

**WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL
PRESS RELEASE**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL JOINS AHA
Festival committee to present free, monthly programs at Seaman's Bethel**

New Bedford, MA, January 3, 2008—The **Working Waterfront Festival** committee will become an official AHA partner beginning on January 10th. 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. "Over the past four years of producing the annual Working Waterfront Festival we have presented so many exciting programs. AHA offers the festival an opportunity to have a year-round presence." said Festival Director, Laura Orleans. "It was the natural next step for us."

The first three programs are already in the works. January 10th in keeping with the AHA theme, *All Things Fictitious*, a panel of local fishermen will discuss *Superstitions at Sea*. In February we will celebrate Cape Verdean contributions to the working port with a presentation focused on the work of longshoremen presented in conjunction with the Labor History Program at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. And in March, when the AHA theme is *Muddy March*, we will present a program on quahoggers who harvest their catch from the mud. 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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