

Maritime Currents

SANTA BARBARA MARITIME MUSEUM

FALL 2006



President's Log

By Board President
Ken Clements

Out of Infancy. This is the unofficial slogan for my year as Board President that began July 1, 2006. Our museum is now six years old and we need to be thinking about what we want to be when we grow up. Our founding fathers conceived the idea for our Maritime Museum over 10 years ago. Since our doors opened, the staff and board of directors have had a tough time keeping us in diapers and getting us through potty training. We are now out of infancy, in elementary school, and we need to make some decisions on our own.

And what great decisions we have made. We now have an executive director who just celebrated her official one-year anniversary after serving the museum as education director since our doors opened. We have young, bright staff that truly love the museum and will take her forward through this stage of adolescence and beyond. We have a seasoned development director and a very experienced controller that work behind the scenes and have made a big difference in the short time they have been with us. Your board of directors is comprised of some of the best talent that the museum can assemble. And our volunteers: The greatest group of people that just plain love the museum and will do whatever it takes to keep it alive and well.

We have developed an Interpretive Master Plan to help us manage our exhibits into the future. We have begun management of the 'Crows Nest' area at the top of the museum as a visitor information center. Through the generosity of many of our members and supporters we have paid off the construction loan that has loomed in our background for so long. Just that alone was a commendable effort that now allows us to concentrate our scarce funds into our core goals of creating interactive exhibits, education programs, and community programs that appeal to all ages.

Come down and see us. Bring friends and family. You will be pleased with the direction we are taking. Out of Infancy and into the future. What more can you ask of your museum?

Connecting the Community

The Maritime Museum is proud to be the very first to host *Vital-Signz* Interactive Information Center. Just outside the Museum entrance is a brilliant 42 inch HD Plasma touch screen, featuring Santa Barbara's Natural History, Current Events, Local Information and Attractions, and for the visitor, a Santa Barbara Cultural Calendar of Events. Using the touch screen, visitors can navigate through the menu to discover our local cultural events and programs, art exhibits, or simply locate a great night spot.

In dynamic High Definition Video, the Maritime Museum's exhibits are also featured prominently, giving visitors a virtual tour through the building, and a sneak preview of the many maritime treasures that wait inside.

Many of Santa Barbara's other non-profits who share our commitment to providing education and preserving history are expecting Interactive Information Centers of their own – the Botanic Garden (whose screen is now operational), the Natural History Museum, the Sea Center, and the Zoo. All sites will share information about what the others have to offer – truly connecting the community.

It has been a pleasure for the museum to partner with Richard Corwin and his *Vital Signz* team and introduce this new technology to the public.

"I love watching people access it for the first time," Corwin says, "Exploring through the content, they really get exposed to all Santa Barbara has to offer."

Anyone who is interested in making use of this technology for their own site can contact Richard Corwin at 805-730-1551.



Museum visitor Dorothy Clarke was the first to try the new touchscreen.

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