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MCCA Welcomes Sail Boston 2009

Event brings an international array of the world's finest sailing ships to Boston

James E. Rooney, executive director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, invites the public to Boston's historic waterfront this weekend to view some of the most beautiful sailing ships in the world as Sail Boston 2009 kicks off.

Access to 13 of the 49 ships is free of charge thanks in part to a contribution from the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, which helped keep the event afloat at the request of Governor Deval Patrick and Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

"We're pleased to be able to help bring the tall ships back Boston," said Rooney. "Sail Boston will bring a great deal of revenue to Boston whether it be hotels, restaurants or shopping, which is always one of our priorities. But it's even more important that the event is taking place and holding Boston's place as one of the world's great maritime cities."

The event was nearly canceled due to a lack of funding for public safety. But at the behest of Governor Patrick and Mayor Menino, the MCCA offered a \$1 million donation to allow the event to take place and for the vessels to be toured for free.

The event has been anticipated ever since, bringing tourist to Boston for the weekend festivities, with tall masts now lining the South Boston Waterfront. A full schedule can be found at www.sailboston.com/schedule.html.

The viewing of the ships is open to the public starting Thursday, July 9 through Sunday, July 12. There will be a total of 49 ships from 20 different countries, 13 of which are open for public tours.

For more information, go to www.sailboston.com or follow Sail Boston twitter feeds by searching keyword #sailboston.

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