



ACCURATE AS OF APRIL 16, 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, Opsi Architecture

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|                | Gwen Sparks Sullivan, Sparks & Sullivan<br>Ryan Sullivan, Sparks & Sullivan   |
| 11:50am–1:10pm | Lunch<br>Wells Boat Hall - tours during lunch   |
| 1:10–1:35      | Session 4: Major Projects<br><i>Integrating Preservation, Interpretation, and Workforce Development: The USS Constellation Rigging Project</i><br>Steven Bountress, Historic Ships in Baltimore   |
| 1:35–1:50      | Update<br><i>Strengthening National Connectivity: The NMHS Affiliate Membership Program</i><br>Cathy Green, National Maritime Historical Society  |
| 1:55–2:45      | Session 5: Notes from the Field<br>Margherita Desy, USS <i>Constitution</i> Museum<br>Molly Taylor, Ships of the Sea Museum<br>Kevin Cullen, Wisconsin Maritime Museum<br>Craig Chambers, Northwest Seaport<br>Michael Hite, Nautical History Gallery and Museum<br>Marifrances Trivelli, U.S. Lighthouse Society<br>Jon Hill, Pensacola Lighthouse and Maritime Museum |
| 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**

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

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|                | Martina Caruso, South Street Seaport Museum<br>Emma Ballenas, Mystic Seaport Museum   |
| 10:45–11:00    | Break   |
| 11:00–11:50    | Session 3: Exhibitions<br><i>Navigating Memory and History: The Heungnam Evacuation, 1950</i><br>Joshua Smith, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy<br><br><i>Current and Future Challenges Facing the Pigeon Forge Titanic Maritime Museum</i><br>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)<br><i>Digitizing Collections: Initiatives and Experiences from Across the Field</i><br>Gabriella Cantelmo, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum<br>Leah Prescott, Mystic Seaport Museum<br>Shannon McKenzie, Mystic Seaport Museum<br>Michael Harrison, Nantucket Historical Association                               |
| 2:10–3:00      | Session 5: Collections (panel)<br><i>A Call for Collaboration: What Can We Learn from Biological Treasures in Maritime Museum Collections?</i><br>Krystal Rose, Mystic Seaport Museum<br>James T. Carlton, Williams College<br>Kate Katin, Mystic Seaport Museum<br>Lili Kane, Mystic Seaport Museum<br>Tom Van Winkle, Williams-Mystic Program |
| 3:05–3:30      | Session 6: Stories<br><i>A Great Lakes Pirate</i><br>Carrie Snowden, National Museum of the Great Lakes<br>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 <a href="#">Rio Salado</a> 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 Dreisbach-Williams Tisdale, Seamen's Church Institute
- 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