
THE SS COLUMBIA PROJECT

PRESS RELEASE

SS Columbia Project Receives National Maritime Heritage Grant to Restore Marine Icon

Grant will Advance Restoration of SS Columbia, the Oldest Surviving Excursion Steamboat in the U.S.

New York, NY – August 15, 2018 - [The SS Columbia Project](#), a non-profit organization that aims to restore the oldest surviving excursion steamboat in the U.S., has announced that is a recipient of a \$100,852 National Park Service grant to continue repairs and restoration of the historic vessel.

Built in 1902, *SS Columbia* is the oldest surviving excursion steamboat from the turn of the 20th century. The grant will go toward restoring and renovating the steamboat as she prepares to go back into service to connect as many as 1,500 passengers per trip between New York City and the Hudson Valley.

"We are immensely grateful for the National Maritime Heritage Grant as it perfectly supports our pipeline of new and ongoing critical restoration projects aboard the ship. We have launched a bold Capital Campaign to bolster funds already allocated for the work and to reach beyond for our phase two needs. We look forward to successfully getting *Columbia* back in service and hope all New Yorkers will join us in making this vision a reality," says Bob Elliott, Co-Chairman and President of the SS Columbia Project.

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD), the National Park Service awards grants for projects that teach about and preserve sites and objects related to U.S. maritime history. The grant is part of the \$2.6 million awarded under the program to 34 preservation and education projects in 14 states and the Northern Mariana Islands.

"*Columbia* has a strong hull and is currently undergoing the remaining phase one restoration in Buffalo, NY that will prepare her for the journey to Kingston, NY, for additional repairs and long-term programming. Working on this grand boat and planning for her promising new life on the Hudson River has been a joy for me, and I am inspired every day by our supporters' belief in our vision. I ask that you please join me in celebrating our progress at our fall fundraiser on October 23rd," says Captain Ann Loeding, Restoration Coordinator of the SS Columbia Project.

To find out more about the nonprofit or to donate, please visit: www.sscolumbia.org.

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SS Columbia is the oldest remaining excursion steamboat in the United States, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, designated as an historic landmark in 1992 and in service from 1902 to 1991. An iconic Made-In-America success constructed in Wyandotte, Michigan in 1902 by the Detroit Dry Dock Company. *Columbia* was designed by one of America's greatest naval architects, Frank E. Kirby. She is 207 feet in length, 60 feet wide, originally designed to carry 3,200 passengers on three passenger decks, and features a massive 1,200-horsepower triple-expansion reciprocating steam engine that is visible from the main deck.

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