



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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And the Finalists Are ... Three Finalists Selected from Dozens of Submissions to Gloucester's 400th-Anniversary Medal Design Competition

Gloucester, MA – October 2, 2019 – Gloucester Celebration Corporation, the official organizers of Gloucester, Massachusetts' 400th-anniversary celebration, today announced the three finalists in Phase I of the Commemorative Medal Design Competition. The finalists are:

- Alexis Chipperini, of Brighton, MA for "Call of the Storm"
- Beth Swan of Gloucester, MA for "Out at Sea"
- Shannon Wilkins of Portland, ME, for "Gloucester: America's Oldest Seaport"

Selected from over three dozen designs received from artists worldwide, each of these three artists will receive the \$3,000 award for Phase I, and will move into Phase II of the competition.

"The sheer number of entries alone was challenging," commented Roger Armstrong, head of the judging panel. "And, I think I speak for the rest of the judges when I say how difficult it was to make our selection from so many thoughtfully-created designs. In the end analysis, we felt each of the three finalists honor something that is 'uniquely Gloucester' with exceptional clarity and creativity."

In addition to Mr. Armstrong, the judging panel included Ms. Joy Dai Buell, Ms. Janice Carragher Charles, Mr. Leon Doucette, and Mr. Ken Hruby. The judging panel conducted a blind review of all entries; i.e., the judges were not advised of names or addresses of any artists. Their review was based solely on the designs themselves and the artists' descriptions of their designs.

“I would like to thank our panel of judges for how professionally and insightfully they reviewed every design submitted,” said Bruce Tobey, tri-chairperson of the Gloucester 400 steering committee. “I applaud both their hard work and the designs they selected.”

Phase II of the Competition

In Phase II, the final medal will be chosen by a second panel of judges from 3-dimensional renderings of each of the three finalists' designs. The design selected to represent the city's 400th anniversary as its commemorative medal will then be minted in bronze and silver versions for purchase by Gloucester residents, collectors, and numismatists worldwide. In addition, the final artist will receive an award of \$10,000.

Availability

Medals will be available for pre-order in February 2020. The first minting of the 400th anniversary medallions will be available in the Spring of 2020. Proceeds from their sale will provide the chief source of funding for Gloucester's 2023 celebrations and will provide residents with a memento of the Quadricentennial, help the city capture the priceless stories of the city's 400-year history, and create new memories for storytellers to come.

Gloucester's 400th Anniversary: “*Our People, Our Stories*™”

Gloucester, Massachusetts, America's oldest seaport, will be “400 years young” in 2023. To celebrate its past, honor its people, and welcome its promising future, the city has begun preparations for celebrating this historic milestone and organizing the year-long celebration of its anniversary. The theme of the quadricentennial is *Gloucester: Our People, Our Stories*™ and focuses on celebrating Gloucester's history through the stories of the people who lived, sacrificed, rejoiced, worked, built, and innovated together – at times risking everything -- since 1623. Gloucester Celebration Corporation, is the steering committee established to guide the efforts to create a momentous city-wide celebration among the people and businesses, and facilitate an exceptional year of festivities.

To provide the latest information about Gloucester400's many activities and opportunities, Gloucester Celebration Corporation has launched a website that will be continuously updated with news, fun, and useful information. Visit www.gloucesterma400.org for more information.

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