

COMMUNITY REPORT

Gloucester 400™: Our People, Our Stories

Looking Back -- with an Eye to the Future

As we look ahead with anticipation to the holiday season, this is an ideal time to also look back at 2019 with appreciation and a sense of pride. For all of us serving on the Gloucester 400™ steering committee and sub-committees we would like to thank you -- our many friends and neighbors throughout Gloucester -- for your interest, ideas, enthusiasm, and support in 2019 and as we forge ahead in preparation for our city's quadricentennial. We'd like to take this opportunity to bring you on board and up to date.

PLANNING

Join the Team!

Community outreach is fundamental to our success. The steering committee has hosted four well-attended and productive open forums since April 2018, including our meetings in October 2018, last spring in City Hall, and the fourth public planning session that will take place on November 16th at 11 AM in the Kyrouz Auditorium of City Hall.

At this time, a variety of Gloucester 400 committees and sub-committees are actively seeking volunteers whose interests and expertise align with their charters. Please join us to take part, pitch in, and become part of the celebration. Committees who want to meet you include:

- Arts Committee (includes Visual Arts, Literary, Music, and Theatre subcommittees)
- Burial Grounds and Cemeteries
- Business
- 400th Community Outreach and Engagement
- Dogtown/ Common Settlement
- Education
- Fisheries
- Genealogy
- Heritage
- Logistics
- Millennial Outreach
- Sports and Recreation
- Tourism
- Veterans Outreach
- Waterways

UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't miss this month's events for your opportunity to make a difference and experience history firsthand.

November 16, 2019, 11 AM - Gloucester 400 Public Planning Meeting & Call for Volunteers

All Gloucester residents able to volunteer on key sub-committees for Gloucester's 400th-anniversary celebration are encouraged to attend this important public planning meeting.

November 24th, 2019 - First Annual Event of the Quadricentennial, "Gloucester 400: Our Stories Begin, 1623 through 1722"

On Sunday, November 24th, Gloucester400™ will host "Our Stories Begin: 1623 through 1722," a candlelight celebration in gratitude for the City's first 100 years and the people – Native Americans and settlers – who first called Gloucester their home. The first of four annual celebrations planned to celebrate each century of Gloucester's 400-year saga, it will take place at the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church, at 10 Church Street, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Much of the 2019's work has focused on building out actionable plans, developing organizational infrastructure, and raising awareness. To recap our past year's progress, here is just a sampling of what we've been up to:

1. A lively community design competition for the quadricentennial logo was conducted with the winning entry proudly displayed at the Spring planning event. This logo is now in use online, in print, and will be a prominent feature in merchandising efforts to support revenue requirements.
2. Conducted the 2019 Community Planning Meeting consisting of roundtables brainstorming "uniquely Gloucester" themes and ideas (e.g., Maritime Events, Historical Commemorations, Education, and the Arts).
3. The international Medal Design competition moved to its second phase with the juried selection of three remarkable finalist designs. We were honored that over 40 entries were received from gifted artists worldwide. The Gloucester 400 medallion will be selected early in 2020, and medals will be available for pre-order soon thereafter.
4. The 400th website, www.gloucesterma.org was launched and continues to expand with increasing amounts of information, calendared events, news, and educational materials.
5. Gloucester 400's Facebook and Instagram pages are up, running, and boast over 1,500 friends and followers who check in regularly for news, trivia, information and "all things Gloucester 400." Take a moment to follow us today so you don't miss anything!
6. Gloucester Celebrations Corporation (GCC), the official organizing committee for the quadricentennial, began its initial fundraising through a combination of state grants, major donors, and grassroots efforts.
7. Gloucester 400 banners were designed, purchased, and installed throughout the city to keep the celebration front-of-mind for residents and visitors.

COLLABORATING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

Throughout 2019 Gloucester 400 representatives have forged valuable alliances with communities throughout Massachusetts who are also celebrating milestones in the coming years. We have marched in the Essex Bicentennial Parade by invitation (August 10, 2019), hosted the September meeting of the Massachusetts 400 communities, worked closely with the Weymouth 400 organization to share ideas, insights, advice, and experiences.

Gloucester 400 has also been a sponsor of, or represented at many of the city's major festivals and traditional community events, from the Schooner and Waterfront Festivals to the Bluefin Blowout and Main Street Block Party.

DEVELOPMENT

Over the past year, Gloucester Celebrations Corporation (GCC) successfully secured a \$62,500 grant from the state and separately raised over \$50,000 on its own to help finance events, activities, and organizational infrastructure. In early 2020, plans are in place to begin accepting pre-orders of the Gloucester 400 Commemorative Medallion via the website, as well as introduce appropriate merchandising strategies and offerings as momentum builds toward 2023's festivities.

Fundraising and development will kick off in earnest during 2020 with the launch of a targeted campaign for donors seeking early involvement and access to a variety of benefits.

THE LONG VIEW ...

Through our planning sessions, our committees have developed the following tentative long-range calendar.* While it may change and evolve over time, these events represent major celebrations and observances that are central to Gloucester's quadricentennial theme, objectives, and people.

Saturday November 27th, 2021 - "400 Days to the 400th"
Friday, May 6th, 2022 – Community Banquet – Gloucester Cruiseport
Dec. 31st - Jan. 1st, 2022/23 - "2023 Launch Event"
Spring/Summer 2023 - Neighborhood Festivals
Spring/Summer 2023 - Outdoor Symphony/Pops Concert
June 28th, 2023 - 96th Annual St. Peter's Fiesta
Monday, July 3rd, 2023 - "2023 Fishtown Horribles Parade"
Summer 2023 - Sail Boston Fleet Visit
August 8th, 2023 - Reenactment of the "Falcon Incident"
Summer 2023 - "Gloucester Days"
Summer 2023 - Revival of "Cape Ann Festival of the Arts"
Autumn 2023 - Historic Property Open Houses
Friday October 6th, 2023 - "400th Gala Event"
October 29th, 2023 - "Reflections on *The Perfect Storm*"
December 31st, 2023 - "Closing Event"

**Look to the website for frequent updates, announcements of new initiatives, and other information.*

THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Gloucester's 400th celebration is for and by its people. To that end, we remain committed to working with Gloucester's K-12 schools to encourage and ensure meaningful involvement, working to preserve and protect documents and artifacts that chronicle Gloucester's rich history, and diligently capturing the stories of today from primary sources and sharing them for future generations.

Since assuming our roles, all of us on the Gloucester 400 steering committee have been honored by the support of the community, its leaders, and its institutions. With the strength of Gloucester's people behind it, we are confident that the city's 400th anniversary will create enduring memories, inspire new respect for our heritage, and help us move forward into the next century stronger and united.

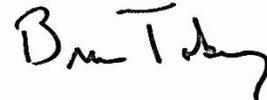
On behalf of the Committee with our deepest respect and appreciation,



Robert Gillis
Chairperson



Ruth Pino
Chairperson



Bruce Tobey
Chairperson