2019 ANNUAL REPORT

AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

"Pacific Visions is unlike any other aquarium expansion project."

"We took a unique, unconventional approach in creating a space where the focus is on the one species that is affecting all others on Earth: humans."

"All aspects of the new space are meant to drive home the message that through creativity, innovation, and willingness to explore and accept new ideas, humans can create a better planet right here on Earth."

— Dr. Jerry Schubel,
Aquarium president and CEO

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR

Pacific Visions, which opened in 2019, was the Aquarium's first major expansion and is a platform for exploration and innovation. It makes a bold statement on the role of aquariums in society and provides a space where people can examine their relationship with our planet and learn what we can do to create a better future for all.

Pacific Visions was conceived as an example of what aquariums could be in the future, integrating elements of science centers, arts venues, and museums to explore solutions to our world's biggest challenges, including climate change. Since the opening, other aquariums and science centers from around the world have contacted us to talk about how they can replicate what we have achieved with this new venue.

The unique architecture, exhibits, and programming in Pacific Visions were the result of more than a decade of planning and development. The Aquarium consulted with visionary architects, an advisory panel of scientists and experts in sustainability, and multimedia and storytelling professionals to create an experience unlike any other.

While Pacific Visions was a major focus in the past year, the Aquarium's world-class animal care, education, and conservation programs also achieved important successes, which you will read about in this report.

We want to thank the Aquarium's Board of Directors, its staff of employees and volunteers, its members, the City of Long Beach, and supporters in our local community and beyond for another year of outstanding achievements. This institution's success would not be possible without their passionate dedication and ongoing support.

Jerry R. Schubel, Ph.D.
President & CEO

Kathleen M. Eckert
Chair, Board of Directors

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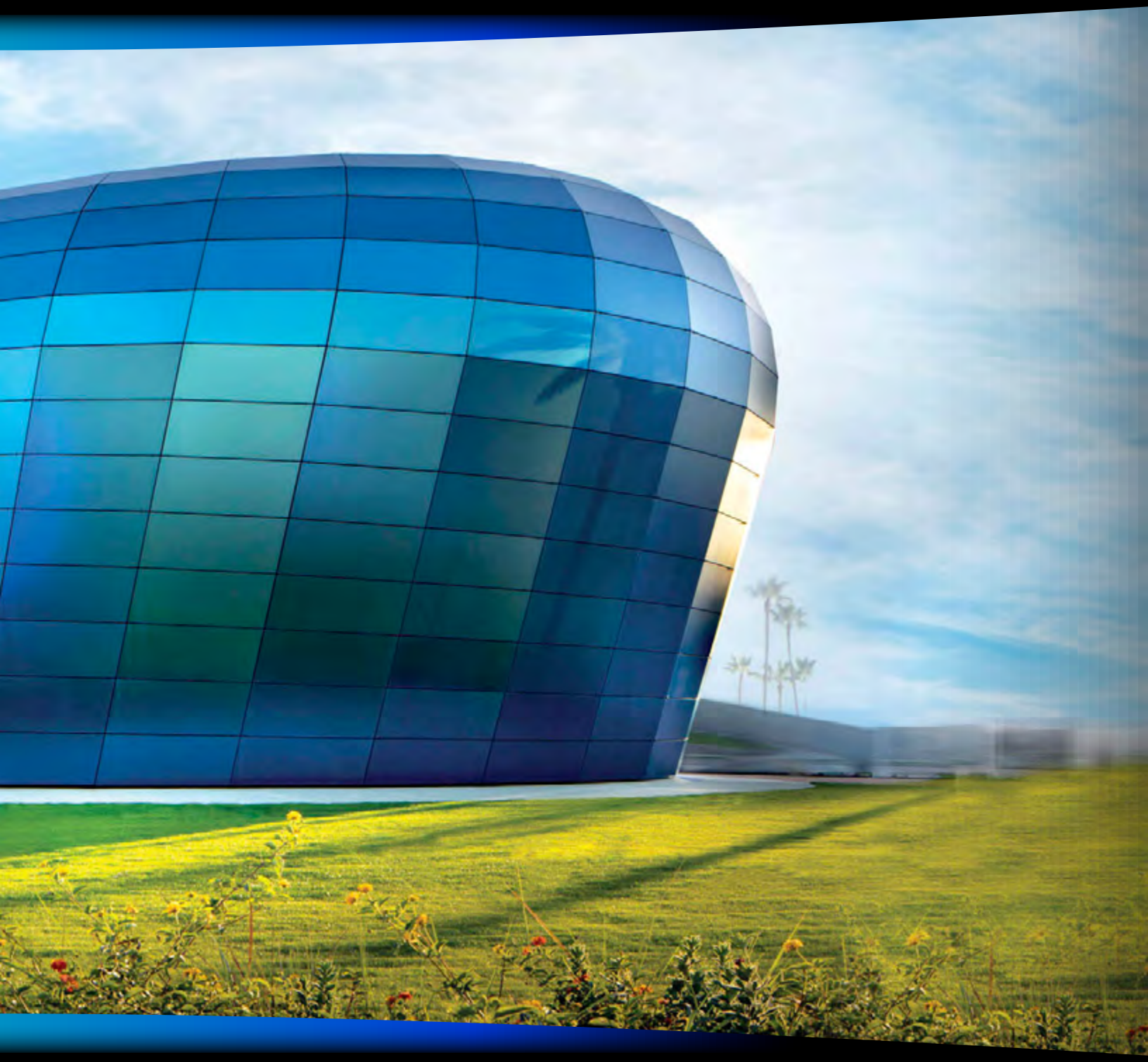
Pacific Visions Wing
Member Services

PACIFIC VISIONS

On May 24, 2019, the Aquarium of the Pacific opened Pacific Visions, its first major expansion. Designed by the San Francisco-based architecture and design firm EHDD, Pacific Visions is a 29,000-square-foot, two-story structure.

This new building houses a state-of-the art theater and exhibition spaces, including an art gallery and a culmination gallery with interactive games, educational graphics, and live animal exhibits. Through Pacific Visions, visitors can explore the most pressing environmental issues of our time and alternative pathways to designing a more sustainable future.



ART GALLERY

The Pacific Visions experience begins in an art gallery to immerse visitors in a sensory space that sparks curiosity and inspiration. The opening installation Reefs and Drifters *was created by Convivial Studio, a European art and design practice based in Germany. The installation featured elements that gave visitors a new perspective on the ocean, with a focus on coral reefs and plankton.*

INTERACTIVE SENSORY EXPERIENCES

In the art gallery visitors encounter a series of video projections accompanied by soundscapes, a touchable relief wall with video projections, glass sculptures inspired by plankton, and a collection of mirrored exhibits called Infinity Coral.

ORIENTATION GALLERY

In the orientation gallery visitors view a short film and interact with a virtual waterfall. This space primes visitors for the concepts explored in Pacific Visions and allows them to queue for entrance into the Honda Pacific Visions Theater.

PRE-SHOW FILM

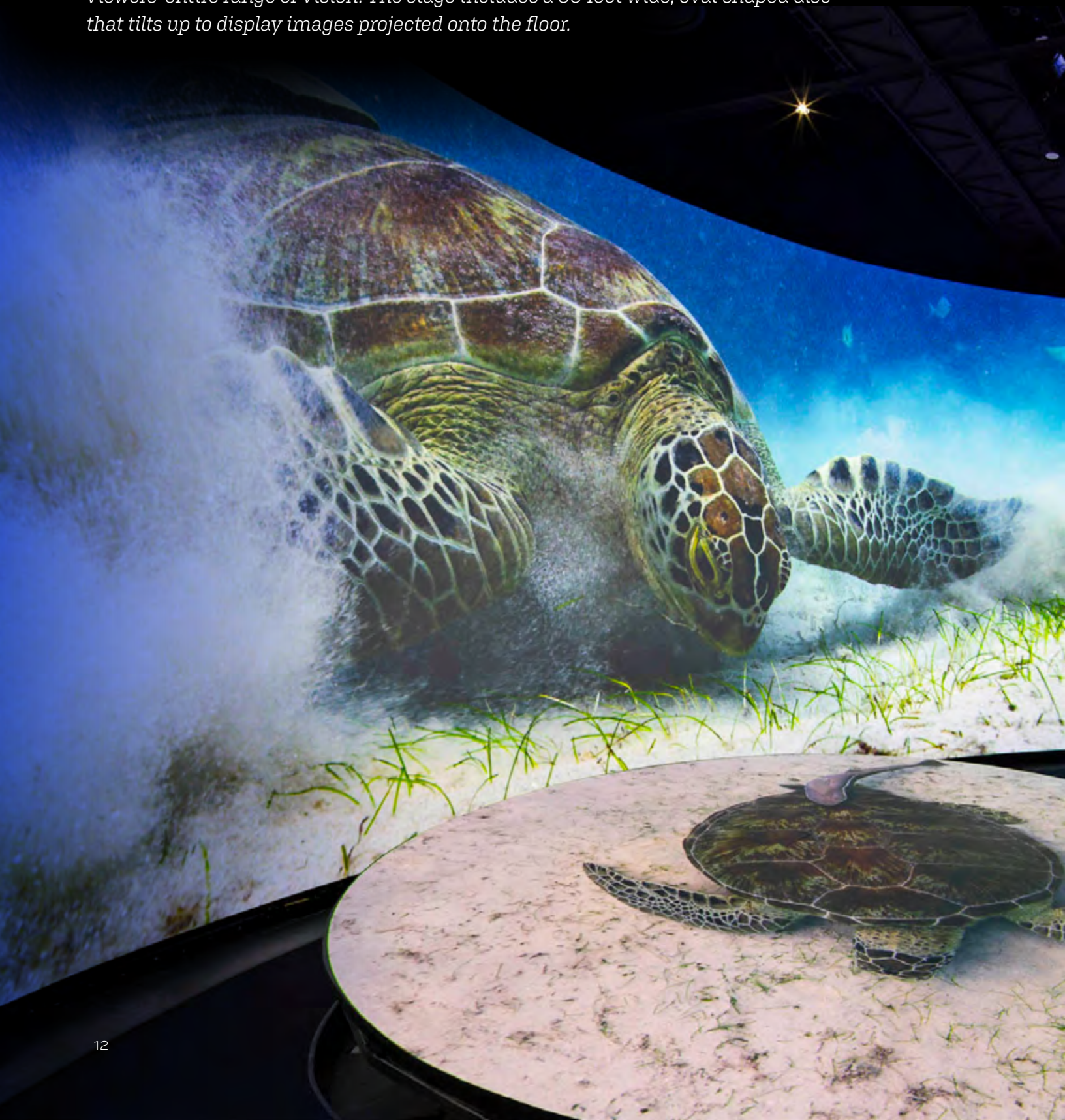
On the central wall between the two theater entrance doors, a show plays that introduces visitors to the Pacific Visions theater experience. Stunning imagery of wildlife, nature, and people show the beauty of our planet and its history. Images and inspiring quotes reveal our changing relationship with nature. The show is played on a 26-foot-wide by 9-foot-tall LED video wall.

SETTING THE STAGE

While visitors queue for the show in the main theater, they can view the pre-show film to begin to gather new ideas that will be explored further in the next spaces of Pacific Visions. Visitors can also interact with a virtual waterfall that appears to flow down a wall and onto the floor. The floor projection reacts as people move through it, creating splashes and ripples in the water, with small fish that scatter with every step.

HONDA PACIFIC VISIONS THEATER

The Honda Pacific Visions Theater has close to 300 stadium-style seats facing a 32-foot-tall, 130-foot-wide screen that is curved in a 180-degree arc to capture viewers' entire range of vision. The stage includes a 36-foot-wide, oval-shaped disc that tilts up to display images projected onto the floor.



DESIGNING OUR FUTURE

The inaugural show, *Designing Our Future*, included dramatic images of nature and ideas for designing a sustainable future for all. The show was enhanced with multisensory effects, including wind, fog, strobe lights, seat rumblers, and scents. The show was created by the Aquarium in collaboration with Cortina Productions.

CULMINATION GALLERY

After the theater show, visitors enter the culmination gallery, which features a massive projection wall with bubbles that pop open to display information when touched, interactive games, educational graphics, and animal exhibits.

APPLYING KNOWLEDGE

These exhibits help visitors learn more about, explore, and create a sustainable future. At the opening, the culmination gallery debuted three new animal exhibits, including the first public aquarium exhibit of endangered delta smelt fish, highlighting the impact California's water infrastructure has on wildlife.

OPENING EVENTS

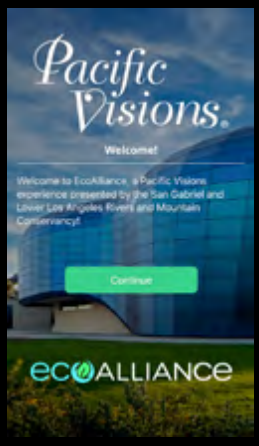
Members of the media from local, regional, and national outlets attended a press preview for Pacific Visions before the new building opened to the public.

PRESS COVERAGE

On May 16 the Aquarium held a media preview offering the first official look at the new Pacific Visions wing. As a result, Pacific Visions was covered by *The Wall Street Journal*, Associated Press, NPR, Yahoo News, Forbes.com, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Westways*, *Sunset* magazine, and hundreds more.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Pacific Visions opening was the culmination of a three-year communications campaign undertaken by the Aquarium. The strategic campaign, including events and announcements, positioned Pacific Visions as part of the Aquarium's larger vision to integrate art, science, and technology to build natural capital by building social capital.



PACIFIC VISIONS ECOALLIANCE APP

The Pacific Visions EcoAlliance app was released in September. The app allows users to further explore the ideas introduced in Pacific Visions through a series of games, challenges, commitments, and activities. The app is available for free in the App Store and the Google Play Store.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Across more than twenty years of partnership, founding Aquarium sponsor American Honda Motor Co., Inc. has contributed to a wide range of projects to help the Aquarium educate the public on some of the most pressing environmental issues and inspire visitors to be good stewards of the world's oceans and the animals that inhabit them. The Aquarium was pleased to honor Honda's largest and most recent contribution of $5 million to Pacific Visions with the naming of the Honda Pacific Visions Theater. This immersive theater is the centerpiece of the new space. In addition to showcasing education films, the Honda Pacific Visions Theater is also a dynamic event space that will be home to special programs at the Aquarium and serve as a platform to host performing arts events, panel discussions, community meetings, and educational seminars.

AWARDS

Pacific Visions' architecture earned several awards and certifications, including Two Green Globes certification from the Green Globes® building rating system for demonstrating leadership in best practices regarding environmental efficiency; a *Los Angeles Business Journal* Commercial Real Estate Gold Award; a Building Design + Construction Bronze Award; and 2019 *Glass Magazine* Award for Best Decorative Glass Application, Exterior.

CONSERVATION

The Aquarium participates in important conservation work, both on site and in the field.

IN THE FIELD

Aquarium staff members regularly travel offsite to participate in conservation field work. In 2019 Senior Aviculturist Susan Gerros traveled to the island of Saipan to participate in the Marianas Avifauna Conservation Project, which helps restore native bird populations to the Marianas Islands.

Curator of Fish and Invertebrates Nate Jaros participated in a coral conservation and research project associated with SECORE (SExual COral REproduction) in Palau, and Senior Aquarist Briana Fodor traveled to the Bahamas to help with SECORE's restoration efforts.

SEA TURTLE RESCUE

In October the Aquarium released the fifteenth sea turtle rehabilitated by its veterinary care staff since opening. The 160-pound female green sea turtle came to the Aquarium with a fish hook in her esophagus after being found stranded and dehydrated in the San Gabriel River. The Aquarium's veterinary staff removed the hook via endoscopic surgery and nursed the sea turtle back to health over the course of a month.

Once the sea turtle was deemed healthy and ready for release, she was transported to Seal Beach, where the public was able to watch her return into the waves at the mouth of the San Gabriel River.

WHITE ABALONE RECOVERY PROJECT

In November 2019 the Aquarium joined with other partners to release endangered white abalone in the wild for the first time. This achievement was the result of a long-term project to breed and release white abalone to help rebuild the wild population. The Aquarium is a founding partner of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) White Abalone Recovery Program and has been part of this effort since 2008.

SCIENTIFIC DIVE TEAM

The Aquarium's team of scientific divers partners with other organizations to participate in ocean research and conservation projects that require work at underwater sites. In 2019 they conducted dives to survey local areas for potential abalone habitat and to monitor abalone outplanting sites as part of the white abalone recovery project.

LOCAL VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

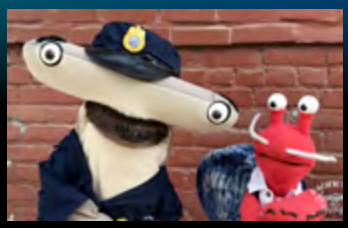
The Aquarium hosts monthly wetlands restoration events in Long Beach and a beach clean-up annually on California Coastal Clean-Up Day in September. These programs give locals the opportunity to participate in hands-on ocean and environmental conservation.

During Coastal Clean-Up Day on September 21, 2019, nearly 200 volunteers, almost twice as many as the previous year, removed 315 pounds of trash from the beach on the Long Beach Peninsula. About half of the participants were corporate volunteers, including a group of thirty from New York Life.

REDUCING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

In 2019 the Aquarium continued its efforts to reduce single-use plastic items on site and educate people about the damage plastic pollution can cause in the ocean. The Aquarium has reduced plastic waste across several programs, including in its water quality lab and in food service during sleepover programs.

Aquarium Conservation Partnership



On Earth Day 2019 the Aquarium of the Pacific, along with nearly two dozen other aquariums across the United States, committed to:

- significantly reduce or eliminate single-use plastic packaging in retail products by 2021,
- reduce single-use plastic in back-of-house operations by 2021,
- and ensure all dining area tableware—including plates, cups, lids, dishes, and utensils—is single-use plastic-free by 2021.

The aquariums, which formed the Aquarium Conservation Partnership in 2016, have previously eliminated plastic straws except upon request and single-use plastic shopping bags in their facilities. They have also committed to reducing or eliminating plastic beverage bottles by 2020.

Straw Cops

The Aquarium released a video for National Skip the Straw Day on February 22 called *Straw Cops*. This buddy cop movie parody stars Seymour Shark and Captain Quinn, two of the Aquarium's Pacific Pals characters. The humorous short encouraging people to avoid single-use plastic items was written, filmed, and edited entirely in-house by the Aquarium's education department staff.

EXHIBITS AND ANIMALS

Animal and exhibit updates in 2019 focused on upgrading existing exhibits, providing more up-close animal experiences for visitors, continuing efforts to breed marine species on site, and adding to the Aquarium's catalogue of shows for NOAA's Science on a Sphere.

AMBASSADOR ANIMALS

In 2019 the Aquarium increased its focus on providing experiences with Ambassador Animals. These animals, including birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals, can be brought onto the Aquarium floor with an interpreter, giving visitors the chance to see them up close, take photos, and learn about conservation of these species.

After Pacific Visions opened, the Aquarium instituted meet-and-greet sessions four times daily with Ambassador Animals at the entrance. These sessions illustrated themes from Pacific Visions, including how humans can help protect animals through sustainable choices related to food, energy, and water. The Aquarium also added a station inside the Pacific Visions art gallery where visitors can experience having their hands cleaned by cleaner shrimp.

BREEDING SUCCESSES

The Aquarium successfully cultured and raised helvola sea nettles, a first for an aquarium in the United States. Aquarist Josh Wagner experimented with different types of food for the jellies and chemical compounds to stimulate their reproductive cycle. The resulting offspring were on view in the Northern Pacific Gallery in the fall.

Five American avocet chicks were born at the Aquarium in late June. The avocet chicks and parents were on display in the lower Guam kingfisher habitat in the summer.

SHARK LAGOON UPDATE

In 2019 the Aquarium added new elements and animals to the large exhibit in Shark Lagoon. New colorful coral structures were installed to improve the exhibit's appearance and provide shelters for newly added fish.

Lou the olive ridley sea turtle, who previously lived in the Soft Coral Garden exhibit in the Tropical Pacific Gallery's tunnel, was also added to the exhibit. In addition to Lou and several species of tropical fish, the exhibit also featured three species of rays, a zebra shark, and grey reef sharks.

The sand tiger and blacktip reef sharks formerly on view in the large Shark Lagoon exhibit were temporarily moved to the exhibit next to the Molina Animal Care Center. This allowed the new sharks to acclimate to Shark Lagoon before the larger animals were reintroduced.

NEW SCIENCE ON A SPHERE SHOWS

In 2019 the Aquarium added two new shows to its library of short films for NOAA's Science on Sphere.

Resilient Cities explores how cities can become more sustainable and efficient in the face of climate change, providing places where humans can thrive and leaving open space for nature to rebound.

Super Reefs documents the destructive impacts of climate change on coral reefs around the world. It also spotlights the phenomenon of some reefs that appear to be more resilient to increasing water temperatures than others.

EDUCATION

Education programs gave people of all ages opportunities to engage with ocean science and learn how they can become ocean stewards.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In addition to providing professional development opportunities for its staff of educators, the Aquarium also provides opportunities for teachers and informal educators to build their skills.

With support from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the NOAA Office of Exploration and Research professional development workshop, *Exploring the Deep Ocean with NOAA*, took place at the Aquarium on October 5. The education department supported the implementation of the workshop and helped promote it to teachers. Eighteen teachers from Southern California gathered to share best practices in the classroom and collaborate on implementation of the NOAA Exploration resources. Teachers left the workshop with resources to make ocean exploration accessible for students in kindergarten to twelfth grade.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Aquarium's climate resilience program aims to make Long Beach more resilient to the impacts of climate change. It has achieved this by fostering connections between organizations and community members and gathering community knowledge and aspirations.

In 2019 the education department visited community events with the ResilientLB outreach booth, hosted community conversations with partner organizations, conducted listening sessions and workshops in the community, and participated in panel discussions and training courses. These efforts were made possible in part by the National Science Foundation-funded Communities Advancing Science Literacy (CASL) project and funding from Union Pacific Railroad. Community partners included local organizations such as Long Beach Forward, Khmer Girls in Action, and Friends of Colorado Lagoon.

Under this program the Aquarium also participates in the Long Beach Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, Los Angeles County Sustainability Plan, and the Los Angeles County Community Climate Action Plan.

STEM CAREERS PANEL

As part of the City of Los Angeles' month-long City of STEM science festival, the Aquarium hosted a panel discussion on careers it offers that make use of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills.

Speakers included staff members from several departments at the Aquarium, including animal husbandry, finance, marketing, operations, and education.

154,000

students, teachers, and community members were served through Aquarium education programs

32,000

visitors were served and 13,000 miles were driven by the Aquarium on Wheels

1,000

students and teachers participated in an education program via videoconference

41,000

students and chaperones visited through the Aquarium's scholarship program

3,000

student, teachers, and parents attended free Family Science and Literacy Nights

EDUCATION

Education programs addressed conservation, sustainability, and early childhood education and helped students connect with Pacific Visions themes.

LIFELONG LEARNING COURSE

In 2019 the Aquarium hosted a class for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) members at California State University, Long Beach. In January and February Aquarium educator Cassandra Davis presented a six-week course on marine protected areas. Volunteers also presented at the OLLI location at California State University, Dominguez Hills and conducted an Aquarium tour for participants. OLLI provides courses and programs for adults age fifty and above at university campuses across the country.

SUSTAINABILITY SERIES

The Aquarium developed classroom materials to accompany field trips to Pacific Visions. This Sustainability Series, supported by the W. M. Keck Foundation, includes learning modules that pair videos of science professionals with standards-aligned classroom resources to support student engagement.

The first two modules in the series introduce students to the challenges facing our food and water resources and the scientists, data, tools, and current research focused on finding sustainable solutions. Digital materials include program outlines, discussion questions, activities, and on-line resources to support each module.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

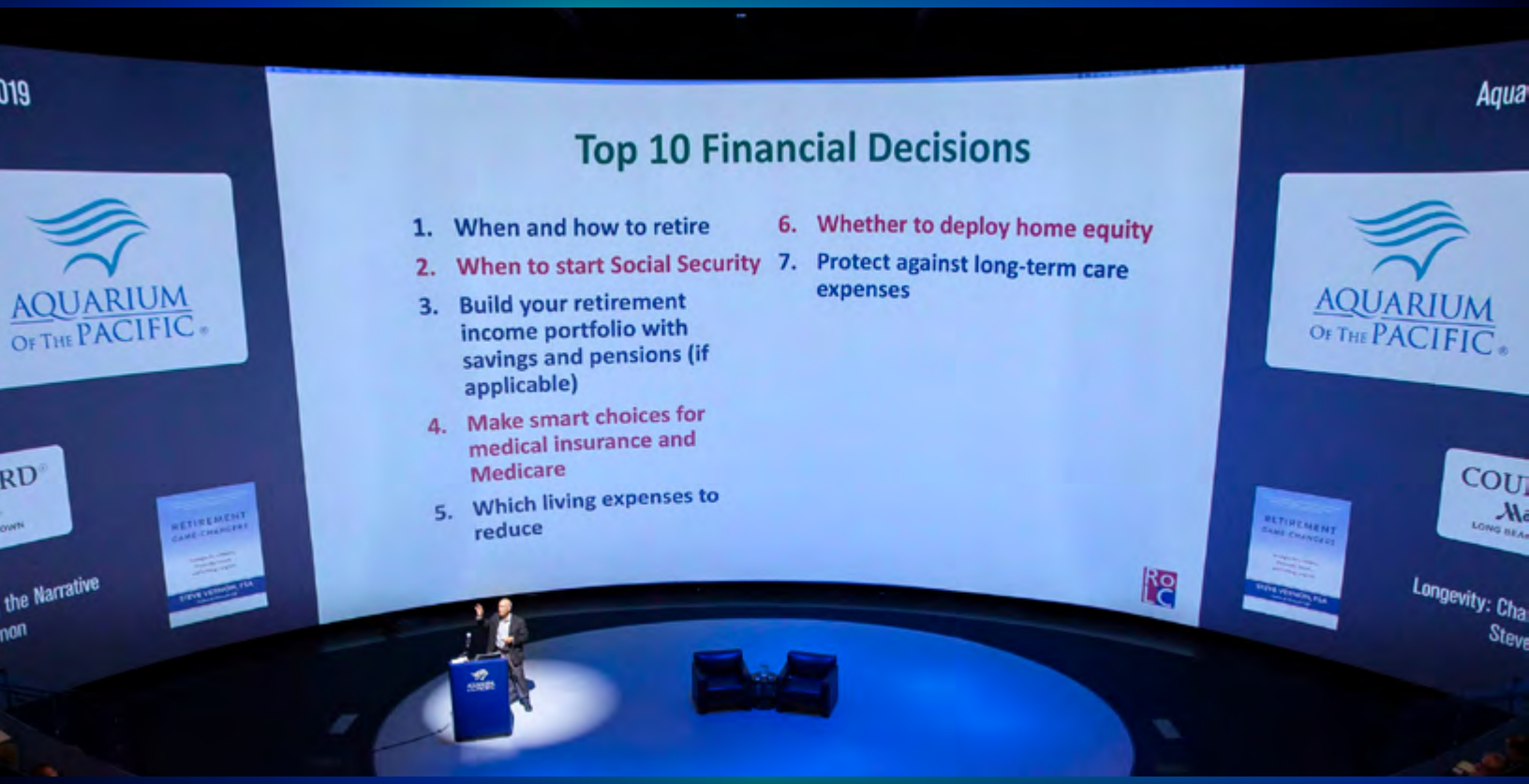
In 2019, with continued support from The Miller Foundation, the education department facilitated multiple programs focused on early childhood education. Programs included a two-part teacher workshop, two free Family Science and Literacy Nights for students and families at the Aquarium, and two sessions at the annual Early Childhood Education Symposium in Long Beach.

These programs were developed in partnership with the Mayor's Fund for Education, which continues to collaborate with the Aquarium on educational opportunities for preschool audiences and the educators serving them.

The Bernadett Family Early Childhood Open House was added to the Baja Splash Festival in 2019. During the event young guests and their families were invited into the classroom that featured activities specifically designed for preschoolers. They were able to take home a Spanish bilingual book focusing on kindergarten readiness and bookmarks donated by the Bernadett Family and The Molina Foundation.

VISION

The Aquarium's vision is to build natural capital—nature and nature's services—by building social capital, the interactions between and among people.



SUPER CORALS

In January 2019 the Aquarium released a report on a workshop on super corals held at the Aquarium in December 2018. The workshop's goals were to discuss the role of climate-resilient corals in the survival of coral reefs, identify potential roles for public aquariums in educating the public on super corals, and create a living bank of super coral specimens for research.

In June the Aquarium hosted a panel discussion on super corals and their importance. Speakers included Mark Abbott, president and director of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI); Anne Cohen, tenured scientist at WHOI and faculty in the MIT-WHOI Joint Graduate Program in Oceanography; and Dr. Sandy Trautwein, the Aquarium's vice president of animal husbandry.

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

The Aquarium continued its Guest Speaker Series as one of Southern California's most extensive and eclectic public lecture series, with more than forty lectures.

These included a panel discussion in October featuring Emmy Award-winning writer and producer David E. Kelley, who joined Aquarium President and CEO Dr. Jerry Schubel to discuss the role of responsible aquaculture in conservation. This talk at the Aquarium was Kelley's first public appearance discussing his aquaculture farm Riverence. Kelley and Dr. Schubel were joined by Dr. Halley Froehlich, assistant professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Kimberly Thompson, director of the Aquarium's Seafood for the Future program. The event also featured a recorded message from Chef Andrew Zimmern, four-time James Beard Award-winning chef and television personality.

AQUATIC ACADEMY

In 2019 the spring session of the Aquarium's Aquatic Academy brought together experts on the environment and sustainability to discuss food, energy, and water and how our production and consumption of these resources impact the environment. The course examined ways for California to create a model for a future in which humans and nature can thrive.

The fall session was offered in partnership with Halbert Hargrove and addressed changing the narrative around longevity and life after retirement. Speakers included experts from Stanford University's Center on Longevity.

SEA LEVEL RISE EVENT

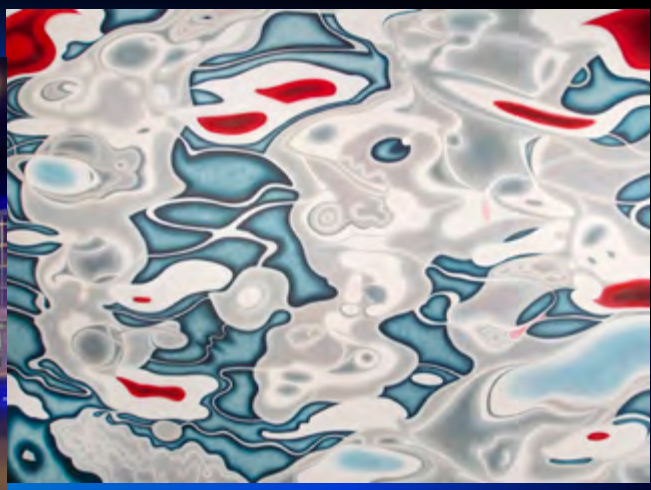
The Aquarium hosted a free community event on October 7, 2019, bringing scientists and researchers together to discuss coping with sea level rise with a focus on Long Beach's Peninsula, Naples, and Belmont Shore. The event was part of an ongoing program on responding to sea level rise led by the Aquarium in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the ArtCenter College of Design.

CULTURAL FESTIVALS

Throughout 2019 the Aquarium continued its tradition of celebrating and connecting with our diverse communities through cultural festivals. Festivals feature live performances, an award ceremony honoring a member of the community, and shows that explore various cultures' connections to and stewardship of the ocean and environment.

ARTS

Arts programs at the Aquarium helped visitors make emotional connections with the ocean and environmental issues, paving the way for better understanding and action.



ART EXHIBITS

Art exhibits at the Aquarium are aimed at tapping into visitors' emotional connections with the natural world to inspire ocean stewardship. Exhibits displayed in 2019 included:

- an exhibit of photographs from the Port of Long Beach's 2018 PHOTO program presented in partnership with the Arts Council for Long Beach
- paintings of seascapes and marine life by painter John Enright
- paintings from a project called One Artist Five Oceans by artist Danielle Eubank

NIGHT DIVE

In 2019 the Aquarium hosted seven Night Dive events celebrating music, art, food, culture, and science. Events featured live bands in the Great Hall, DJs spinning in the Aquarium's galleries, inspiring works of art, educational opportunities, and food trucks on the front plaza.

Highlights included the Long Beach Brush Off in February, where guests watched six local artists create paintings in real time, a pop-up display of the Port of Long Beach PHOTO program in March, a Día de los Muertos-themed night in November, and the Aquarium's fourth-annual New Year's Eve event with a record-breaking 2,150 tickets sold.

SEA URCHIN SCULPTURE

The Aquarium unveiled a new art installation on its front plaza in November. The massive sculpture of a sea urchin with spines that light up at night was created by a group of artists and engineers called Liquid PXL, led by artist and local resident Abram Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz is a volunteer diver at the Aquarium and was inspired by the Aquarium's animals to create the sculpture. The sculpture was originally displayed at Burning Man in 2015.

LONG BEACH CHORALE

On June 9 the Long Beach Chorale presented a concert in the Great Hall conducted by Assistant Director Matthew Martinez and featuring Randall Thompson's *Testament of Freedom*, a setting of Thomas Jefferson's orations to music.

SEAFOOD FOR THE FUTURE

In 2019 Seafood for the Future focused its efforts on outreach and communications on responsible marine aquaculture in United States waters and conducted research to better understand the barriers.

COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

Seafood for the Future launched its web-based toolkit, which provides science-based information and compelling stories about marine aquaculture. The toolkit allows farmers, scientists, and others to pool assets, such as high-quality photos and videos and fact sheets. These can be shared with the public to help fill the information gap and dispel myths about marine aquaculture.

COMMUNICATIONS FELLOWSHIP

Seafood for the Future launched a Marine Aquaculture Science Communications Fellowship in 2019. This position is supported in part by local investment firm Pacific6. Mackenzie Nelson, previously a science communications fellow at Washington Sea Grant, was selected for the position.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Dr. Schubel and Seafood for the Future Program Director Kimberly Thompson published an article on marine aquaculture's role in ocean conservation in the peer-reviewed publication *GeoHealth*. The article, which was based on Dr. Schubel's presentation at the World Aquaculture Society conference in February 2019, was also selected as the editor's pick for a feature in *Earth & Space Science News* and referenced in the World Economic Forum's Strategic Intelligence Library. Nelson addressed comments and ensured citations were accurate during the peer review process.

SCIENCE BRIEFING

Seafood for the Future developed a science briefing for the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The briefing was distributed to the committee in advance of its hearing on offshore aquaculture on October 16. It summarized the current state of the science on farming finfish, shellfish, and seaweed in offshore marine areas.

RESEARCH GRANT

Through Seafood for the Future, the Aquarium received funding to participate with other partners in a two-year research project to assess how changing policies and fisheries conditions in the United States may have supported or hindered development of the aquaculture industry.

Funding for the project totaling $196,921 was part of $16 million in grants awarded by Sea Grant to support projects aimed at advancing sustainable aquaculture in the United States. The project is led by the University of California, Santa Barbara in collaboration with the Aquarium, Florida State University, the National Sea Grant Law Center, and California Sea Grant.

VOLUNTEERS

More than 1,600 volunteers contributed over 170,000 hours of service—the equivalent of 82 full-time employees.

TEEN PROGRAMS

The Aquarium's volunteer services department continued to offer many ways for middle and high school students to engage with ocean science, conservation, and educating both their peers and Aquarium visitors.

Teen Climate Council
After attending the 2019 Urban Climate Action Network conference, a group of teen volunteers was inspired to form the Teen Climate Council at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Throughout 2019 the group hosted workshops on making environmentally friendly household items, designed community outreach materials, and met monthly to plan and promote action on climate change and sustainable living among their peers.

The Teen Climate Council is led by the teen participants and advised by Aquarium staff members to help amplify the growing voices of teen leaders on taking action to combat the effects of climate change.

Student Eco-Ambassadors
Twelve Student Eco-Ambassador participants went abroad to volunteer in Belize and collectively served over 1,200 volunteer hours during their trip. Students were involved with a number of conservation efforts, including conch and manatee surveys, creating signs to caution boaters against manatee strikes, and beach clean-ups.

Teen Science Café
Teen Science Café volunteers work with scientists to create events for students in the community to gain science learning, and the scientists gain experience communicating to a younger audience. In 2019 this group hosted four science café events, including one with Curator of Birds and Mammals Brett Long, who discussed sea otter conservation.

Youth Leadership Long Beach
The Aquarium continued to partner with Youth Leadership Long Beach, coordinating opportunities throughout the year for students to meet local city government representatives and other professionals and learn about environmental sustainability.

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERING

Global FinPrint

Global FinPrint is a project surveying shark populations around the world. Aquarium volunteers view and document underwater videos to quantify the presence of sharks in tropical reefs.

In 2019 twenty-two Aquarium volunteers participated in Global FinPrint. The program has collected over 15,000 viewings of more than 400 reefs globally, 10 percent of which was documented by Aquarium volunteers.

Sea Turtle Monitoring Program

The Aquarium's Southern California Sea Turtle Monitoring Project began work with NOAA on two expanded projects made possible by a grant in partnership with SeaLife Trust. The expanded projects include a photo identification project based on the success of the Aquarium's marine mammal photo identification work and expanded monitoring locations, including the Agua Hedionda Lagoon in Carlsbad, California.

Party for the Planet

Aquarium volunteers participated in festivities for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Party for the Planet in partnership with the Los Angeles Zoo during Earth Day, Endangered Species Day, and World Oceans Day. Ninety-seven Aquarium volunteers participated in events at Griffith Park, Los Cerritos Wetlands, and Santa Cruz Island. A total of 133 volunteers from both the Aquarium and the Zoo contributed 621 hours to habitat preservation and restoration of key local ecosystems.

Whale Identification

The Aquarium's whale identification program provides data on local whale sightings to researchers. In 2019 thirteen interns logged a total of 2,630 hours and volunteer staff members logged 135 hours of work for this effort. The interns and volunteers took and processed nearly 40,000 photos from 1,124 whale and dolphin sightings during the Aquarium's daily whale watch trips.

AQUARIUM AMBASSADORS

In 2019 the volunteer services department launched the new Aquarium ambassadors volunteer program. Aquarium ambassadors assist guests, help with wayfinding, and provide guest service in the Great Hall, throughout the galleries, and in Lorikeet Forest. Ambassador volunteers complement the existing education and guest services volunteer programs.

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

Fundraising highlights in 2019 included campaigns to support Pacific Visions and the Scholarship Program, providing free student field trips to the Aquarium.

PACIFIC VISIONS PREMIERE

To celebrate the opening of Pacific Visions, the Aquarium held a Premiere Gala on Saturday, May 18, 2019, with 450 guests in attendance. The event raised over $459,000, exceeding projected revenue by over $100,000. The event included a live performance in the Honda Pacific Visions Theater by the Long Beach Opera Orchestra and Long Beach Vocal Ensemble, featuring aerialists from the Nanette Brodie Dance Theater.

$50,000 PRESENTING SPONSORS

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FIELD TRIP FACE CAMPAIGN

The Aquarium's scholarship program provides free field trips for schools that otherwise would not be able to afford admission. In 2019 the Field Trip Face campaign celebrated the wonder and excitement students feel during these important educational opportunities.

The campaign launched with a matching grant of $5,000 from the Whitney Young Children's Foundation and $5,000 from the Schulzman-Neri Foundation and ended with a $1,000 matching grant from the Mike and Diane Jensen Family. In total, the campaign raised $22,079 from members, supporters, and other friends of the Aquarium to provide more than 3,000 students with an Aquarium field trip in the 2019-2020 school year.

THEATER SEAT CAMPAIGN

Prior to the Pacific Visions' opening events, the Aquarium provided a naming opportunity for 266 individual seats in the Honda Pacific Visions Theater. During 2019 twenty-six seats were named for family members, in memory of loved ones, and in honor of individuals and favorite Aquarium animals. Each named seat is recognized with an engraved plaque. To learn more, visit aquariumofpacific.org/seatcampaign.

THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS NAMED A SEAT IN THE HONDA PACIFIC VISIONS THEATER IN 2019.

- Martha and Faustino Bernadett
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The mission-driven programs described in this report are made possible largely through contributions from individuals, foundations, corporations, and government partners. The Aquarium deeply appreciates and thanks the donors recognized here for their gifts and pledges.

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The Nautilus Society honors those generous individuals who support the Aquarium of the Pacific through a planned gift. Including the Aquarium in one's financial planning demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to our institution that provides long-term financial support.

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The following contributors donated goods or services valued at $1,000 or more to the Aquarium in 2019:

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IN MEMORY OF

Friends and family donated thoughtful gifts in memory of their loved ones, recognizing their love for the ocean and support of the Aquarium. All of us at the Aquarium extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of:

Kristen Marie Black
Charlie, the Sea Otter
Michael Alan Clevenger
Joan Colmar
Ivolou Corston
Eric J. Davis
Brooke Lorraine Denison
Ella Fitzgerald
Vicki Gausepohl
Henry the Penguin
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Scott Lyles
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Joanne Runge
Connie Wong
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IN HONOR OF

To commemorate a special occasion, milestone, or birthday, donations can be made to the Aquarium of the Pacific. The following individuals were honored in 2019:

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Oliver Adams
Kim Armstrong
Ryan Ashton
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FINANCIAL RESULTS

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2019 the Aquarium of the Pacific received close to 1.7 million visitors. Total revenues were 6 percent higher than the prior year at $46.1 million. The primary increase in revenue came from earned revenue as a result of Pacific Visions, the Aquarium's $53 million expansion, which opened in May 2019. Programs and marketing expenditures were 82 percent of the total expenses and supported exhibits, education, and communications. Net assets ended at $101.6 million, which was down from 2018 by $2.4 million. This was due to the Aquarium securing a $10 million loan in 2018 to facilitate the payment of a two-year construction plan against outstanding pledges for Pacific Visions. The terms of the note payable included interest payments ranging from 2.5 to 3.0 percent due annually through the maturity date of October 2027.

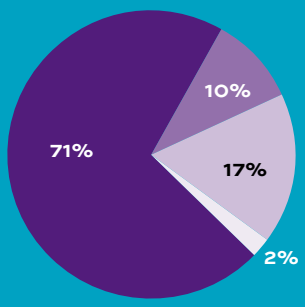
REVENUES AND EXPENSES (in 000s)

	2019	2018
Earned Revenue	32,891	28,222
Membership	4,371	4,433
Government	1,020	2,931
Contributions	7,882	7,882
Total Revenue	**$46,164**	**$43,468**
Programs and Marketing	33,158	30,652
Development and Membership	2,627	2,515
Administration	4,680	4,249
Total Expenses	**$40,465**	**$37,416**
Change in Net Assets	1,253	6,052
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	60,841	54,789
Net Assets at End of the Year	**$62,094**	**$60,841**

BALANCE SHEET (in 000s)

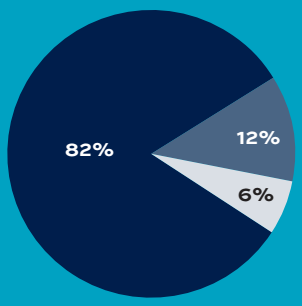
	2019	2018
Cash and Cash Equivalents	14,819	18,884
Accounts Receivable	963	766
Contributions Receivable	1,990	3,813
Prepaid Expenses	878	418
Gift Store Inventory	676	634
Property and Equipment, Net	59,889	54,629
Operating Lease Right of Use Assets, Net	22,335	24,875
Finance Lease Right of Use Assets, Net	64	-
Total Assets	**$101,612**	**$104,020**
Accounts Payable	1,515	2,395
Accrued Liabilities	1,903	1,551
Deferred Revenue	3,701	2,880
Note Payable	10,000	10,000
Operating Lease Liabilities	22,335	24,875
Financing Lease Liabilities	64	-
Total Liabilities	**$39,518**	**$41,700**
Unrestricted	58,797	21,359
Temporarily Restricted	3,297	39,482
Total Net Assets	**$62,094**	**$62,320**
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$101,612**	**$104,020**

REVENUE



- Earned Revenue | 71%
- Membership | 10%
- Contributions | 17%
- Government | 2%

EXPENSES

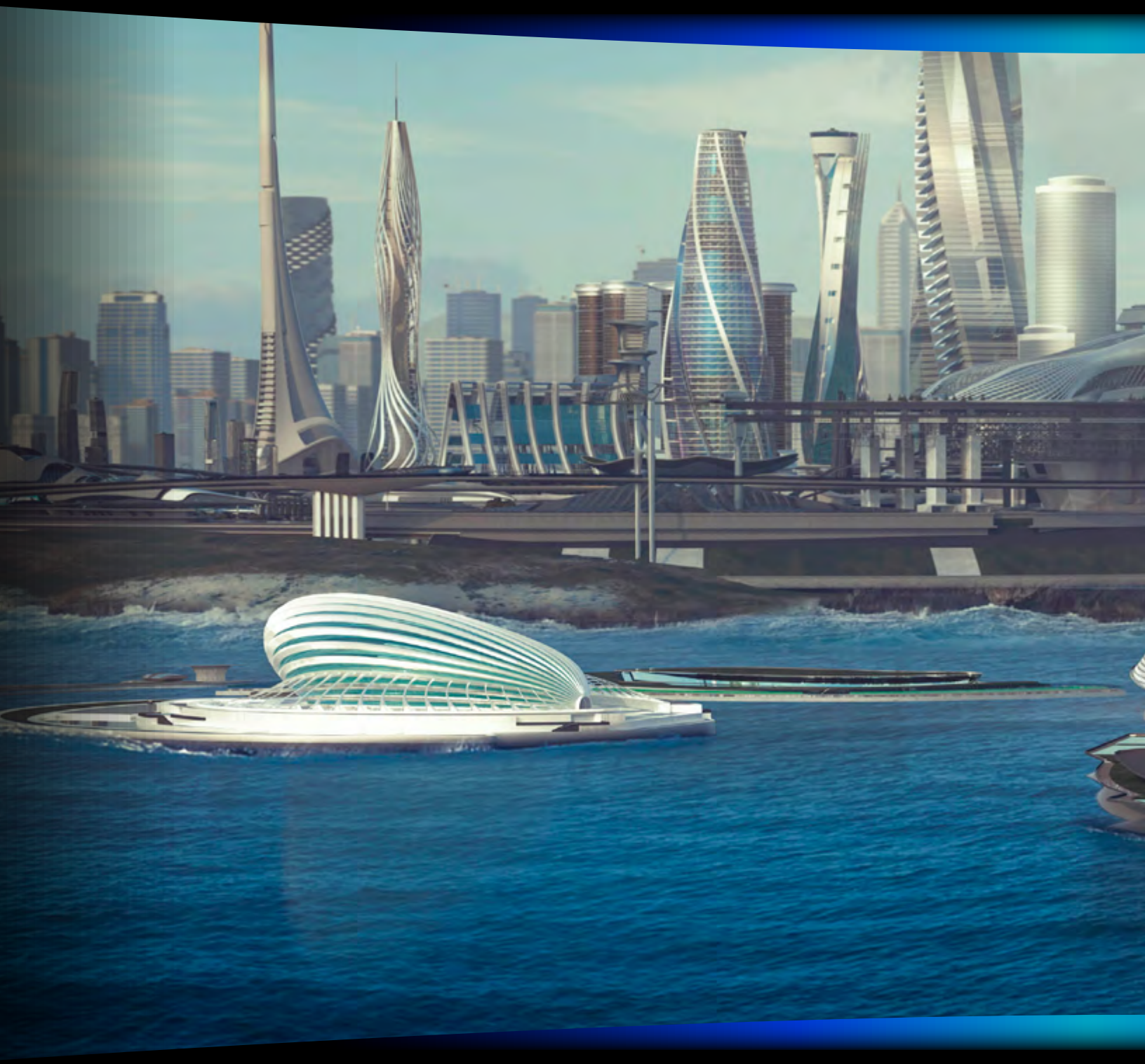


- Programs & Marketing | 82%
- Administration | 12%
- Development & Membership | 6%

For a list of the Aquarium's donors, please see pages 34, 35, and 36 of this annual report.

THANK YOU

The Aquarium of the Pacific thanks its members and donors for their ongoing support in 2019.



"We can design the future we want. It will require creativity, innovation, and most importantly...open minds."

— Designing Our Future

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AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

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