



## 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.

The Aquarium of the Pacific's **vision** is to foster an inclusive community that works together to create our sustainable future.

The Aquarium of the Pacific welcomes everyone and provides access to nature through close-up views and encounters with more than 12,000 animals in realistic habitats. More than one hundred exhibits explore the ocean, its inhabitants, and conservation issues. The Aquarium's educational programs strive to ignite interest in science, to nurture curiosity, and to provide opportunities for people of all ages, interests, and backgrounds to wonder, explore, discover, and learn. These educational programs, ranging from shows at exhibits, onsite classes, and whale watches to mobile and virtual programs, aim to engage school and youth groups, families, adults, and children and build meaningful connections between learners, culture, and conservation. The Aquarium for more than twenty years has been a community gathering place where diverse local communities are welcomed, celebrated, and engage through more than a dozen festivals and events ranging from Autism Nights to the African American Festival.

The Aquarium is involved in numerous local conservation efforts to help endangered and threatened species, advance animal care practices, and participate in community science initiatives. The Aquarium's team of scientific divers collects critical data used by a variety of ocean research institutes and reporting agencies. The Aquarium is involved in saving endangered local white abalone, giant sea bass, yellow-mountain legged frogs, sea otters, green sea turtles, and other species. Community science projects include collecting observational data on sharks, whales, and green sea turtles; habitat restoration at local wetlands, beaches, and watersheds; and community engagement through iNaturalist, Monarch Butterfly Monitoring, and youth programs such as the Teen Climate Council.

The Aquarium's programs from conservation to community science involve collaborations with various partners, including the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and other member institutions, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other government agencies, universities, community groups, and individuals in the scientific community.

## **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.

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

## **LEADERSHIP**

**Dr. Peter Kareiva**, president and CEO

### **Senior staff:**

**Ryan Ashton**, vice president of development

**Jennie Dean**, vice president of education and conservation

**Cecile Fisher**, vice president of marketing and communications and corporate secretary

**Tina Sarty**, interim CFO

**Kathie Nirschl**, vice president of human resources

**John Rouse**, chief of Aquarium and visitor operations

**Brett Long**, senior director of mammals and birds

**Nate Jaros**, senior director of fish and invertebrates

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

## **SIZE**

The Aquarium's expansive, three-story facility covers approximately 360,000 square feet. 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.

## **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 some 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 of the Pacific was the first among museums, zoos, and aquariums in the nation to register its greenhouse gases and

is a leader in green practices. The Aquarium's latest major expansion, Pacific Visions, earned Two Green Globes certification from the Green Globes® building rating system for demonstrating leadership in best practices regarding environmental efficiency. The Aquarium has been a Climate Action Leader since 2007, reducing its carbon footprint by nearly 50 percent, water consumption by 20 percent, maintaining its energy use at a constant level even while expanding the building footprint, and reducing our waste by composting. Visitors can also learn how their choices in food, water, and energy can help reduce impacts on climate change as they explore multimedia exhibits and a short film in Pacific Visions during their visit to the Aquarium.

## **AQUARIUM EXPERIENCE**

The journey 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 work the Aquarium does to protect animals in that 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, with the nearly three-story-tall Honda Blue Cavern exhibit, home to leopard sharks, giant sea bass, 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 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 is featured with California's state fish, the garibaldi, and many other local animals, including abalone, spiny lobsters, and giant sea bass. This section includes the 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 this region. Puffins and other diving birds nest overhead and "fly" underwater, while the rescued sea otters frolic in a nearby habitat. After leaving the sea jellies and a giant Pacific octopus, bright sea stars and giant Japanese spider crabs await visitors. The Coastal Corner includes a tidepool displays with animals you can gently touch with two fingers, including sea stars, sea urchins, and sea anemones.

### **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. 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. This gallery currently features the *Coral Reefs: Nature's Underwater Cities* exhibition.

### **Ocean Science Center**

Journey around the globe to explore the atmosphere, ocean, and continents with an immersive exhibit that uses technology films and visualizations to connect guests to global phenomena. Learners can join an Aquarium educator inside the gallery to make observations, ask questions, and hear stories about our dynamic planet. The Ocean Science Center uses state-of-the-art technology from NOAA.

### **Molina Animal Care Center**

The Molina Animal Care Center offers the chance to see the Aquarium's animal care staff and veterinary staff at work. Some of the Aquarium's veterinary work includes being the first to successfully breed a large shark species through artificial insemination to help further shark conservation. The Molina Animal Care Center includes various animal holding spaces, audio visual displays, and more.

### **Pacific Visions**

On May 24, 2019, the Aquarium of the Pacific opened its first major expansion in, welcoming the public to a new addition called Pacific Visions. Designed by the San Francisco-based architecture and design firm EHDD, Pacific Visions is a 29,000-square-foot, two-story, sustainable structure. This building houses a state-of-the-art immersive theater, an art gallery, and a changing exhibits gallery with interactives, game tables, and live animal exhibits.

### **Shark Lagoon**

Shark Lagoon at the Aquarium of the Pacific features the nation's first full-scale interactive shark touch exhibit. Guests will discover dozens of sharks and rays and get closer than they ever imagined by touching gentle bamboo sharks in the touch pools. They can also view large sharks and rays in the main habitat. The Aquarium hopes people of all ages will appreciate the beauty and importance of sharks in ocean habitats after experiencing Shark Lagoon.

### **Our Water Future**

*Our Water Future* explores where our water comes from and ways to conserve water in our daily lives through home appliances, landscaping and other activities. An interactive watershed exhibit and native pollinator garden supporting endangered Western monarch butterflies teach visitors about watersheds and human activities that impact their communities.

**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.

**FIRST WEDNESDAYS**

The Aquarium of the Pacific's First Wednesdays focuses on animals, nature, and conservation efforts. The events bring scientists, authors, and other experts into its Honda Pacific Visions Theater for an illustrated talk paired with book signings or meet and greets and cocktail/social hours with music and crafts. The programs are best suited for high school and college students and adults of all ages. Presentations are also live-streamed.

**AND MUCH MORE**

The Aquarium's indoor/outdoor restaurant, Café Scuba, offers a variety of entrées 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 gift stores, Pacific Collections and Pacific Treasures.

**HOURS**

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

**ADMISSION**

General adult admission is \$44.95 (ages 12+), \$41.95 for seniors (ages 62+), \$29.95 per child (ages 3-11), and free for children under age three and Aquarium members. Annual Aquarium memberships are available.

**VOLUNTEERS**

More than 1,680 Aquarium volunteers dedicate more than 131,100 hours annually in collectively and represented in almost every department, helping to ensure high-quality care for the Aquarium's thousands of animals and excellent service for the people who visit the Aquarium annually.

**MORE INFORMATION**

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

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

Marilyn Padilla / Chelsea Quezada / Andreas Miguel  
Aquarium of the Pacific  
(562) 951-1684 / (562) 951-3197 / (562) 951-1678  
[mpadilla@lbaop.org](mailto:mpadilla@lbaop.org) / [cquezada@lbaop.org](mailto:cquezada@lbaop.org) / [amiguel@lbaop.org](mailto:amiguel@lbaop.org)  
*Digital Images/B-roll Available*

