



# ICOMIA & IFBSO Congress 2026

Washington, D.C. | May 24–28



**ICOMIA**  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
MARINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS



Hosted by



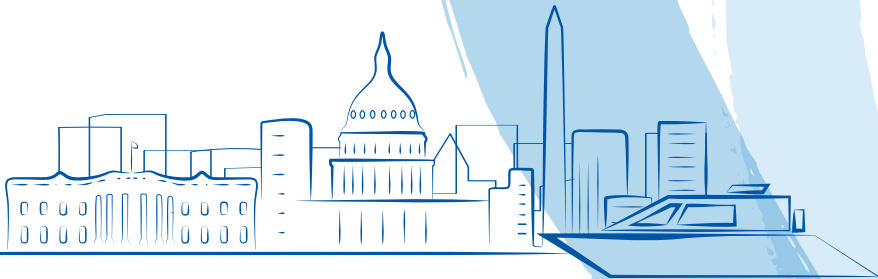
National Marine  
Manufacturers Association

# Join us in Washington, D.C.

On behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) and our more than 1,100 member companies, it is our great pleasure to invite you to the 2026 ICOMIA and IFBSO Congress in Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. offers an unparalleled setting for a global nautical conference—where maritime innovation meets national leadership. As the home of the U.S. Coast Guard, Maritime Administration (MARAD), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and countless international organizations, the nation's capital provides direct access to the policymakers, industry leaders, and global partners shaping the future of the seas. With world-class venues, effortless connectivity, and the scenic Potomac River as an iconic backdrop, Washington, D.C. delivers the ideal environment for high-impact dialogue, strategic collaboration, and inspiring waterfront experiences.

In addition, this year America will commemorate and celebrate its 250th anniversary. With events and celebrations taking place throughout the year, Washington D.C. will be an epicenter of activity giving us a chance to celebrate American contributions to the global recreational marine industry, and highlight the innovations that continue to propel us forward.



# IFBSO President

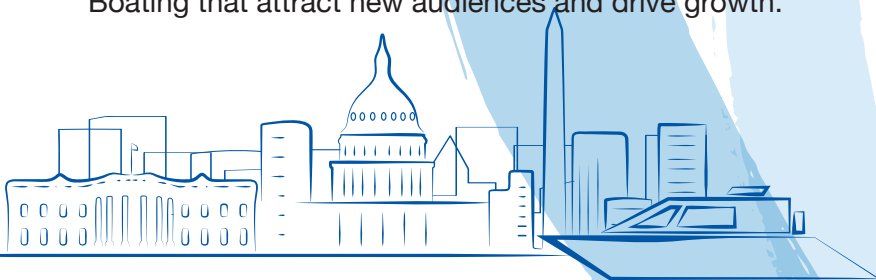
Dear Colleagues,

It is my honour to invite you to the IFBSO Congress 2026, which will take place in Washington, D.C., USA. Following an exceptionally successful edition in Palma de Mallorca in 2025, our vibrant community now gathers in the capital of the United States, a country that stands as the world's largest manufacturer of production boats and a benchmark in show business, the experience economy, and an impressive calendar of boat shows across its states.

This year's congress promises inspiration, education, and networking opportunities, thanks to a carefully curated programme by our host the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the originators of the renowned Discover Boating campaign, celebrated for its success in attracting new audiences to our industry. I am confident that the 2026 IFBSO Congress will deliver exceptional value for every show director.

Why should you attend?

- **Learn from industry leaders:** Gain insights from NMMA and other experts shaping the future of boat shows worldwide.
- **Discover proven strategies:** Explore successful initiatives like Discover Boating that attract new audiences and drive growth.



- **Expand your network:** Connect with show directors and stakeholders from all continents in a collaborative environment. The colocation with ICOMIA brings together the leadership of all marine industry associations.
- **Shape the future together:** Participate in discussions that influence global standards and best practices for boat show organisers.



Beyond the sessions, take time to enjoy Washington, D.C.: rent a bike and cycle along the National Mall and its iconic landmarks (my personal favourite), explore Georgetown, and experience the unique atmosphere of the U.S. Capitol.

I look forward to welcoming you to Washington, D.C.

See you in D.C.!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Niels Klarenbeek'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Niels Klarenbeek  
President

# ICOMIA President

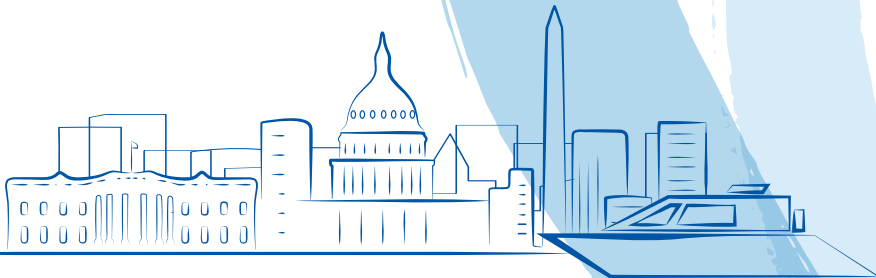
Dear ICOMIA Member,

On behalf of the Board of ICOMIA, it is an honor to invite you to the ICOMIA/IFBSO Congress 2026, which will be held in Washington, D.C. May 24–28.

Washington, D.C. is a city of global influence, iconic landmarks, and institutions that shape public policy, providing an exceptional setting for Congress 2026. As the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary, our meeting in the nation's capital becomes even more meaningful. The monuments of the National Mall and the halls of government offer a powerful backdrop for convening the international recreational marine industry.

This year's Congress will bring us together to address the key challenges and emerging opportunities facing our industry—and to explore fresh approaches to working collaboratively. Attendees can expect a robust program of presentations and workshops led by top industry leaders, with special emphasis on advancing association partnerships that support our shared goal of strengthening and expanding recreational boating participation.

ICOMIA and IFBSO's annual Congress continues to serve as a vital forum for in-depth discussions, committee meetings, and meaningful networking. It is a chance for all of us to share insights, strengthen partnerships, and help shape a more prosperous and sustainable future for the recreational marine industry.



NMMA is delighted to host Congress 2026, especially in a year marking the 60th anniversary of ICOMIA. We extend our sincere gratitude to our organizing partners and to the dedicated teams at the ICOMIA and IFBSO Secretariats for their leadership and hard work in preparing for this outstanding event.

I hope you will accept this invitation and join us in Washington, D.C. for Congress in 2026. I look forward to welcoming you there.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank Hugelmeyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Frank Hugelmeyer  
ICOMIA President  
NMMA President



# How to reach Washington D.C.

## BY AIR:

Washington, D.C. is easily accessible with three major airports—Reagan National (DCA), Dulles International (IAD), and Baltimore/Washington International (BWI). Together they offer extensive domestic and international flight options, with fast, convenient transportation into the city.

### Reagan National (DCA)

- Closest airport to downtown D.C., about 10 minutes by car or Metro
- Served primarily by domestic flights
- Directly connected via the Blue and Yellow Metro lines
- Uber, Lyft and Taxi available onsite

### Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)

- Major international gateway, about 26 miles west of D.C.

- Offers extensive international and domestic flight options
- Connected to downtown via the Silver Line Metro
- Uber, Lyft and Taxi available onsite

### Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI)

- Located about 30–40 minutes from D.C. by car
- Often a good option for affordable flights
- Connected to D.C. via MARC train, Amtrak, and shuttles
- Uber, Lyft and Taxi available onsite

## BY TRAIN:

**Amtrak**—the primary national/intercity rail network in the U.S. that stops at Washington Union Station (D.C.).

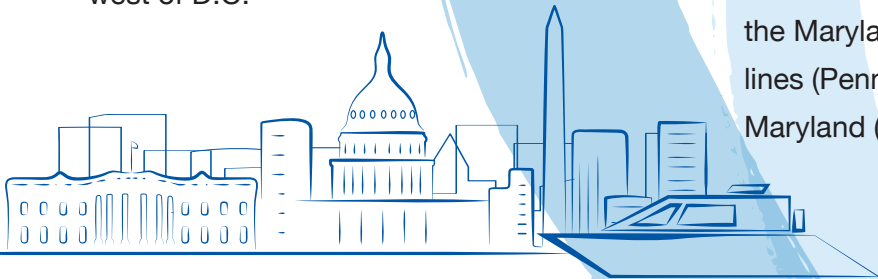
**MARC Train**—a commuter rail service operated by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). Its three lines (Penn, Camden, Brunswick) connect areas in Maryland (and some WV) to Washington D.C.

## BY CAR:

Enter the Congress venue address (Intercontinental Continental Washington D.C. – The Wharf, 801 Wharf St SW, Washington D.C., 20024) into your mapping software. Valet parking is available onsite for \$75/day. Self-parking is available at The Wharf, visit [here](#) for more information and to make a parking reservation.

## WEATHER IN D.C.:

Expect comfortable spring weather, with warm days ideal for sightseeing and outdoor events, cool evenings, and a good chance of intermittent rain or showers. Winds are generally light to moderate. Daytime highs reach the mid-70sF (24-25C), and nighttime lows in the mid-to-upper 50sF (13-15C).



# The Congress Venue



INTERCONTINENTAL®  
WASHINGTON D.C. – THE WHARF

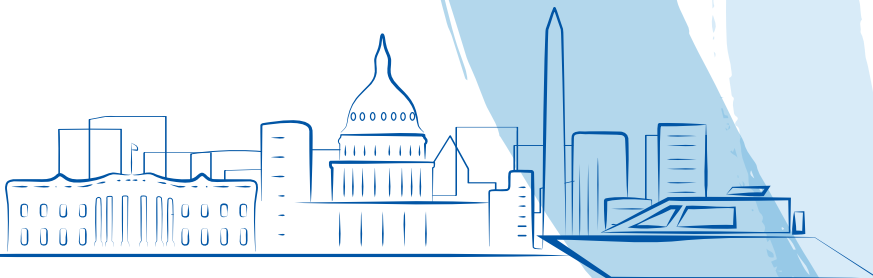
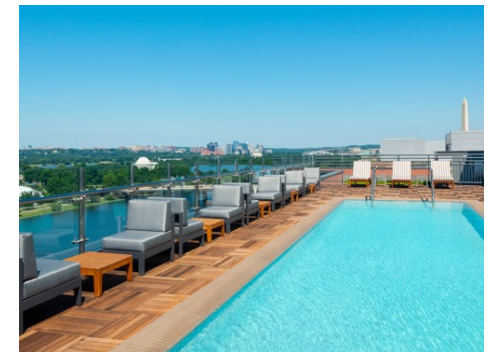
Overlooking The Wharf, Washington D.C.'s vibrant new waterfront district, InterContinental Hotel Washington D.C. – The Wharf offers a resort-like retreat with effortless access to the city's most iconic attractions. Enjoy spectacular views of the Potomac River, a remarkable rooftop pool, and a tranquil onsite spa. Explore the nearby National Mall, Washington Monument, and the Smithsonian museums. Rest in splendor in our sophisticated and spacious rooms and suites.

Please use this [link](#) to make your reservation at the Intercontinental Hotel. Reservations must be made by April 27, 2026.

## Room Rates for ICOMIA and IFBSO Congress Delegates

Room Rate: \$289.00USD per night

Prices are for room only, breakfast will be included with your Congress registration for event days. Taxes and destination fee not included.



Intercontinental Hotel Washington D.C. – The Wharf  
801 Wharf St SW  
Washington D.C., 20024  
t. +1.202.800.0844  
e. [washc.frontoffice@ihg.com](mailto:washc.frontoffice@ihg.com)

# Alternative Accommodation



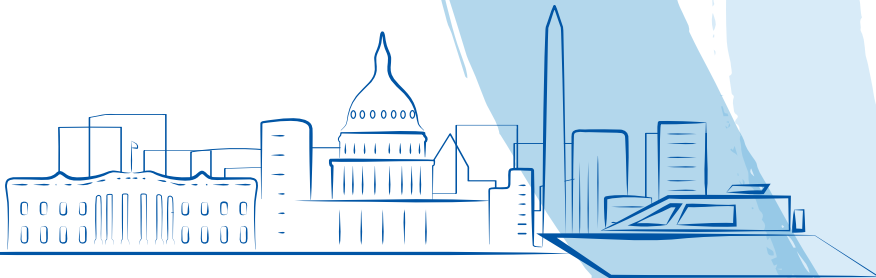
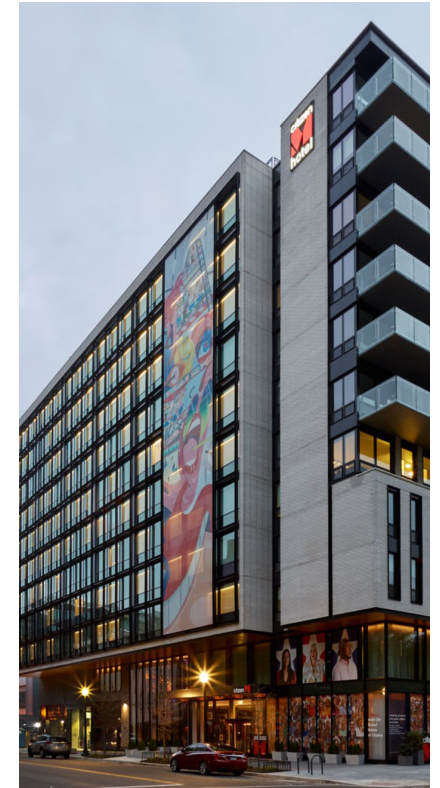
At citizenM Washington D.C. Capitol, you're minutes from The Wharf, the National Mall, and the Capitol itself. Step outside and boom—L'Enfant Plaza metro is right there, ready to whisk you around the city. This hotel is about a 15-minute walk to the Congress venue, or 8 minutes by car.

Please use this [link](#) to make your reservation at citizenM. Reservations must be made by April 25, 2026.

Room Rates for ICOMIA and IFBSO Congress Delegates  
Single/Double Room: \$209.00USD per night

Prices are for room only, breakfast will be included with your Congress registration for event days. Taxes and destination fee not included.

citizenM Washington D.C. Capitol  
550 School St SW  
Washington D.C., 20024  
t. +1.202.747.2145  
e. [groups@citizenm.com](mailto:groups@citizenm.com)



# Congress Agenda

Saturday, May 23	Sunday, May 24		Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day Holiday U.S.)			Tuesday, May 26			Wednesday, May 27			Thursday, May 28		
IMG/ICOMIA/IFBSO	ICOMIA	IMG	ICOMIA/IFBSO	IMG	IFBSO	ICOMIA	IFBSO	Partners	ICOMIA	IFBSO	Partners	ICOMIA	IFBSO	Partners
			Breakfast 7:00am–9:00am Algonquian			Breakfast 7:00am–9:00am Algonquian			Breakfast 7:00am–9:00am Algonquian			Breakfast 7:00am–9:00am Algonquian		
Registration Open 12:00pm–4:00pm Outside Seaport 1&2/ Haven Room	Registration 7:30am–7:00pm Outside Seaport 1&2/ Haven Room		Registration 8:00am–5:00pm Outside Seaport 1&2/ Haven Room			Registration 8:00am–5:00pm Outside Seaport 1&2/ Haven Room			Registration 8:00am–5:00pm Outside Seaport 1&2/ Haven Room			Registration 8:00am–5:00pm 12th Floor		
	ICOMIA Arrivals	Arrivals/ registration  Marinas Tour (all delegates welcome with RSVP) 8:30am-6:30pm	Technical Committee 09:00am– 10:30am Seaport 1	IMG 09:00am– 10:30am Seaport 2	Arrivals/ registration	Joint welcome from the Presidents 9:00am–9:30am	Live Event ReDesign Lab presented by Dahlia El Gazzar 9:30am–11:00am Seaport 1	George Washington's Estate and Gardens Tour, Mount Vernon 10:00am–3:30pm	Joint Sustainability Session 9:00am–10:30am Algonquian	Haute History: Shopping in Historic Georgetown 9:30am–12:00pm	Strategic Outlook: Economic Drivers Influencing Recreational Boating Growth Worldwide presented by Dr. Shawn DuBravac 9:00am–10:00am	The Best of Smithsonian Museum 10:00am– 1:00pm	Future of Recreational Boating: Strategic Insights Shaping the North American Market presented by Stephanie Don and Jennifer Bender, IPSOS 10:00am–11:00am Algonquian	
Coffeebreak 10:30am–11:00am Outside Seaport 1&2														
Technical Committee 11:00am– 12:30pm Seaport 1			IMG 11:00am– 12:30pm Seaport 2	Group Networking Activity 11:30am–12:30pm Algonquian		How Technology Can Make MIAs More Effective 11:00am– 12:30pm Seaport 1	AGM IFBSO 11:00am– 12:30pm Seaport 2		Steering Toward Tomorrow: Insights from North America's Leading Boat Builders presented by NMMA, Brunswick, Smoker Craft, Yamaha and BRP 11:30am-12:30pm, Algonquian					
Lunch 12:30pm-1:30pm Algonquian			Lunch 12:30pm-1:30pm Algonquian			Lunch 12:30pm-1:00pm Algonquian			Lunch 12:30pm-2:00pm Willowsong Restaurant					
Technical Committee 1:30pm–2:30pm Seaport 1			IMG 1:30pm– 3:30pm Seaport 2	Trade & Market Intelligence 1:30pm–3:30pm Seaport 2		ExCom 1:30pm–2:30pm Seaport 1 2:30–3:30pm CES	Tour of the U.S. Capitol and Library of Congress 1:00pm–4:30pm		AGM 2:00pm– 3:30pm Algonquian		Event Trends Every Boat Show Producer Should Be Watching presented by Kimberly Hardcastle 2:00pm–3:00pm Pearl			
The Washington Marina Company Tour 4:00pm–5:15pm			Joint Diversity Session 3:30pm–4:30pm Seaport 2			Evening Reception and Optional Boat Rides on the Potomac The Boardwalk Bar & Arcade The Wharf 5:00pm–7:00pm			BoD meeting 3:30pm– 4:00pm Algonquian		Exec Committee 3:00pm–3:30pm Pearl			
IMG Reception at Tiki TNT Rum Bar, The Wharf 5:30pm–6:30pm Dinner on Own			Joint BoD / Excom Meeting 4:30pm–5:00pm Seaport 1			Dinner on Own 7:00pm or after			Great Gatsby Gala Dinner 6:00pm–10:00pm Meridian House					
			Welcome Reception 5:30pm–7:30pm Waves - Rooftop Terrace											

# Marinas Tour\*

SUNDAY, MAY 24

8:30a.m.–6:30p.m.

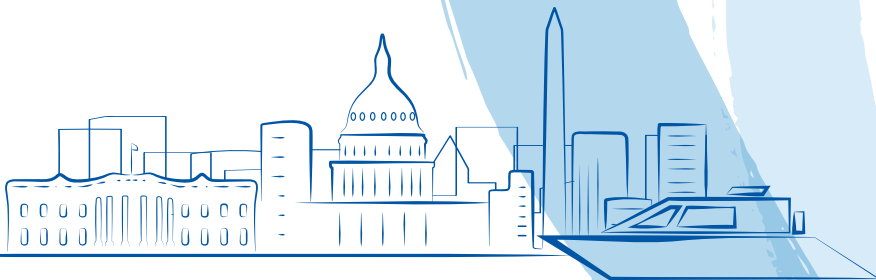
Our tour will depart by bus and head for Kent Narrows, a scenic waterfront community located on Kent Island in Queen Anne's County Maryland, about an hour east of Washington, D.C. This area of the Chesapeake Bay is where our tour of three marinas will begin. Planned visits include:

[Piney Narrows Yacht Haven](#)

[Kent Narrows Boatel](#)

[Bay Bridge Marina](#)

Lunch will be included, as well as a social hour to cap off the visits before departing back for the Intercontinental Hotel.



MONDAY, MAY 25

9:00a.m.–6:30p.m.

The IMG group will hold meetings all day at the Intercontinental Hotel and at 4:00p.m. will depart for a walking visit to a historic city marina, The Washington Marina Company. The visit will be followed by an IMG Reception to be held at Tiki TNT Rum Bar at The Wharf.



\*Please Note: Schedule is subject to change. RSVP is required as part of the registration process to participate in the Marinas Tour programming, and all Congress delegates are welcome to attend, not just IMG members. All delegates who RSVP will receive a final schedule and details on all tour stops prior to Congress.

# Special Events

MONDAY, MAY 25

5:30p.m.–6:30p.m.

## **Marinas Tour Reception**

Tiki TNT Rum Bar

The Wharf

TUESDAY, MAY 26

5:30p.m.–7:30p.m.

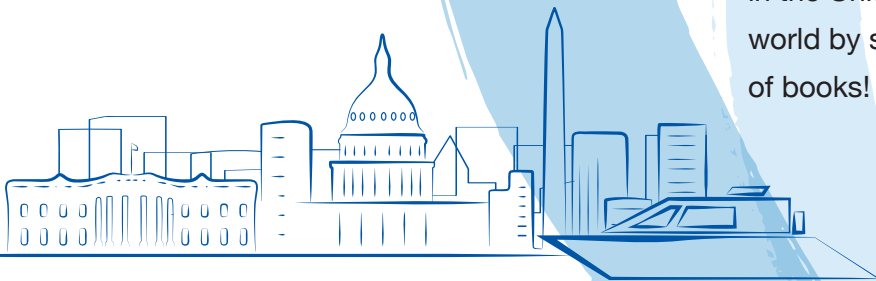
## **Welcome Reception**

Intercontinental Hotel Washington D.C.—

The Wharf

Waves—Rooftop Terrace

Enjoy sweeping views of the Potomac River and the nearby monuments with your fellow delegates to kick off Congress. Cocktails and hearty hors d'oeuvres will be served.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

1:00p.m.–4:30p.m.

## **Tour of the U.S. Capitol and Library of Congress**

Transportation will depart from the Intercontinental Hotel to allow attendees to have a special look at one of the most architecturally impressive and symbolically important buildings in the world, the United States Capitol. Visit the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, the Rotunda, Statuary Hall and the Crypt with a member of the US Capitol Historical Society. Experience the underground tunnel system linking the Capitol building to additional government buildings as we make our way to the Library of Congress. Here, we will be introduced to the research library of the United States Congress and the oldest federal cultural institution in the United States, the largest library in the world by shelf space and number of books!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

5:00pm–7:00pm

## **Evening Reception and Optional Boat Rides on the Potomac**

Boardwalk Bar & Arcade

The Wharf

Following our exciting tour of the U.S. Capitol and Library of Congress, delegates are invited to gather for an evening cocktail reception with light hors d'oeuvres to network and grab a few colleagues to view the sights of Washington D.C. from the best place to do so, on the water! Details on boats available will be shared prior to Congress.



# Special Events



THURSDAY, MAY 28

6:00pm–10:00pm

**Great Gatsby Gala:**

**Celebrating 60 Years of ICOMIA**

Meridian House, Washington D.C.



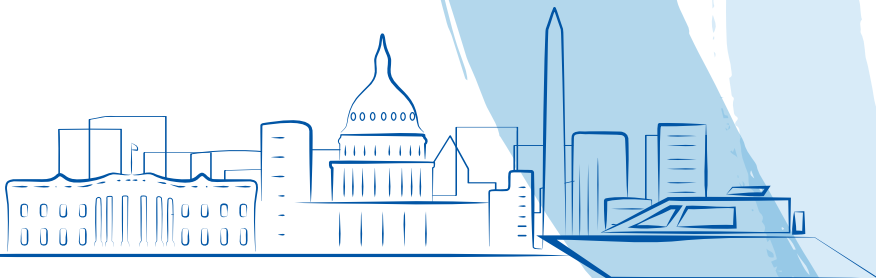
Neoclassical mansion is surrounded by century-old linden trees, a walled formal garden and inside adorned with chandeliers, ornate plasterwork ceilings and period furnishings and art collected by Ambassador Laughlin.

Join us for a glamorous collision of two eras: the extravagance, decadence and romance of Gatsby's world in the Roaring 20s; and the power, prestige and elegance of Washington D.C. to celebrate the 60th anniversary of ICOMIA and the closing of a successful 2026 Congress.

Our evening will begin with a cocktail reception in the garden, followed by dinner, and finish with live music and dancing evoking the exuberance and grandeur of the 1920s. Guests are encouraged to step into the jazz age in vintage-inspired cocktail or evening attire.



Guests will be whisked away from The Wharf by coach to Meridian House, one of Washington D.C.'s most beautiful historic mansions. Built in the early 20th century for diplomat Ambassador Irwin Boyle Laughlin, this French-inspired

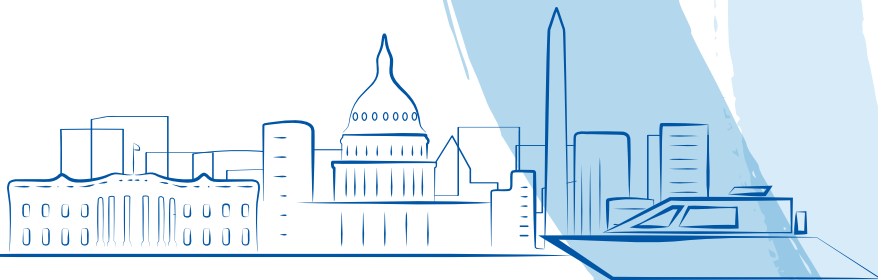


# Partners Program

## **PRESIDENTIAL ESTATE: George Washington's Estate and Gardens, Mount Vernon**

Tuesday, May 26 | 10:00a.m.–3:30p.m.

Visit the Mount Vernon property, home of George Washington, first President of the United States and his wife, Martha Dandridge Custis Washington. The historic estate includes not only the Mount Vernon Mansion, George and Martha's home, but also a host of colonial era buildings, beautiful gardens, a working distillery and gristmill, and museum with interactive education center. Tour the mansion and the surrounding service buildings, the interactive education center, and the Washington family museum, where personal effects of George and Martha are on display. Located 15 miles south of Washington, D.C. along the scenic Potomac River, Mount Vernon is a true national treasure to enjoy.



## **HAUTE HISTORY:**

### **Shopping in Historic Georgetown**

Wednesday, May 27 | 9:30a.m.–12:00p.m.

Enjoy exploring the history and retail in Washington's most famous neighborhood, Georgetown! Learn how Georgetown got its start as a tobacco port and commercial center in the 18th century, as well as other fun facts on this tour and shopping excursion. Visit the Old Stone House, the oldest standing building in Washington, D.C. located in what is now the heart of Georgetown's shopping district. Then peruse the hundreds of shops, from antique dealers, art studios, unique boutiques, national retailers and more!

## **THE BEST OF THE SMITHSONIANS:**

### **Must See Smithsonian Museums!**

Thursday, May 28 | 10:00a.m.–1:00p.m.

Discover the best of the best during this in-depth tour of the American History and Air and Space museums within the Smithsonian Institution. It is estimated that there are more than 141 million total objects, works of art and specimens displayed at the various Smithsonian Museums located in the heart of Washington. Experience the evolution of man's determination to take flight at the Air & Space Museum, bask in the glamor American pop-culture or the First Ladies' inaugural gowns at the American History Museum.

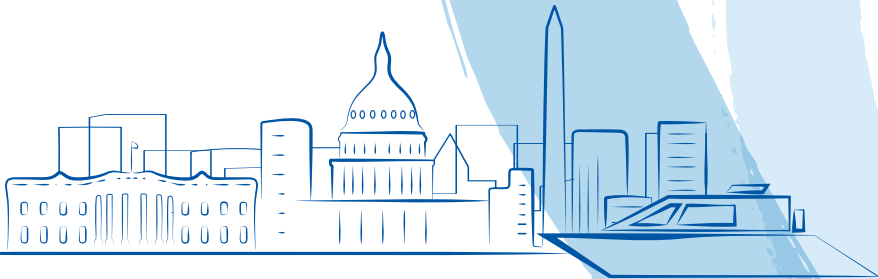


# Optional Embassy Visits

Washington, D.C. is one of the world's largest diplomatic hubs, and it hosts embassies and foreign missions from most of the world's countries, approximately 185 in total. Embassy Row is one of Washington, D.C.'s most distinctive and elegant areas—a stretch of grand mansions, embassies, and diplomatic residences that reflect more than a century of international presence in the capital.

As your hosts, NMMA would be happy to try and arrange a visit to your country's embassy. Simply check that option as part of your registration and the NMMA team will contact you separately and work to arrange a visit during your time in Washington, D.C..

Even if you do not elect to visit your embassy, please consider walking down Embassy Row as part of your own sightseeing tour. The area is lined with ornate Beaux-Arts, Georgian Revival, and Mediterranean-style mansions built in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



# Congress Registration

## **ICOMIA/IFBSO Full Conference Delegate Fee**

\$450.00USD

*Includes all programming, meals and activities listed on the Congress agenda May 24–28. Please note that if participating in the Marina Tour and Meetings/ Reception on May 24–25, RSVP is required during the registration process to allow for accurate counts for transportation and social events.*

## **ICOMIA Marina Group (IMG) Only (2-day)**

\$295.00USD

*Includes all meals, programming and special events listed on the Congress agenda May 24–25.*

## **Partners Program**

\$295.00USD

*Includes all meals, special events, the U.S. Capitol Tour and three partner tours May 26–28.*

## **Non-Members of ICOMIA/IFBSO**

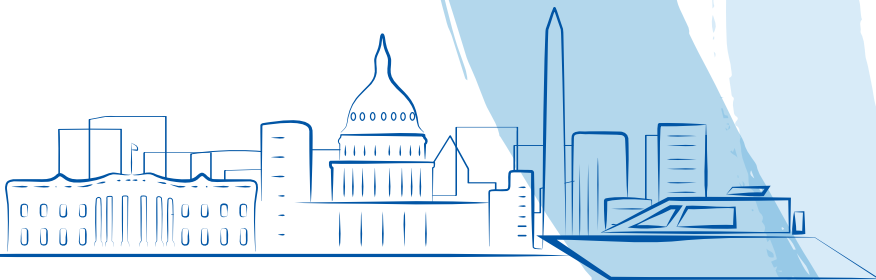
\$495.00USD

*Includes all programming, meals and activities listed on the Congress agenda May 24–28. Please note that if participating in the Marina Tour and Meetings/ Reception on May 24–25, RSVP is required during the registration process to allow for accurate counts for transportation and social events.*

*Cancellation Policy: Registrations cancelled prior to March 2nd will receive a refund but be charged a non-refundable \$75 administration fee. Registrations cancelled March 3rd or after will not receive a refund.*

*If a special invitation letter is needed for visa purposes, please contact Tempe Stephen, [tstephen@mma.org](mailto:tstephen@mma.org).*

**To register for Congress, please [visit this link](#).**



# Contact

The 2026 ICOMIA and IFBSO Congress is hosted by:



National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)  
601 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 320 North  
Washington D.C. 20004

Please direct any questions to:

Jennifer Thompson

m. +1.612.275.6779 (also on WhatsApp)

e. [jthompson@nmma.org](mailto:jthompson@nmma.org)

