



Public Benefit Statement

The Wisconsin Maritime Museum receives *no state or federal funding*, relying solely on visitor fees, gifts, donations, and grants to fund its collections, award-winning educational exhibits, and programs.

How does support of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum benefit the community?

Educational Benefits to Schools and the Public Include:

- More than 20 formal education programs, serving more than 8,000 children and 130 schools in 2008 with curriculum based on the State Model Academic Standards; 2008 was a record year for service to schools and students.
- Nationally recognized submarine educational program aboard USS COBIA, serving more than 3,500 young people (125 groups) from a variety of Midwestern states.
- State-of-the-art computerized classroom, the “Learning Adventure Center,” and the Children’s Waterways Room, a unique watercourse model of the Great Lakes and locks system.
- Summer school programs, Saturday afternoon lecture series, and a full schedule of weekend activities for members and visitors. Inspirational education programs that bring award-winning documentary producers and renowned underwater explorers like Richie Kohler (host of the History Channel’s *Deep Sea Detectives*) to Manitowoc public schools.

History & Preservation Benefits Include:

- Bringing the benefits of Smithsonian Affiliation, exhibits and programs, to the community and our members.
- Performing at a level of professionalism required by accreditation by the American Association of Museums.
- Preserving an artifact collection of more than 15,000 items, including the National Historic Landmark USS COBIA, *the nation’s most completely restored WWII submarine*.
- Providing research and educational access to our archival collections, including historical documents, more than 50,000 images, and publications.

Economic Impact of the Museum Affects Many Aspects of Day-to-Day Life in Manitowoc County. The Museum:

- Attracts more than 50,000 visitors annually, boosting:
 - Hotel & lodging stays, contributing to room tax revenue.
 - Restaurant income and sales tax revenue
 - Local retail sales and sales tax revenue
- Employs 30 to 45 (seasonal) people, from museum professionals with advanced degrees to entry-level, part-time students.
- Draws attention to the community by advertising in a multi-state market, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, including newspapers and periodicals.

- Receives national and major market media interest: NBC *Today Show*; History Channel *Deep Sea Detectives*; CBS *Evening News*; WTTW-Chicago.
- Adds substantially to the community's quality of life, attracting new businesses, downtown development, and new residents.
- Partners with the Manitowoc Public School District and City of Manitowoc to attract state grant funds to support educational programs; create innovative, new environmental exhibits and curriculum in the schools; and support the Clean Water Act with storm water education and volunteer programs.

In short, the benefits are countless—and they grow each and every year. Individuals, businesses, schools, and the community benefit from support for the Museum.

Perhaps you have questions about establishing a gift to the Museum's Endowment Fund in your family's name—a gift that, once established, could continue to grow under the Museum's stewardship and ensure your family's legacy far into the future.

The Museum is eager to extend its appreciation for each contribution and gift. If an individual or business wishes to make a commemorative gift or establish a memorial fund or endowment, the Museum will work with the donor to personalize his or her contribution.

**Please contact our Development Office today to begin the conversation.
920-684-0218**