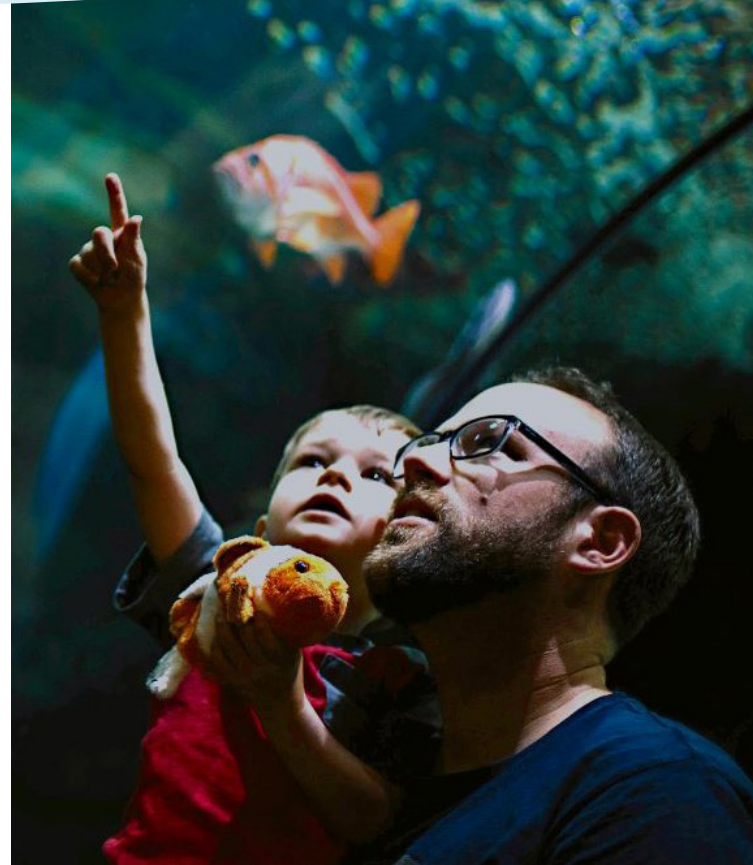


FUNDING REQUEST FOR CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION IN 2021-2023 STATE BUDGET



The Oregon Coast Aquarium is frequently rated by travel writers as one of the top ten aquariums in the U.S. because of its naturalistic marine life exhibits, educational programming, and strong sense of place on the Pacific coast. Since opening in 1992, the Aquarium has welcomed more than 15 million visitors from around the world to Newport. Drawing 96% of its visitors from outside Lincoln County, and 38% out-of-state, the Aquarium is a key driver in Oregon's \$12Billion tourism industry, contributing an estimated **\$100M each year to the central coast economy**.

Understanding the ocean is critical for future exploration, as well as international commerce, sustainable fishing, climate sensitive agribusinesses, biotechnologies to combat cancer, and the oxygen we breathe. Our on-site, online and outreach education programs typically reach more than 525,000 people per year. The ocean science curriculum we develop is available digitally, and aligns with Next Generation Science standards as well as NOAA's ocean literacy principles. The Aquarium is one of three rehabilitation facilities in the Pacific Northwest, and the only facility in Oregon authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide specialized care to endangered marine life like sea turtles and sea birds.



REQUEST: \$5 Million for Phase II - Improve Three Indoor Galleries

The Aquarium has raised nearly \$12M in conditional commitments toward our \$18M capital campaign to make capital improvements in three phases including:

- **Phase I** - Remodel and Expand the Entry, and Create a Children's Nature Play Area
- **Phase II** - Improve Three Indoor Galleries
- **Phase III** - Build a Marine Rehabilitation Center.

The 2019 State Legislature approved a \$5M appropriation for the Aquarium's capital construction projects. The Aquarium began construction in Jan. 2020, however, the State appropriation was rescinded during the Coronavirus pandemic due to lack of Lottery Bond revenue. The Aquarium has raised enough designated funds to resume and complete Phase I projects in 2021.

In 2021-23 Session, the Aquarium is seeking a new appropriation of \$5M for Phase II capital construction and improvements to exhibits in the three indoor galleries. We plan to make some structural modifications to improve traffic flow, upgrade or replace some of the exhibits and life support, reinterpret the marine life, change signage and incorporate interactive digital platforms. Where possible, we will use existing tanks.

THREE INDOOR GALLERIES



The Sandy Shores Gallery begins the narrative with the complexity of the Oregon coastal ecosystem. A pier piling and the sea life that clings to it, will be refurbished with updated components, lighting and signage that better tells the human interaction story.

The Rocky Shores Gallery features our interactive touch pool, featuring sea stars and anemones. We will extend the gallery to accommodate more exhibit space, including an expanded touch pool with improved accessibility for hands-on experiences.

The Coastal Waters Gallery will see the greatest transformation, themed on the Pacific Rim. It will highlight marine species from several regions of the Pacific Ocean. Exhibits in this gallery will feature North American lobsters, eels and California kelp; a cylindrical carousel with seamount from Central America; and a Mangrove exhibit with small schooling fish. A former corridor of temporary exhibit space will be converted into a Jelly Gallery of kreisel tanks illuminating sea nettles and graceful jellies.

A former Oregon kelp exhibit has been transformed into a warm water **Indo-Pacific coral reef exhibit** featuring tropical species. Interpretation will include conservation issues such as the impact of climate change, plastic pollution, ocean acidification, and the warming, rising ocean. In addition to new static signage, digital monitors can articulate characteristics of the species, as well as current issues, research or related topics. At the exit point, a new vestibule will cover a walkway adjacent to rest rooms. Wayfinding signage will direct visitors to the aviary and marine mammal exhibits.

PROJECT BUDGET: Total cost estimate of **\$6,853,441** for Phase II includes architect and engineering, construction (with prevailing wages), exhibit refurbishment or replacement, permits and 10% contingency.

MATCHING FUNDS: The Aquarium has **raised \$1,325,979** designated toward Phase II from foundation, corporate and other state grants. We have identified two prospective sources for bridge-loan financing upon approval of a State appropriation for cost reimbursement in 2023.

Improve Three Core Indoor Galleries	
Indo Pacific Coral Reef Exhibit	\$ 367,000
Bridge and Boardwalk Entry to Gallery	\$ 176,629
Sandy Shores upgrades, and exhibit replacement	\$ 1,462,613
Rocky Shores expansion, exhibit upgrades	\$ 835,139
New Sea Lab	\$ 111,770
New Touchpool	\$ 526,798
New Octopus Cave	\$ 348,701
Pan Pacific Gallery upgrades & Vestibule	\$ 384,618
New Jelly Gallery	\$ 1,566,058
Seamount Exhibit	\$ 83,429
Live Coral Exhibit	\$ 313,770
Mangrove Exhibit	\$ 487,412
Interpretive signage & morals	\$ 189,504
THREE GALLERY TOTAL	\$ 6,853,441

Molly Dumas, Director of Development
Carrie E. Lewis, President/CEO

molly.dumas@aquarium.org
carrie.lewis@aquarium.org

541.283.1106
541.283.1105