



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, Opsi 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 <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
- 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*  
 Presenter tbd, 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 Leshner, CAMM president
- 4:30pm Meet up at [Jealous Monk](#), Olde Mystic Village