

PUBLIC HISTORY INTERNSHIP

Name of Organization: New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center

Contact Person: Laura Orleans **Title:** Executive Director

Telephone: 508-993-8894

Address: PO Box 2052, New Bedford, MA 02741-2052

Email: info@fishingheritagecenter.org

Organization Website: www.fishingheritagecenter.org

Compensation: \$1500 Stipend



Organization Description:

The New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to telling the story of the fishing industry past, present, and future through exhibits, programs, and archives. The Center opened to the public in June of 2016 and is located in the City's historic district.

Project Description:

The Center is currently engaged in researching the history of organized labor on the New Bedford waterfront from 1930 to the present. The project will explore the history of unions and other industry and community organizations, including their formation, role, and demise/dissolution, through a combination of archival research and oral history interviews. Documentation of the story of major labor actions, including the 1985-86 strike between fishermen and boat owners, which effectively ended organized labor on the waterfront, will be a major focus. Active and retired workers from every sector of the industry will be interviewed in order to catalogue each of the jobs associated with the industry both at sea and on shore and to understand how working conditions, the labor force, and community have changed over time.

Description of Work:

Intern will conduct independent archival research including review of local newspapers, trade papers, company records, labor contracts, photographs, recordings, etc. Intern will participate in occasional meetings and conference calls with project team as well as weekly in-person and/or phone meetings with the Project Director.

Qualifications:

Significant archival research experience and strong oral and written communication skills a must. Must be self-directed, detail oriented, and flexible. Knowledge of labor history and/or the fishing industry a plus. Access to a car extremely helpful.

Days and hours: The intern would be expected to complete a minimum of 100 hours between May and September. Hours are flexible. Much of the work will be done in libraries located in New Bedford. Some of the research may involve travel to archives in other parts of New England.

Interested individuals should email a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and 3 references to Laura Orleans, Executive Director at info@fishingheritagecenter.org by May 15.