

**WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL
PRESS RELEASE**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LONGSHOREMEN TO BE FEATURED IN FEBRUARY AHA PROGRAM
Festival joins forces with University's Labor Education Center to Present Program Honoring
Cape Verdean Contributions to New Bedford's Working Waterfront**

New Bedford, MA, February 7, 2008—On Thursday, February 14th at 7PM at the Seaman's Bethel, the Working Waterfront Festival will join forces with the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth's Labor Education Center to present a program honoring Cape Verdean contributions to the port of New Bedford. A panel of active and retired longshoremen will share their experiences in a facilitated discussion led by Kim Wilson and Jose Soler of the Labor Education Center. Learn about the important contributions of those who work loading and unloading cargo vessels in the Port of New Bedford. Once considered the backbone of the Cape Verdean economy, today the longshoremen's union is one of the few remaining waterfront unions and continues to provide an important source of jobs for the Cape Verdean community.

The **Working Waterfront Festival** committee will become an official AHA partner beginning in January of 2008. Free monthly programs related to the history and culture of commercial fishing and the working port will be presented at the Seaman's Bethel the second Thursday of each month as part of AHA, New Bedford's monthly arts and culture night. Like the annual festival, these monthly programs will offer attendees a variety of ways to learn about the working waterfront including film screenings, panel discussions, musical performances, author readings, occupational demonstrations and hands-on workshops. Each program will be presented free of charge between 5PM and 9PM in the "Saltbox" on the lower level of the Seaman's Bethel. Exact times will vary from one month to the next and will be listed on the AHA schedule.

The **Working Waterfront Festival** is a project of the **Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern MA**, a non-profit organization. The FREE festival, a family friendly, educational celebration of New England's commercial fishing industry, features live maritime and ethnic music, fishermen's contests, fresh seafood, vessel tours, author readings, cooking demonstrations, kid's activities and more. It all takes place in New Bedford, MA, America's #1 fishing port, on the fourth full weekend of September. Navigate to us at www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org.

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