



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Santa Barbara Maritime Museum named Non-Profit of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce of the Santa Barbara Region!



Santa Barbara is a coastal community, with a strong, varied maritime history and the Santa Barbara Channel is an important part of our culture. SBMM opened its doors to the public in July 2000 in the Waterfront Center Building, formerly the Naval Reserve Building, with the unique mission of interpreting the rich and diverse maritime history of the Santa Barbara Channel. Founded by a group of fishermen, divers, and sailors, it was envisioned as a place where the public could experience and learn about the area's maritime culture and resources without leaving the harbor.

From its inception, SBMM has been a resource for and active partner with schools throughout the county serving students, teachers, and parents through activities at the Museum, in the Harbor and in the classroom, many serving Title I schools at a reduced rate or at no charge. The nomination video, which was recorded by Lure Digital and played by the Chamber prior to awarding SBMM its Non-profit of the Year Award at its 12th annual Awards Luncheon on February 12, 2020 highlights some of the Museum's activities that led to this award:

<https://www.facebook.com/sbmaritimemuseum/videos/498801410824473/>

Some of the Museum's most popular programs include the *Spirit of Dana Point* Tall Ship program (4th graders who live the lives of 19th century sailors aboard a tall ship), Marine Science and Ocean Connections (3rd-6th graders who experience a boat ride, scientific investigation, and other activities), and Museum on the Move, Love Letters to the Sea, field trips and group tours, which can be adapted for all ages. In any case, "No Child is Left Ashore" because of cost. Halfway through the 2019-2020 school year, 60 classes and over 2,000 students have already benefited from the Museum's various programs.

SBMM also partners with other organizations to further serve the community. During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, SBMM has partnered with the Santa Barbara Sea Glass and Ocean Arts Festival, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Sea Center, and Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE) to bring maritime-related arts and activities to the community. In addition to offering its topical lecture series and related exhibits, this past fall, the Museum hosted "Alternative Uses of the Oil Platforms," an Expo of tabling and presentations to provide people the opportunity to learn and talk about their various ideas for decommissioned oil platforms off our coast.

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Since 2000, the [Santa Barbara Maritime Museum](#) has featured many artifacts and stories to share the history of the Santa Barbara Channel with more than 40,000 visitors annually and provides year-round experiential maritime history and marine science education for local youth. Featuring the impressive *First-Order Fresnel Lighthouse Lens* from Point Conception, SBMM's current exhibits explore *Geology of Oil in Santa Barbara Channel & Chumash Use of Asphaltum*, the *Honda Disaster*, and *Wives and Daughters: Keepers of the Light*.

SBMM is located at the historic Santa Barbara Harbor at 113 Harbor Way, Suite 190, Santa Barbara, CA 93109. Visit sbmm.org or call (805) 962-8404 for details.

RS 3/4/20