

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**All aboard! The Charles Van Damme Ferry kickoff fundraising event makes some waves!**

Built in 1916 as the first ferry between Marin & Pt. Richmond, the Charles Van Damme has a rich history & a compelling story to tell.

She spent 40 years as a working ferry & 25 years as the social hub of the Waldo Point waterfront. She appeared in several feature films & was a unique magnet for the rich & famous, the up & coming **AND EVEN** the down & out.

During her lifetime she had many incarnations, as 3 different restaurants, as an art & dance studio plus as an all night music venue & hang out for people like Carlos Santana, Janis Joplin, **David Crosby** & members of the Grateful Dead. The Ferry resided in the Gates Co-Op area at Gate Six Rd, Sausalito, now re-developed into the Waldo Point Park.

In 1983 the ferry was demolished leaving just the paddlewheel & smoke stack.

The free event on Sunday October 15th informed the public of how the *paddle wheel* & smoke stack will be restored for permanent public display in Waldo Point Park, Sausalito. This is all through the efforts of The Richardsons Bay Maritime Association (RBMA) a 501 (c)(3). With support from the Floating Homes Association (FHA).

Michael Rex, president of the RBMA and architect of the project was present to share the state and county approved plans.

The public exhibit will showcase the original artifacts of the Charles Van Damme. The restored paddlewheel and smokestack will be on a raised platform on the site where it originally stood. Interpretive signs will tell the story of this much loved ferry boat in 9-lives spanning a period of over 100 years.

There was live music at the event performed by The Diatomics, The Jims and The Hippy Voices - featuring 2 members of the Red legs band who performed on the Charles Van Damme ferry - Joe Tate and Maggie Catfish. Maggie Catfish also kindly donated her artwork for a limited edition mug available with a \$50+ donation.

This event was attended by both old and new waterfront residents providing an opportunity for the waterfront to reminisce and learn anew.

The RBMA has pledged for 70% of the \$400k needed to complete the project. They are currently fundraising for the last 30%. Some of the pledges are contingent on receiving the additional 120K by January 31st, 2024 for the project to succeed.

Donors gifting \$10k or more have the opportunity for their names to be immortalized along with the Charles Van Damme Ferry's artifacts on the public exhibit.

Visit <https://www.charlesvandammeferry.org> to donate or learn more about upcoming events and online campaigns

Your tax deductible donation will enable the RBMA to share over 100 years of local waterfront history as a public display, inspiring generations to come.