



AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC INSTITUTIONAL FACT SHEET

WHAT

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

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

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

LOCATION

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

Address: 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802

LEADERSHIP

Jerry Schubel, President & CEO

Anthony Brown, CFO

Cecile Fisher, Vice President of Marketing and Communications and Corporate Secretary

Perry Hampton, Vice President of Animal Husbandry

Kathie Nirschl, Vice President of Human Resources

John Rouse, Vice President of Operations

Ryan Ashton, Director of Development

David Bader, Director of Education

Nicole Meek, Director of Operations

Marilyn Padilla, Director of Public Relations

Tina Sarty, Controller

Jeff Spofford, Director of Retail Operations

Sean Devereaux, Director of Volunteer Engagement

A volunteer board of directors that includes leaders of the corporate and educational communities governs the Aquarium.

SIZE

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

GRAND OPENING

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

ATTENDANCE

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

DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

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

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

SUSTAINABILITY

The Aquarium was the first among museums, zoos, and aquariums in the nation to register its greenhouse gases and is a leader in green practices, including the construction of the LEED Platinum Premier Watershed Classroom. The Aquarium has been awarded the Super Nova Star Award by the Alliance to Save Energy for being the nation's most energy-efficient business with

revenues under \$150 million and the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award ([GEELA](#)). In 2015, the Aquarium

was awarded a Cool Planet Award in the education sector from The Climate Registry and Southern California Edison for its efforts in energy and carbon management. In 2016, Charity Navigator recognized the Aquarium as a 4-star rated charity.

CONSERVATION

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

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

AQUARIUM EXPERIENCE

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

Southern California & Baja

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

Northern Pacific

The temperature and atmosphere undergo a drastic change as visitors enter the Northern Pacific gallery and are introduced to the ice-cold waters of Alaska, Russia, and northern Japan. Puffins and other diving birds nest overhead and "fly" underwater, while the sea otters frolic in a nearby habitat. After leaving the mesmerizing sea jellies and a giant Pacific octopus, bright sea stars and giant Japanese spider crabs await visitors. An

interactive three-player sea otter conservation game is included in this gallery. This gallery features a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ocean Today kiosk exhibit, which provides guests with a national feed of ocean news and video and local stories created by the Aquarium. This kiosk is linked to the NOAA Ocean Today kiosk in the Sant Ocean Hall at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

Tropical Pacific

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

Ocean Science Center

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

Molina Animal Care Center

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

Special Exhibits

Explore the mysterious realm of dragons and horses that dwell under the sea through new exhibits at the Aquarium. Featuring about a dozen species of seahorses, seadragons, and their relatives, *Horses and Dragons* showcases the wonder and diversity of these creatures through March 31, 2017. **May 26, 2017, through March 31, 2018, the Aquarium will open *FROGS: Dazzling and Disappearing*.** Visitors will discover the dazzling diversity of frogs and their amphibian relatives. More than two dozen animals in thematic displays, educational graphics, and interactive exhibits will highlight the beauty of and threats to these remarkable animals. The exhibit will trace the history of amphibians, their life cycles, the different environments they live in from deserts to rainforests, the diversity of species, and their surprisingly uncertain future. The Aquarium now also features a moon jelly touch tank and a mudskipper exhibit on its Harbor Terrace.

Changing Exhibit Gallery *Vanishing Animals* is an exhibit focused on the issue of ocean extinctions and how to prevent them. The gallery space highlights impacts of human history on land resulting in terrestrial animal extinctions, tell stories of rebounds from near-extinction, then shows through live animal exhibits, multimedia and interactive

displays, and interpretive panels how we have the opportunity in the near future to avert a similar path in the ocean. *Vanishing Animals* will be displayed in the Changing Exhibit Gallery through August 31, 2017.

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

Shark Lagoon Shark Lagoon is an educational adventure that features a main exhibit showcasing large sharks and two touch pools where visitors can reach in and touch more than 150 smaller sharks. Interactive displays are also part of Shark Lagoon, and Bamboo Bistro and a gift store are located next to it.

Our Watersheds: Pathway to the Pacific *Our Watersheds: Pathway to the Pacific* focuses on the watersheds of San Pedro Bay. Through an interactive watershed exhibit, native garden, and the Premier Watershed Classroom, visitors learn about watersheds and human activities that impact watersheds and eventually the ocean and marine life. **New watershed exhibits and programs about drought and water conservation will debut in spring 2017.**

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

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

AND MUCH MORE

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

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

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

HOURS

The Aquarium is open 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day of the year, except December 25 and the weekend of the Grand Prix of Long Beach, April 7-9, 2017. It is open until 8:00 p.m. on select summer and holiday Late Nights.

ADMISSION

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

VOLUNTEERS

More than 1,500 Aquarium volunteers dedicate over 160,000 hours annually in almost every department, helping to ensure high-quality care for the Aquarium's thousands of animals and excellent service for the approximately 1.6 million people who visit the Aquarium annually.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit aquariumofpacific.org or call (562) 590-3100.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Marilyn Padilla / Claire Atkinson / Adrian Samora
Aquarium of the Pacific
(562) 951-1684 / (562) 951-1678 / (562) 951-3197
mpadilla@lbaop.org / catkinson@lbaop.org / asamora@lbaop.org
Digital Images/B-roll Available



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