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C&O Canal Boat Tours in Georgetown Begin April 29

Georgetown Heritage is welcoming a new Canal boat to Georgetown for the first time in a decade, with a ribbon cutting, boat christening and celebratory event on April 28 before public programming commences.

Washington, DC (April 13, 2022) – Georgetown Heritage is welcoming a new Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal boat to Georgetown for the first time in nearly a decade with a ribbon cutting, boat christening and celebratory event on April 28. The new Canal boat, the *Georgetown Heritage*, will be available for public programs and private rentals starting April 29.

The new Canal boat program is part of Georgetown Heritage’s multi-year restoration and revitalization efforts in partnership with National Park Service, the District of Columbia Government and the Georgetown Business Improvement District.

The April 28 *All Aboard Our Heritage* celebration will be hosted by the Georgetown Heritage Board of Directors, and co-chairs Heather Muir Johnson and Brooke Stroud, on Thursday, April 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Lock 3 of the C&O Canal, between Thomas Jefferson St & 30th St NW. Guests will enjoy live music, tours of the Canal boat, cocktails and hors d’oeuvres - with remarks from Mayor Muriel Bowser, Councilmember Brooke Pinto, and other special guests, followed by the ribbon cutting and boat christening. *All Aboard Our Heritage* tickets can be purchased at georgetownheritage.org/events.

Beginning Friday, April 29, several public boat rides will be available throughout the day, Wednesday – Sunday through October 2022, offering one-hour guided historical tours along the first mile of the C&O Canal National Historical Park (NHP). Visitors will learn about the fascinating history, technology and culture of the Canal, and the surprising stories of the people who lived, worked and played here over the past two centuries.

The Canal boat will serve as the cornerstone of Georgetown Heritage’s education and interpretation programs, connecting and engaging students, families and visitors from DC and beyond to the powerful stories of the people who helped build and sustain our nation’s capital, as well as the technology that drove the innovations of that time.

“I am confident this unique experience will bring new energy to our neighborhood,” said Jennifer Romm, President & Chair of the Georgetown Heritage Board of Directors. “This has been years in the works, and thanks to our partners, our gorgeous new Canal boat is ready to launch. It’s a major milestone for Georgetown Heritage, and will be a magical experience for visitors – and a new way to appreciate one of the most visited national park sites in the country.”

The *Georgetown Heritage* boat was funded by a grant from the District of Columbia and constructed at Roudebush Yacht & Engine Works in Dundalk, MD. Measuring 80 feet long and 12 feet wide, the boat was modeled on designs for historic packet boats that were used on the Canal during its early years of service. The new design includes modern amenities and materials such as an onboard restroom, battery-powered electric motors, and a fiberglass hull to ensure visitor comfort and safety.

Canal boat tickets can be purchased at georgetownheritage.org/boat, or at the box office in the Mule Yard – located along the Canal next to the C&O Canal National Historical Park’s Georgetown Visitor Center, between Thomas Jefferson St. and 30th St NW. Discounts are available for children, seniors, active military, and educators. Accommodations are available for the visually and hearing impaired.

The docked Canal boat will also be available for private evening rentals. Email info@georgetownheritage.org for more information.

To learn more about the inaugural Canal boat season, visit georgetownheritage.org/boat.

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About Georgetown Heritage

Georgetown Heritage is the nonprofit partner of the C&O Canal NHP in Georgetown, and was created by community leaders to partner with the National Park Service to restore, revitalize and reimagine the first mile of the C&O Canal NHP and other National Park assets in Georgetown. Learn more at www.georgetownheritage.org.