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The Mariners' Museum and Park Named Finalist for 2024 IMLS National Medal for Museum and Library Service

NEWPORT NEWS, VA—The Institute of Museum and Library Services announced today that The Mariners' Museum and Park is among 30 finalists for the 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The Mariners' is the only museum in Virginia to be selected as a finalist for this award, which is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate significant and exceptional impact in their communities.

"We made the conscious choice eight years ago to fully commit ourselves to serving our community," said Howard Hoegge III, President and CEO of The Mariners' Museum and Park. "We are sometimes imperfect, but receiving this validation of our work strengthens our resolve to do better and be better for the local, national, and global communities we serve."

The Mariners' mission is to "[connect] people to the world's waters, because through the waters—through our shared maritime heritage—we are connected to one another." Enduring fulfillment of this charge is the basis for the Museum's National Medal application, which highlighted its unique approach to serving through a collections-based and community-focused strategy. This framework inspires the Museum's commitment to increasing access, engagement, and connection with the physical Collection in the Museum and the Living Collection, which includes Mariners' Park, Mariners' Lake, and the Noland Trail.

To celebrate this significant nomination, IMLS is encouraging community members to share stories of how The Mariners' has impacted their lives. Anyone with special memories, pictures, or videos to share can engage with IMLS on [X](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) using the hashtags #ShareYourStory and #IMLSmedals.

National Medal winners will be announced in late May. Representatives from winning institutions will be honored for their extraordinary contributions during an in-person National Medals Ceremony in Washington, DC this summer. To see the full list of finalists and learn more about the National Medal, visit the [IMLS website](#).

For more information about IMLS or the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, media should contact Erica Jaros at ejaros@imls.gov or (202) 653-4701. For interview requests or more information about The Mariners' Museum and Park, media should contact Senior Director of Advancement Sabrina Jones at sjones@marinersmuseum.org or (757) 591-7708.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. IMLS envisions a nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov.

About The Mariners' Museum and Park

The Mariners' Museum and Park connects people to the world's waters because through the water – through our shared maritime heritage – we are connected to one another. The organization is an educational, non-profit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, paintings, and other maritime artifacts. The Mariners' Museum is home to the USS *Monitor* Center and is surrounded by the 550-acre Mariners' Museum Park, one of the largest privately maintained parks open to the public in North America. The Mariners' Museum Library is the largest maritime library in the Western hemisphere. Because of the Museum's world-class collection and its reputation for high-level exhibits and programs, in 1999, the US Congress designated The Mariners' Museum as one of only two maritime museums that comprise America's National Maritime Museum. To provide access to the incredible stories told through its Collection, admission to the Museum is only \$1 per person. For hours and information, visit MarinersMuseum.org, call (757) 596-2222, or write The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

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