

East Hampton Town, Montauk Playhouse Foundation Cut Ribbon on Aquatic Center and Cultural Center



Jack Motz on Aug 15, 2025



Alongside state and local leaders, Montauk Playhouse Community Center Foundation President Jennifer Carney-Iacono cut the ribbon on Friday for the playhouse's new Aquatic Center and multiuse Cultural Center.

At the event, which had some 300 people in attendance, Governor Kathy Hochul, Town Supervisor Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Town Councilman David Lys and Carney-Iacono spoke.

Carl Fisher opened the building in 1929, Iacono said. At the start, it was the largest indoor tennis center in the country. Its use quickly shifted. In the years that followed, the building suffered, having been damaged by a hurricane, she said. Over time, the building found new purposes. Then, a few decades back, an owner came close to demolishing it to make way for an affordable housing development.

In August 2023, the foundation held a groundbreaking ceremony for planned renovations: a new aquatic center on the first floor and a multiuse cultural center on the second.

With construction now mostly complete, the Sarah and Maurice Iudicone Aquatic Center is slated to open in the fall, while the cultural center is scheduled to follow suit not long after.

Sarah Iudicone had served as the foundation's president for seven years. She and her husband, Maurice, were the largest private donors to the project. In recognition of their generosity, the foundation named the aquatic center in their honor.

As for the timeline on opening the cultural center, the foundation is in the process of raising additional money to fund equipment and initial staffing. The goal is for those objectives to be reached by the end of this year.

The roof of the cultural center is a holdover from the past incarnation of the building. To make it more in line with the rest of the sleek new interior, though, the foundation had it painted black.

"I hope many realize that this must be preserved, not just for us today, but for generations to come," Hochul said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Given the area, the aquatic center will save lives, Hochul said, as children will be able to learn how to swim at the new pool.

Burke-Gonzalez spoke after Hochul.

"What surrounds us today is the result of years of collaboration, a place shaped by people who believed in each other and in the future of Montauk," she said. "It reflects the values we share and the understanding that lasting progress comes from working side-by-side."

The construction project cost \$14 million, but the state provided a \$1.7 million grant for the second floor, which houses the cultural center.

"This building, once nearly lost, now stands as a symbol of what's possible when Montauk and all who love it come together," Iacono said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.