

PACIFIC
Currents

Aquarium of the Pacific

WINTER 2019



Exploration & Discovery



First Step Campaign: Your Last Straw is Your First Step

THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC is joining with more than twenty other aquariums across the country to encourage people, businesses, and cities to cut back on single-use plastic, starting with plastic straws. The First Step campaign asks those who do not need plastic straws to avoid using them as a way to start thinking about their day-to-day use of single-use plastic items. Launched during #NoStrawNovember, the First Step campaign runs through Earth Day 2019.

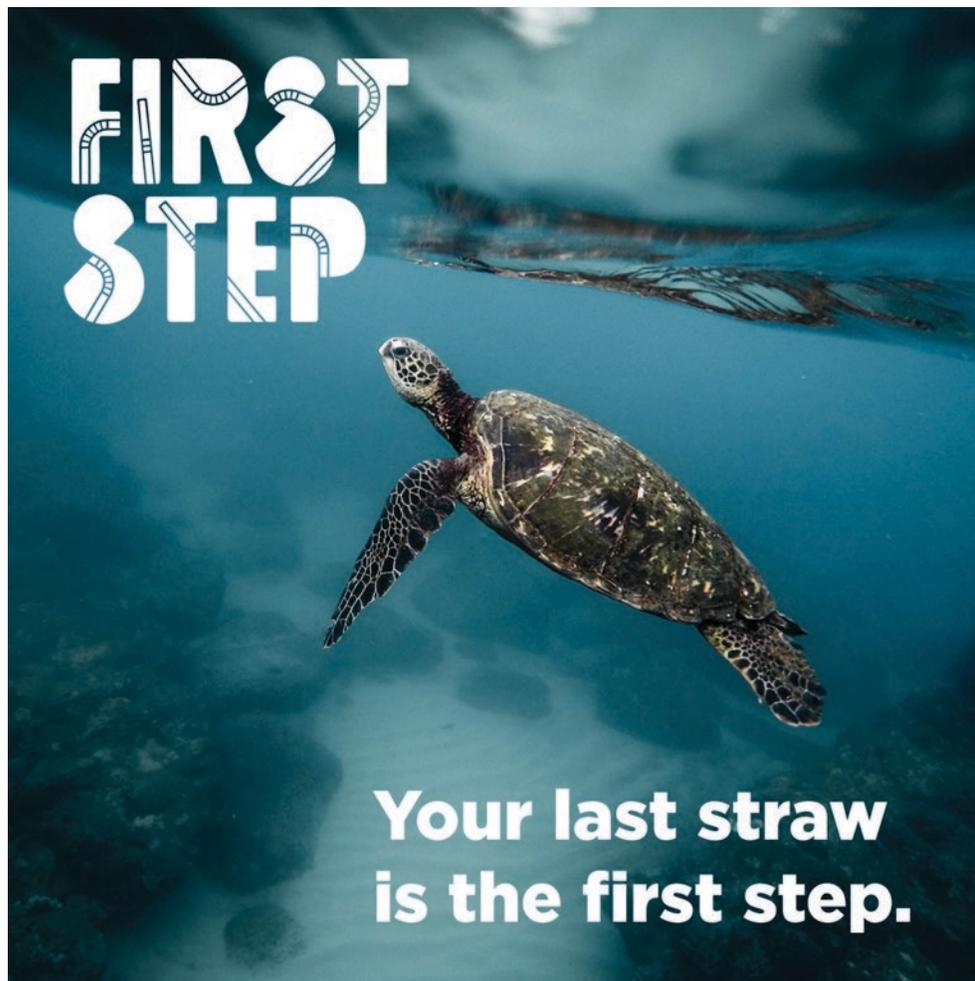
The First Step campaign aims to recruit businesses to partner with aquariums by committing to offer straws only on request. It is also centered around an online pledge site (pledge.ourhands.org) where you can commit to making your last straw the first step to plastic-free waters. You can also text REDUCE to 49767 to get seven days of tips on ways to cut back on single-use plastic in your daily life.

Since the 2017 launch of the Aquarium Conservation Partnership behind the campaign, twenty-two partner aquariums in seventeen states—located on the coasts and in the heartland—have eliminated more than 5 million straws a year, stopped using plastic shopping bags, and have committed to significantly reduce or eliminate plastic beverage bottles by 2020.

Straws were selected as the focus of the First Step campaign because they are among the most common litter items collected at beach clean-ups around the world. They also cannot easily be recycled due to their small size. Millions of tons of plastic enter the ocean from land each year, much of it from consumer products and packaging. Once in the ocean, plastic harms marine animals that ingest it and breaks down into microscopic pieces that are increasingly being found in our drinking water and table salt.

While cutting back on plastic straws does not solve the problem of plastic pollution in the ocean, it is an important first step. It is also important to stop plastic trash at its sources and find ways to capture trash before it enters waterways.

Learn more about the Aquarium of the Pacific's efforts to reduce single-use plastic by visiting aquariumofpacific.org and clicking on Conservation.



Pledge to skip the straw and reduce your use of single-use plastic at pledge.ourhands.org.

Letter from the CEO

Dear Members,



THIS PAST YEAR has been a busy one at the Aquarium, particularly with the progress on the Pacific Visions expansion. I want to thank you for your patience during the construction process and the various changes made to the Aquarium entrance and front plaza.

On October 17 we held a ceremony commemorating the last glass panel installation on the Pacific Visions façade. You can read more about that event and joining the Glass Guild to support Pacific Visions on page 21. Construction of the new wing was completed at the end of last year, and now we begin the important job of finishing and installing the infrastructure and exhibits for opening day on May 24, 2019. We will host several preview events for Aquarium members. I hope you will join us to get the first look at Pacific Visions, an experience that will help redefine the modern aquarium.

As you journey through Pacific Visions, you will have the chance to follow the story of our relationship with our planet and explore alternative pathways to the future through a variety of immersive experiences using the latest technology. As you travel from the interactive art gallery on the first floor to the orientation gallery or pre-show area, then into the multi-sensory theater, and finally through the culmination gallery on the second floor, you will explore how we might unleash human innovation to create a new planet right here on Earth.

Before Pacific Visions opens, we will offer an Aquatic Academy course that will look at the same themes explored in Pacific Visions and how we might apply these in California. The course, *Thriving in the Anthropocene: A Prescription for California*, will be held on Wednesday evenings, March 6 to 27. Aquatic Academy courses are limited to forty participants and feature presentations by leading scientists and other experts on environmental and ocean issues. To learn more or reserve your Aquatic Academy seat, visit aquariumof-pacific.org or call (562) 590-3100.

I want to wish you and your family all the best for a happy and healthy new year.

Sincerely,

Jerry R. Schubel



Pacific Visions and Dolphin Fountain



6



27

In This Issue

2 **Focus on Sustainability**

The First Step campaign encourages individuals, businesses, and municipalities to look for ways to reduce their use of single-use plastic to protect the ocean.

4 **Animal Updates**

Meet Chase, the Aquarium's new sea lion, learn about bigfin reef squid and eagle rays now on view in the Tropical Pacific Gallery, and find out our penguin chicks' new names.

6 **Exploration & Discovery: Education Programs at the Aquarium**

The Aquarium's education programs engage learners of all ages, both on site during a regular visit and in special offerings available throughout the year.

27 **Conservation Corner**

Animals living in aquariums play a key role in our mission to inspire visitors to become environmental stewards.

3 **Letter from the CEO**

10 **Programs & Events**

16 **Education Programs**

18 **Kids Corner**

21 **Aquarium News**

24 **Fundraising**

26 **Accolades**

Pacific Currents is published for members of the Aquarium of the Pacific. Please send your comments to our editorial staff at pacificcurrents@lbaop.org.

Our Mission: To instill a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems.

Our Vision: 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).

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Aquarium Hours: Open daily from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. except December 25.

Membership Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily

Phone Numbers (562 area code):

General Information 590-3100
Membership 437-3474
Development 951-1605
Lost & Found 951-1733
Private Event Info 951-1663
Gift Store 951-ISEA (1732)



The Aquarium of the Pacific is a non-profit 501(c)3 institution. To provide exciting and innovative exhibits and educational programs, we rely heavily on the generous donations of individuals, foundations, and corporations.



Introducing Chase the Sea Lion

Chase joins sea lions Parker, Harpo, and Cain in the Seals and Sea Lions Habitat.

A NEW SEA LION joined the Seals and Sea Lions Habitat this past fall. Chase, a four-year-old male, came to the Aquarium from another Association of Zoos and Aquariums-accredited facility in the United States. He joins sea lions Parker, Harpo, and Cain and harbor seals Shelby, Ellie, Troy, and Kaya in the exhibit. Chase can be identified by his color, which is noticeably darker than that of the other sea lions. Visitors can see Chase interacting with trainers during daily seals and sea lions shows.

Although hunted in the past, the current sea lion population has increased substantially along the United States west coast since the passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

See Chase in action during daily seals and sea lions shows. Check the visitor guide insert or the Aquarium app for show times.

Chase is a four-year-old male weighing nearly 280 pounds.



ROBIN RIGGS



A group of squid is called a shoal. The Aquarium's shoal includes nearly two dozen squid.



ROBIN RIGGS

Tentacles and Ink Exhibit Adds Bigfin Reef Squid

Watch as these animals use jet propulsion to move around their exhibit and catch fish with their arms.

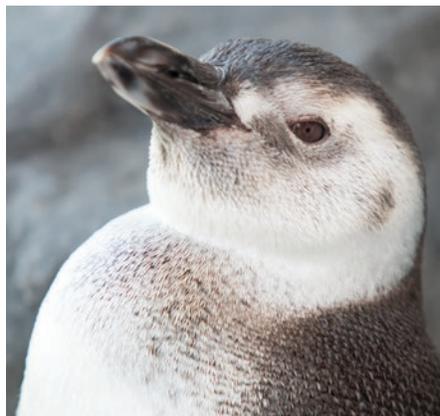
THE TENTACLES AND INK EXHIBIT in the Tropical Pacific Gallery has featured several species of cephalopods since it opened this past summer, including a day octopus, bigfin reef squid, and golden cuttlefish. Bigfin reef squid returned to the exhibit in November. These squid were hatched and raised at the Aquarium. Bigfin reef squid have eight arms, can change color, and can shoot a jet of ink if disturbed like their cephalopod relatives, octopuses and cuttlefish.

Bigfin reef squid are found around coastal rocks and reefs in the Indo-Pacific and around the Hawaiian Islands. They feed on fish and crustaceans, using their two tentacles to guide food to their mouths. The fastest-growing large marine invertebrate, bigfin reef squid can grow to 13 inches long and 1.3 pounds in just four months. Like many cephalopod species, bigfin reef squid have a short lifespan of about eight months.

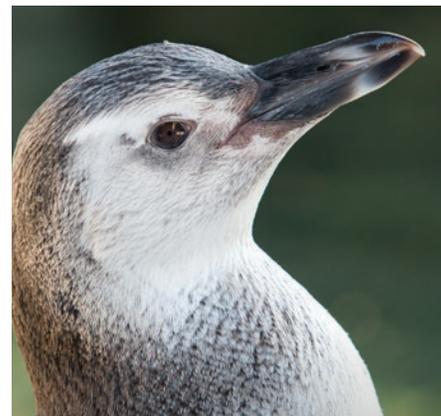
Bigfin reef squid populations are abundant, but like all marine animals they are threatened by pollution, climate change, and overfishing.



Wally



Cleo



Dee

Meet Wally, Cleo, and Dee, the three penguin chicks hatched at the Aquarium in 2018.

Penguin Chicks Receive Names

The chicks hatched at the Aquarium this past May and moved into the June Keyes Penguin Habitat in September.

THE THREE Magellanic penguin chicks that hatched at the Aquarium in 2018 have received names. When the chicks were added to the June Keyes Penguin Habitat late last summer before they were named, they wore color-coded bands for identification.

The green-banded chick was named Dee in honor of conservation biologist Dr. Dee Boersma, an expert on Magellanic penguins who studies the largest colony in the world at Punta Tombo in Argentina. Dee the penguin's name was selected from suggestions made by donors to the Aquarium's Adopt an Animal program. The donor who suggested the name Dee was Gail A. Clark. Dee now wears a beaded identification band like the rest of the penguins in the exhibit. Her bead colors are grey-blue-red. The formerly red-banded female chick was named Cleo by Aquarium supporter Charles Annenberg Weingarten. Her bead band colors are now grey-blue-brown. The third, a male who previously wore a purple band, was named Wally by Aquarium Board Member Karl Pettijohn. His bead band colors are grey-blue-orange. Males wear bead bands on their right flipper and females on the left. Including the three chicks, there are now a total of twenty-three penguins living in the Aquarium's exhibit.

Magellanic penguins are listed internationally as near threatened. The Aquarium participates in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Species Survival Plan for Magellanic penguins. This plan coordinates breeding programs for this species at all AZA institutions to ensure genetic diversity in the population.

Eagle Rays On View in Tropical Reef Habitat

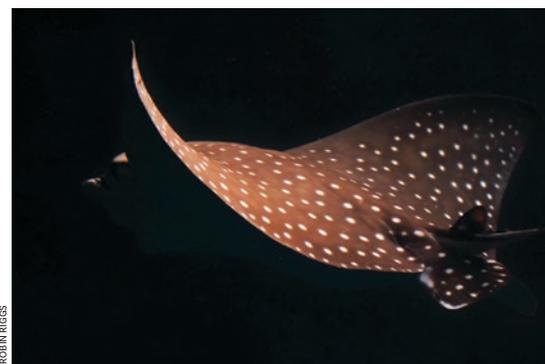
Identify these rays by looking for their long pointed snouts and the spots on their dorsal (upper) side.

TWO EAGLE RAYS, one female and one male, are now on exhibit in the Tropical Reef Habitat. This species gets its common name from its protruding, tapered snout. Eagle rays' bodies average about 4 to 6.5 feet long, not counting their tail. They are found in tropical and subtropical waters of coastal areas and the open ocean. This species is known to swim near the surface of the water, sometimes porpoising, or leaping, out of the water. They feed on crustaceans, worms, snails, octopuses, and small fish.

There are two species of eagle rays, *Aetobatus ocellatus* from the Indo-Pacific and *Aetobatus narinari* from the Atlantic and eastern and central Pacific, but there has never been genetic testing done to confirm the species of the eagle rays living in zoos and aquariums. The Aquarium of the Pacific is participating in the AZA's species survival plan for eagle rays and will conduct genetic testing to confirm which species we have. This will help build knowledge about eagle rays' genetic diversity.

A. ocellatus is listed as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List. This species is sometimes trapped in gill nets used for fishing in coastal waters. These rays are also sometimes found in estuaries where pollution can often be a major factor impacting marine life.

Visitors can spot the new rays being fed underwater by divers during shows at the Tropical Reef. See the Show Times visitor guide insert or Aquarium app for the schedule.



Exploration & Discovery

A photograph of two young women looking intently at a terrarium. The woman in the foreground has blonde hair tied up and is looking down at the plants. The woman behind her has dark hair and is also looking down. They are in a museum or aquarium setting with blue and green lighting. The woman behind her is wearing a dark blue polo shirt with the logo of the Aquarium of the Pacific. The terrarium contains various green plants and a small brown structure.

**The Aquarium's
education programs
engage learners of all
ages in ocean science.**



PEOPLE WHO VISIT THE AQUARIUM come to spend a day immersed in the wonders of the ocean with friends and family. They also hope to learn something new. The Aquarium's educators create programs using the latest research on how people learn to create meaningful engagements

and help visitors learn while having fun. Our education programs and practices help visitors explore and discover so they leave the Aquarium feeling inspired and empowered to take action to become ocean stewards.

The Aquarium's education department offers a wide array of programs for all ages, both as part of a regular Aquarium visit or as a special event or add-on. The department also runs programs for students, conducts educational outreach in the community, and leads professional development for teachers and other science educators. In this article, learn more about the Aquarium's education offerings, how you can make the most of them with your membership, and the innovative education programs your membership dollars support.



like a whale watching cruise, harbor tour, or urban ocean cruise, offered seasonally. Many of these add-on programs are offered at discounted rates for members.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Many Southern Californians first experience the Aquarium on a school field trip. The Aquarium offers field trips for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade that can include a program in the Aquarium's Ocean Theater, Ocean Science Center, or classrooms. The Aquarium also hosts special days for homeschoolers and their families to visit and take part in educational experiences.

The Aquarium reaches students beyond its walls through the Aquarium on Wheels truck, which visits schools, community fairs, and other events, and through videoconferencing programs, which are offered remotely to schools and other institutions. These programs are all designed to meet California's state standards for science education, with the goals of increasing ocean literacy among students of all ages and inspiring an interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) topics and future careers.

DURING YOUR VISIT

Many educational experiences at the Aquarium are included in your membership or general admission ticket and offered daily. These include dive shows and animal shows around the Aquarium, animal meet-and-greets and keeper talks, and shows for kids in the Marine Life Theater. Education volunteers also staff carts stocked with artifacts and demonstrations to share with visitors one-on-one or in small groups. You can talk with educators at the Aquarium's touch pools, in the Ocean Science Center,

and at the Ocean Exploration Hub video wall in the Tropical Pacific Gallery as they share animal facts and guide visitors in making new discoveries.

Educational offerings available on your regular Aquarium visit, but at an additional cost, include a suite of educational programs for the public, behind-the-scenes tours, animal encounters, and VIP experiences. These programs allow visitors to see the Aquarium's inner workings and meet animals up close in a small group led by an education staff member. Members can also add a boat trip onto their Aquarium visit,



By the Numbers

Nearly 180,000 schoolchildren, teachers, and others participate in an education program with the Aquarium each year. About 33,000 students were given free admission through the scholarship program in 2018. Aquarium educators have visited classrooms and other learning spaces in more than thirty states through videoconferencing and travel over 11,000 miles with the Aquarium on Wheels outreach truck each year.

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

The Aquarium's family programs, winter and summer day camps, and overnights offer hands-on activities and behind-the-scenes experiences that are designed to spark an interest in ocean science and marine life. These offerings are targeted to various age groups, from Parent and Me classes for children ages two to six with an adult, to Job Shadow programs for kids ages thirteen to seventeen.

Programs for the youngest learners provide an introduction to concepts like animal behaviors and habitats through play, exploration, games, and crafts. Classes for older children focus on making scientific observations, introductory biology concepts, and interactions with the Aquarium's animal care staff. Winter

and summer day camps offer similar activities targeted to kids ages three to fifteen over a series of three to five days. Camp programs are updated every year, so returning participants always experience something new.

Overnight programs for teens and families are scheduled throughout the year, and groups of twenty or more can book an overnight at the Aquarium. Participants bring their sleeping bags and pajamas and spend the night in one of the Aquarium's indoor galleries. Overnights include educational activities, a pizza dinner, and cereal breakfast.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

The Aquarium nurtures lifelong learners through a year-round calendar of educational events for adults. The Guest Speaker Series features scientists, authors, artists, and others. Presentations are also broadcast live online. For a complete lecture calendar, visit aquariumofpacific.org/news/lectures.

Aquatic Academy is a series of classes that foster dialogue on complex and pressing issues related to the ocean and environment. This program brings together experts in science, business, conservation, policy, and academia to share their knowledge and experiences with attendees. The Aquarium typically holds two Aquatic Academy sessions each year. Courses have covered ocean

exploration, integrating art and science to tell stories about the environment, climate change and extreme weather events, and how we will produce and consume food, water, and energy in the future.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Your membership helps fund additional education programs that reach beyond the Aquarium's walls. Among these are efforts to promote climate resilience in Long Beach through an outreach booth, Twitter account (@resilientLBaop), and informational guides available on the Aquarium's website. These efforts are also funded in part by grants from the National Science Foundation and the funds from the California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail license plate program.

Education programs inspire students to engage with science and make new inquiries and discoveries.



Programs for adults include the Aquarium's Guest Speaker Series and Aquatic Academy, which feature scientists and other expert speakers.



The Aquarium has also taken the lead on providing professional development for other educators at informal education institutions, like museums, science centers, and zoos and aquariums. The department regularly hosts its Reflecting on Practice workshops, which use the latest research in how people think and learn to help educators improve their teaching methods. The education department also works with early childhood education professionals to provide tools to teach science and create enthusiasm for, comfort with, and understanding of scientific pursuit. The workshops cover ocean and environmental literacy concepts, Aquarium resources for teachers, and national Next Generation Science Standards.

Also available through the education department, the Aquarium's citizen science programs allow the public to get involved with projects that document wildlife and monitor environmental conditions in their communities. Volunteers help scientists gather data and engage with hands-on practical science in a meaningful way. Ongoing citizen science programs at the Aquarium include a dolphin photo ID project, sea turtle monitoring in the San Gabriel River, and Global FinPrint's shark survey. To learn more and get involved, visit aquariumofpacific.org/conservation/citsci/.

EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS

The touch pools, educational carts stocked with animal artifacts and activities, and many of the shows at the Aquarium are staffed by volunteers in the education department. This pool of nearly 600 volunteers includes kids and parents, high school and college students, working professionals, and retirees from a variety of backgrounds. Some are preparing for a career in the zoo and aquarium world, want to become a scientist, or are interested in conservation and helping the environment. Others simply love the Aquarium and learning about the ocean and marine life.

Volunteering in the education department is a way to learn all about the Aquarium and the species that live here. Education volunteers receive ongoing training on the Aquarium's animals and programs, science communication, conservation, and the best practices for teaching and learning that make up the foundation of the Aquarium's engagement and interaction with visitors. To learn more about becoming an education volunteer, visit aquariumofpacific.org/volunteer.

EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

At the heart of the Aquarium's education programs is the idea that people learn best when they feel inspired to explore and experience discovery. Aquarium visitors are inspired by the wonders of the ocean, which stimulates the natural inclination to ask questions. The Aquarium's educators are trained to engage everyone, from the littlest learners to adults, in the process of exploration and discovery—helping everyone engage in ocean science.

More Information

See pages 16 and 17 for full details on education programs at the Aquarium. You can reserve your spot by calling (562) 590-3100 or visiting aquariumofpacific.org/education.



ANDREW REITSMA

February 7-8: Member Kids Activity Nights

* Member Events

Please join us for these select events just for our members and donors.

Member Kids Activity Nights

■ **Thursday & Friday, Feb. 7-8**
6:30 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

It's time to get wacky at this year's Kids Activity Nights! Bring the family in for an explosive evening of mad science here at the Aquarium. Your little ones will love fun and educational activities, including a special show for kids, science-inspired crafts, and kooky scientific demonstrations.

- Free for members
- RSVP: (562) 437-3474 by Monday, February 4

Member Prom (21+ only)

■ **Tuesday, March 5**
7:00 P.M.–10:30 P.M.

The Aquarium is miles away from New Orleans, but that won't stop us from throwing a huge Mardi Gras celebration for members only! Dance the night away to jazzy tunes played by our live band in the Great Hall or our DJ spinning hit songs from across the decades in the Tropical Pacific Gallery. When you need a break from the dance floor, take part in one of our prom activities, enjoy a cocktail from the cash bar, or wander around the kid-free Aquarium.

- Free for members, ages 21+ only. Member guests receive 20% off general admission
- RSVP: (562) 437-3474 by Friday, March 1

* Special Events

The Aquarium of the Pacific hosts a variety of performances, fundraisers, dinners, and other special events throughout the year. Check our website for more details and additional events.

Shark Lagoon Nights

■ **Fridays, January 18–May 10**
(except Feb. 8 & 15 & March 29)
6:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Get up close with the ocean's ultimate predators for free during Shark Lagoon Nights. Guests will have the opportunity to touch bamboo sharks, epaulette sharks, and cownose rays and see large sharks, such as sand tiger and zebra sharks, in the Aquarium's Shark Lagoon. Cold beer, sodas, and snacks are available for purchase. Live music offered on select evenings.

- Free for everyone.

Valentine's Day Dinner

■ **Thursday, February 14**
6:30 P.M.–9:30 P.M.

Spoil your loved one with a one-of-a-kind Valentine's Day at the Aquarium. It will be a memorable evening showcasing a unique culinary experience, a romantic setting surrounded by marine life, and stellar ambiance. Arrive early and enjoy beverages with a harbor view at the Veranda cash bar. A gourmet dinner will be served in the Great Hall. Upgrade to VIP seating and be seated in one of our galleries where you can get up close to one of our exhibits for \$20 more. Limited VIP seating is available.

- Cost: \$79 for members, \$89 for non-members.
- RSVP: (562) 590-3100, ext. 0 or aquariumofpacific.org/events

Night Dive

■ **Friday, February 15**
7:00 P.M.–11:00 P.M.

Night Dive is an adults-only event featuring food and drink, live performances, and other special programming for an 18-and-over crowd. Discover the Aquarium at night and explore its galleries in a new way, with DJs and local artists creating a unique ambiance. Live bands take the stage in front of the Honda Blue Cavern, turning the Great Hall into a music venue. Learn something new from expert speakers presenting mini-lectures in the Ocean Theater.

- Free for Aquarium members, \$17.95 for non-members
- Open to ages 18+ only

President's Day Weekend Late Night

■ **Sunday, Feb. 17**
5:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M.

Enjoy a visit to the Aquarium with special extended hours and discounted admission in celebration of President's Day Weekend. The entire Aquarium will be open, except Lorikeet Forest. Watch the nighttime activities of our animals, touch a shark, and enjoy the beautiful evening lighting of the Aquarium's architecture.

- Free for members, \$14.95 for non-members after 5:00 p.m.

Divers Day

■ **Saturday, March 9**
9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.

Learn about recent advancements in diving at the Aquarium's annual Divers Day, featuring educational presentations and dive demonstrations. The Aquarium will also host several organizations that are related to the sport and science of diving. The diving community is invited to find out about volunteer diving and other opportunities for involvement with diving organizations in Southern California. Divers who present valid proof of certification with their photo I.D. will receive free admission.

- Free for members and SCUBA divers with valid proof of certification and photo I.D.

Autism Families Night

■ **Sunday, March 10**
6:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Join us for a special evening at the Aquarium exclusively for families with adults or children with autism. The entire Aquarium, except Lorikeet Forest, will be open until 9:00 p.m. This will be an evening when guests can enjoy the tranquility of our exhibits and meet 11,000 animals from the world's largest ocean. The Aquarium closes to the public at 6:00 p.m.

- Free for members, \$7 per non-member

Noche de Estrellas

■ **Friday, March 22**
6:30 P.M.–10:30 P.M.

Party with the sea stars at the Aquarium's Latin-themed night Noche de Estrellas (Night of the Stars). The Aquarium will remain open until 10:30 p.m., so you can dance to the sounds of cumbia, rock en Español, salsa, cha cha, and other Latin rhythms. Noche de Estrellas will feature live bands, DJs, dive

For tickets and information, visit aquariumofpacific.org or call (562) 590-3100, ext. 0.



May 11: Learn about field trips at the Aquarium during Teacher Family Day.

* Festivals

Experience our community's diverse cultures and their connections to the ocean and environment. All festivals are free for members; members' guests receive 20% off regular admission.

Festival of Human Abilities

■ **Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 26-27**
9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

The Festival of Human Abilities is a celebration highlighting the creative talents and abilities of people with disabilities. This event features wheelchair dance performances, live music, signing choirs, art demonstrations, accessible SCUBA diving demonstrations, storytelling, interactive workshops, and other creative performances by people who have disabilities. Sign language interpreters will be present at all major shows, and an audio tour and Braille visitor guide are available for those who are blind.

African American Festival

■ **Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 23-24**
9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Join the Aquarium for its fifteenth annual African-American Festival, celebrating the rich diversity of African and African-American cultures. The weekend will feature live entertainment, arts and crafts, and ethnic food. Festival performers include Mardi Gras second line dancers, hip hop and break dancers, jazz musicians, interactive drum circles, West African dancers, and storytellers.

International Children's Festival

■ **Saturday & Sunday, March 16-17**
9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

The Aquarium's annual International Children's Festival is a special event for kids. Celebrating the amazing talents of children of many cultures, this festival features West African, Mexican, Pacific Islander, Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Persian, Irish, Slovak, and Czech performances. Enjoy performances by an international children's choir and martial arts demonstrations. Kids of all ages can partake in a percussion circle, Japanese origami, Native American crafts, and Pacific Islander traditional children's games. The Aquarium will also honor a local youth with its annual Young Hero Award in recognition of his or her efforts to make our planet a better place.

shows, scavenger hunts with prizes, and ocean activities. Mexican cuisine, beers, and drinks will be available for purchase.

- Free for members, \$14.95 for non-members after 6:30 p.m.

Abilities Night

■ **Sunday, March 24**
6:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.

At this exclusive event for people with disabilities, experience a tranquil evening where guests can explore the exhibits and enjoy the nighttime lighting of the Aquarium. All animal exhibits will be open, with the exception of Lorikeet Forest. Capacity is limited; advance reservations are required. This event is held at the Aquarium in partnership with the Long Beach Mayor's office.

- Free with RSVP
- Reserve online at aquariumofpacific.org/abilitiesnight. For groups of seven or more, call (562) 590-3100, ext. 0 to reserve

Night Dive

■ **Friday, March 29**
7:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M.

Night Dive is an adults-only event featuring food and drink, live performances, and other special programming for an 18-and-over crowd. Discover the Aquarium at night and explore its galleries in a new way, with DJs and local artists creating a unique ambiance. Live bands take the stage in front of the Honda Blue Cavern, turning the Great Hall into a music venue. Learn something new

from expert speakers presenting mini-lectures in the Ocean Theater.

- Free for Aquarium members, \$17.95 for non-members
- Open to ages 18+ only

Teacher Family Day

■ **Saturday, May 11**
9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Teachers and support staff can purchase discounted tickets to visit the Aquarium for the day. Aquarium education staff members and informational tables will be available throughout the morning for teachers to learn about field trip opportunities at the Aquarium, upcoming workshops, and other resources. Friends and family will also receive discounted admission, so bring them along to explore.

- \$7 for pre-K to grade 12 teachers and school support staff with valid I.D. Friends and family are \$10 per person with a limit of four (4).

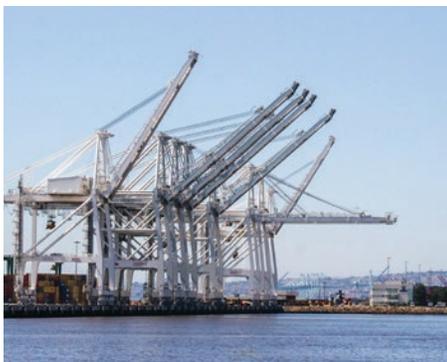
Mother's Day Brunch

■ **Sunday, May 12**
10:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Join us for a memorable Mother's Day brunch to celebrate the special women in your life. Then, explore the wonders of the Pacific Ocean and visit over 11,000 animals in the Aquarium's exhibits. All-day Aquarium admission is included. Brunch features a full buffet, carving station, and desserts.

- \$64 for member adults, \$24 for member children, \$74 for non-member adults, \$34 for non-member children.

ANDREW REITSMA



Mar. 30-31: Urban Ocean Festival

Urban Ocean Festival

■ **Saturday & Sunday, March 30-31**
9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Explore and celebrate Southern California's coast during the Aquarium's annual Urban Ocean Festival. The event will include art exhibitions, a fashion show and contest for designs using recycled materials, mural painting, poetry readings, booths, and educational activities. Urban ocean boat cruises exploring the local coast and port complex will be available during the weekend at an additional cost.

Earth Day Festival

■ **Saturday & Sunday, April 27-28**
9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Learn what you can do to help our ocean planet at the Aquarium's seventeenth annual Earth Day Celebration. Join the Aquarium for a weekend of family fun celebrating Earth Day while learning simple, everyday tips to protect our environment. Visit booths from various Earth-friendly organizations, and participate in hands-on learning demonstrations for people of all ages.

Pacific Islander Festival

■ **Saturday & Sunday, May 4-5**
9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Discover the rich and diverse cultures of the Pacific Islands through traditional craft demonstrations, educational programs, storytelling, and music and dance performances. The Aquarium's annual Pacific Islander Festival will celebrate various cultures, including Hawaiian, Fijian, Marshallese, Chamoru, Tahitian, Samoan, Tokelau, Tongan, and Maori.

* Guest Speakers

Lectures are free for Aquarium members, teachers, seniors age 62 and up, and students with valid I.D. and advanced reservations. Otherwise, tickets are \$5. All lectures start at 7:00 p.m. and are streamed live. Visit aquariumofpacific.org/news/lectures.

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Karen Seto | City Unseen: New Visions of an Urban Planet

■ **Tuesday, January 22**

What does an urbanizing planet mean for sustainability? How is urbanization reshaping Earth? In this talk, Karen Seto will discuss contemporary trends in urbanization and what it means for the planet. The talk will use examples from her book, *City Unseen*, to show urban landscapes in new perspectives. The book's satellite images pull back the veil on familiar scenes to highlight the growth of cities over time, the symbiosis between urban form and natural landscapes, and the vulnerabilities of cities to the effects of climate change. Seto will explain the science behind the satellite images that capture the shape, growth, and life of urban settlements around the world—from the remote town of Namche Bazaar in Nepal to the vast metropolitan of Tokyo, Japan. Seto is the Frederick C. Hixon Professor of Geography and Urbanization Science and senior associate dean for research at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University.

Katie Finch | The Great Lakes Piping Plover: Conservation through Collaboration

■ **Tuesday, February 5**

Over the past several years husbandry staff members from the Aquarium of the Pacific



February 5: Katie Finch

have participated in a program to help revive the Great Lakes piping plover population. Established through the Universities of Michigan and Massachusetts and the Detroit Zoo, the Piping Plover Project's objectives are to monitor the vulnerable habitat in which the plover nests and rear and rehabilitate chicks from abandoned nests. Keepers from zoos and aquariums all over the country cycle through the University of Michigan Biological Station every summer to aid in the incubation, hatching, and rearing of piping plover chicks. Aquarium Mammalogist Katie Finch will discuss her experiences rehabilitating abandoned eggs with the project this past June and how this collaboration is making a positive impact on the piping plover population.

James Gesualdi | Shifting from Being Right to Doing Right for Animals

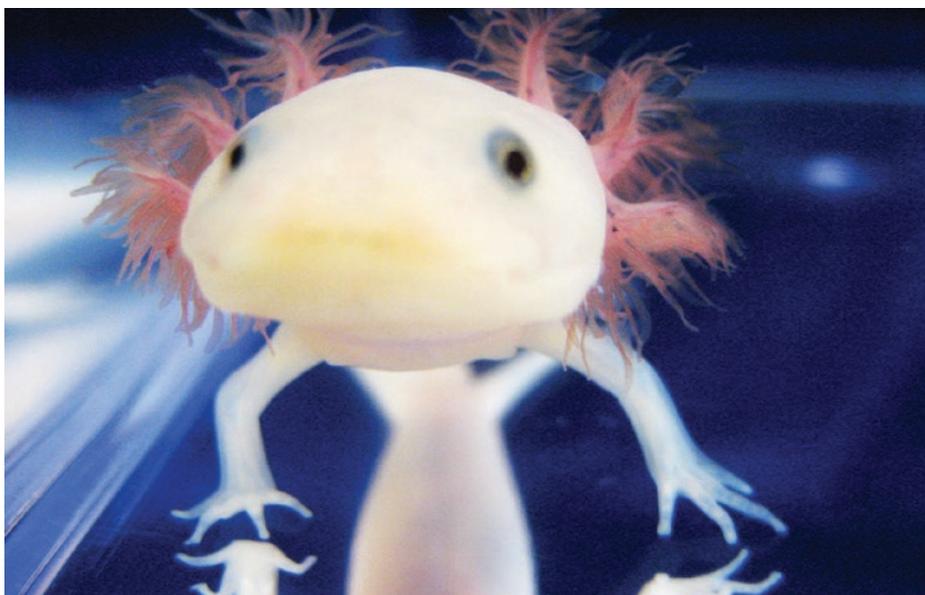
■ **Wednesday, February 13**

Attorney James Gesualdi will discuss constructive approaches to better serve animals, their interests, and well-being in a manner that fosters enduring, transformative change. He will examine current approaches to the care and treatment of animals in zoos, aquariums, and marine and wildlife parks under the United States Animal Welfare Act. The discourse, he says, involves ethical and practical concerns, as well as a multitude of stakeholders, many of whom hold strong positions. After the lecture Gesualdi will sign copies of his book, *Excellence Beyond Compliance: Enhancing Animal Welfare Through the Constructive Use of the Animal Welfare Act*. Gesualdi is an animal welfare attorney based in New York.

Jessica Whited | Studying Salamanders to Decipher Nature's Instruction Manual for Regenerating Limbs

■ **Tuesday, February 19**

Many salamanders possess the ability to completely regenerate lost or injured body parts, even as adults. This phenomenon has mesmerized people for hundreds of years, but only now do scientists have the tools necessary for fully understanding how it happens. In her lecture Jessica Whited will cover the mechanisms of this process, using limb regeneration in axolotl salamanders as the prime example. She will also discuss the benefits of understanding the principles of regeneration, including future regenerative medicine applications. Whited is an assistant



February 19: Jessica Whited discusses salamanders' ability to regenerate their limbs.



February 28: Sara Mandel

professor of stem cell and regenerative biology at Harvard University.

Sara Mandel | Penguin Conservation in South Africa

■ **Thursday, February 28**

Aquarium Aviculturist Sara Mandel will share her experiences working in South Africa with the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds, which conducts rescue, rehabilitation, and release of ill, injured, abandoned, and oiled seabirds. During her time in South Africa, Mandel assisted with rearing abandoned African penguin eggs and chicks for eventual release back into the wild. She has worked extensively with the Aquarium's Magellanic penguins since the June Keyes Penguin Habitat opened in 2012 and has raised thirteen penguins that have hatched here.

Sam Muka | Stability in a Changing World: The Role of the Public Aquarium in 20th Century Marine Biological Research

■ **Tuesday, March 19**

In her lecture Sam Muka will discuss how public aquariums have supported marine conservation research and communicated research outcomes to the general public. Marine aquariums work with academic biologists, hobbyists, and aquaculturists to develop technologies and techniques to maintain their exhibits and facilitate the sharing of information between all these groups. In addition, they function as long-term repositories for

knowledge of these techniques and technologies. This talk will highlight the role public aquariums have played in the development and maintenance of tank craft by tracing the history of and current work on tropical fish breeding. Muka is an assistant professor in the Science and Technology Studies program at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey.

Chip Conley | Wisdom@Work: The Making of a Modern Elder

■ **Wednesday, April 3**

After running his own boutique hotel company for many years, baby boomer Chip Conley was invited by Airbnb's millennial cofounder and CEO to join the company as head of global hospitality and strategy. Their intergenerational exchange of wisdom inspired Conley's new book, *Wisdom@Work: The Making of a Modern Elder*, and the Modern Elder Academy that he opened in Baja California Sur. In his lecture Conley will discuss the lessons he learned in this role and how people can repurpose their wisdom to launch new chapters in their careers.

Susan Kidwell | Unsuspected Collapse of Southern California Marine Communities in Historic Times: Novel Insights from Very Young Fossils

■ **Tuesday, April 23**

One of the challenges in conservation biology is discovering 'what was natural' before

human impacts. This problem is especially pressing in marine systems, where biological monitoring and other records are brief or lacking. Susan Kidwell has been tackling this problem in Southern California marine ecosystems by treating the shells acquired during marine surveys as a young fossil record to reveal the dramatic changes in species composition and abundance that have occurred across much of the region. This reconstructed history of the last few thousand years highlights the transformation of seafloor communities in response to approximately 300 years of shifting land use in the Los Angeles watershed, providing a tool that can help set priorities for restoration. Kidwell, a sedimentary geologist and paleoecologist, is the William Rainey Harper Professor in Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago.

Charlan Nemeth | Embracing Dissent for the Best Decision Making

■ **Tuesday, April 30**

Charlan Jeanne Nemeth will discuss her most recent book on decision-making, *In Defense of Troublemakers*, which pulls together decades of research on influence processes with particular attention to raising the quality of individual and team decision. Her research underscores how influence processes change the nature of thought and underscore two themes: the perils of consensus and the value of dissent for the quality of decision making and the creativity of solutions. Nemeth is a professor in the department of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley.

*Aquarium
of the Pacific*







ROBIN RIGGS



Whale Watching CRUISES

Gray Whale Watching Trips

■ Winter Season

Enjoy a voyage out in the open Pacific Ocean in search of one of the world's longest-migrating mammals, the gray whale. Learn about gray whales and other local marine life from an on-board Aquarium educator. Cruisers will also have the opportunity to spot dolphins, seals, sea lions, and other marine animals.

- **Members: \$25 per adult, \$20 per senior (ages 62+), \$15 per child (ages 3-11). Non-members (includes Aquarium admission): \$49.95 per adult, \$45.95 per senior, \$33.95 per child.**
- **2 to 2.5 hours**
- **(562) 590-3100, ext. 0**

Track recent whale sightings on Twitter (@OceanWatchLB) or our blog: <http://pacific.to/aopwwblog>



JAMES STEWART

Tours & Encounters

These programs are opportunities to see the Aquarium in a different light and get up close to the animals.

Behind-the-Scenes Tours

See what it takes to maintain a world-class aquarium, from water filtration to animal care and feeding. Venture to the top of our largest exhibit and discover more about the Aquarium!

- **\$15 per member, \$19 per non-member**
- **Children must be age 7 or older.**

Animal Encounters

Animal encounters offer a chance to feed a sea otter, train a sea lion, feed a shark, or hang out with a penguin. Age restrictions apply.

- **\$99 per member, \$109 per non-member (Aquarium admission included). Pre-registration required at least 24 hours in advance.**

VIP Experiences

■ By reservation.

Get even closer in this special animal encounter experience! Tour the Aquarium and meet two separate animals and have exclusive experiences only for VIPs. Choose from Penguins and Pinnipeds, Otters and Octopus, or Sharks and Rays. Age restrictions apply.

- **\$330 per member, \$350 per non-member (Aquarium admission included).**
- **Pre-registration required at least two weeks in advance.**

Dive Immersion

■ Daily with reservation 3:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M.

Certified SCUBA divers can dive in our warm 350,000-gallon Tropical Reef Habitat with more than 600 animals.

- **\$279 per member, \$299 per non-member**
- **Age 15 and up. Ages 15-17 require a supervising adult to also sign up for the dive.**

Pre-registration and pre-payment required on all programs unless noted. All prices subject to change.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Family Programs

Family programs give children of all ages the chance to participate in fun classes with an Aquarium educator. Every class brings another opportunity for learning more about the ocean, discovering new things about the Aquarium, and exploring marine life. Pre-registration is required.

Job Shadow Class

Four rotating themed programs.

■ First Saturday and third Sunday of every month

9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

- Ages 13-17
- \$35 per member, \$39 per non-member (Aquarium admission not included)

Junior Biologist

Six rotating themed programs.

■ Second and fourth Saturday of every month

9:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M.

- Ages 7-12
- \$25 per member, \$29 per non-member (Aquarium admission not included)

Parent and Me

■ Third Saturday of every month

10:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.

- Ages 2-6 years old with an adult
- Members: \$19 per adult/child pair; \$10 for additional guests. Non-members: \$49 per adult/child pair; \$20 per additional guest (Aquarium admission included).



Do You Know A Budding Marine Biologist?

The Aquarium's Junior Biologist series allows children ages 7 to 12 to explore the Aquarium with an educator. This fun, hands-on class dives deep into animal adaptations and includes an opportunity to feed an animal. Choose your favorite session, or take the whole series.



Practice Making Animal Observations



Anyone can visit the Aquarium virtually by tuning in to our webcams that show live views of several exhibits. As you watch, practice making scientific observations by answering the questions below. A parent or other adult can help. The Aquarium's webcams are provided by explore.org.

1. Visit aquariumofpacific.org/exhibits/webcams to see the animals in our Shark Lagoon.
2. Talk to a parent or friend to answer the questions below as you view the Shark Lagoon webcam.
3. Write down your observations on the logbook page provided, and draw a picture to capture one of your observations for future study.

What do you notice about the animals?

Do all of the sharks look the same? What differences do you see?

Take a look at their body shape, movement, and coloration. How do these differences help them survive?

What do you wonder? What questions do you have?

Parents:

Dive even deeper with your little explorer while working your way through a webcam resource kit, which includes lesson plans with worksheets and extra videos. Sensational Sharks is available for free on our website at aquariumofpacific.org/teachers/webcamkits/.

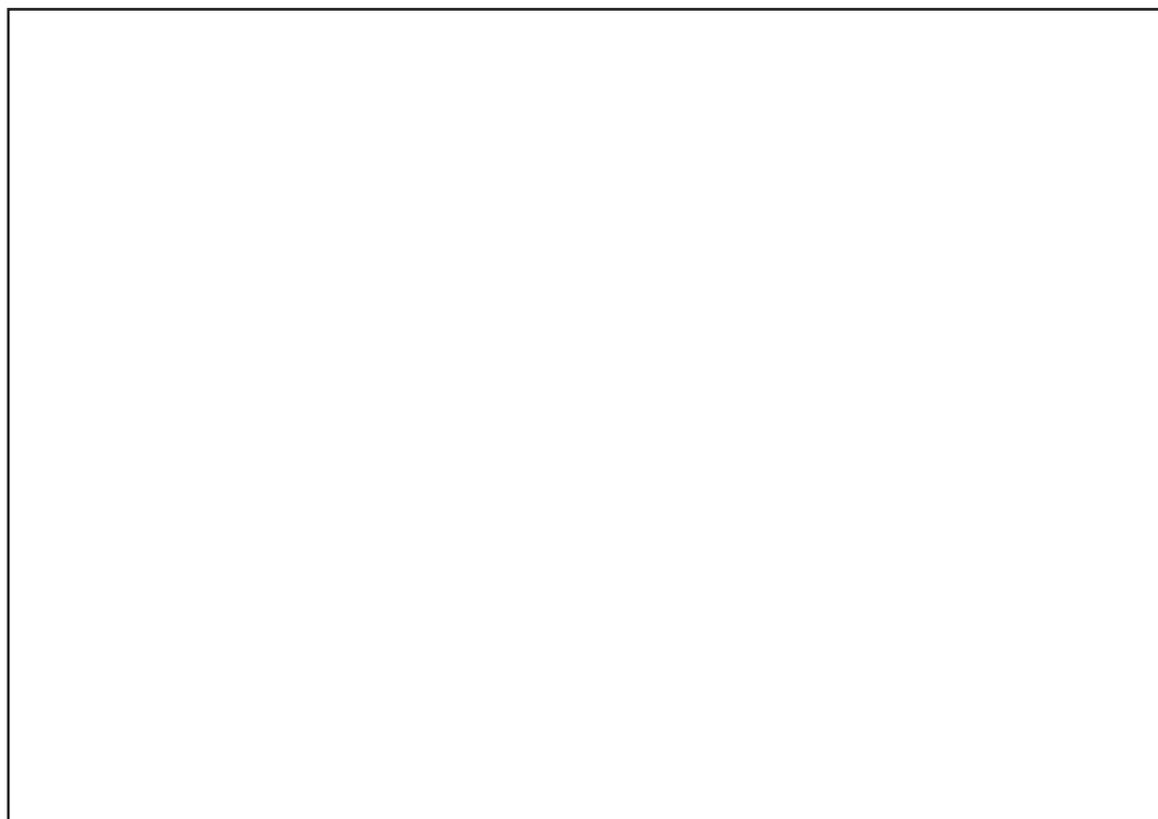
Observing Animals

Making notes and sketches is how some scientists do their work and make discoveries. This activity is one of the ways the Aquarium's education department sparks an interest in future careers in science. Webcam resource kits are available on the Aquarium's website for parents, teachers, and group leaders.

LOG BOOK

NOTES

SKETCHES



AQUARIUM ANIMAL FACTS



TROPICAL PACIFIC JEWELS | TROPICAL PACIFIC GALLERY

Peacock Mantis Shrimp

Odontodactylus scyllarus

This crustacean lives in the warm waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans and grows up to 7 inches long. The peacock mantis shrimp has a powerful method for knocking out its prey and keeping intruders away from its burrow: It punches its target at a high speed with its front claws. These punches are faster than the blink of an eye and strong enough to break glass. These shrimp also have powerful vision. They can see many more colors than humans can, including ultraviolet light.

AMBER FOREST | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/BAJA GALLERY

Grey Smoothhound Shark

Mustelus californicus

The grey smoothhound shark grows 2 to 5 feet long and lives in coastal waters of the Eastern Pacific Ocean. It has a long, slender body with a long, flat snout. This species feeds on crabs, shrimp, and small fishes. Females give birth to litters of two to five pups.



SEA JELLIES | SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/BAJA GALLERY

Purple-Striped Jelly

Chrysaora colorata

Purple-striped jellies live in the Pacific Ocean, primarily off the coast of California near Santa Barbara, Monterey and Bodega Bays, and the San Pedro Basin. This species' bell can grow up to 28 inches wide, and its tentacles can be as long as 70 feet. As they float through the open ocean, these jellies feed on tiny ocean animals, fish eggs, and other jellies.



The Pacific Visions facade is made up of over 830 glass panels.

ANDREW REITSMA

A construction crew installs the last exterior glass panel in the Pacific Visions facade while Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Councilmember Jeannine Pearce, and Aquarium Board Vice Chair Doug Otto watch from a nearby lift.

Final Glass Panel Installed on Pacific Visions Façade

ON OCTOBER 17 the Aquarium celebrated a milestone in the construction of its expansion, the Pacific Visions wing, when the construction crew installed the last exterior glass panel on the façade.

The 839 glass panels are made up of three layers of laminated glass. The innermost layer incorporates a subtle reflective finish, the middle layer is tinted blue, and the outer layer is made of low-iron, acid-etched glass, which eliminates direct reflection of the trees and sky to make it bird-friendly.

At the ceremony, the Aquarium presented an award honoring Chuck Davis, the architect of the original Aquarium building and the creator of the wing's biomorphic form.

To learn more about Pacific Visions and joining the Glass Guild, visit pacificvisions.org.

Also announced at the event, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) awarded the Aquarium of the Pacific with a \$1.9 million grant for Pacific Visions. Previously, RMC provided funding for the *Our Water Future* exhibit area at the Aquarium.

Individuals, foundations, and corporations can contribute to Pacific Visions and commemorate their ties to the Aquarium by joining the Glass Guild. Contributors will symbolically own one of the panels of the glass façade and will be recognized on a donor wall inside the new wing. To learn more about Pacific Visions, visit pacificvisions.org.



The #TeamOcean Science on a Sphere show was created by XPrize in partnership with the Aquarium.

Science on a Sphere Show Invites Kids and Teens to Join #TeamOcean

A NEW SHOW PLAYING on rotation in the Aquarium's Ocean Science Center invites kids and teens to join #TeamOcean and share their ideas for helping the ocean.

Developed by XPrize's Ocean Initiative in consultation with experts at the Aquarium, the show addresses major problems affecting the ocean, including overfishing and plastic pollution, and highlights how humans have only explored 15 percent of the ocean floor. The show is projected on the Science on a Sphere, developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This show aims to inspire people of all ages to come up with new ways to create a better future for our ocean and its inhabitants. Viewers can join #TeamOcean and come up with ideas for how to keep our ocean healthy, valued, and understood. Post your ideas on social media tagging @XPrize and using the hashtag #TeamOcean.



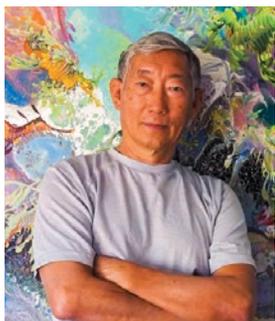
Giam's paintings feature traditional Vietnamese watercolor techniques.



ABEL HILL

Winning artwork featured a variety of media, from paintings and drawings to digital art.

Aquarium Displays Paintings of Marine Life by Truong Buu Giam



Truong Buu Giam

THE AQUARIUM is displaying an exhibit of paintings by artist Truong Buu Giam through February 28 on the second floor near the entrance to the Tropical Pacific Gallery.

Giam uses traditional Vietnamese watercolor techniques to blend liquid resin and acrylic paint in his underwater scenes of marine life. The exhibit includes two original paintings and twenty prints, with additional prints and art tiles available for purchase through the Aquarium's Pacific Collections gift store.

Truong Buu Giam is a Southern California-based artist whose work incorporates both abstract impressionism and elements of traditional Asian art. Because the epoxy he uses flows onto the painting surface like water, he adapted his painting techniques to depict marine life.

“Marine life is more mysterious—it is not seen every day. Most people do not regularly get to appreciate its beauty unless they are SCUBA divers or snorkelers. Through my art, I'm proud to play at least a small part in sharing the beauty and wonder of the oceans with others.” — Giam

Giam's Marine Life Collection is influenced by his memories of growing up in the Vietnamese coastal town of Vung Tau, southeast of Saigon, where he regularly spent time at the beach. As a young officer in the South Vietnamese Navy, he visited many islands off the coast of South Vietnam and interacted with animals such as turtles, fish, and coral.

Aquarium Announces Winners of 20th Anniversary Art Contest

IN CELEBRATION of its 20th anniversary, the Aquarium held an art contest presented by JetBlue throughout the summer of 2018.

The contest was open to paintings, drawings, prints, digital/new media, and photography relating to the Aquarium's history, accomplishments, animals, or programs and had more than 100 submissions. The top twenty entrants were selected to win a round-trip flight on JetBlue.

Find the exhibit on the Aquarium's second floor between the entrances to the Northern and Tropical Pacific galleries.

The winning entries include representations of the Aquarium's iconic animals, including sea jellies, sea otters, octopuses, and even the blue whale model that hangs in the Great Hall. Winning entries also included depictions of the Aquarium building and a sculpture of a shark modeled after a JetBlue airliner. The winners are Lena Bishop, Mandi Blanton, Dyroza Bun, Teresa Chehade, Carolina Contreras, David Early, Elke Goodno, Veronika Gorchkova, Julia Higgins, Ariel Hill, Khaliya Johnson, Margarita Nordanyan, Dennis Nozawa, Lauren Penney, Chelsea Pero, Ken Renk, Sheri Schneider, Amy Smith, Sara Vonepp, and Leslie Yee.

These top twenty winning entries will be on view at the Aquarium in an exhibit on the second floor of the Great Hall through February 15.



ELLIS MOORE

Ellis Moore's image of the Aquarium's Sonoran desert toad was this year's grand prize winner.

Winner Selected in Photographers Night Contest

THE AQUARIUM'S tenth annual Photographers Night was held in October 2018, and attendees were invited to submit their best photo of the night for the contest held each year in conjunction with the event. Ellis Moore's photo of a Sonoran desert toad was the grand prize winner.



Host Your Private Party in Pacific Visions

The Aquarium of the Pacific provides a unique atmosphere with multiple spaces available for day and evening events. And now you can host your event in the stunning new Pacific Visions wing.

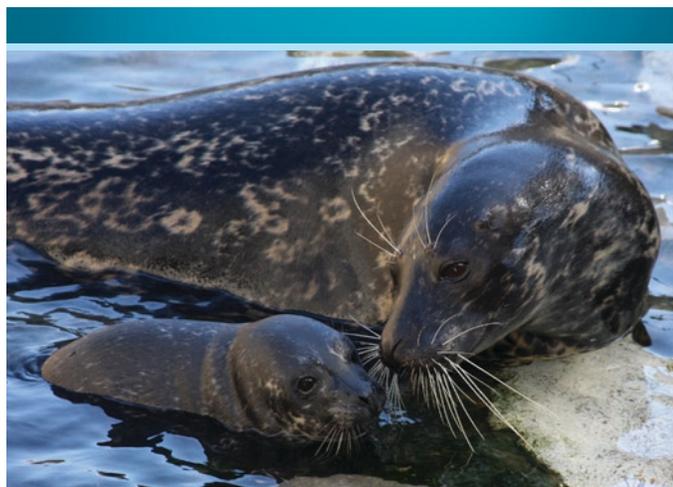


Our event spaces are ideal to host:

- Team building
- Company picnics
- Holiday parties
- Business meetings
- Galas and award banquets
- Social events



Please contact us at 562-951-1663 or AOPCatering@longbeachcc.com for details.



Mother's Day Brunch

SUNDAY, MAY 13 • 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PRICING:
Includes Aquarium admission

General Public:
Adults: \$69 (12+)
Child: \$29 (3-11)

Members:
Adults: \$59
Child: \$19 (3-11)

Splash of Love

Valentine's Day Dinner

FEBRUARY 14, 2019
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Includes all day Aquarium admission	Members: Adults: \$79	For an additional \$20, upgrade to VIP seating
	General Public: Adults: \$89	

aquariumofpacific.org/events/valentines_day

Fundraising Highlights

The Aquarium of the Pacific's supporters have participated in a number of recent events to engage in ocean conservation and stewardship.



Jayza Deguzman, Lindsay Guillermo, Isiah Molina, Justin Wong, Stephanie Lozano, Ashley and Claire Beukema, and Gene and Kay Mori participated in Coastal Clean-Up Day.

California Coastal Clean-Up Day

On September 15 the Aquarium of the Pacific hosted its annual beach clean-up in celebration of California Coastal Clean-Up Day at the Long Beach Peninsula. More than 100 volunteers from Bank of America, New York Life, U.S. Bank, Macy's, and HCP removed 376 pounds of trash from the beach and enjoyed a special breakfast reception.

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- **Mr. Stephen Young**

(as of 12/31/18)
aquariumofpacific.org

Honda Presents Award to Students Who Design Winning Aquaculture Communications Plans

On October 4 American Honda and the Honda Marine Science Foundation sponsored a forum titled *Aligning Stakeholder Communications for U.S. Marine Aquaculture*, presented by the Aquarium's Seafood for the Future program. The goal of the forum was to facilitate more cohesive and accurate messaging among diverse stakeholder groups about responsible marine aquaculture in state and federal waters in the United States. Students were encouraged to attend the first day of the forum and submit their ideas for a communication strategy for U.S. marine aquaculture based on what they learned. Entries were eligible for cash prizes.

Jessalyn Ishigo, business analyst in Honda's Environmental Business Development Office, presented the awards to the winning students in front of the Aquarium's Honda Blue Cavern exhibit on November 20. The runners up, Antonio Torres and Joan Schueller, emphasized the importance of educating students and consumers, respectively. The first place entry from Pamela Arnada-Ramos focused on engaging teenagers through social media. These ideas will be factored into future efforts to engage broader audiences about responsible marine aquaculture and its role in a sustainable food supply.



Jessalyn Ishigo (right), business analyst in Honda's Environmental Business Development Office, presented awards to winning students Joan Schueller (left) and Pamela Aranda-Ramos (middle) at the Aquarium on November 20.

Donor Highlight

Read about the donors who have made contributions in support of the Aquarium's education, conservation, and animal care programs.

Aquarium's Giving Tuesday Campaign Surpasses Goal

THE AQUARIUM'S 2018 GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN, which raised funds for the needs-based field trip program for students from low-income schools, exceeded its goal. Thanks to seventy-one donors—including Aquarium members, staff, volunteers, and other supporters—the Aquarium raised \$12,585 and unlocked a \$10,000 matching grant from Aquarium Trustees and donors Margie and Frank Newell. With these funds, the Aquarium will serve an additional 4,517 students this school year.

HCP Employees Provide Support During Seniors Day

A real estate investment trust serving the healthcare industry and long-time Aquarium supporter, HCP continued their support this past year with a renewed \$25,000 sponsorship of the Aquarium's Seniors Day event. The event took place on October 8 and welcomed more than 5,200 visitors, with free admission for attendees over the age of 50. HCP employees greeted seniors and distributed free admission tickets, directed guests to special events and programs, and staffed the raffle station.



HCP employees volunteered at the Aquarium on Seniors Day.



Students received free cups of nectar to feed to the birds in Lorikeet Forest.

SoCal Honda Dealers Surprise Local School Group with a "Random Act of Helpfulness"

On October 24 the Helpful Honda Guys in Blue surprised seventy tenth grade students from Jordan High School as they were finishing their squid dissection education program. The Helpful Honda people escorted the group to Lorikeet Forest, where they gifted all students with free nectar cups to feed the birds.

The SoCal Honda Dealers are an Aquarium sponsor and provided a number of special experiences to Aquarium visitors throughout 2018. Honda drivers who visit the Aquarium on select Saturdays have the opportunity to receive free parking, free behind-the-scenes tours, discount vouchers for the Aquarium's gift store, and more, courtesy of the Southern California Honda Dealers Association.

Aquarium **Accolades**

The Aquarium presents awards to individuals and organizations in recognition of their service to the community and achievements in conservation.



Pictured: Andrés Pruna, Heritage Award honoree, and Jerry Schubel, Aquarium president and CEO.

Andrés Pruna

Heritage Award

The Aquarium presented the Heritage Award to Andrés “Andy” Pruna during the Baja Splash Cultural Festival in September. Pruna is a painter, diver, photographer, documentary filmmaker, and explorer. Born in Havana, Cuba, he attended the National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts in New York City. He worked as a U.S. Navy diver, becoming one of forty Navy Aquanauts trained to live and work in the greatest depths of the ocean. In the late sixties, Pruna became a contract photographer for *National Geographic* magazine. He also began working as a filmmaker, capturing footage of whales and their behaviors never before seen on film. He served as producer and cameraman on the film *The Whales of Valdes*, which was released by the BBC Natural History Unit in 1974. His 1977 documentary film called *Killers of the Wild*, a movie about wildlife in the then-remote and little-known region of Argentinean Patagonia, went on to win several awards.



Pictured: Delia Dominguez, Heritage Award honoree, and Cecile Fisher, Aquarium vice president of marketing and communications.

Delia Dominguez

Heritage Award

The Aquarium presented the Heritage Award to Delia “Dee” Dominguez during the Moompetam Native American Festival in September. Dominguez’s cultural heritage is Kitanemuk, Yowlumne Yokuts, and Ventureño Chumash. She is a member of the Kitanemuk and Yowlumne Tejon Indians tribe. She is a traditional basketweaver, storyteller, ethno-history researcher, and environmental and civil rights activist. She has worked with the United American Indian Involvement organization, Native American centers and nature preserves, museums, the California Storytellers Association, and the California Indian Basketweavers Association. She served on the board of Amazon Watch Malibu, working to protect the Colombian rainforest. She also served on the board of the Center for Race, Poverty, and the Environment in Bakersfield and has been involved in various initiatives to protect the environment and native cultural sites.



Pictured: Marilyn Padilla, Aquarium director of public relations, and Mai Nguyen, Heritage Award honoree.

Mai Nguyen

Heritage Award

The Aquarium presented the Heritage Award to Mai Nguyen on Southeast Asia Day in October. Nguyen graduated from the National Conservatory of Music in Saigon, and she was a music teacher in Vietnam until she left for the United States in 1977. In 1989 she formed the Lac Hong Performing Arts Group with Chau Nguyen, a fellow graduate of the conservatory in Saigon. They later invited dance master Luu Hong to join their organization, and today all three serve as directors and teachers. The organization’s mission is to preserve, develop, and promote Vietnamese traditional music and dance throughout the United States. Through this mission, Mai Nguyen works to celebrate Vietnamese cultural heritage by passing it down to younger generations born in the United States. She has also served as the coordinator for Vietnamese performers at the Aquarium’s Southeast Asia Day festival since its inception.



Pictured: Ryan Ashton, Aquarium vice president of development, and Rodney Kageyama, Heritage Award honoree.

Rodney Kageyama

Heritage Award

The Aquarium presented the Heritage Award to Rodney Kageyama at the Autumn Festival in November. A community leader and actor, Kageyama has numerous film and TV credits. Kageyama has worked with organizations developing and supporting the voices of Asian American and Pacific Islander filmmakers and artists. He directed and produced several charity events for Asians for Miracle Matches and volunteered at the Japanese American National Museum. He served as the emcee of the Cherry Blossom Festival of Southern California for ten years and emceed the Autumn Festival at the Aquarium for five years. Kageyama passed away in early December and will be missed by many.

How Aquarium Animals Support Conservation

Today aquariums have become more than just places to view animals—they serve as a critical source of information on environmental issues and are key players in conservation efforts.

ANIMALS LIVING in aquariums play a key role in our mission to inspire visitors to become environmental stewards. These animals help our guests and members understand and connect with the threats species face and serve as ambassadors for their counterparts in the wild. Since the first public aquarium opened 165 years ago, aquariums have become more than just places to view animals. They now serve as a critical source of information on important ocean and environmental issues and are key players in the conservation of species and habitats in the wild.

At the Aquarium of the Pacific, animal procurement is conducted using best practices outlined by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). These best practices are continually being revised and updated, and each AZA member institution is inspected to meet accreditation requirements every five years. Beyond animals born here at the Aquarium, we acquire animals from other AZA members, reputable and vetted aquarium industry professionals, and sustainable wild sources—all adhering to strict environmental and care standards.

Some animals, including fish and invertebrates like sea stars, sea anemones, and sea jellies, are sometimes collected locally under permits from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This permitting process ensures that this practice does not negatively impact wild populations, which are carefully monitored by scientists at government agencies. Animals from other locations are collected under permits issued by the local government that follow its environmental regulations. For example, the scalloped hammerhead shark that arrived at the Aquarium this past fall was collected under permit from a location in Australia where populations of these sharks are healthy. These animals are collected in a manner that is safe and causes minimal stress to the animal. This shark was chosen for exhibition because it helps visitors learn more about the ocean's diverse shark species and the threats they face around the world, such as shark finning.

The Aquarium also breeds many species, including those that are endangered, such



The Aquarium's Magellanic penguins are part of a Species Survival Plan that tracks the genetic diversity of the population living at zoos and aquariums and contributes to conservation efforts for wild populations.

ROBIN REIGS

as white abalone, and shares these animals with other institutions. With some species, this process is governed by a Species Survival Plan administered by AZA. These plans track genetic diversity of the population living at zoos and aquariums, manage conservation programs for wild populations, and conduct research and education on the species. With some species, like the Guam kingfisher (which is extinct in the wild), the knowledge we gain from housing them in aquariums and zoos could someday help scientists reintroduce them to the wild.

Other animals, like our sea otters and some of our penguins, were rescued. When scientists determine that rescued animals cannot be released to the wild, either due to an injury, being orphaned before learning survival skills, or stranding outside of their normal range, they can find new homes at aquariums.

Aquariums are working to conserve endangered species and habitats at their institutions and in the field. At our Aquarium, staff members partner with other institutions to provide data on local whale populations, conduct monitoring of various marine and terrestrial species, track and rehabilitate sea turtles, participate in coral reef restoration, and assist in rescuing penguins and several

other bird species, and more. Details on these projects are available on the Aquarium's website under Conservation.

With species extinction rates on the rise, aquariums are also now serving as "arks," by preserving species that may someday be extinct. Seeing some animals in an aquarium environment may be the only opportunity for future generations to learn about biodiversity and the important role each species plays in keeping our planet healthy.

As aquariums continue to evolve, methods of engaging the public in the future may shift to include exploration through virtual reality or other technologies. The Aquarium's new wing, Pacific Visions, will primarily use technology to show how humans are affecting the planet. This expansion will incorporate multimedia exhibits and interactive displays that encourage visitors to explore alternative pathways to the future. Our engaging live animal exhibits—alongside the use of art, science, and technology to explore and help solve environmental challenges—are setting the stage for the future of aquariums to play an ever expanding role in creating a healthy planet for both people and animals.

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adopt an animal

Will you be Parker's Valentine?

Adopt an animal for Valentine's Day at the \$50 level or higher, and you will be entered into a drawing for a free **animal encounter** for two. Promotion ends February 3.

ONLINE aquariumofpacific.org/adopt

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