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SHANE CONFECTIONERY'S BERLEY BROTHERS DEBUT NEW EXHIBITION AT INDEPENDENCE SEAPORT MUSEUM

Oh Sugar: Philadelphia's Sweet Story Opens August 16

Philadelphia, PA (July 16, 2013) – Independence Seaport Museum will open a new exhibit, Oh Sugar! on Friday, August 16, 2013. The exhibition, located in the Museum’s 2nd floor community gallery, focuses on Philadelphia’s candy manufacturing history, tracing the magical transformation sugar takes from cane to candy. Oh Sugar! is curated by Ryan and Eric Berley, the brothers behind Old City’s beloved Franklin Fountain and Shane Confectionary. The exhibition will be on display until February 16, 2014 and is included with regular Museum admission.

With more than 100 artifacts from the Berley’s collection of confectionery machinery, molds and ephemera, visitors will get a glimpse into the raw realities and sugar-coated past of Philadelphia’s connection to the sugar industry. The exhibition looks at the evolution of the sugar industry, from the beginning of our love of sugar in colonial America through today. Visitors can trace the trade routes that brought cane to the colonies and discover the early sugar refining techniques that were anything but sweet. Children can play candy maker in cap and apron within the context of an old-time candy kitchen. The exhibition is suitable for anyone with a sweet tooth, with information geared toward both young and young at heart. The exhibition concludes with a stop at vintage candy counter, complete with a working gumball machine so visitors can purchase a treat. Candy from Shane Confectionery will also be available for purchase in the Museum’s gift shop.

Special programming will be offered on weekends throughout the exhibition’s run. On October 12th see clear toy ship candy making demonstration at the Old City Seaport Festival, and on December 14th there will be a holiday candy making demo before the 4th annual Parade of Lights (lighted boat parade). More events will be added. Check www.phillyseaport.org/OhSugar for more details.
ABOUT SHANE CONFECTIONERY
Shane Confectionery is the oldest continuously-run confectionery in the United States, established in 1863. The Shane family took over the business in 1911, installing elaborately carved woodwork, stained glass and curved windows to showcase the chocolates and confections made onsite. Ninety-nine years later, in 2010, the business transitioned to the Berley Brothers who own the nearby Franklin Fountain and whom embarked on a meticulous restoration of the building and business. Candies continue to be made on-site, with an emphasis on locally-sourced ingredients, seasonal specialties and old-fashioned quality.

ABOUT FRANKLIN FOUNTAIN
Owned and operated by founding brothers Ryan and Eric Berley since 2004, The Franklin Fountain is an authentic re-creation of an American ice cream parlor and soda fountain, circa 1915. Ice cream made on-premises is scooped and served in cones, sundaes and floated upon ice cream sodas drawn from a 1904 bronze & onyx soda fountain. Hot fudge, caramel and other toppings are made using fresh, local ingredients. Soda jerks are dressed in period attire, serving customers an authentic early 1900s experience in a historic building with ornate tin ceilings, marble counters and mosaic penny tile floors.

ABOUT INDEPENDENCE SEAPORT MUSEUM
Founded in 1960 by J. Welles Henderson, Independence Seaport Museum maintains one of the largest maritime collections in North America, combining more than 25,000 artifacts with hands-on exhibits and large-scale models. In addition to exhibits, the Museum has a working wooden boat shop, the J. Welles Henderson Archives and Library and a concert hall with sound stage quality acoustics. The Museum also includes two National Historic Landmark ships—the Spanish-American War Cruiser, Olympia, and the World War II Submarine Becuna. Located at Philadelphia’s Penn’s Landing Waterfront, the museum is open every day from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. Visit www.phillyseaport.org for more information.

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