



# The Maritime Museum of British Columbia

The Future of Maritime Heritage in Victoria – The MMBC at a Crossroads



*Join the Voyage!*

The  
Maritime Museum of BC

28 Bastion Square  
Victoria, BC, V8W 1H9  
T: 250-385-4222 • F: 250-382-2869  
mmbc.bc.ca



# The MMBC in Brief



- First opened in 1955 at Esquimalt Naval Base.
- Incorporated as a Society in 1957.
- Moved to the Provincial Courthouse when it became available in 1965.
- Over 1,000 individual, family and corporate members.
- An elected board of approximately 10 members.
- A full-time staff of 6.
- Over 40 volunteers who average approximately 10,000 hrs of service per year.
- 37,000 artefacts, 40,000 photographs, 30,000 ship's plans, 5,000 historic charts, 1,000 prints and paintings, 10,000 documents and manuscripts and a 6,000 volume library.
- **All of this history is in an unreinforced masonry building constructed in 1889.**

# The Things We Do



**Collections**



**Boats, Boats & Boats**



**Ghost & Vice Tours**



**Kids Programs**



**Events & Rentals**



# Maritime Heritage – The MMBC as the Hub



Beaver Medal



Thermopylae Club - 1924



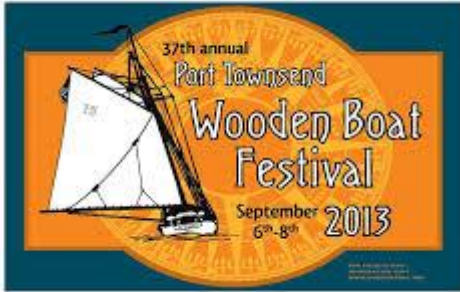
# Costs and Benefits



- We do all of this with an annual operating budget of only \$600K.
- Only 20% of this funding comes in the form of government grants.
- Our human resource costs alone account for \$380K .
- This year we paid over \$50K in rent to the provincial government.

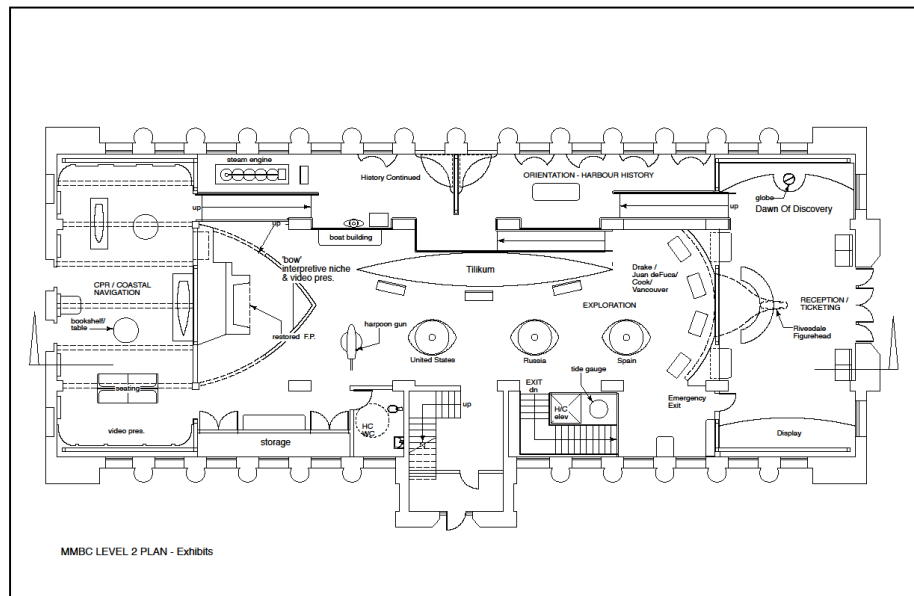


# Maritime Heritage – The Port Townsend Example



- **Thriving Coastal Community, economy based around maritime heritage and a strong, working harbour.**
- **Largest Wooden Boat Festival in North America.**
- **Wooden Boat Festival gross revenue is approximately 1.5 million in three days.**
- **The Festival is only one year older than Victoria's Classic Boat Festival.**
- **A Community much smaller than Victoria which was able to fund-raise and construct a \$25 million Maritime Heritage Centre on its waterfront.**

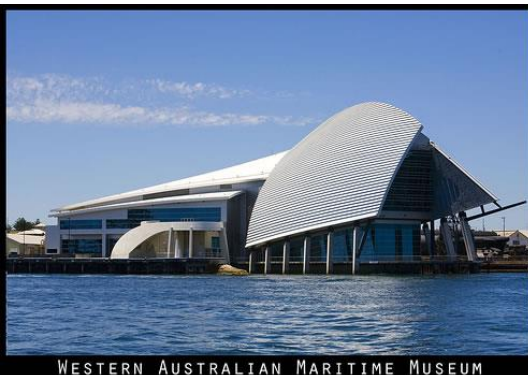
# Recent Events – The CPR Terminal Bid



# Why on the Harbour?



- That's where Maritime Heritage Centres belong.
- Victoria is sorely lacking in a second keynote attraction.
- The MMBC would become the cultural hub of the harbour.
- For the MMBC to survive it needs a purpose-built facility.
- A new facility would allow for much needed exhibit modernization and expansion as well as the ability to preserve the collection.



Maritime Museum of British Columbia  
Potential Waterfront Locations

Reeson Park Option

Existing MMBC Site

Bastion - Fort Option

Floating Museum Option

Belleville Street  
Re-development  
Option

Ogden Point/GVHA Option

# Legend

UPLAND  
PROPERTIES

HARBOUR  
FLOOR  
PROPERTIES



Transport C



Dept of Na  
Defence.



Fisheries &  
Oceans Co



Province of  
British Colum



Provisional  
Commission



BC Hydro &  
Authority.



Capital Reg  
District.



City of Victo



Township o  
Esquimalt.



Greater Vic  
Harbour Au



Private.



# The Way Ahead

## **“We Love Our Old Building But.....”**

- **The MMBC in its present state, in its present location, is not economically viable in the long term.**
- **We as Victorians and British Columbians have to recognize the importance of the museum and maritime heritage to our local economy.**
- **There are other locations in B.C. which are quite willing to house the “collection.”**
- **Is Victoria the historic maritime hub of the PNW or not?!**
- **If the answer is yes, than 6 underpaid staff, 9 geriatric board members and a small platoon of volunteers can’t do it alone – all levels of government, particularly local, the GVHA, the tourism industry and the local business community all have to “get onboard” and help the MMBC press “our” case.**
- **This is British Columbia’s maritime heritage collection, not the society’s.**
- **If we don’t move on this soon another icon of Victoria will quite likely fade away.**