

WASHINGTON CANOE CLUB



WCC'S FUTURE, YOUR LASTING LEGACY

Join us in rehabilitating Washington Canoe Club's historic boathouse and cement your legacy as a champion for paddle sports on the Potomac.

Over 100 years ago, when horses and buggies crowded the streets of Washington, a group of people came together to create a club for canoeing. Local DC architect George P. Hale designed the now iconic, green-shingled building on the Potomac River. Its elegance and scale rivaled many of the boathouses in Boston and Philadelphia—and matched that of the 19th century boathouses that were once found along the Georgetown waterfront. The Washington Canoe Club's boathouse quickly became a hub for paddle sports and social activities. Yet over time, the historic boathouse has succumbed to age and needs substantial investment to ensure that it will last for the next 100 years, and beyond.

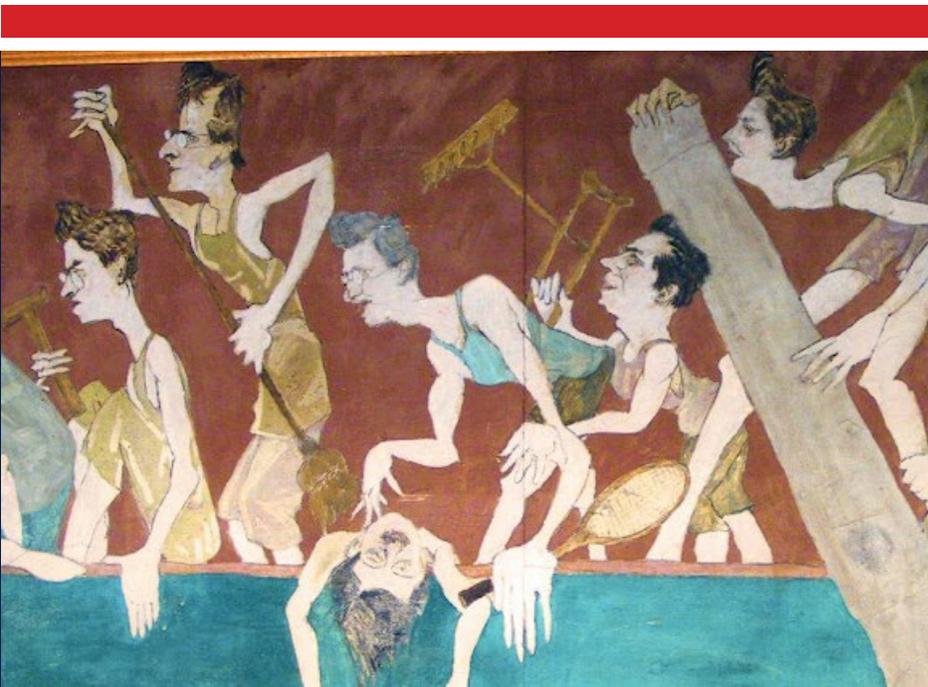
The Washington Canoe Club (WCC) is eager to build on our long history and rehabilitate the boathouse to its original beauty and purpose.

In December 2019, the Club entered into a 60-year lease with the National Park Service with a commitment to preserve the nationally recognized boathouse. **WCC finds itself at a crossroads: It is imperative that we rehabilitate the boathouse, both to stop the building from further deterioration and to satisfy our lease obligations.**

After inflation, rising interest rates, and the pandemic stalled our initial fundraising efforts,

WCC leadership and our volunteer Boathouse Rehabilitation Committee—composed of architects, project managers, an engineer, and members knowledgeable about the boathouse—determined a new path forward. **The new plan addresses both the boathouse's most urgent renovation needs and reinvigorates the Club for future growth.** WCC has updated the National Park Service on the new plan we are pursuing.

We need your help to make our dream of a rehabilitated boathouse a reality!



The Washington Canoe Club was founded by a group of passionate individuals—their caricatures are immortalized in the cartoon frieze on the boathouse's grill room walls. Over the years, many "heroes" have continued the good work of these founding members.

A NEW PATH FORWARD

Phase 1: Renovation and Stabilization Estimated Start Date: Late 2025

The Club's new strategy focuses on repairing and rehabilitating the boathouse's structural integrity, stabilizing its exterior, and improving its physical appearance. This critical work will preserve the historic character of the boathouse, protect the structure from further deterioration, and rehabilitate WCC's iconic architectural presence on the Potomac River. These improvements will allow the Club to reoccupy the entire ground floor of the boathouse, open the West Bay for indoor boat storage, and expand our community-building activities. Temporary locker rooms, ground-floor restrooms, and showers will be added.

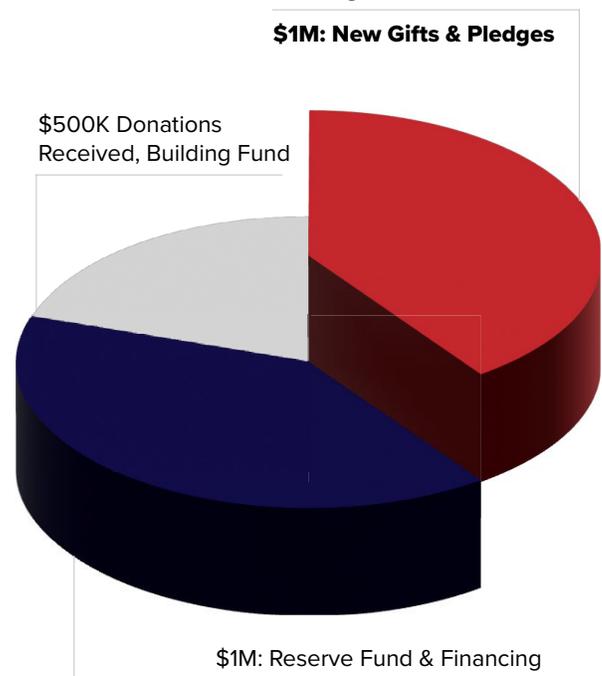
Phase 1 Funding Goal: \$2.5M

Since 2015, generous WCC members and other supporters have contributed over \$500,000 in restricted donations to our Building Fund. These funds have been held in our organizational reserves and will be dedicated to the implementation of Phase 1. We are moving through the early stages of our fundraising campaign, soliciting requests and garnering support from those enthusiastic about our mission and plans for the future. To express WCC's belief in the potential of this project, 100% of our Board of Directors and Fundraising Committee have made generous campaign commitments. Now, we need your help!

An additional \$1M or more is needed to complete Phase 1 renovations.

In addition, we intend to utilize a combination of WCC reserve investment and bank financing to direct an additional \$1M toward the goal.

The time is now! The WCC is in a race against the elements. Currently, the boathouse is set within the flood zone of the Potomac River. This work must be done and done quickly to prevent further damage to the historic building. We are also in a race against time. The National Park Service can cancel our lease and we would be forced to vacate the boathouse if we do not begin renovations.



RENOVATION HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Stabilizing the entire boathouse structure, ground floor and second floor.
- Replacing the roof and west wall.
- Repairing/replacing shingles, wood trim, soffits, windows, and doors.
- Repainting the entire structure.
- Redirecting the water currently impacting the boathouse.
- Remodeling the West Bay so it can be used for indoor boat storage.
- Relocating the weight room from the East Bay to increase indoor storage.
- Adding temporary men's and women's locker rooms, restrooms, and showers.
- Transforming the former grill room into a weight room, open to members year-round.

LOOKING FORWARD

Based on the success of our early fundraising efforts and necessary permitting, we anticipate beginning Phase 1 renovations in late 2025. Following the successful completion of Phase 1 and with additional funding, subsequent phases and renovation projects will begin. **Our ultimate goal is a fully rehabilitated boathouse prepared for decades of further use and enjoyment.**

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

Renovation and Stabilization \$2.5M

Repairing and rehabilitating the boathouse's structural integrity; stabilizing its exterior; improving its physical appearance; and enhancing member amenities such as restrooms.

Full Boathouse Rehabilitation

Elevating the entire building as required to reduce flood risks; restoring the Club's original architectural proportions; restoring the second-floor ballroom, board room, and locker rooms; and reconfiguring the workshop to make a large common room with a food prep area.

Show Your Support

Your support of Phase 1 is pivotal in rehabilitating one of DC's most important landmarks and affirming the legacy of the WCC for the next generation.

The WCC is the most celebrated canoe racing club in the United States. We have always been a great equalizer—drawing members from across the region and from all walks of life. Our members are excited about this project but cannot withstand a dramatic increase in membership dues or a mandatory capital assessment.

“ For over 30 years, I have worried - along with many others - about keeping the clubhouse preserved and protected. We've made huge progress on securing long-term tenure and I'm excited about these long-overdue structural improvements, accessibility upgrades, and reoccupying the first floor for boat storage and member enjoyment.”

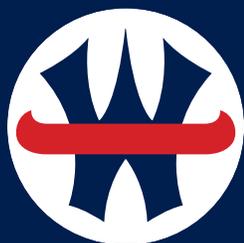
— ANDREW SOLES, PRESIDENT

Over the years, the Club has invested significant funds into planning—and has covered those costs with dues and smart fiscal spending. **Now, WCC is looking for individuals who are enthusiastic about our mission and eager to help us achieve Phase 1 of our plan.** Completing Phase 1 will galvanize other individuals, support continuing and expanded Club membership, assist in securing financing for subsequent phases, and propel our rehabilitation efforts forward.



The Champion's Circle

The Champion's Circle is a group of remarkable donors who have made cumulative gifts of \$10,000 or more to our renovation efforts—either as part of this recent fundraising effort or in years past. Their strength and commitment serve as a beacon for others to step forward and help keep the WCC strong for future generations. In honor of their lasting impact, Champion's Circle donors will be recognized on a special plaque in the WCC's remodeled boathouse. Donors may also choose to remain anonymous.



Washington Canoe Club
PO Box 25449
Washington, D.C. 20027

washingtoncanoecub.org

ABOUT THE WASHINGTON CANOE CLUB

Established in 1904, the Washington Canoe Club is a community dedicated to preserving, promoting, and engaging in paddle sports on the Potomac River in Washington, DC. From Olympians to recreational enthusiasts, the Club has a long history of welcoming paddlers of all ages and skill levels.

CONTACT

Andrew Soles, President@washingtoncanoecub.org | (202) 352 - 1859
Grace Hong, Fundraising@washingtoncanoecub.org | (202) 494 - 5077

Friends of the Washington Canoe Club is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.