



Community Narrators Request for Proposals Reports to: Director of Curatorial Affairs & Exhibitions

Scope:

The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum explores and preserves the history, environment, and culture of the entire Chesapeake Bay region, and makes this resource accessible to all. CBMM seeks to represent genuinely the people and cultures whose stories we preserve and tell, to provide an engaging guest experience, and to create transformative educational programming, as a vital community partner.

As a Maryland State Arts Council Regional Folklife Center, CBMM leverages its collection of material culture artifacts and documentation as a foundation for understanding Chesapeake history and exhibits the diverse stories of the Chesapeake as an evolving community. The story of the Chesapeake has been shaped by the diversity of people inhabiting the region for more than 10,000 years. Since the seventeenth century, Indigenous cultures and forced and voluntary migrants from around the world have met in both unity and conflict, forging distinctive and influential local identities and cultures. Rooted in place, these communities—formed around work, social groups, recreation, spiritual life, or region—have influenced the individual through collective life. Community Narrators will collect relevant stories for planned CBMM exhibitions and programs.

Basic Requirements:

- Excellent oral and written communications skills
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Community or academic expertise in one or more of the following topics:
 - Specific Chesapeake community traditions, such as African American, indigenous, rural, island, and immigrant communities
 - Local religious traditions and communities that draw connection and inspiration from the Bay
 - Chesapeake occupational traditions, including watermen and crab pickers
 - Shoreline recreational communities, including birding, hunting, trapping, collecting
 - Folk medicine/healing traditions
 - Changing communities impacted by climate change and sea level rise, including those communities building for resilience or contemplating relocation
- A strong community background within the Chesapeake region
- Willingness to gather and share community experiences in a variety of formats
- Experience and interest in writing and/or storytelling

Responsibilities may include:

- Work with CBMM's Exhibitions team to identify and tell community stories of the Chesapeake through exhibitions and programs, including the forthcoming long-term exhibition, *Stories from the Shoreline*.
- Consult with community members to identify important stories and histories that fall within and enhance CBMM's Interpretive themes.
- Identify contemporary cultural traditions within the region, with an emphasis on immigrant and underrepresented communities, to diversify our exhibitions and programming.
- Make recommendations for prioritizing new oral histories and folklife documentation in collaboration with the Director of Curatorial Affairs & Exhibitions, and for planning future programming opportunities with the Vice President of Education & Interpretation.

Potential deliverables:

- Develop written narrative and/or outline structure for potential exhibition concepts and subject matter, including rough drafts of interpretive text and labels, online collections features and/or social media posts.
- Assist in identifying objects, photographs, and documentary materials beyond CBMM's collections from organizations, institutions and private individuals as potential items for digitization, acquisition and/or loan for the exhibitions.
- Create a list of resources for research, including published and documentary sources, organizations, individuals and groups. Whenever possible, facilitate connection and partnership with resources, in addition to contact information.
- Describe specific community needs, assessing connection with CBMM and its mission and identifying opportunities for CBMM to better connect with and serve the community.

This is a contractual consultant position, with a project stipend of \$500-1,500, depending on the agreed upon scope of work.

To apply:

Send an e-mail of interest to Jenifer Dolde, Director of Curatorial Affairs and Exhibitions at jdolde@cbmm.org with an attached resume or document describing relevant experience. Additionally, detail one or more ideas or concepts you propose to develop more fully, as well as the community resources and research you propose to access for the project. The scope and deliverables for each community narrator will be determined on an individual basis, based on the concepts presented, the candidate's experience and CBMM's interpretive needs.

Deadline:

Responses will be accepted on an ongoing basis, with priority given to well-developed proposals received by April 30, 2024.

