

**WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL
PRESS RELEASE**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Laura Orleans, Director, 508-993-8894, info@workingwaterfrontfestival.org

2008 WORKINGWATERFRONT FESTIVAL LANDS SEVERAL GRANTS

New Bedford, MA, February 11, 2008— The Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern, MA is pleased to announce its receipt of several grants to support the 5th Working Waterfront Festival:

- \$30,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts, Folk and Traditional Arts Program
- \$ 1,415 from the New Bedford Cultural Council
- \$ 500 from the Dartmouth Cultural Council
- \$ 50 from the Mattapoisett Cultural Council
- \$ 500 from the Fairhaven Cultural Council

These grants provide only a portion of the monies needed to present the Festival and must be matched dollar for dollar. Corporate sponsors throughout New England provide the additional support needed to produce the event. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please contact the Festival office at 508-993-8894. All contributions are tax deductible.

The 2008 Working Waterfront Festival takes place in New Bedford, America's largest commercial fishing port, on Saturday and Sunday, September 27th & 28th. This free, family-friendly event opens the waterfront to the public with a rare look into commercial fishing, America's oldest industry. More than simply a celebration, the Working Waterfront Festival is a unique opportunity for the public get a first hand look at the culture and traditions of the commercial fishing industry and for the working waterfront community to tell its own story. The event presents all that goes into bringing seafood from the ocean to the table in a way that is hands-on, educational and fun.

The theme of the 2008 Festival is ***Connecting Communities, Preserving Ports***. Festival programming will explore the connections between working ports, the interconnectedness of ports and their larger communities and efforts to preserve working waterfronts around the country. For the past four years the festival has worked to educate the public about the rich culture of commercial fishing. This year's event will help visitors understand their connections to the industry and their role in ensuring its future.

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.

###