



ACCURATE AS OF APRIL 8, 2026. SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CAMM Annual Conference Program

Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, Connecticut

Sessions at the Delamar Hotel, on the Museum grounds

April 22–24, 2026

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

- 10:00am–5:00pm CAMM attendees welcome to visit Mystic Seaport Museum
- 3:00pm–5:00pm Registration at Mystic Seaport Museum
Thompson Exhibition Building, North Entrance
- 5:00pm–8:00pm Meet up at [Taquerio](#), Downtown Mystic

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

- 8:00–8:45am Registration and coffee, [Delamar Hotel](#) Ballroom
- 8:45–9:00am Welcome and announcements
Pete Leshner, CAMM president
Shannon McKenzie, Mystic Seaport Museum
- 9:00–9:50 Session 1: Mystic Seaport Museum
Welcome and Collaboration
Chris Freeman, Mystic Seaport Museum
Creating Visitor Experience Impact with Research
Margaret Milnes, Mystic Seaport Museum
- 9:55–10:45 Session 2: Mystic cont'd
Cross Promotion of Maritime Museums
Sophia Matsas, Mystic Seaport Museum
Rewrite and Refund the National Maritime Heritage Grant Program
Chris Fisher, Spinnaker Consulting
- 10:45–11:00 Break
- 11:00–11:50 Session 3: Major Projects (panel)
Connecting Community, Place, and Content: Designing the Cohesive Museum
Campus Visitor Experience
Caroline Wuebben, Columbia River Maritime Museum
Alec Holser, Opsis Architecture

	Gwen Sparks, Sparks & Sullivan Ryan Sullivan, Sparks & Sullivan
11:50am–1:10pm	Lunch Wells Boat Hall - tours during lunch
1:10–1:35	Session 4: Major Projects <i>Integrating Preservation, Interpretation, and Workforce Development: The USS Constellation Rigging Project</i> Steven Bountress, Historic Ships in Baltimore
1:35–1:50	Update <i>Strengthening National Connectivity: The NMHS Affiliate Membership Program</i> Cathy Green, National Maritime Historical Society
1:55–2:45	Session 5: Notes from the Field Margherita Desy, USS <i>Constitution</i> Museum Molly Taylor, Ships of the Sea Museum Kevin Cullen, Wisconsin Maritime Museum Craig Chambers, Northwest Seaport Michael Hite, Nautical History Gallery and Museum Marifrances Trivelli, U.S. Lighthouse Society Jon Hill, Pensacola Lighthouse and Maritime Museum Michael Harrison, Nantucket Historical Association
2:45–3:15	Break
3:15–5:15	Activities. Space limited, sign-up required. <i>Sabino</i> rides, tours of the Henry B. du Pont Preservation Shipyard, planetarium show.
5:15–7:00	Happy hour at the Shipyard. Dinner on your own.

Thursday, April 23, 2026

8:45–9:00am	Welcome
9:00–9:50	Session 1: Exhibitions <i>Opening the Cabinet: Contemporary Perspectives on a Historic Collection</i> Dan Finamore, Peabody Essex Museum George Schwartz, Peabody Essex Museum <i>Lessons learned about Resilience and Relevance through the crucible of Indigenous exhibits</i> Jeff Smith, Columbia River Maritime Museum
9:55–10:45	Session 2: Exhibitions (panel) <i>Investment, Impact, and Identity: Temporary Exhibitions as Tools for Institutional Strategy</i> Sara Zarrelli, Museum Insights Sarah Watkins, USS <i>Constitution</i> Museum

	Martina Caruso, South Street Seaport Museum Emma Ballenas, Mystic Seaport Museum
10:45–11:00	Break
11:00–11:50	Session 3: Exhibitions <i>Navigating Memory and History: The Heungnam Evacuation, 1950</i> Joshua Smith, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy <i>Current and Future Challenges Facing the Pigeon Forge Titanic Maritime Museum</i> Presley Roush, State University of New York Maritime College
11:50am–1:15pm	Lunch: Wells Boat Hall
1:15–2:05	Session 4: Collections (panel) <i>Digitizing Collections: Initiatives and Experiences from Across the Field</i> Gabriella Cantelmo, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Leah Prescott, Mystic Seaport Museum Shannon McKenzie, Mystic Seaport Museum Michael Harrison, Nantucket Historical Association
2:10–3:00	Session 5: Collections (panel) <i>A Call for Collaboration: What Can We Learn from Biological Treasures in Maritime Museum Collections?</i> Krystal Rose, Mystic Seaport Museum James T. Carlton, Williams College Kate Katin, Mystic Seaport Museum Lili Kane, Mystic Seaport Museum Tom Van Winkle, Williams-Mystic Program
3:05–3:30	Session 6: Stories <i>A Great Lakes Pirate</i> Carrie Sowden, National Museum of the Great Lakes Sam Perlman, Door County Maritime Museum
3:30–4:30	Visits to Williams-Mystic Science Center, Collections Research Center
4:30–6:00	<i>Sabino</i> rides, planetarium show, time to visit Museum
6:30–8:30	Dinner at Rio Salado Mystic

Friday, April 24, 2026

- 8:45–9:00am Welcome
- 9:00–9:50 Session 1: Community (panel)
Ho'i i ke Kai: Returning Historic Canoes to the Ocean
 Sarah Kuaiwa, Bishop Museum
 Cynthia Low, Bishop Museum
 Kayla Ku'ualoha Fernandez, Bishop Museum
 Susan Yamamoto, Bishop Museum
- 9:55–10:45 Session 2: Community
Hauling Back: A Multigenerational Fishing Family Project
 Joe Ritter, New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center

Celebrating International Connections: Where the Ship Meets the World
 Sarah Watkins, USS Constitution Museum
 Kelli Aquino, USS Constitution Museum
- 10:45–11:00 Break
- 11:00–11:50 Session 3: Resilience
Resilience of Maritime Museums: Strategies from Coastal Cities
 Richard Burroughs, University of Rhode Island

Preserving Maritime New York City: Engaging Public History in New York Harbor
 Johnathan Thayer, Queens College, CUNY
 Stefan D-W Tisdale, Public Historian of New York Harbor
- 11:50am–1:05pm Lunch
- 1:05–1:55 Session 4: Education
HOPE 101: Reframing Museum Value with an Evidence-Based Strategy for Social Impact
 Jill Ferris, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Building Skills, Forging Connections: MAP Youth at Mystic Seaport Museum
 Kyra McClary, Mystic Seaport Museum
- 2:00–2:50 Session 5: Education
Beyond History: Maritime Museums in Other Classrooms
 Jeana Ganskop, Penobscot Marine Museum

Creative Ways to Include Your Collection in Programming
 Julia Triezenberg, Columbia River Maritime Museum
 Meg Glazier-Anderson, Columbia River Maritime Museum
- 2:50–3:10 Break
- 3:15–4:15 CAMM annual meeting
 Pete Leshar, CAMM president

4:30pm Meet up at Delamar Hotel, Mystic