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The Mariners' Museum and Park Selected For Fredericksburg Film Festival

NEWPORT NEWS, VA – The Mariners' Museum and Park has been selected for the first annual Fredericksburg Film Festival. The Museum's short film, [In the Name of the Oyster](#), was submitted in the Documentary Short category. This honor is the first of its kind for The Mariners' and the film's director, Kyra Duffley.

"When our small, completely novice production team of two was started in 2021, we never could have imagined a possibility like this," said Kyra Duffley, Creative Director at The Mariners' Museum and Park. "I'm honored to share the story of mariners working in the world around us, reflected by these two 1908 paintings and then seen through the Mariners' mission of connecting people to the waters and one another."

In the Name of the Oyster was originally released as an installment of the Museum's popular *Beyond the Frame* series in October 2023. The film is based on paintings by Clifford Warren Ashley and features the female-owned Matheson Oyster Company and the all-female oyster team at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Uniting the paintings' subjects with real-world oyster harvesting and restoration practices, *In the Name of the Oyster* shines a light on environmental sustainability in a historic industry with considerable regional impact.

"My genuine hope when people see this film is that they will not only reflect on the actions they can take today to shape a better tomorrow—but also feel empowered to search deeper when looking at a work of art and use it as a catalyst to find and build connections with others," expressed Duffley.

The Fredericksburg Film Festival will be held May 2-5, 2024, with film screenings at locations throughout Downtown Fredericksburg. A virtual awards ceremony will be broadcast on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, on the Festival's [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. For more information about the Fredericksburg Film Festival, visit: <https://www.fxbgfilmfest.com/>.

Media interested in interviews or more information should contact Creative Director Kyra Duffley at kduffley@MarinersMuseum.org or (757) 591-7714.

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 U.S. 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 the Collection, admission to the Museum is only \$1 per person. For hours and information, visit MarinersMuseum.org, call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

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