



Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program

USS Constitution Museum NEW Smithsonian Institution Affiliate *Boston's First Smithsonian Institution Affiliate!*

October 2011 - BOSTON, MA: The USS Constitution Museum announces its *new* affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution and is pleased to report that it is the FIRST Museum in Boston to receive this honored partnership. This exciting new endeavor brings the Smithsonian, in all of its breadth and scope to our Boston hub and offers opportunities for the public to explore perspectives on history and culture. The USS Constitution Museum and Smithsonian Institution share common goals of disseminating knowledge and a strong commitment to serving our community.

Harold Closter, Director of Smithsonian Affiliations, announced the new partnership to several key community organizations, including the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the United States Navy – USS *Constitution*, and local educators on October 20th, 2011 at the USS Constitution Museum. Closter described how this new partnership can help expand access to educational and historic resources through collaborative programs, visiting experts, guest speakers, and outreach opportunities. In addition the Affiliation streamlines artifact and exhibit loans to the USS Constitution Museum.

"The Smithsonian Institution is honored to enter into an Affiliate relationship with the USS Constitution Museum," said Harold A. Closter, Smithsonian Affiliations director. *"The museum is widely respected for its in-depth scholarship, innovative exhibits, and commitment to education. We look forward to the many ways we can bring our resources and expertise together, especially as the Bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812 approaches, to remind all of the sacrifices made by previous generations to preserve our freedoms."*

At the announcement event, USS Constitution Museum President, Anne Grimes Rand expressed the enthusiasm at sharing the Museum's new free online curriculum and educational game, "A Sailor's Life For Me!" (www.asailorslifeforme.org) with the network of Smithsonian Affiliates and educators who access the Smithsonian's *History Explorer* website. Just in time for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 next year, the launch of these materials will reach an even greater audience through this new collaborative venture.

"The identity of the Smithsonian and all it reflects is an organization we are proud to be associated with. The Smithsonian Institution's emphasis on heritage, preservation and education are ideas that are at the core of the USS Constitution Museum's mission to serve as the memory and educational voice of Old Ironsides. It is an honor to be the first Museum in Boston to be named a Smithsonian Affiliate."

–Anne Grimes Rand, President of the USS Constitution Museum.

USS Constitution Museum

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