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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority Hosts Gala to Raise Funds for the
Dossin Great Lakes Museum

Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A.- The Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority (DWCPA) and the Detroit Historical Society, will host an event to raise funds to support the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on **Monday, September 20, 2004**. This first annual event will take place from **5:30 p.m. - 8p.m.** at the Dossin Museum, located at 100 Strand Drive on Belle Isle in Detroit. The gala includes a strolling dinner, chance to explore the museum's current exhibits, and live jazz from the Marvin Thompson Jr. Ensemble.

“The Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority is proud to partner with the Detroit Historical Museum in what will become an annual event intended to preserve Detroit's maritime history,” said **Arthur B. Blackwell II**, Chairman of Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority. “The Dossin Great Lakes Museum is a valuable treasure in a city founded because of its strategic location in the center of the Great Lakes. Support of this event and of the museum, is an opportunity to keep our history alive for future generations.”

The gala Honorary Chairpersons are: Detroit **Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick** and First Lady **Carlita Kilpatrick**, along with **Douglas and Diane Dossin** and **Al and Faye Nelson**. Other supporters of the event include the DWCPA Board of Directors: Arthur B. Blackwell II, DWCPA's chairman, Byron Kelley, DWCPA's vice chairman, Roderick D. Gillum, Derrick Miller, and Philip B. Fischer; Friends of Belle Isle; Curtis Hertel, DWCPA's executive director; Bob Bury, executive director, Detroit Historical Society; Dr. Dennis Zembala, director, Detroit Historical Museums; Commodore Robert H.

Hommel, Detroit Yacht Club; Captain William Hoey, Gaelic Tugboat Company; Philip F. Kazierski, The Mannik & Smith Group; Thomas J. Keene, The Propellor Club of the United States-Port of Detroit and JoAnne Wolff.

“From the perspective of Detroit’s riverfront, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum is a jewel,” said **Faye Alexander Nelson**, President & CEO, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. “It embraces the Dossin family’s love of the river and the Great Lakes and helps keep our rich maritime history alive. The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy congratulates the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority and the Detroit Historical Society for hosting this celebration of the Dossin Museum and we look forward to significant collaboration in the future, given our shared passion for the Detroit River.”

The purpose of the gala is to raise funds to support the Dossin Great Lakes Museum’s exhibits and educational programs and to increase public awareness of the museum. The public is invited. Tickets are \$150 per person, and dressy attire is recommended. For more information and to purchase tickets, please call **Vanessa Baker** at **(313) 331-3842, ext. 309**.

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum is dedicated to preserving and presenting the rich legacy of the Great Lakes. In 1949, the Maritime Museum of Detroit was opened on Belle Isle aboard the landed wood schooner *J. T. Wing*, the last commercial sailing ship on the Great Lakes. Seven years later, this Museum was closed due to the deteriorated condition of the *J.T. Wing*. The Dossin Family, a well-known name in the wholesale food and soft drink businesses, provided the funds for a new maritime museum. The new facility, now named the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, opened on the *Wing*’s former Belle Isle site on July 24, 1961, the 260th anniversary of Detroit’s founding.

Enjoy a special look at the museum’s newest exhibit, *City on the Straits*, which chronicles three centuries of change on the Detroit River. The exhibit looks at both the historical and ecological aspects of the river that is tied so integrally to the fortunes of Detroit and Southeastern Michigan alike. Visitors can look at a microscope to see

examples of the smallest forms of life in the river, check out a three-chime steam whistle from a Great Lakes vessel, view an example of a tug boat steam engine, or step inside a swan boat from the old Bob-Lo Island amusement park.

While at the Museum, take advantage of the opportunity to visit the *Working the Inland Seas* exhibit, which shares the often-untold stories of black sailors on the Great Lakes. Permanent attractions at the museum also include the *S.S. William Clay Ford* Pilot House, the beautiful Gothic Room from the *City of Detroit III*, and the anchor from the *S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald*.

For more information, call the Dossin Museum at **(313) 852-4051** or check the Detroit Historical Museums website at www.detroithistorical.org. The museum is open to the public Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors and children 5-18, and free for children 4 and under. During the week, the Museum is open for group tours by advance reservation.

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