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Contact Lauren Boston  
202.298.9222 x215  
press@georgetownheritage.org

## C&O Canal Boat Tours in Georgetown Return May 5

*Georgetown Heritage is operating a second C&O Canal boat season after a successful inaugural run in 2022, featuring public tours, private charters, and a fundraising event.*

**Washington, DC (April 10, 2023)** – Georgetown Heritage’s Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal boat is returning for a second season, with public rides beginning May 5. The new canal boat, the *Georgetown Heritage*, is the only one of its kind in Washington, D.C. It will be available for public programs and private rentals when the tour season begins.

The boat program was made possible thanks to a multiyear partnership between Georgetown Heritage and the National Park Service. The Georgetown BID and the District of Columbia have also been instrumental in bringing the boat back to Georgetown.

Georgetown Heritage debuted the new Canal boat last April, welcoming visitors aboard for the first time in more than a decade. Over 20,000 tickets were purchased during the season, with riders representing 52 U.S. states and territories, and 48 countries. WorkBoat Magazine included the boat on its list of 10 Significant Boats of 2022, and as a finalist for their boat of the year.

Beginning May 5, public boat rides will be available four times a day, Wednesday – Sunday, offering one-hour guided historical tours along the first mile of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Each tour features an experience going through the Canal’s historic lift locks, a unique offering in the District. Visitors also 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.

Canal boat tickets can be purchased at [georgetownheritage.org/boat](https://georgetownheritage.org/boat).

The Canal boat serves 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.

“Every boat tour is a singular look into the past,” said S. Rex Carnegie, Director of Education & Partnerships for Georgetown Heritage. “So much of our diverse history in Georgetown, and the years of work by Georgetown Heritage and our partners, have made this a unique experience for visitors, and an exciting way to engage with one of the nation’s most visited national parks. We are glad to build on last year’s success and offer new ways to connect people with this important milestone of American history.”

The Georgetown Heritage boat was funded by a grant from the District of Columbia and constructed at Roudebush Yacht & Engine Works in Dundalk, Maryland. 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.

The boat will be 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](mailto:info@georgetownheritage.org) for more information.

To learn more about the Canal boat, visit [georgetownheritage.org/boat](https://georgetownheritage.org/boat).

### ***ALL ABOARD THE SPRING SOIRÉE FUNDRAISING EVENT***

Georgetown Heritage is celebrating the 2023 C&O Canal boat season with a fundraising gala on May 4 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. The event will take place in the Mule Yard by Lock 3 of the Canal (between Thomas Jefferson & 30th Street NW), featuring special guest speakers, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and live music. Tickets are available at [georgetownheritage.org/events](https://georgetownheritage.org/events).

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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](https://www.georgetownheritage.org).