

Schooner *Martha* Foundation

2023 Update



March 2023

Dear Schooner *Martha* volunteers, supporters, and community,

We are so grateful for your support over the past 25+ years. From the beginning, the Schooner *Martha* Foundation (SMF) has operated, maintained, and restored *Martha* through a combination of grit, determination, and a willingness to point available resources directly to the work needing to be done.

Through it all, we maintain our determination to make sail training opportunities available to all—especially to the eager and interested youth in our community, and to make their learning aboard authentic through direct hands-on experience. The opportunity to learn from the natural consequences of operating, maintaining, and even racing a historic yacht of *Martha's* caliber and pedigree is unique and valuable. Encouraging young people to help run the boat with the professional crew reliably shows just how youth aboard will rise to the call, and that *Martha* will teach those who are willing to learn. Along with this, participants learn the cultural and philosophical values of building something well, maintaining it properly, and working together to achieve goals outside themselves.

This packet of writing, photos, testimonials, and quotes is an invitation to the community to help us with the next 'lift.' Schooner *Martha* Foundation needs support in order to sustainably complete the house and cabintop restoration, continue scholarship offerings for youth, and provide a succession plan for changing leadership as the current Foundation leaders, Robert and Holly, begin to take steps back from year-round leadership.

Please consider giving a financial gift that will help *Martha* carry on for another 116+ years. If there are any questions, please email: sailmartha1907@gmail.com or call (206) 310-8573.

Sincerely,
Schooner *Martha* Foundation Board of Directors and Crew

Youth Sail Training & Voyaging

The mission of The Schooner *Martha* Foundation has been to restore and maintain the 1907 historic schooner *Martha* so she can continue to be used for youth and adult sail training. Since 1997 when the foundation was formed, *Martha* has been a platform for programs designed primarily for students 12-18 years old.

Martha's sail training program uses the power of teamwork to meet our youth sail training goals. We immerse students into life onboard with a hands-on-discipline, using sailing and seamanship skills and ultimately the boat itself as a teacher. Professional crew are also experienced instructors and convey information safely and thoughtfully as students learn new skills each day aboard. Returning crew grow into leadership roles on the foredeck and as student deckhands.

Students on *Martha's* sail training program are immersed in the life of a crew on board a working sailing vessel. Trips range from 3 days to 3 weeks with a capacity for 6 students and 2 professional crew/instructors. The sail training program consists of an interdisciplinary education experience combining piloting, navigation, sail theory, history, teamwork development and leadership skills. We believe that the lessons learned by crew participating in a sailing adventure permeate into a person's daily life and can give them a new perspective towards their future and their environment.

Students who sail aboard *Martha* as active crew members are involved in most every aspect of running the ship: setting and striking sails, helping set and strike anchor, furling sails and line handling, deckwash and below-deck chores, cooking meals and cleaning up after, and trip planning which includes listening to the weather and studying tides and currents. Downtime exercise and recreation activities include swimming off the side of the boat and shore hikes on public land. Each trip is designed by the Captain and professional crew/instructors based on weather conditions, tides and currents, and ultimately the needs and goals of the participants aboard.



The vessel and crew merge as a system, with the result that each crewmember comes to understand that their contribution matters, and that their focus and shipboard skill-building make the ship run more smoothly and efficiently.

One theme aboard *Martha*, whether aboard for a competitive race or for an overnight trip, is the philosophy:

**“Go Slow to Go Smooth.
Go Smooth to Go Fast.”**



To find out more about youth sailing aboard Schooner *Martha*, check out our website: <https://www.schoonermartha.org/sail-training-vacations-for-families-and-youth/>

Students participants have shared:

“While on Schooner *Martha*, I was able to learn in a friendly environment. It was a unique experience, because it was very hands-on while also providing ample opportunity to think about what had to be done. After the first day on the water, the crew began to slip into a rhythm.” – Student testimonial



“One moment that stood out to me in particular on the trip was when we were at anchor and saw an incredible double rainbow. It was especially unique to be able to experience this from *Martha*, knowing that we had gotten there simply by harnessing the wind. In that moment, I felt extremely in touch with nature and with myself.” - Student testimonial



Aboard *Martha*, students gain experience thinking critically, collaborating, communicating, and problem-solving — skills to serve them well in the 21st century. Sail trim, navigation, and trip planning become an experiential lesson every day aboard while the crew plans to get the boat from departure to destination.

Pride in the craft and hands-on experiential learning combine with adventure to help students develop self esteem. The ability to be present on the boat, the crew, and in the natural environment without the distractions of home, technology, and everyday activities truly gives the impression of sailing aboard a time machine. This aspect helps to create a dynamic process of inspiration which allows the student to realize their potential in new ways.

The Schooner *Martha* Foundation believes strongly that sail training education is an important thematic educational process, needed today as an opportunity for youth more than ever. In addition, we see this type of experiential education along with the care and effort put into maintaining the historic vessel *Martha*, as a metaphor for maintaining and caring for our community and the planet.

Students who have sailed aboard Schooner *Martha* have gone on to become professional sailors, shipwrights, sailmakers, Coast Guard service personnel, and riggers. The maritime trades are a huge part of the Port Townsend, Washington working waterfront community that supports *Martha's* restoration efforts. Teaching students about the care and maintenance of a 116-year-old vessel is an additional powerful part of the full picture of *Martha* as a teacher. *Martha* takes care of us while we sail and adventure aboard; we take care of *Martha* to maintain her heritage, longevity, and beauty.

Martha participates in various wooden boat celebrations in Washington State and Canada. She is docked in her homeport of Port Townsend and open to the public for scheduling daysails, dockside tours, and overnight voyaging adventures. From August 2014 to August 2015, *Martha* participated in sail training activities and events along the Pacific coastline of the United States, including the Transpac Race across the Pacific Ocean to Honolulu. She hopes to travel down the West Coast again in the future.



Schooner *Martha* - Stewardship through Preservation and Restoration

In many ways, *Martha* is in better shape today than she was in 1907 when she launched. With each passing year, she becomes more historic and more significant. Now, with a network of supporters and a community of people dedicated to her stewardship, the next phase of her restoration is to rebuild the cabin and house top. While we've accomplished maintenance projects, and remedial work in this area, the house remains original to her 1907 construction and is in need of reconstruction. This is vital to the effort to preserve and protect *Martha*, and ensuring she is sailing and training her crew well into the future.

There is a constant need for repairs, ongoing preservation, downrigging each fall, routine care in the course of winter maintenance, and fitting out each spring. Parallel to managing and completing this annual care, we are also planning for the larger phases of *Martha's* continued restoration.

Looking ahead, those involved with the SMF are most excited to maintain *Martha's* legacy, and to know that not only will she be a platform for learning into the future, but also a time machine to connect the next generation to the past.

(see a [Martha restoration overview & timeline](#) of projects completed in the past 25 years)



With the completion of her new mainmast in summer of 2022 (replacing the original 1907 red cedar mast), new main fiber rigging, partnering with Brion Toss Riggers, we have noticed that her performance is better than previously. We speculate that a stiffer mast allows the sails to maintain their shape more effectively and to perform better. We also note that the fiber rigging puts less strain on the hull. All good things.

The next rig project is a new suit of sails; with a taller mainmast and a larger rig, we'll need to build a new mainsail, new main staysail and new fisherman staysail. We have already secured promises of funding to acquire cloth and we have regular crew and volunteers ready to help with the construction. As well, there is \$13,000 earmarked from a prior grant ready to use.

See a [slideshow of Martha](#) since 1907 to now.



“The Ask”

It will take a community to keep *Martha* sailing for many more years to come. **We hope you can join us.** Your support can help ensure our forthcoming plans for *Martha*. Our future plans involve:

- Continuation of sail training programs, with scholarship offerings to youth
- **The Ask:** \$20,000 to support youth sailing and scholarship fund
- Succession planning for upcoming leadership changes with hopes for an endowment
- **The Ask:** \$5 million with a 2% payout providing \$100,000/yr for crew/staff compensation
- Restoration of the cabintop, which remains original to her 1907 original construction and a new set of sails.
- **The Ask:** \$40,000 for sails, \$200,000 for cabintop restoration



* photo credit Jonathan Drake



To keep in touch, please email: sailmartha1907@gmail.com or call (206) 310-8573.

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SchoonerMarthaFoundation>

Follow us on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sailmartha/>

Please share about Schooner *Martha* with your friends and family! [Donate Today!](#)



Schooner Martha Foundation: PO Box 1811; Port Townsend, WA; 98368

The Schooner Martha Foundation is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our Federal Identification number is 91-1785967. All donations are tax deductible.

History of Schooner *Martha* Foundation

Founded in 1997 by a dedicated group of people including Robert d'Arcy and JoAnn O'Connor, the Schooner *Martha* Foundation's mission has been to restore and maintain the historic 1907 schooner *Martha* and operate her as a youth sail-training vessel. *Martha*, a BB Crowninshield designed 68' schooner yacht, was built by the W.F. Stone Boat Yard in San Francisco. She is now operated by Robert d'Arcy and Holly Kays, Emma Gunn, Kris Day, and many other volunteers including the Board of Directors. Robert d'Arcy and Emma Gunn hold 100 ton Master's Licenses, and many other crew members have extensive sail training educational experience. Additional crew includes Mary d'Arcy, Chance Bates, Chrissy McLean, Sonia Frojen, and many adult and youth deckhands and educators.

The primary goals of the Foundation address the vessels' stewardship, youth sail-training programs, to curate the vessel's history, allowing public access and experiential education. A Board of Directors was drawn up and 501(c)(3) non-profit status was granted. *Martha* was placed on the National and Washington State Historic Register in 2001. **



Schooner *Martha* sailing in San Francisco Bay before the Golden Gate Bridge was built (Marin Headlands in the background)



W.F. Stone Boatyard in San Francisco where *Martha* was built

**Many articles have been written about *Martha* over the years. Some articles are archived here: [SMF Media Archive](#) If you know of any media sources about *Martha* that aren't referenced, please share!



The Present:

The past winter of 2022-2023, we have taken the time to give the engine a fairly extensive overhaul after 20 years of consistent and regular use. This has been an excellent way to care for the engine and ensure its ongoing reliability, while also familiarizing Captain Emma with more of *Martha's* systems. Worn out parts like the hoses and gaskets have been replaced, any chafe has been dealt with and leaks chased down. The shaft was realigned and *Martha* now has a new 4 blade feathering prop. *Martha* will relaunch after a winter haulout, during the first week of April to prepare for the upcoming sailing season.

The Foundation received a general restoration grant of \$8,000 in December of 2022 that was used to fund the engine overhaul project. The project was completed in March of 2023 for a total of \$8,327.

The Future:

Looking down the road at future restoration projects, one of the major projects on the horizon is replacing the cabin top. What we notice is water infiltrating around the portlights, around the skylights and deck furniture, and then emerging belowdecks out of the trim, around light fixtures and running down bulkheads, having just migrated through channels the water finds through the woodwork and under the fiberglass top. This is a clear demonstration of how porous the cabin has become over time, and in order to stop any further degradation of the boat, and pursue our mission of restoration, **we'll be raising funds to tackle this project to ensure the longevity of *Martha*** and her ability to continue educating young sailors and performing competitively on the race scene regionally.

Funds for restoration have been provided by a combination of income generated by sail training programs, private donations and in-kind donations of materials and labor from local business and industry in Seattle and Port Townsend. It takes a community to keep *Martha* sailing and what a talented community we have!

Martha continues to display an ability to secure restoration funds and use them efficiently. By using volunteer labor, and through support of the community, labor costs have been kept low. (this graph shows 11 of the 26 years she has been under the care of Schooner *Martha* Foundation)

Every donation matters!

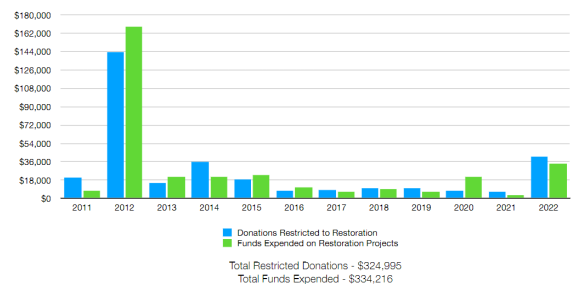
Schooner *Martha* Foundation has a strong base of donors up to \$500! From the years 2012 through 2022, total of donations under \$500 averaged \$74/donor. (see images)

Consider making a [donation](#) today to help ensure *Martha* continues her legacy for another 116 years!

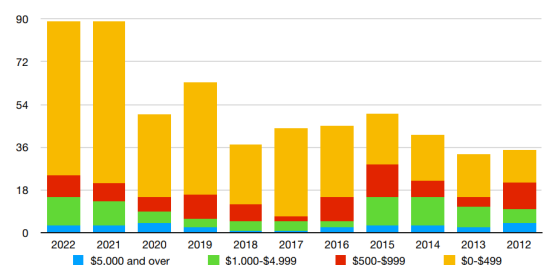
The cost of one youth scholarship for a day on an overnight trip is \$125; a four-day overnight trip costs \$500. Consider donating to the youth scholarship fund, and to restoration.

More information is available about predicted costs for the sails, cabintop restoration, fuel daytank replacement, and general regular annual maintenance and upkeep, and can be found online: [Martha Restoration Cost Predictions '23-'25](#)

Analysis of Donations Restricted to Restoration



Number of Donors per Dollar Amount



Schooner *Martha* Foundation - Financial Documents

The financial health of the Foundation is in a state of post-covid hibernation needing to be re-infused with financial support for three specific topical areas:

1. **Youth Sailing & Operating Budget**: Youth sailing and program scholarships are a huge part of the mission of getting everyone who wants to sail aboard *Martha*, out on the water. We have a robust scholarship/discount policy. To continue offering these types of discounts, we need to have donor support. See the link above for information about the 'dream' budget which would allow more youth sailing on more trips, with more financial aid.
2. **Table of upcoming restoration projects & cost range**: The restoration-focus of *Martha* continues to replace her final original area of the boat from 1907 construction, the cabin and housetop restoration. As noted in the table linked above, the predicted costs are just that- a prediction of unknowns until we get into the project, and discover what level of reconstruction will be necessary. Labor costs and paying skilled shipwrights will add to the overall pricetag. In addition, a new set of sails, and other items are listed in the quoted costs.
3. **Endowment to ensure a living wage for Captain, Crew & eventually an Executive Director**: Capacity-building for a succession plan of professional crew and foundation leadership to support sustainability will be crucial as the incredibly competent and generous leadership of Robert d'Arcy and Holly Kays step back from year-round leadership of the vessel, and of the Foundation. The potential of a 5 million dollar endowment could provide an annual stream of funding to pay professional crew a living wage. (2% of 5 million = \$100,000 / year annual range) **These are big dreams!! To continue supporting *Martha* for another 100+ years, we will need to DREAM BIG!**

*** All financial statements available upon request. ***

The Schooner *Martha* Foundation has many volunteers that support the continual up keep and maintenance of the vessel, and many volunteers are youth. We appreciate the huge amount of volunteer help we have received over the years!

If you'd like to learn more about how to volunteer with Schooner *Martha* Foundation, please email: sailmartha1907@gmail.com



Larger print hard copies of this packet are available by request.

