

SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHN CARON AND CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUSAN SWANTON

May 20, 2026

When The Landing School of Boatbuilding & Design opened its doors in 1978, it was built on a singular mission: to prepare skilled boatbuilders, designers, and technicians for meaningful careers in the marine industry. For nearly five decades, that mission guided everything we did from the curricula we developed to the hands-on, immersive education that became our hallmark. Generations of students walked through our doors and left as craftspeople, professionals, and lifelong contributors to the marine trades.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce The Landing School will be closing.

For 47 years, we evolved alongside the industry we served adapting programs, embracing new technologies, and continually refining our approach in service of our founding purpose. What we could not overcome is enrollment. Like many small, specialized institutions, The Landing School has experienced a sustained and significant decline in student enrollment. Despite strategic planning, program adjustments, and tireless efforts by our Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, the enrollment shortfall created financial pressures that make it impossible to sustain operations at the level our mission demands. The Landing School was built on the promise of exceptional, hands-on education and we refuse to deliver anything less.

The broader forces reshaping higher education — rising costs, shifting workforce trends, and changing perceptions of higher education have hit small, mission-driven schools like ours especially hard. We did not make this decision quickly or lightly.

What we cannot close is our legacy. The Landing School lives on in every graduate who carried their skills to a boatyard, design studio, or workshop. It lives on in the vessels built, the careers launched, and the communities strengthened by the marine professionals we

helped shape. Nearly five decades of craftsmanship and passion do not disappear, they endure in the hands and work of the people we were privileged to teach.

To our students, alumni, faculty, staff, industry partners, and supporters: you are The Landing School. From its founding in 1978 to this final chapter, you gave this institution its meaning and its heart. We are profoundly grateful.

The Board of Trustees is committed to full transparency as we navigate this transition. Ongoing updates and information will be available here on the website.

Sincerely,

John Caron, President

Susan Swanton, Chair of Board of Trustees