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For Immediate Release:



Independence Seaport Museum Announces New President & CEO, Peter S. Seibert

PHILADELPHIA, PA, January 13, 2021 – The [Independence Seaport Museum](#) (ISM) is excited to announce that **Peter Seibert** has been named its new President and CEO. He is set to succeed retiring President and CEO, **John Brady**, and is expected to assume his new role on February 17. Seibert previously served as Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West – Wyoming’s largest museum. The Museum attracts 160,000 visitors annually with its unique exhibits featuring art, natural history, firearms, and Native American culture, along with a research library and extensive public programming. Seibert brings an award-winning, three-decade career from notable institutions including the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Millicent Rogers Museum, the National Council for History Education, and the Heritage Center of Lancaster County, Inc..

A Pennsylvania native, Seibert grew up in Harrisburg and earned both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts in American Studies from Penn State University. Seibert has authored several books and articles including *Fraternally Yours: American Fraternal Regalia of the 19th and 20th Centuries*, *The Arts in Lancaster* and *Visions in Solitude: Painters of the Susquehanna River School*. He has given numerous lectures at institutions including the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, and Penn State University. His dedication to history and education earned Seibert numerous distinctions that include the *City of Harrisburg Distinguished Service Award*, the *Community Leader Museum Professional Award* from the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations, and Penn State’s *Distinguished Alumni Award*.

Following his retirement, former ISM President and CEO John Brady is expected to stay on in an advisory capacity and hopes to be a valuable resource to Seibert as he begins his tenure next month. Brady and the ISM's Board have praised Seibert's stellar credentials and offered their full support during his transition.

"I am delighted that Peter Seibert will be the next President and CEO of the Independence Seaport Museum, and I look forward to working with him to ensure a seamless transition," said Brady. "The Seaport Museum has bright prospects ahead with Peter at the helm."

"After an exhaustive national search to replace retiring CEO John Brady, the Board of the Independence Seaport Museum is thrilled that Peter S. Siebert has decided to become the new President and CEO of the Independence Seaport Museum," added **Peter H. Havens**, Chairman of the Board of Port Wardens. "We look forward to Peter leading the ISM through the next chapter of its unfolding story."

Seibert shared his bullish excitement over the opportunity to serve as the ISM's new President and CEO in addition to his family's return to their native Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

"[The Independence Seaport Museum] is a great institution and has both extraordinary collections and wonderful stories to share with everyone, not just in the Philadelphia region but across the country and around the world," said Seibert. "Whether by exhibits, programs, and living history or through the virtual world, we will bring to life the rich and diverse history, art, and science of the waterways that surround us. My first task will be to listen and learn from our board, staff, volunteers, and the community about their ideas for our future and then work to develop plans to bring those dreams to reality."

Seibert's first year will coincide with a historic moment in the ISM's history as it prepares to commemorate the [100th Anniversary of the Return of the Unknown Soldier](#) aboard [Cruiser Olympia](#). A National Historic Landmark, *Cruiser Olympia* was chosen to return the remains of an unknown American soldier to the United States following the end of World War I and is currently the oldest steel warship still afloat. The significance of this occasion was not lost on the incoming President of the ISM.

"History as a discipline is really about our identity – individually and collectively — as people and a nation," Seibert explained. "We are all ultimately the product of those who made sacrifices in war and peace in order to ensure who we are today."

"The story of the Return of the Unknown Soldier is one that is very personal to me," Seibert continued. "I was raised, in part, by my maternal grandparents who were both army officers in the First World War (he in the corps of engineer and she as an Army nurse). They met in Paris in 1918, returned home after the war and eventually married. As veterans of that war, they also spoke to me of the sacrifices (including the ultimate sacrifice) that were made by so many of their generation."

Olympia – along with [Submarine Becuna](#) and [Schooner Diligence](#) – represent the ISM's commitment to preserving and sharing our nation's naval history. With Seibert at the helm, the ISM looks forward to announcing this year's upcoming slate of educational programming and, eventually, safely reopening its doors to visitors.

Interviews: Please contact [Billy Cook](#) to schedule interviews with Peter Seibert, Peter H. Havens, or ISM Director of Marketing & Communication Alexis Furlong.

Photos: Live [HERE](#).

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About the Independence Seaport Museum

Independence Seaport Museum increases the awareness, knowledge, and experience of our waterways by highlighting the important role of the Delaware River through direct contact with our collections, exhibits, and the water. Our boating programs provide direct access to recreation and the scientific study of the water from the standpoints of biology and physics while art is used to represent the importance of competing uses of the river. Through our historic ships, Cruiser *Olympia* and Submarine *Becuna*, we provide the ideal platform for examining the interaction of society and water over our nation's history. Our educational student outreach programs ensure generational awareness of the Museum's mission. October 25, 2021 marks the Centennial Anniversary of Cruiser *Olympia's* 15-day journey to bring the American Unknown Soldier from World War I from France to the Washington Navy Yard. We will be honoring this significant milestone throughout the year by sharing stories, presenting programming, hosting discussions, and premiering digital content. Learn more about the Independence Seaport Museum at phillyseaport.org.