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For Immediate Release

WMM Announces Renovation of Preservation Facility

MANITOWOC, Wis. — The Wisconsin Maritime Museum is pleased to announce a major renovation project to their property at 1221 Franklin Street in Manitowoc: The Wisconsin Maritime Heritage Center.

The Wisconsin Maritime Heritage Center is a multi-functional building, which Executive Director Catherine Green views as a, “hub for maritime preservation and education.”

When complete, the Wisconsin Maritime Heritage Center will also include outdoor exhibits and public garden, a state-of-the-art conservation laboratory, and a boatbuilding shop on a showcase campus within the larger urban renewal efforts all along Franklin Street in Manitowoc.

The need to upgrade the outdated facility came after the Wisconsin Maritime Museum recently doubled its object collection and the facility became inadequate to house the newly acquired artifacts. That coupled with the need to continue to grow the collection and offer expanded programming led the museum to take on this ambitious project.

While construction is currently underway, the museum stresses that contributions are still needed to realize the full vision for the site, which will benefit not only the museum, but the whole community, providing not only enhanced collections storage, but much needed public green space along the Franklin Street corridor.

Fundraising efforts are well underway, with over \$400,000 already pledged to this project through generous support from The City of Manitowoc, The Ruth St. John and John Dunham West Foundation, and the Fund for Lake Michigan. The museum is looking to raise an additional \$400,000 to complete phase one of the Maritime Heritage Center, which will lay the groundwork

for all the aspects of preservation and education the museum will develop for the site over the next 3 years.

Additional information on the project and how to donate is available on our website: <https://www.wisconsinmaritime.org/collections/franklin-st-redevelopment-project/>.

The Wisconsin Maritime Museum welcomes all people to connect with our waterways through inclusive programming, engaging exhibits and a world-class collection. For more information, visit wisconsinmaritime.org or call (920) 684-0218.

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