

CAPE ANN Museum

Cape Ann Museum announces temporary closure in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

GLOUCESTER, MASS. (March 12, 2020) - As a precautionary measure amid the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Cape Ann Museum has decided to temporarily close and postpone events and programming for at least two weeks as of March 13 to protect the health and well-being of members, staff, volunteers, and visitors. The announcement comes as many other museums and cultural institutions across the state announce similar temporary closures.

The Museum is following protocols that local, state, and national health care officials are advising with “social distancing” and a reduction in large gatherings and events to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Museum leadership will monitor the situation closely to determine when the Museum can safely re-open and programming can resume.

Here is the statement from Museum Director Oliver Barker:

Dear Cape Ann Museum Members, Friends & Visitors:

Given the rapid changes around hosting public events and gatherings amid the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Cape Ann Museum has determined that it is in the best interest of public health and safety to close the Museum for at least two weeks beginning Friday, March 13th. All public programs, meetings and events will be suspended during this time.

In consultation with the Museum’s Board of Directors, we feel that temporary closure of the Museum provides important protection for the health and well-being of Museum staff, volunteers, and visitors, as well as the wider community. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.

Additionally, in light of the current situation, the Museum has decided to postpone the opening celebration of the CAPE ANN Museum Green and Collections Center scheduled for June 20, 2020. The Museum is greatly looking forward to sharing this new and important site with the community and we will be working to set a rescheduled date for the opening celebration soon.

The Cape Ann Museum will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely. During this time of closure, we will issue regular email updates as well as generating new virtual content from our Education and Curatorial Departments.

Please continue to follow the Museum via social media and check our [website](#) for updates. As always, please feel to reach out via email: info@capeannmuseum.org or to my email directly: oliverbarker@capeannmuseum.org.

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capeannmuseum.org

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The Cape Ann Museum remains committed to safeguarding the health and safety of all museum visitors. Working in concert with local and state public health officials, we look forward to welcoming the public again to the Museum as soon as possible.

With very best regards,

Oliver Barker
Director

The Cape Ann Museum has been in existence since the 1870s, working to preserve and celebrate the history and culture of the area and to keep it relevant to today's audiences. Spanning 44,000 square feet, the Museum is one of the major cultural institutions on Boston's North Shore welcoming more than 25,000 local, national and international visitors each year to its exhibitions and programs. In addition to fine art, the Museum's collections include decorative art, textiles, artifacts from the maritime and granite industries, three historic homes, a Library & Archives and a sculpture park in the heart of downtown Gloucester. In June 2020, the Museum will open a new 12,000-square-foot collection storage and public exhibition space in Gloucester as part of its Cape Ann Museum Green campus. The campus will also include three historic buildings – the White Ellery House (1710), an adjacent Barn (c. 1740), and the recently acquired Babson-Alling House (c. 1740) which are located on the site at the intersection of Washington and Poplar Streets in Gloucester. Visit capeannmuseum.org for details.

The Cape Ann Museum is located at 27 Pleasant Street in Gloucester. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$12.00 adults, \$10.00 Cape Ann residents, seniors and students. Youth (under 18) and Museum members are free. Cape Ann residents can visit for free on the second Saturday of each month. For more information please call: (978)283-0455 x10. Additional information can be found online at www.capeannmuseum.org.

For a detailed media fact sheet please visit www.capeannmuseum.org/press.

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Print quality images are available upon request.

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