

Discover the fascinating history of the historic Fireboat Alexander Grantham

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In 2002, LCSD acquired the Fireboat Alexander Grantham as a collection item after 49 years of service. With a firm commitment to 'responsible stewardship and good preservation practice', the acquisition serves to create a 'living history' experience to the public. By exhibiting the vessel on land, the public now can readily access a part of the history that was previously the preserve of sea captains. The experience in converting the fireboat into a live exhibit demonstrates how the complex issues of site constraints, layout design, preservation treatment, lifting and installation, and visitors' accessibility could be resolved by the concerted efforts of various work parties without compromising the historic integrity of the vessel. The Fireboat Alexander Grantham is now not only the largest artifact in our museum collection, but also an oversized object which allows visitors to walk through and view each of her components in their natural context. The presentation will address how we adopted the 'exhibition as communicator' approach to promote effective communication between people and the object, as well as to share our experience in enhancing the overall accessibility of the display to prepare for the visitation by various groups.