

Port Townsend, Washington

Northwest Maritime Center & Wooden Boat Foundation

Executive Director

Port Townsend, Washington:

Port Townsend is a big small town. Strategically located at the entrance of Puget Sound and just 50 miles and a ferry ride from downtown Seattle, it is home to world class arts, music and a rich maritime culture. Port Townsend offers one of the most remarkable natural and built environments in the Pacific Northwest. The waterfront is in the heart of the National Landmark Historic District, within the rain shadow of Olympic National Park, and is the ideal setting for celebrating and advancing the nation's maritime heritage.

Due partly to its preserved architectural heritage, Port Townsend is the only designated "Historic Victorian Seaport" on the west coast and one of only three in the entire nation. Although its harbor is no longer filled with commercial sailing ships, Port Townsend's restored piers, wharfs and historic buildings provide a welcoming stop-over to tall ships and recreational boaters and offer the unique experience of an authentic working waterfront.

Port Townsend is host to many annual festivals and events such as the Wooden Boat Festival, Kinetic Sculpture Race, and Centrum's annual fiddle tunes, blues and jazz festivals. Boating and maritime life are central community elements in this port town, with regattas, weekly races and a multitude of on-the-water recreational opportunities. The marine trades industry is a critical economic driver for the city, including highly skilled, world-renowned trades people, anchored by two marinas at each end of the downtown Historic District.

Port Townsend is also a well-known tourist destination, with over a million visitors a year, attracted to its historic downtown where there are many galleries, gourmet restaurants, and unique shopping opportunities. Yet, the community embraces and protects its small town atmosphere, special places, progressive civic culture, and walkable streets, trails and beaches. There is a plethora of life-long learning opportunities here—from classes, to workshops, trainings, and presentations. Quite simply, Port Townsend is a great place to live, work, and play.

Wooden Boat Foundation & Northwest Maritime Center:

The Wooden Boat Festival was started in 1976 by local people who appreciated wooden boats and wanted to preserve the skills and fine craftsmanship of traditional shipwrights while honoring the maritime heritage of the Puget Sound. The festival was so successful it led to the creation of the Wooden Boat Foundation. The 34th Wooden Boat Festival will be held this September over three days attracting over 25,000 visitors and maritime enthusiasts from around the world. For over three decades, the Wooden Boat Foundation has hosted this annual festival, nurtured the art and craft of wooden boats, and taught thousands of people of all ages how to sail or build a boat.

The Northwest Maritime Center was established, in partnership with the Wooden Boat Foundation, in 1999 as a separate organization for the purpose of planning a new maritime educational and cultural facility and raising the funds to build it. In 2005, midway through the capital campaign to construct the Center, the Northwest Maritime Center and Wooden Boat Foundation went through a process to merge the two organizations. As a result, a new parent-subsidiary relationship was formed to complete the construction of the Center's facilities and implement educational and hands-on experiential programming at the new facility. The overriding goal of the merger is to provide a secure home for both organizations, solidify a long-term partnership of programs, create budget efficiencies in staffing, streamline governance, and ensure a legacy of maritime traditions and culture in our community.

The Facilities:

Our 27,000 square foot world-class facility is located adjacent to the Point Hudson marina and occupies a commanding presence on Port Townsend Bay. The Center's grand opening was last September during the Wooden Boat Festival. The new facility is a "green building," certified as LEED Gold, and includes two multi-purpose buildings, a deep-draft dock, and 20,000 square feet of outdoor common space for events and activities.

The *Maritime Heritage Building* includes a traditional chandlery and retail store (Wooden Boat Chandlery) and a coffee shop, boat livery, showers and restrooms, conference meeting rooms with an adjacent catering kitchen, exhibit and gallery spaces, maritime library, and office space for staff and educational partners.

The *Education Building* serves as the hub for our educational programming and includes boat shop and demonstration spaces, two classrooms, an audio/visual room, a chart room, and the Pilothouse—a representative model of a contemporary ship.

Mission and Programs:

The mission of the Northwest Maritime Center is to engage and educate people of all generations in traditional and contemporary maritime life, in a spirit of adventure and discovery. Our program philosophy embraces the concept of collaboration and "learning by doing." Grounded in our new facility and location, our programs provide experiential-inspired learning opportunities. We provide a range of on-the-water programs designed to connect people to the sea. We use a variety of vessels to enable our members and school program participants to learn sailing skills, develop independence and self-confidence, and to experience the wonder and joy of being on the water.

The NWMC leadership recognizes that the cost to maintain and operate the new facilities will need to be balanced with the need to grow and expand programmatic opportunities. The Board has passed a resolution to become fully financially sustainable by 2013.

Opportunity and Challenge:

Our current Executive Director, Stan Cummings, led the NWMC & WBF to the successful completion of a \$12.8 million capital campaign to fund the construction of our new two-building campus complex. Subsequent to the campaign's conclusion, Dr. Cummings announced his retirement, effective the end of 2010.

The Board of Directors now seeks a gifted, entrepreneurial and visionary leader to build upon the organization's premier reputation and to lead it at a time of tremendous opportunity and great momentum.

The Executive Director will face a set of key opportunities and challenges:

- Effectively utilize our facilities, our human resources, and the resources of our community in furtherance of the missions of the NWMC & WBF
- Continue development of the Chandlery (both in-store and web sales) to provide significant mission-sensitive financial return to the organization
- Invigorate trust and commitment of the WBF and the marine trades to the vision and mission of the NWMC
- Build our regional and national reputation and involvement and continue to enhance relationships with local people, businesses and nonprofits
- Accomplish sustainability goals

Responsibilities:

The Executive Director is the chief executive officer of the NWMC & WBF and reports directly to the Board of Directors. The Executive Director provides leadership to and management of all aspects of organizational activity, including oversight of programs, administration and operations, revenue centers, fundraising, financial affairs, facilities, Board relations, and external relations, including with the marine trades, local and regional communities, and strategic partners.

The annual operating budget is \$1.3 million. The staff comprises 12 FTE.

Qualifications and Characteristics:

The successful candidate will demonstrate a passion for the NWMC & WBF core values and mission and be dedicated to their sustainability. The Executive Director will have a distinguished record of success leading and building complex organizations in fulfillment of mission and financial sustainability. S/he will also possess most, if not all of the following qualities and characteristics:

- Visionary, strategic and facilitative leadership skills, with the proven ability to foster a sense of unity, trust, support, and collaboration among multiple stakeholders
- The ability to command respect across all sectors of our activity (WBF membership, NWMC staff, donors, community members, partners, marine trades, etc.); adept at interacting and communicating with those same sectors
- A high creativity quotient with an enterprising and entrepreneurial spirit.
- Outstanding communication and presentation skills
- A charismatic and compelling personality
- Proven business and administrative acumen including discipline in the setting of realistic priorities and running a fiscally sound operation while also driving and supporting the mission
- The ability to, and preferably experience as a successful fundraiser
- Excellent listening skills
- A deep and abiding love for all things maritime
- Management skills and qualities that demonstrate a commitment to team-building and the empowerment and valuing of staff; a style that is approachable and genuine
- Capacity to work successfully with a Board
- Personal qualities that include gracious self-confidence, maturity and gravitas, flexibility, an attitude of curiosity and flexibility towards change, courage, a sense of humor, and unquestionable integrity.

Application Process:

Please submit a cover letter expressing interest and a resume to Lenore Goldstein, staff to the Board Search Committee at len@nwmaritime.org.

For more information about our organization, please visit our websites:

www.nwmaritime.org
www.woodenboat.org