

## WHAT IS HERITAGE HARBOR MUSEUM?

Heritage Harbor Museum (HHM) is a consortium of 19 museums and cultural organizations under the leadership of the Rhode Island Historical Society, which will bring together many diverse stories through interactive exhibits, festivals, theater and art.

HHM will tell the story of all Rhode Islanders. It will, in fact, be Rhode Island's first statewide history museum, bringing to life the hundreds of neighborhoods and villages that make up Rhode Island – from Westerly to Woonsocket, Warren to West Greenwich – and showcase the contributions their people have made to our state. It will tell our story.

**EDUCATION.** A three-dimensional, interactive, lifelong learning center. It will fill a current void in Rhode-Island, acting as a “living” state history textbook as well as a state history museum, integrated into the curriculums of our school children.

**DIVERSITY** A place where all Rhode Islanders can go to see their history. Currently, RI museums leave out the stories of 80% of the people who live here.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Heritage Harbor is located in a State Enterprise Zone and will be a major regional tourist attraction, with a projected 300,000 visitors per year.

### **SMITHSONIAN AFFILIATION**

The only New England affiliate to date of the Smithsonian Institution, with a 13,500 s.f. gallery space to display borrowed Smithsonian artifacts and accommodate traveling exhibits that will enhance the telling of Rhode Island history and place it in a broader context.

HHM will be located in the decommissioned South Street Power Plant at 350 Eddy Street on the Providence riverfront. The building, with an immense footprint of 60,000 square feet and 90 foot ceiling was donated to the museum in 1995 by Narragansett Electric Company and its parent company New England Electric System. Renovation began in July 2000, and the Museum is scheduled to open to the public in 2003

### **A 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY MUSEUM**

HHM is a new model in the museum world. It brings minority and mainstream museums together under one roof, telling their stories in an interwoven manner. HHM will incorporate the latest technology with historical research, cultural study, and innovation in museum design to create an exciting and interactive experience for museum visitors. Put yourself in the shoes of a 15<sup>th</sup> century explorer in the *Caravel* sailing ship, enjoy lunch in a vintage diner, step back in time in the Verizon *Time Machine* (White Oak Associates, Inc., Marblehead MA), or stretch your imagination in Textron's *The Mind's Eye* exhibit, which examines the innovation of Rhode Islanders and their legacies.

Learn the vital role of Narragansett Bay in our state's history in the *Bay Learning Center*, and of the significant contributions of the people in our 39 cities and towns in the main narrative of Rhode Island history, *Turning Points*. Experience your neighbor's own stories of cultural history and the significance of all our diverse communities in *Cultural Crossroads* and Nortek's *Triple Decker*.

**A Project of the Rhode Island Indian Council  
Algonquin House  
Weaving Opportunities for Rhode Island's Multicultural Collaboration**

**ALGONQUIN HOUSE**

**Remember the Legacy**

A center where Native American and South Providence socio-economic revitalization intersect. Algonquin House is weaving the success of Rhode Island's Indian population into tapestry of one of Providence's centers for economic development

**A History of Purpose**

Formerly the Steere House Home for Men (and later for couples), this 64,377 square ft. facility is located on Broad Street, South Providence's major thoroughfare. Broad Street has significant cultural value to Rhode Island Indians as it was called the Pequot Trail in colonial times. After continuous use as a home for the elderly since 1896, the Steere House was vacated in 1990.

The Providence Preservation Society and the state Historic Preservation Commission considered the building an endangered architectural treasure when it was vacated. Its donation to the Rhode Island Indian council in 1995 was viewed as rebirth of a cultural renaissance by these preservation groups, the neighbors, the City council and the Mayor.

With 38,606 square feet of rental space, the building is located within a federally designated Enterprise Community, offering it special consideration for federal and state grants. It is also within a Rhode Island Enterprise Zone, giving it special tax consideration for business development, job creation and donations. More importantly, the facility is within the larger Broad Street Renaissance Project, a project which seeks to stimulate business and housing development along South Providence's major artery.

**FOR INFORMATION LEASING, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Algonquin House

807 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode Island

Telephone 781-1098

**THE HERITAGE HARBOR CONSORTIUM**  
**19 Museums and Cultural Organizations Making History**

**The Rhode Island Historical Society Lead Partner**

**110 Benovolent Street**  
**Providence, RI 02906**  
**Phone: (401) 331-8575**  
**Fax: (401) 351-0127**

The Rhode Island Historical Society (1822) is the fourth oldest state historical society in the United States and has been the driving force and lead partner of HHM. The Society is a membership organization that maintains the John Brown House, an historic house museum, an historical research library which has the third largest family history collection in New England and the Aldrich House which is used as its Rhode Island history and various educational programs such as lectures and events. The Society has been the host for, and parent of dozens of historical organizations over the years.

The Society also runs the Newell D. Golf Institute for Ingenuity and Enterprise Studies and operates the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket. The Society is accredited by the American Association of Museums.

**American Diner Museum**

**P.O. Box 883**  
**Providence, RI 02901**  
**Phone: (401) 461-7932**

Since its invention in Providence in 1872, the lunch wagon developed into one of America's most recognizable icons – the diner. The American Diner Museum (1989) began as an archive devoted to the history of the diner. It is a tribute to the individual who build, operated and worked in the diners and to those who continue the tradition into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. At HHM, the museum will celebrate the culture of diners and preserve the colorful history of this unique American Institution through exhibits, a functional vintage diner, a research library and restoration workshop

**The American Historical Association of Rhode Island**

**P.O. Box 28142**  
**Providence, RI 02908-0142**  
**Phone: (401) 331-6575 Ext. 100**  
**Fax: (401) 351-0127**

The American Historical Association of Rhode Island (1997) grows out of 30 active Armenian groups in Rhode Island representing church, cultural and educational organizations. RI boasts America's oldest and most diverse Armenian colony, with immigrants from both the homeland and nations throughout the world. As a new organization and Partner, the Association is collecting and recording this history.

**The German American Heritage Harbor Association**

**150 Benefit Street**  
**Providence, RI 02903**  
**Phone: (401) 222-4133**

The German American Heritage Harbor Association grew out of the Rhode Island Heritage Commissions German American Subcommittee and its participation in the 1976 celebration of American Bicentennial. At the time, they showcased German American contributions to Rhode Islands progress in industry and culture over the last 150 years, and they continue these efforts into the new millennium.

**The Hispanic Heritage Committee/Rhode Island**  
**110 Benevolent Street**  
**Providence, RI 02906**  
**Phone: (401) 331-0375 Ext. 112**  
**Fax: (401) 351-0127**

The Hispanic Heritage Committee/Rhode Island (1998) represents different Hispanic ethnic groups throughout the state which have joined together to achieve a common goal to work together to preserve the history, heritage and cultural beliefs of the various cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean which make up Rhode Island's Hispanic Community and to provide technical support and other assistance as needed.

**The India Museum and Heritage Society**  
**58 Tell Street**  
**Providence, RI 02909**  
**Phone: (401) 421-1143**

The India Museum and Heritage Society is a new organization (1997) dedicated to the preservation of the history of Indian immigrants to Rhode Island, and sharing that history as well as the music, dance and arts of India, with the community at large. The India M&HS also strives to educate the public on non-violent methods of conflict resolution, incorporating the teaching of M.K Ghandi.

**The Italian American Historical Society Inc. of Rhode Island**  
**11 Stuart Road**  
**Cranston, RI 02920**  
**Phone: (401) 943-2678**

The Italian American Historical Society Inc, of Rhode Island (1978) represents one of the largest ethnic communities of Rhode Island. It has sponsored exhibitions from Italy such as the Neapolitan Creche Exhibition at the Rhode Island School of Design several years ago. It has also supported the gathering of reminiscences and photos of Federal Hill that have appeared in *Echo* and other newspapers. It conducts an annual recognition program promoting Italian heritage.

**Museum of Natural History, Roger Williams Park**  
**Providence RI 02905**  
**Phone: (401) 785-9457**  
**Fax: 401) 461- 5146**

The Museum of Natural History (1896) is Rhode Island's only natural history museum and is home to the states only public planetarium. The Museum houses collections containing over on quarter million objects pertaining to natural and cultural history assembled primarily by local collectors from sites around the world. For over a century the Museum has served as a unique educational scientific and cultural resource by offering exciting exhibitions, workshops and multi-visitors; appreciation for our world and its diverse cultures while promoting discovery and experimentation in the classroom and at home.

**The Muslim Heritage Council**  
**293 Lake Shore Drive**  
**Warwick, RI 02889**  
**Phone: (401) 732-6951**

The Muslim Heritage Council is organized to participate in the celebration of diversity at Heritage Harbor. The heritage of the Muslim community is very rich in diversity as Muslims come from all over the world of almost all ethnic, racial, and national backgrounds. Thus, Muslims share a piece of almost every culture that exists on the surface of the earth. The Councils objective is to gather, preserve, and promote this cultural heritage and share it with other communities at Heritage Harbor.

**National Guard Association of Rhode Island/R.I. Military Collection**  
**645 New London Avenue**  
**Cranston, RI 02920**  
**Phone: (401) 457-4100**  
**Fax: (401) 457-4280**

The Purpose of the Rhode Island Military Collection (1992) is to document the long and distinguished service record of our community's military story, which will include stories and exhibits of unique and significant contributions to our nation such as the Quonset Hut. Rhode Island has more than a dozen chartered commands – historical military units who keep their tradition alive through reenactments, parades, and other public demonstrations

**Portuguese Cultural Foundation**  
**3 Armstrong Avenue**  
**Providence, RI 02910**  
**Phone (401) 781-2890**  
**Fax: (401) 467-6480**

The Rhode Island region is home to the largest percentage of Americans of Portuguese descent in North America who are represented through the Portuguese Cultural Foundation (1979). It is responsible for the educational programming exhibitions and special events. Through its international relationships, the Foundation is involved in assisting HHM in the reproduction of the famous sailing ship, the *Caravel*.

**Providence Jewelry Museum**  
**One Spectacle Street**  
**Cranston, RI 02910**  
**Phone (401) 781-3100**  
**Fax: (401) 781-2890**

The Providence Jewelry Museum (1986) is a museum devoted to documenting an important part of the Rhode Island industrial scene. With more than 200 working machines and the most extensive library in the jewelry manufacturing business, this Partner plans to demonstrate the collection and make samples for sale in the museum shop.

**The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society**  
**P.O. Box 1656**  
**Providence, RI 02901**  
**Phone: (401) 751-3490**  
**Fax: (401) 751-0040**

The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society (1975) has extensive library and museum holdings of the Rhode Island Black community whose history goes back to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Society's main exhibition "Creative Survival," will be re-opened at HHM. The Society is a publisher and has conducted many community events and has a full schedule of temporary exhibits at its headquarters of Washington Street in Providence.

**The Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame**  
**110 Benevolent Street**  
**Providence, RI 02906**  
**Phone: (401) 331-8575**  
**Fax: (401) 351-0127**

The Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame (1965) has annually inducted Rhode Island notables into its Hall for over thirty years. The current home of the portraits, many the original art work of famed Rhode Island illustrator Frank Lanning is at Aldrich House of The Rhode Island Historical society at HHM. The arrivals

Wall of Honor, and opportunity for individuals and family memorials and a source of endowment for HHM.

**Rhode Island Indian Council**  
**807 Broad Street**  
**Providence, RI 02905**  
**Phone: (401) 781-1098**  
**Fax: (401) 781-2394**

The goal of the Rhode Island Indian Council, Inc.'s (1975) Participation at HHM is to make the community more whole by including the Native American story in all periods of the regions history. The Council made up of the areas major Native American tribes as well as unaffiliated individuals.

**Rhode Island Irish Famine Memorial Committee**  
**P.O. Box 28077**  
**Providence, RI 02908**  
**Phone: (401) 434-4655**

The Rhode Island Irish Famine Memorial Committee (1998) is planning the construction of a permanent monument to the memory of the Irish famine, victims on the museum grounds, as well as associated educational programming and exhibitry. Their specific purpose is to provide Rhode Islanders with a deeper understanding of the effects and lessons of the "Great Famine."

**Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association**  
**130 Sessions Street**  
**Providence, RI 02906**  
**Phone: (401) 331-1360**  
**Fax: (401) 272-6729**

As an archive, publisher, public program presenter the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association (1951) is one of the older ethnic historical societies in the country. It is extensive documentary collection reflect the presence of Jews in Rhode Island back to the time of Roger Williams.

**The Steamship Historical Society of America**  
**300 Bay Drive, Suite 4**  
**Providence, RI 02906**  
**Phone: (401) 274-0805**  
**Fax: (401) 274-0836**

The Steamship Historical society of America (1935), with 3,300 members worldwide and nine local chapters in the United States, 13 dedicated to recording, preserving and discriminating the history preserving, and disseminating the history of engine powered vessels. The society publishes books and a quarterly journal, Steamboat Bill, (issued continuously since 1940) The Society also maintains on extensive research library and photo collection at the University of Baltimore. At HHM, the society plans to utilize its collection of art and artifacts to interpret the history of steamboats and ocean ships, including the relationship to the other interests represented in the exciting and diverse museum of American History.

**Tolerance Education Center and Museum of Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum**  
**401 Elmgrove Avenue**  
**Providence, RI 02906-3400**  
**(401) 453-7860**  
**(401) 801-9246**

The Tolerance Education Center and Museum of Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum at Heritage Harbor will teach tolerance and diversity appreciation through varied programs and workshops which

encourage participants to recognize the unique contribution of their own group, and the admire and respect the contributions made by others.