

**WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL
PRESS RELEASE**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL TO FEATURE ETHNIC CRAFTS
Event to Explore Cultural Diversity of New England's Working Ports**

New Bedford, MA, September 16, 2010— Slated for September 25 & 26, the 2010 Working Waterfront Festival presents an expanded look at the ethnic diversity of the region's working waterfront communities with a program entitled *All in One Boat: the Cultural Mosaic of New England's Working Ports*.

A new feature at this year's festival is our **Ethnic Arts Demonstration Area**. In keeping with this year's theme, a number of traditional artists representing the ethnic mix of New England's working ports will demonstrate a variety of crafts. Among the participants is **Eldrid Arntzen** who will be demonstrating the Norwegian art of rosemaling, decorative painting on wood furniture, household objects, and even walls that flourished in rural Norway from the mid 1600s to the mid 1800s. As Norwegians immigrated to America in the mid-1800's, they brought these objects with them to their new farms, and rosemaling continued in America. Ms. Arntzen who has been practicing the art since the 1960s has received numerous accolades for her skill. In 2005 she was honored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) with its **National Heritage Fellowship Award**. The Fellowship recognizes artists who work in folk and traditional art forms. NEA bestows this award to only twelve artists nationwide each year who are chosen for their artistic excellence, cultural authenticity, and contributions to their communities. Other demonstrations at the Working Waterfront Festival include: **Polish** pisanki, **Salvadoran** hammock and net making, **Sicilian** rope sculpture, **Portuguese** model boat making and **Wampanoag** basketry.

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 on working piers and waterfront parks in New Bedford, MA, America's #1 fishing port, on the fourth full weekend in September. Navigate to us at www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org.

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