Evening Lectures
Select dates in Spring and Fall 2025

MilKids Festival
April 6, 2025

Sips & Trips
June 28, 2025

Fall Festival
November 1, 2025



For additional programs & events, scan the QR code or visit MarinersMuseum.org.

MarinersMuseum.org

Explore new ways to engage with the Museum, in person and virtually. Learn more about the Museum's Collections and how we can help you discover your own maritime connections!

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MUSEUM ADMISSION IS \$1 PER PERSON.



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