



*JAMES B. RICHARDSON FOUNDATION, INC.
RICHARDSON MARITIME MUSEUM • THE BOATWORKS*

401 High Street, P.O. Box 1198, Cambridge, Maryland 21613
(410) 221-1871 www.richardsonmuseum.org

Press Release

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Cyndy Carrington Miller
Museum Administrator
(410) 770-9410

Contact:

Richardson Plus Brannock Equals Maritime History

The Richardson Maritime Museum & Boatworks and the Brannock Maritime Museum have announced an agreement to join forces in the creation of a significant new facility dedicated to local maritime history, to be located at the Richardson Museum's Boatworks property on Cambridge Creek.

The facility is part of the planned Maritime Heritage Center that the Richardson organization envisioned when it purchased the Maryland Avenue site in 2002. The Brannock agreement will be the impetus to begin Phase One of the construction project. Work is already underway at the current Boatworks building on the renovations necessary to support the effort.

Negotiations to showcase the unique Brannock collection have been taking place between the two organizations since Earl and Shirley Brannock approached the Richardson Museum with the proposal in early July. Since then, numerous meetings have taken place to iron out the details, until a formal agreement was recently reached and signed.

The Brannock Maritime Museum was founded on July 7, 1984. Earl Brannock noted that his organization has come of age and intends to move on with the Richardson Maritime Museum & Boatworks.



Using the occasion of the celebration of Dorchester County's Preserve America designation, Phil Brohawn, right, Chairman of the Board of the Brannock Maritime Museum, and Frank Newton, President of the Richardson Maritime Museum, announced an agreement for the two organizations to join forces in creating a new Maritime Heritage Center at the Richardson's Cambridge Creek site.

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“This has not been a hasty decision,” Brannock indicated. “Local and neighboring county organizations, as well as two universities, have offered the Brannock a home. The Richardson joint venture looks to be the answer.”

Under the terms of the agreement, a Joint Funding Committee has been formed to carry out the Phase One project, which will include the construction of three buildings. Two will support the traditional wooden boatbuilding and restoration that is integral to the Richardson Maritime Museum’s mission.

The third building will be a signature exhibit facility that will house, in part, the Brannock collection and archives. This structure, totaling approximately 9,000 square feet, will prominently display the

Brannock collection on the first floor and hold the archives on the second, which will become the Brannock Maritime Research and Education Center. The collection and archives will be formally transferred to the Richardson Museum upon dedication of the new facility.

It is anticipated that the Richardson Museum’s own offices and collection will remain at its current location on High Street, at least until Phase Two is completed, with the additional space provided by Phase One allowing substantial redesign of exhibits and room for rotating displays.

Phase Two of the project will include the construction of additional exhibit space along with community rooms, administrative offices, a gift shop and café. Phase One building costs are projected at \$3 million with the project as a whole estimated at \$10 million.



Members of both organizations celebrated months of negotiations leading up to the announcement. Left to right, Toby Frey, Richardson Board Member; Cyndy Carrington Miller, Richardson Museum Administrator; Jack Baudistel, Joint Funding Committee Member; Paul Myers, Richardson Vice President; Frank Newton, Richardson President; Victor MacSorley, Richardson Acting Board Chairman; Debbie Usab, Joint Funding Committee Member; Shirley and Earl Brannock; and Phil Brohawn, Brannock Board Chairman.

Local architect Jay Corvan has been working with the Richardson organization to design the new facility. Based on extensive research into manufacturing’s architectural history in Cambridge, the finished project will be a blend of styles based on brick industrial buildings and agricultural mill structures, all brought up to date into a functionally modern facility with historic design.

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An important part of the overall plan for the site is to keep the waterfront both visually and physically accessible to the public. To ensure this, in laying out the site plan, the final footprint of the buildings has been kept as small as possible, with a view of the water to be maintained from Maryland Avenue.

Frank Newton, President of the Richardson Maritime Museum, thanked the Brannocks for initiating the merger. “The Brannock collection, and especially the archives, are important resources that should not leave Dorchester County,” he emphasized. “We are honored that they chose the Richardson Museum as the new home for their legacy and I look forward to working with Earl and Shirley and their representatives to see this facility constructed.

“Our coming together in this project,” he added, “is a significant development not just for the two organizations, but for Cambridge and Dorchester County. The new facility will serve not only to preserve the boatbuilding heritage of the area, but also as a major research facility for scholars, thanks to the Brannocks’ extensive archives encompassing the local maritime history.”

Brannock agreed, saying, “We feel that our international Maritime Research & Education facility will become the impetus for the revitalization of central city Cambridge.”

Making the announcement of the agreement at an event celebrating Dorchester County’s Preserve America Designation by First Lady Laura Bush, he added, “All of us look forward to preserving this part of America.”

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