

Talking Points Proposed by Founders & Volunteers of the (South Street) Seaport Museum:

Save Our Seaport Talking Points

Concerned New Yorkers and friends have followed the spiraling decline of their museum with consternation, as recent events have revealed the near shipwreck of the (South Street) Seaport Museum. It is vain to rehearse the failures; what is needed is positive action to cure them and move forward with and for the people of New York. City authorities are working to save the Seaport Museum, and to them we now propose a restructuring of museum policies and operations on these basic principles:

Responsibility-The Museum has a responsibility to maintain and preserve its collections, including its ships.

Engagement - The Museum must engage the diverse communities it exists to serve.

Participation- It must be open to an active membership, as a part of the museum's functioning. This includes a corps of volunteers able to contribute skills and knowledge as well as time and effort to the success of the Museum.

Presence - It can immediately reactivate its living emblems of New York's history: its working vessels and the Bowne Print Shop.

Governance-The Museum can only go forward with a new and open administrative structure, new trustees, and new management.

Starting now-An interim management is needed now, with an advisory board from other like institutions.