



## AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC INSTITUTIONAL FACT SHEET

### WHAT

The Aquarium of the Pacific's **mission** is to instill a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems. Our **vision** is to create an aquarium dedicated to conserving and building natural capital (nature and nature's services) by building social capital (the interactions between and among peoples).

Beyond its world-class animal exhibits, the Aquarium offers educational programs for people of all ages, from hands-on activities to lectures by leading scientists. Through these programs and a variety of multimedia experiences, the Aquarium provides opportunities to delve deeper into ocean science and learn more about our planet. The Aquarium has redefined the modern aquarium: It is a community gathering place where diverse cultures and the arts are celebrated and where important topics facing our planet and our ocean are explored by scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders in the search for sustainable solutions. Throughout the year, the Aquarium also features art exhibitions, performing arts events, and cultural festivals to engage new audiences and underscore the exciting connection between the arts and sciences.

In addition to its public programs and exhibits, the Aquarium is involved in numerous conservation and education efforts, including endangered species recovery, sustainable seafood, watershed and drought education, and ocean literacy. The Aquarium's team of scientific divers collects critical data used by a variety of ocean research institutes and reporting agencies, and through its Aquatic Forums, the Aquarium brings together scientists, educators, community leaders, and policymakers to develop solutions to complex environmental issues.

### LOCATION

The Aquarium of the Pacific is located on a site of more than six acres on Rainbow Harbor in Long Beach, California, across the water from the Long Beach Convention Center, Shoreline Village, and the Queen Mary Hotel and Attraction.

**Address: 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802**

**LEADERSHIP**

Jerry Schubel, President & Chief Executive Officer  
Anthony Brown, Chief Financial Officer  
Cecile Fisher, Vice President of Marketing and Communications and Corporate Secretary  
Dr. Sandy Trautwein, Vice President of Animal Husbandry  
Kathie Nirschl, Vice President of Human Resources  
John Rouse, Vice President of Operations  
Ryan Ashton, Vice President of Development  
David Bader, Director of Education  
Nicole Meek, Director of Operations  
Marilyn Padilla, Director of Public Relations  
Tina Sarty, Controller  
Jeff Spofford, Director of Retail Operations  
Sean Devereaux, Director of Volunteer Engagement  
A volunteer board of directors that includes leaders of the corporate and educational communities governs the Aquarium.

**SIZE**

Three football fields could fit into the Aquarium's expansive, three-story facility of approximately 360,000 square feet, which includes fifty exhibits and behind-the-scenes tour areas. The Aquarium is home to more than 11,000 ocean animals representing over 500 species. Major exhibits range in size and capacity from about 5,000 to 350,000 gallons.

**GRAND OPENING**

Founded in June 1998, the Aquarium of the Pacific is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

**ATTENDANCE**

1.7 million people visit the Aquarium annually; it is the fourth most-attended aquarium in the country.

**DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE**

Inspired by the towering waves of the Pacific, the Aquarium's architecture mirrors the fluid and dynamic temper of the ocean.

- Developer: Kajima International, developers of the world's most critically acclaimed and technologically advanced aquariums.
- Architects: Los Angeles office of Hellmuth, Obata & Kassanbaum and Esherick Homsey Dodge and Davis of San Francisco. EHDD has designed many other award-winning marine exhibitions across the world.
- Contractors: Construction was a joint venture of Turner Construction Company and Kajima International.

The Aquarium will open its first major expansion, Pacific Visions, on May 24, 2019, also designed by EHDD.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

The Aquarium was the first among museums, zoos, and aquariums in the nation to register its greenhouse gases and is a leader in green practices, including the construction of the LEED

Platinum Premier Watershed Classroom. The Aquarium has been awarded the Super Nova Star Award by the Alliance to Save Energy for being the nation's most energy-efficient business with revenues under \$150 million and the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award. In 2016 Charity Navigator recognized the Aquarium as a 4-star rated charity. In 2017 the Aquarium was honored by The Climate Registry (TCR) with a Special Recognition Award as one of its founding members and a participant in Southern California Edison's Cool Planet Project, which is operated in partnership with TCR. The Pacific Visions wing earned a Two Green Globes certification from the Green Globes® building rating system for demonstrating leadership in best practices regarding environmental efficiency.

## **CONSERVATION**

Activities of the Aquarium's employees and volunteers extend far beyond its exhibits. Its diverse environmental science and conservation ventures include:

- Conservation programs for endangered marine animals, including abalone and the Guam Kingfisher;
- Citizen science programs, including blue whale field research and the Sea Turtle Monitoring program;
- Seafood for the Future sustainable seafood program;
- Housing of unreleasable marine mammals and birds.

## **AQUARIUM EXPERIENCE**

The journey through the Pacific Rim unfolds as visitors are guided through three major regions of the Pacific Ocean: Southern California/Baja, the Northern Pacific, and the Tropical Pacific. The exhibits introduce the inhabitants and seascapes of the Pacific Ocean, while also focusing on specific conservation messages associated with each region. As visitors enter the Aquarium's vast Great Hall of the Pacific, a full-scale model of a blue whale, the largest animal in the world, floats above their heads. Visitors are given a preview of what awaits in the Aquarium's main galleries, including an up-close look at Southern California/Baja, with the nearly three-story-tall Honda Blue Cavern exhibit, home to barracuda and other kelp forest fish. Throughout the day, Aquarium guests can enjoy multimedia presentations in the Aquarium's Great Hall of the Pacific.

### **Southern California & Baja**

Upon entering the Southern California/Baja gallery, visitors explore temperate local waters. Seals and sea lions can be viewed in an up-close-and-personal indoor/outdoor setting. A kelp forest with California's state fish, the Garibaldi, and many other fascinating animals is featured. This section includes the Spanish language bilingual Gulf of California exhibit on the second floor, featuring reef fish of Baja California, Mexico.

**Northern Pacific**

The temperature and atmosphere undergo a drastic change as visitors enter the Northern Pacific gallery and are introduced to the ice-cold waters of Alaska, Russia, and northern Japan. Puffins and other diving birds nest overhead and “fly” underwater, while the sea otters frolic in a nearby habitat. After leaving the mesmerizing sea jellies and a giant Pacific octopus, bright sea stars and giant Japanese spider crabs await visitors. An interactive three-player sea otter conservation game is included in this gallery. This gallery features a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ocean Today kiosk exhibit, which provides guests with a national feed of ocean news and video and local stories created by the Aquarium. This kiosk is linked to the NOAA Ocean Today kiosk in the Sant Ocean Hall at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

**Tropical Pacific**

Leaving the frigid world of the Northern Pacific, Aquarium explorers burst into the sun-splashed paradise of the Tropical Pacific gallery. From coral lagoons to deep reefs, this gallery represents the areas surrounding the islands of the Palau, Hawaii, and Indonesia. Visitors are introduced to a coral lagoon with colorful fish and exhibits featuring seahorses and seadragons. In the Aquarium’s largest exhibit by volume, the Tropical Reef Habitat, sharks and colorful sea life swirl around visitors in a tunnel and through various viewing windows.

**Ocean Science Center**

Visitors can travel across the globe in an immersive multimedia experience to see how climate change, maritime trade and ports, aquaculture, and other topics impact our lives. The Ocean Science Center showcases a six-foot global display called Science on a Sphere® that draws on technology from NOAA, enabling the Aquarium to show recent environmental occurrences, including El Niño, tsunamis, tornadoes, hurricanes, and earthquakes. It is also used to present daily shows covering topics such as sea level rise, aquaculture, and marine ecosystems.

**Molina Animal Care Center**

The Molina Animal Care Center features an interactive exhibit kiosk, daily animal care shows, and the chance to see veterinary procedures.

**Special Exhibits**

The Aquarium opened exhibits and launched programs celebrating its twentieth anniversary on May 25, 2018, and these will be offered through April 30, 2019, including the new *Tentacles and Ink* exhibit. Visitors can learn about and meet some of the Aquarium’s original animals, such as Charlie the sea otter, Lou the sea turtle, and even a group of sea stars. The Aquarium is also

celebrating new arrivals, including Kaya, a harbor seal pup born to one of our original animals, Shelby. Art exhibits, summer contests, and a new Great Hall film are also part of the celebration. The Aquarium also features a moon jelly touch tank, a mudskipper exhibit, and an archerfish exhibit on its Harbor Terrace.

**Lorikeet Forest**

Lorikeet Forest is a walk-through aviary filled with dozens of Australian lorikeets. Visitors can purchase a cup of nectar to feed these friendly birds that will land on your hand, arm, or even your head to get a sip of the nectar.

**Shark Lagoon**

Shark Lagoon is an educational adventure that features a main exhibit showcasing large sharks and two touch pools where visitors can reach in and touch more than 100 smaller sharks. Interactive displays are also part of Shark Lagoon, and Bamboo Bistro and a gift store are located nearby.

**Our Water Future**

The *Our Water Future* exhibit area features interactive exhibits, digital displays, a monarch butterfly garden, and other components. Its aim is to help visitors understand where our water comes from and what conservation issues we face with our water supply now and in the future. Guests can find out what they can do to conserve water and which actions are most effective.

**Southern California Steelhead Story**

This exhibit replicates the habitat of Southern California steelhead, an endangered fish species native to the local area. Visitors learn about the life cycle of steelhead, their habitats in mountain rivers and streams, their migration to the ocean, and how overfishing and infrastructure have altered their population.

**June Keyes Penguin Habitat**

The June Keyes Penguin Habitat is home to a colony of Magellanic penguins and includes a space where visitors can crawl under the exhibit to feel as if they are underwater with the animals. The habitat features educational exhibit panels and interactive touch screens where visitors can learn more about penguins and issues affecting their survival. Some of the birds in the Aquarium's habitat were rescued near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and deemed non-releasable to the wild because of health issues. Scientists speculate that these birds ended up stranded north of their normal range in search of food due to issues such as climate change and overfishing. Since the exhibit's opening in 2012, thirteen penguin chicks have hatched at the Aquarium.

**AND MUCH MORE**

Aquarium educators host a variety of classes, daily presentations, behind-the-scenes tours, daily whale watching cruises, and other programs for school and youth groups, families, adults, and children.

The Aquarium's indoor/outdoor restaurant, Café Scuba, offers a variety of entrées, including sustainable seafood, and views across the bay to the *Queen Mary*.

Hundreds of ocean-related gifts, games, educational toys, books, souvenirs, and surprises are available at the Aquarium's main gift store, Pacific Collections.

**HOURS**

The Aquarium is open 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day of the year, except December 25. It is open until 8:00 p.m. on select summer and holiday Late Nights.

**ADMISSION**

General adult admission is \$29.95 (ages 12 and above), \$26.95 for seniors (62 and above), \$17.95 per child (3-11), and free for children under age three and Aquarium members. Annual Aquarium memberships are available.

**VOLUNTEERS**

More than 1,500 Aquarium volunteers dedicate over 160,000 hours annually in almost every department, helping to ensure high-quality care for the Aquarium's thousands of animals and excellent service for the approximately 1.7 million people who visit the Aquarium annually.

**MORE INFORMATION**

Visit [aquariumofpacific.org](http://aquariumofpacific.org) or call (562) 590-3100.

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

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