





WARTIME SHIPBUILDING

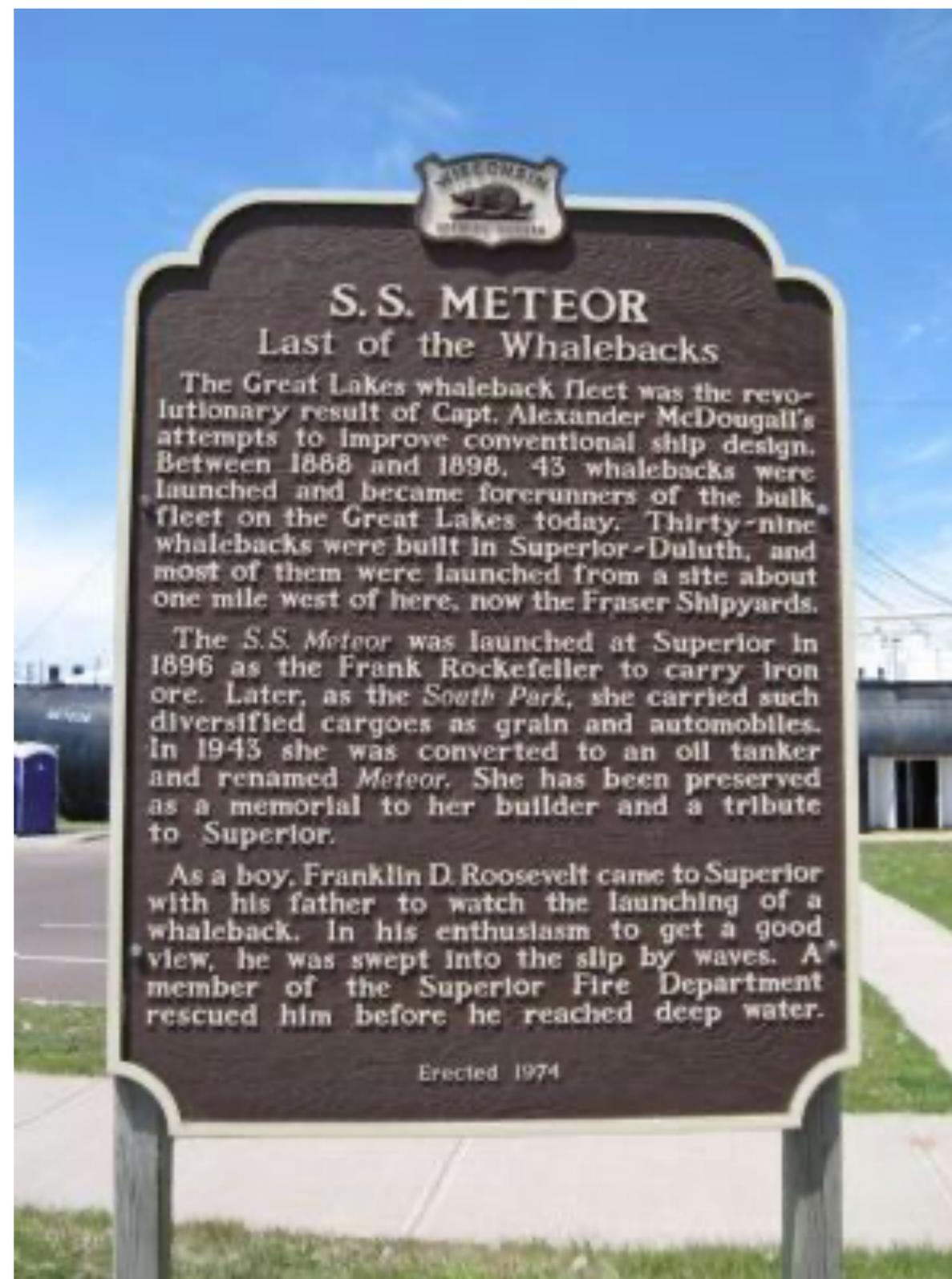
Wisconsin's shipyards made a significant contribution to Allied victory in World War II, setting national records for rapid and cost-effective production. Wisconsin shipyards built tugs, cargo vessels of various types, corvettes, frigates, and submarines worth \$3.4 billion dollars. Between 1942 and 1945, the builders in Superior produced eighty-one ships whose tonnage and total value exceeded that of all other Wisconsin shipyards.

The Walter Butler Company built fifty-two ships, including eighteen coastal freighters, twenty-two ocean-going cargo ships, and twelve frigates employed as convoy escorts. In May 1943, Butler's 5,000 workers launched five large cargo ships in a single day.

Globe Shipbuilding constructed ten armed ocean-going tugs, eleven 5,000 ton cargo ships, and eight Tacoma-class frigates. Globe workers developed innovative welding techniques that permitted construction to continue all winter. In 1944, some 230 of the company's 2,500 workers were women, including many who served as welders.

Ships built in Superior hauled portions of an artificial harbor to the Normandy beaches, towed damaged warships to port, and took part in anti-submarine warfare in the Atlantic.

Erected 1990



S.S. METEOR

Last of the Whalebacks

The Great Lakes whaleback fleet was the revolutionary result of Capt. Alexander McDougall's attempts to improve conventional ship design. Between 1888 and 1898, 43 whalebacks were launched and became forerunners of the bulk fleet on the Great Lakes today. Thirty-nine whalebacks were built in Superior-Duluth, and most of them were launched from a site about one mile west of here, now the Fraser Shipyards.

The *S.S. Meteor* was launched at Superior in 1896 as the *Frank Rockefeller* to carry iron ore. Later, as the *South Park*, she carried such diversified cargoes as grain and automobiles. In 1943 she was converted to an oil tanker and renamed *Meteor*. She has been preserved as a memorial to her builder and a tribute to Superior.

As a boy, Franklin D. Roosevelt came to Superior with his father to watch the launching of a whaleback. In his enthusiasm to get a good view, he was swept into the slip by waves. A member of the Superior Fire Department rescued him before he reached deep water.

Erected 1974









NEWS LOCAL

Friends group launches 'Year of the Fitz'

Community gathers to share ideas, memories. Donations for a historical marker in Superior will be matched for 90 days.



Superior City Councilor Jenny Van Sickle, right, welcomes guests to the Friends of the Fitz kickoff event at the Superior Public Library on Saturday, Jan. 11. From left, Superior City Councilor Garner Moffat, Kathy Laakso of Time Arc Theatre, local historian Teddie Meronek and Briana Fiandt of the Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center look on. Dan Williamson / Duluth Media Group

By Maria Lockwood
January 13, 2025 at 1:49 PM

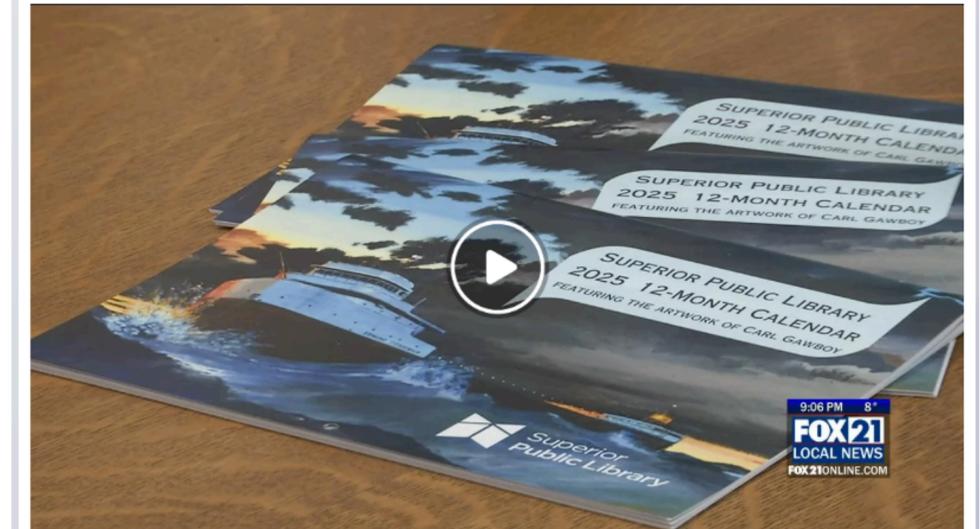
Holding On To History: Superior group working to create Edmund Fitzgerald monument



Friends of the Fitz is a group working to get a Wisconsin historical marker for the ship.

Friends of the Fitz Group Aims to Honor Edmund Fitzgerald's Last Port of Call in Superior

January 11, 2025 by Paige Hansen



SUPERIOR, Wis. — 2025 marks 50 years since the Edmund Fitzgerald sank on Lake Superior, and a group in Superior, Wisconsin is hoping to place a historical marker to honor the ship.

marking five

Superior residents work to honor those lost in Edmund Fitzgerald sinking

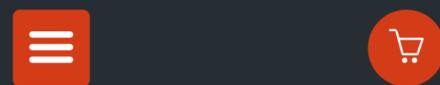
Listen

Superior was the last port that the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald docked before sinking in a storm on Nov. 10, 1975. We talk with a community group in Superior that is working to create a historical marker for the 29 people killed in the shipwreck.

EPISODE CREDITS

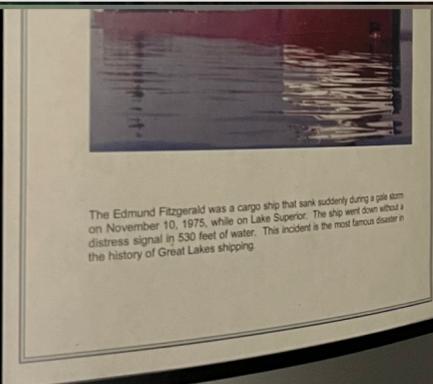
Rob Ferrett
Host

Kate Archer Kent
Host



Edmund Fitzgerald

Home / Memberships/Sponsorships / Edmund Fitzgerald



Initial media push: August-January

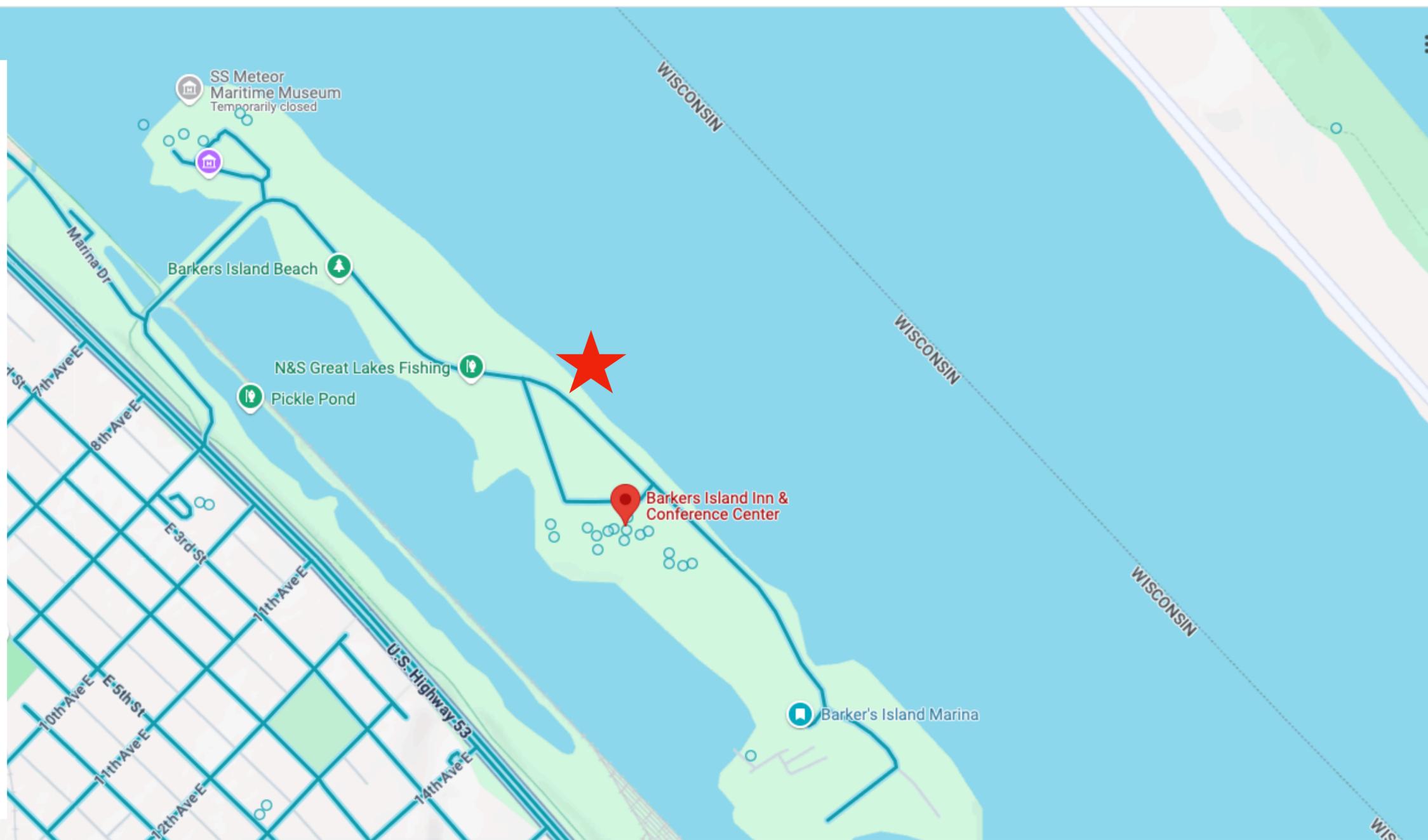


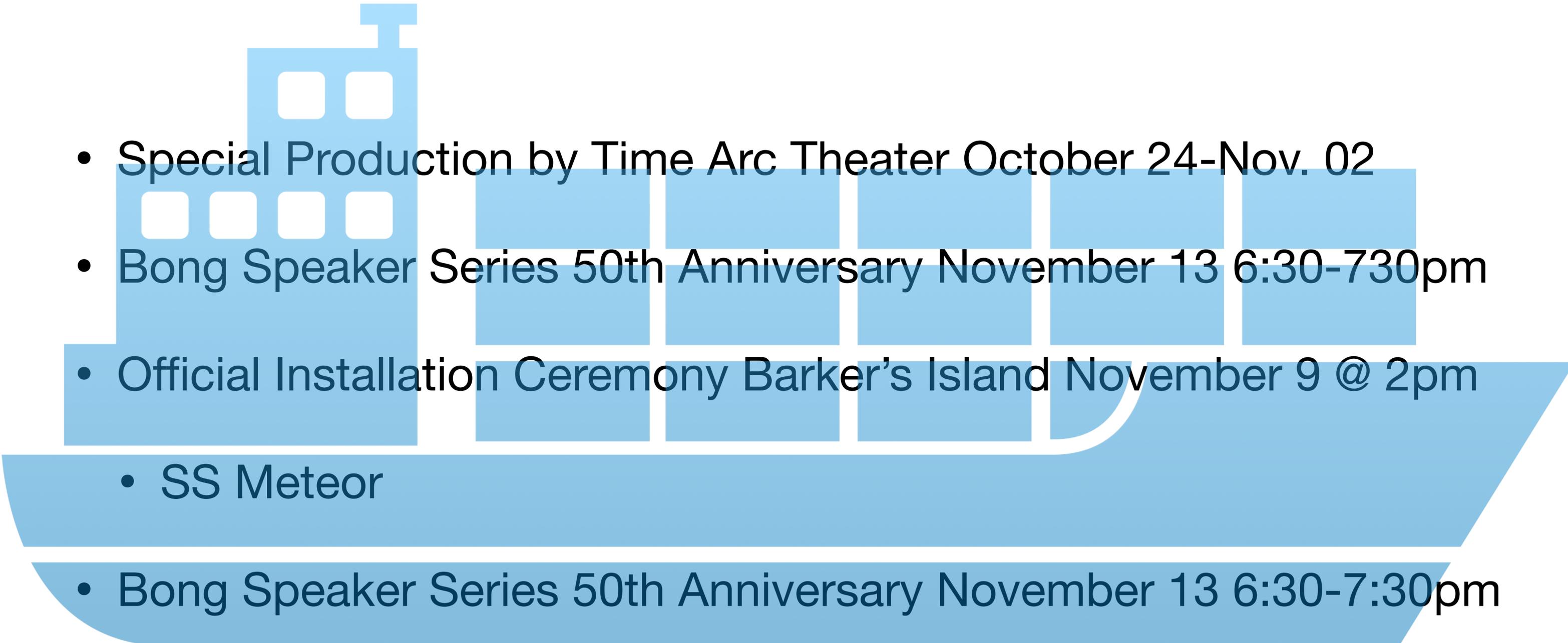
“Year of the Fitz” Launch Event

January 11
12 p.m.

Superior
Public
Library





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- Special Production by Time Arc Theater October 24-Nov. 02
 - Bong Speaker Series 50th Anniversary November 13 6:30-7:30pm
 - Official Installation Ceremony Barker's Island November 9 @ 2pm
 - SS Meteor
 - Bong Speaker Series 50th Anniversary November 13 6:30-7:30pm

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