

*'We're on the Move'*

## Marine Hospital Project Gains Momentum

ON ITS HILLTOP overlooking Lagoon Pond, the 1895 Marine Hospital building for decades dominated the skyline in the Island's main port of entry, and cared for mariners along what was one of the world's busiest waterways in the years before the opening of the Cape Cod Canal a century ago.

Now the Martha's Vineyard Museum is poised to restore and bring new life to this historic landmark as a cultural hub that celebrates the Island's history, fosters learning for all generations and creates richer lives both for people who live here and those who visit.

"We're on the move," says Phil Wallis, who joined the Museum as its executive director in February 2016. "And in the Museum's case," he adds, "that's maybe a double or triple entendre."

The Museum, which launched the public phase of its capital campaign in June, recently completed its archaeological survey of the site, uncovering artifacts but no human remains that would have halted the project for a time. Parts of the Marine Hospital's façade have been removed to analyze the building's exterior. Asbestos and lead paint remediation is the next step, and the Museum this fall will seek permits to demolish a 1938 building on the site.

Says Wallis: "Our first priority is to bring the Marine Hospital building and property back to 1895, the year of its construction, which means paying close attention to the interior as well as the exterior

skin and the overall site. Our hope is to begin work early next year on the full restoration of the 1895 building."

The Museum has seen a steady gathering of momentum since the opening of its public campaign. "We've raised nearly \$15 million to date, \$2 million in two months since the Evening of



The landmark 1895 Marine Hospital is front and center in this architects' sketch of the proposed new Museum campus. In the foreground at right is the Fresnel lighthouse pavilion, with its lounge/cafe area. Behind the main building is the vehicles and vessels building. At right behind the Fresnel feature is the Museum's proposed main exhibit hall.

Discovery," says Wallis, "and we are about half way there to be able to fund the entire project. So we're on the move."

"I hope and expect that as these months ahead unfold – as the specifics of our plans for the new Martha's Vineyard Museum become clear, with all their possibilities for the Island – the community will rally around this project."

As for the specifics of the site plan – developed over the past five years by the Museum with the award-winning Oudens Ello Architects of Boston (designers of the new West Tisbury Library):

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