



IMPACT REPORT

FY2025

BUILDING FUTURES ON THE WATERFRONT

An aspiring chef. An electrical apprentice. A scuba-certified shipwright at Mystic Seaport and two future shipwrights. A budding interior designer attending community college with help from Seaport's Scholarship Fund. A professional model. Two future auto mechanics. A finance major running a repair business while completing his business degree at George Mason University, also with support from Seaport's Scholarship Fund. A candidate for the Mid-Atlantic Carpenters Union. An Airman (Airwoman!) stationed in Hawaii with the U.S. Air Force.

These are graduates of Seaport's Apprentices Program. While their career paths are diverse, each is moving toward a brighter, more stable future. Here at the Seaport Foundation, we couldn't be more proud.

During their time with us, these young adults mastered more than just woodworking; they learned the value of teamwork, accountability, and problem solving. By broadening their horizons and engaging with the Alexandria community, they have transitioned from students to colleagues and mentors.

2025: A Year of Professional Growth

As we look back, we celebrate not only our graduates' successes but our own organizational growth. This year, Seaport took significant steps to professionalize our staff, enhance our boatbuilding and woodworking curricula, formalize on-the-water instruction, expand partnerships to bolster life skills instruction, and improve our intake process, all while preparing for a major expansion in 2026. *[continued on page 2]*

OUR STORY IN NUMBERS

- **Community Reach:** 83% of our 2025 Apprentices identify as people of color and come from under-resourced households in the VA-DC-MD region.
- **Cross-Generational Relationships:** Bridging generations, Seaport pairs Apprentices (ages 18-24) with seasoned experts to transfer decades of knowledge and maintain vital community roles for seniors.
- **Volunteer Hours:** 10,000 hours valued at over \$300,000 contributed by our volunteer community.
- **Family Impact:** Three of our Apprentices are fathers, and many Apprentices provide support to their family members. Our program gives them a stipend and a boost in confidence that impacts their families' economic stability and emotional well-being.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Empowering New Cohorts This year, we graduated two Apprentice cohorts. Beyond the classroom, they:

- Competed in an overnight Schooner race on the Chesapeake Bay.
- Learned precision welding at Building Momentum’s Innovation Academy.
- Toured the Norfolk shipyard to see industrial maritime careers in action.
- Built self-confidence and discipline that will serve them in the maritime and construction trades, culinary arts, and beyond.

Boosting Leadership and Staff In July, we welcomed **Dr. Matt Roberts** as our Program Director. With a background in high school education, a doctorate in atypical learning environments, and extensive woodworking expertise, Matt has already transformed our approach.

During the last quarter of the year, three Seaport volunteers signed up for more responsibility and joined the paid staff. We are grateful for **Emma Karlsson-Willis’s** extensive nonprofit administration expertise, **Blair Duncan’s** new role as program manager for shop operations, and **Jim Murphy’s** role as program manager for facilities and boating. We were also grateful to have **Chris Cease**, a Seaport graduate, rejoin us to provide continuity in program management and Apprentice support.

We welcomed 29 new **volunteers**, and we are grateful to the volunteers who have been the stabilizing force through change! Our "Seaport Family" is our greatest asset.

Other exciting updates in this report:

- Progress on Seaport Center II
- WOW 2025 – most successful to date
- Program improvements in preparation for our 2026 expansion.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS!



Rita Susswein
Gottesman Fund



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The Ivakota
Association, Inc.



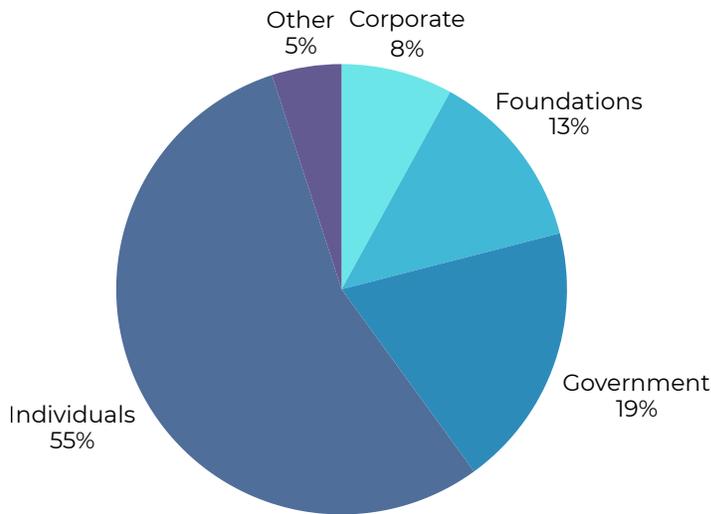
Thank You! We are profoundly grateful for the ongoing support of the Alexandria community. We can only do this work because our staff, volunteers, and donors contribute their time, treasure, and talent to our mission. Together, we are **crafting** more than boats—we are **crafting** futures.

With sincere appreciation,

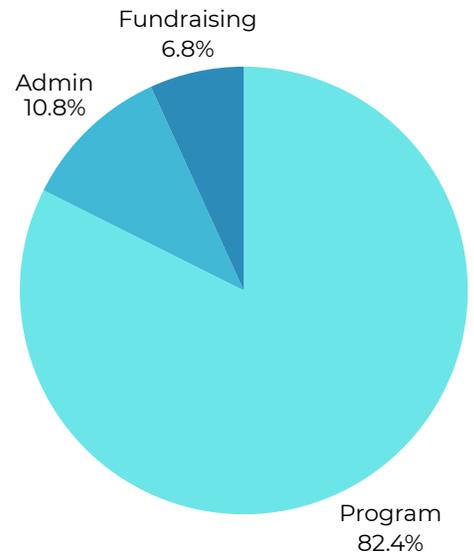
Debra Roepke
Executive Director

Helen Morris
Board Chair

INDIVIDUALS ARE SEAPORT'S LARGEST INVESTORS



FY25 REVENUE
\$865,901



FY25 EXPENSES
\$813,462

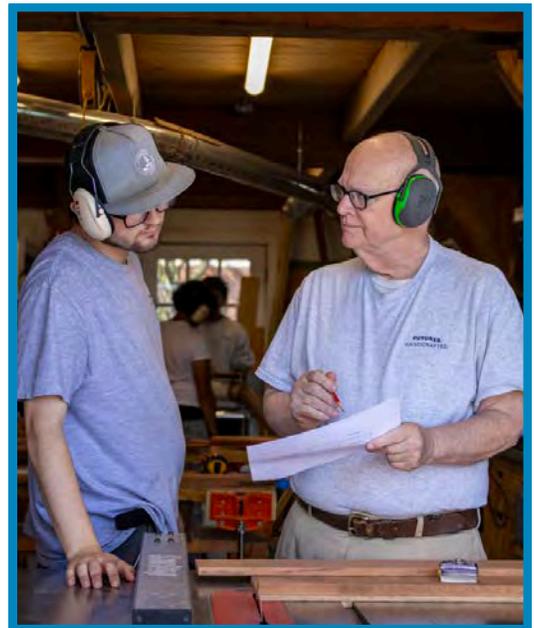
FY2025 BALANCE SHEET

TOTAL ASSETS: \$1,976,491
TOTAL LIABILITIES: \$83,802
TOTAL EQUITY: \$1,892,689

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS VALUED AT \$344,973



Seaport volunteers help staff prepare Apprentices for a sail on the Potomac River as part of their on-the-water instruction.



Tom Barfield, a long-time Seaport volunteer, discusses a carpentry project with Apprentice Jonathan.

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!

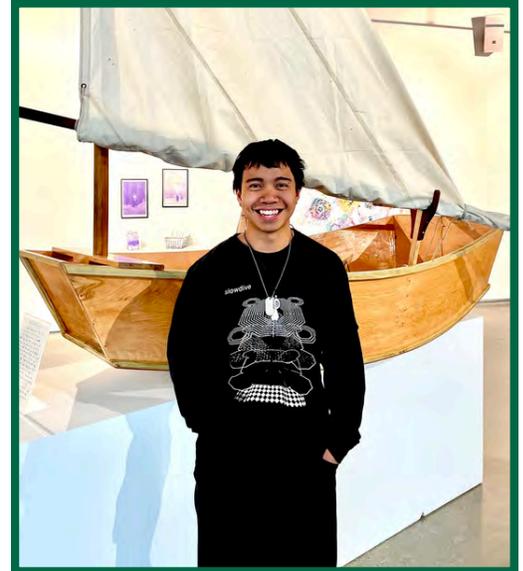
Seaport truly appreciates all of our volunteers – workshop carpenters, boatbuilders, on-the-water instructors, event planners, life-skills educators, administrative support, and board members. We've added more volunteers this year and now have over 50 total! We couldn't succeed without the time and effort they give all year long. Thank you again for supporting our community and **enriching** the lives of our Apprentices.

2025 IN PHOTOS

SEAPORT HAD A BUSY YEAR WITH APPRENTICE FIELD TRIPS, ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND SPECIAL EVENTS



The Denis Sullivan crew gathers after completing the **Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race**, where 23 vessels navigate a 130-mile course from Baltimore, Maryland, to Norfolk, Virginia. Thank you to the **World Ocean School** team for supporting our Seaport crew during this voyage.



Apprentice Roland exhibits the elegant pram boat, **Grace**, at **George Mason University**. He built this craft during his Seaport Apprenticeship.



Program Director Matt Roberts speaks to other educators at the **WoodenBoat School** in Maine, to help develop a curriculum for a National Boatbuilding Certification. Volunteer Katherine Hamilton also participates in this year-long Boatbuilding Educator Fellowship with the **Teaching With Small Boats Alliance**.



Oscar P. Fitzgerald, a nationally known historian on woodworking and American furniture design, speaks to Seaport supporters. Rob Dugger and Joan Huffer graciously hosted this evening at the **Belle Haven Country Club**.



Getting ready for the **Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk** in Old Town are Board Member Louise Roseman, Program Director Matt Roberts, and Executive Assistant Emma Karrlsson-Willis.



Apprentices on the historic **Mildred Belle** "buyboat" sail toward the Frederick Douglass Bridge on the Anacostia River. This experience with the **Living Classrooms Foundation** provides hands-on learning with a focus on the history, economics, and ecology of local waters.



"It's a blessing, I call it.... Looking back on what I've been through and looking back at how far I came." -- Apprentice Amon during his WUSA9 interview.

2025 GRADUATES: CAREER PATHS

SEAPORT WORKED WITH TWO COHORTS OF APPRENTICES THIS YEAR, EACH COMPLETING OUR SIX-MONTH PROGRAM. WE ARE EXCITED FOR THEIR NEXT CHAPTERS!

GRADUATE	PRIMARY FOCUS	SPECIFIC GOAL/ORGANIZATION
Haim	Maritime	Shipwright Apprenticeship
Amon	Construction	Senior Apprentice at Seaport; Mid-Atlantic Carpenters Union
Ben	Maritime	Living Classrooms Foundation (Baltimore)
Roland	Maritime	Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum; Shipwright Apprentice
Jonathan	Welding	WISH Center; Welding Certification (NOVA)
Henry	Trades	Seaport Liaison to Fairfax WISH Center
KT	Automotive/ Education	Senior Apprentice at Seaport; Automotive Mechanic Training
Kendall	Culinary Arts	Kitchen of Purpose
Lawrence	Local Employment	WIOA Support Program

WATCH THE WUSA9 INTERVIEW HERE



SEAPORT CENTER II: ON TRACK TO ARRIVE IN 2026

Seaport staff and volunteers spent 2025 designing the anchoring system and the floating barge—our “foundation”—on which Seaport Center II will be built. This effort was more complex than expected. We also navigated logistical challenges regarding where to build and how to transport the structure to its designated location adjacent to Seaport Center I.

Despite these hurdles, we are finalizing the build plans for this second floating workshop, which will provide an additional 2,800 square feet of space, including a dedicated boat bay.

We are incredibly grateful to the donors who helped match **The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation's** \$100,000 challenge grant and our partners—**Cowie Architects, Toomey Engineering, Delta Marine, Bopat Electric Co., Rimkus, Seadwell, Fairlead**, and to Seaport's Building Committee (**Harald Mangold, Jeffery Kerr, Nate McKenzie, David Fleischman, and Mindy Lyle**)—whose expertise has been vital in reaching this milestone. We are working diligently to deliver Seaport Center II to the Alexandria waterfront.



- **Doubling Capacity:** A new cohort schedule will allow us to start a new crew every quarter and serve twice as many Apprentices each year while maintaining small, effective class sizes.
- **Enhanced Curriculum:** A 30-week, dual-workshop model gives Apprentices more focused time to master woodworking fundamentals and math before advancing to boatbuilding and problem solving in Seaport Center II.
- **Community Engagement:** This expansion finally allows us to host "open shop" hours, special workshops, and public events to better serve the broader community.

2025 WINE ON THE WATER RAISES OVER \$93,000



Executive Director Deb Roepke introduced Apprentice Henry at Wine on the Water, where he shared how Seaport provides the support and builds the confidence he needs to pursue new opportunities in his life.

In September, more than 200 guests joined us for our **Wine on the Water (WOW)** event at the stunning rooftop offices of Verdenca Capital Advisors. The evening was a resounding success, raising over **\$93,000** for our Apprentice Program through ticket sales, sponsorships, in-kind donations, and our live auction and paddle raise. We are deeply grateful for the local community's generous support in making the 2025 WOW our most impactful yet!

THANK YOU TO OUR WOW SPONSORS



STRENGTHENING SEAPORT'S APPRENTICE CURRICULUM

Dr. Matt Roberts, Seaport's new Program Director, has implemented significant enhancements to the Apprentice Program in preparation for our expansion:

- **Refined Intake Process:** Established a three-tier application system to lower barriers to entry, ensure a good fit for incoming Apprentices, and increase crew cohesion.
- **Improved Onboarding Process:** Added an "admin week" to provide vision testing, swimming instruction, and work-appropriate uniforms, as well as assistance in setting up bank accounts and professional email accounts.
- **Formalized Curriculum Maps:** Developed comprehensive guides for Woodworking, Boatbuilding, and On-the-Water instruction to align these crafts with Seaport's mission of providing a "transformational experience" and support expansion through volunteer-led instruction.
- **Enhanced Non-Shop Time:** Restructured academic and life skills instruction to be better integrated with the core curriculum.
- **Outcome-Based Mentorship:** Shifted focus toward self-efficacy and "Habits of Mind," empowering Apprentices with the critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed to broaden their career horizons.
- **Workplace Readiness:** Created a professional skills curriculum focused on punctuality, workplace etiquette, and professional communication.
- **2026 Trimester Model:** Scheduled the launch of a new overlapping cohort model for Fall 2026. This includes one admin week, 10 weeks of basic woodworking, a week of scheduled career exploration, 10 weeks of boatbuilding, and an 8-week "launch period" featuring job shadowing and internships.

DEMAND IS GROWING

Seaport received 30 applications—to fill eight spots—for the January 2026 cohort. We are grateful for partnerships with local schools, court-related programs, and social service providers.



Program Director Matt Roberts helps Apprentice KT with measuring skills needed for the woodworking curriculum.



July grads – Amon (with his son), Haim, Kendall and Ben – celebrate with cake!



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MAKE A GIFT

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS IN 2025!

\$100,001+

Richard Bell and Toni Clark*
Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

\$25,001 - \$100,000

Frances Schafer Dan Viglione Alexandria Human Services Fund Oscar Fitzgerald The Joseph E. and Marjorie B. Jones Foundation Jay and Kim Creech

\$10,001 - \$25,000

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\$1,001 - \$5,000

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The Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race Skanska Verdenca Capital Advisors Jamie Willis-Rose & Maram Abdelhamid Margaret Williams The Timko Family Fund Coldwell Banker Realty Cares Foundation Bruce & Nancy Payne Frank Pisch Rita Susswein Gottesman Fund Sue Setliff Laura Thompson Sandra Welch Elizabeth Dahouk Melinda Pagliarello Anna Lindahl Krista Hummer Kurt & Jean Rausch Thomas Milani Nathan McKenzie Mia's Italian Kitchen Jerome Casagrande Thomas K. Hyatt Michelle Krisel Karen Bell

\$501 - \$1,000

Hannah Superno* Ben and Carrie Capuco Margaret Ballard Mindy Roduner Harley Thronson and Laura Giza Linda Harvey Catherine Chumley Adriano Schmid Steven Williams Morton Creech Elizabeth Hernandez and Jeremy Flachs James W. Whitehead, Jr. Chris Hesel Sada Dahouk Tim Critchfield Philippe DuChateau Andrea and Tobin Tracey William Bobbitt James Carlson Davenport & Company LLC Fidelity Investments Andrea Finch David Frantz Marialuisa Gallozzi Ahmed Hachim Tracie & Matt Harris HRP Group Donna Jarman John Marshall Bank Kiwanis Club of Alexandria Adron Krekeler Suzanne and Gary Mead

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Up to \$500

Rotary Club of Alexandria Margaret Devine Stephen and Jasmine Milone Mojde Bahremand Thomas Barfield Steve Becvar Austin High Elissa Rumsey Billy Schepp Becky and Sid Shaw Mark Abramson Lindsay Boudreaux Ellen Bryscoe Evelyn Gleason Kathleen Hicks Andrew Knutson Linda Odell Wendy Ross Nancy and Frank Sharp Stacey Spaulding Karen Williams John Woods Elizabeth Biffi Sabrina Delgado Arias Christopher Dryden Marci Lash Leigh Talbot Karen Anderson Llewelyn and Deborah Bigelow Amy Ford Bradley Kristle Pieh James and Mary Allen Shawnda Atkins Benjamin Bagocius Margot Benedict Sonya Besteiro Chris Blankner Al and Kathy Cox

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