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The Mariners' Museum and Park is Awarded a \$748,210 Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities



Dry ice cleaning on gun from the Battle of Yorktown. *(Photo courtesy of The Mariners' Museum and Park)*

NEWPORT NEWS, VA — The Mariners' Museum and Park was recently awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant. The Mariners' is one of only three institutions in Virginia who were awarded under the Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition grant program.

Awarded projects supported efforts to preserve and improve access to primary source materials that relate to the United States's Founding Era and the history of American government.

The Mariners' will spend the 3-year grant period treating, rehousing, and cataloging approximately 516 maritime archaeological items from the 1781 Battle of Yorktown, making them available for research and community engagement in the future. This work will happen in partnership with the Virginia Department of Historical Resources (VADHR), which owns over half of the collection from the Battle. At the conclusion of the grant period, this collection will be available digitally, as a whole, representing one of our nation's most pivotal battles on the water.

Senior Director of Advancement, Sabrina Jones, commented, "This project is massive for our institution. The Battle of Yorktown happened here on our local waterways, and we have a team of conservators who are experts in conservation of archaeological collections, making this the perfect collaboration." She elaborated, saying, "The Mariners' is one of only two institutions designated by Congress as America's National Maritime Museum, leaving us uniquely positioned to execute on the grant activities. We're excited to get started and share all that we discover while conserving this critical part of our nation's story."

With the help of this NEH funding, The Mariners' Conservation Team aims to complete this project in time for the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown in 2031.

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.

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, private 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings, and other maritime artifacts. The Mariners' Museum® is home to the USS *Monitor* Center, and is surrounded by the 550-acre Mariners' Park, the largest privately owned and maintained park that is free and 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 1998, the U.S. Congress designated The Mariners' Museum as one of only two maritime museums that comprise America's National Maritime Museum. The Museum galleries are open to the general public with \$1 admission, and the Mariners' team will continue to offer FREE virtual programs for those who prefer to engage online with us or through our social media platforms and blog posts. The Mariners' Park and Noland Trail is open for daily use. For additional 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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