



**AQUARIUM**  
OF THE **PACIFIC**®

A non-profit institution

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*Digital Images/B-roll Available Upon Request*

## **AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC'S 9TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF HUMAN ABILITIES TO FEATURE FREE CLASSES BY ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES**

***Celebrate the talents & creative spirit of people with disabilities at the Aquarium  
on Jan. 28-29, and enjoy live music, dance, art, and more***

**WHAT:** Join the Aquarium of the Pacific for its ninth annual Festival of Human Abilities, a celebration highlighting the creative talents and abilities of people with disabilities. Live music, signing choirs, art demonstrations, accessible SCUBA diving demonstrations, storytelling, interactive workshops, and other creative performances will be featured by people who have disabilities. Sign language interpreters will be present at all major shows and an audio tour is available for those who are blind.

The theme of this year's event is on ocean issues. Cody Unser will leave her wheelchair to demonstrate adaptive SCUBA diving, and she and her foundation will feature an event booth to promote ocean health and stewardship. Charles Whitehead is a singer songwriter who has paraplegia. He and his band "Per Se" will sing a song about ocean pollution. Michael Seale, Jr., an artist with a disability, will feature a hat decorating class utilizing recycled materials.

The honoree of this year's festival is Rueben Rios. Prior to his quadriplegia, Rios was an avid swimmer. His personal concern is ocean pollution. He cannot swim anymore, but he wants others to be able to do so. He will talk about this and display a recent painting he did of beachgoers in Santa Monica during the award ceremony on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 1:40 p.m. and at his painting demonstration area during the weekend. Rios teaches mouthstick painting to other people with disabilities at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. His students will be joining him at the festival for live painting demonstrations.

At the Festival of Human Abilities, guests with or without a disability will have the opportunity to learn unique adaptive skills taught by artists and other experts with disabilities, including singing in sign language with Love in Motion, wheelchair hip hop dance with Colours 'N' Motion, and dancing for all abilities with Bethune Theatredanse. Artist Tommy Hollenstein, who paints with the wheels of his wheelchair, will lead a class in his unique adaptive painting technique. A variety of creative workshop classes will be on-site, free, and 30-45 minutes in length.

**WHEN:** **Saturday and Sunday, January 28-29, 2012, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**WHERE:** **Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802**

**COST:** \$24.95 adult (12+), \$21.95 senior (62+), \$13.95 child (3-11), & free to kids 3 and under & members

**INFO:** (562) 590-3100 or [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org)

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