

FUNDING REQUEST FOR CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION IN 2023-2025 STATE BUDGET



The Oregon Coast Aquarium is consistently rated by travel writers as one of the top ten aquariums in the country. Our 420,000 annual visitors contribute an estimated \$100M each year to the coastal economy. More than a tourist attraction, onsite, online and outreach education programs typically reach more than 500,000 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.

Now, more than ever, it is critical that Oregonians understand their impact on the ocean, and the important role they play in ocean health, climate-sensitive agribusinesses, sustainable fishing, drought and fire prevention, marine biotechnologies, coastal weather and even the oxygen we breathe. To create memorable experiences, raise the level of ocean literacy among our visitors, and improve conditions for wildlife rehabilitation, the Aquarium embarked on a \$28M capital campaign to:

- Phase IA - Remodel and expand the Entry building and café – 100% funded
- Phase IB – New Children's Nature Play Area with amphitheater & headwaters feature – 100% Funded
- Phase II - Improve Three Indoor Galleries – 66% Funded
- Phase IIIA - Build a Marine Rehabilitation Center (MRC) – 90% Funded
- Phase IIIB - Build Outdoor Enclosures & Solar-Powered life support for the MRC - 10% Funded

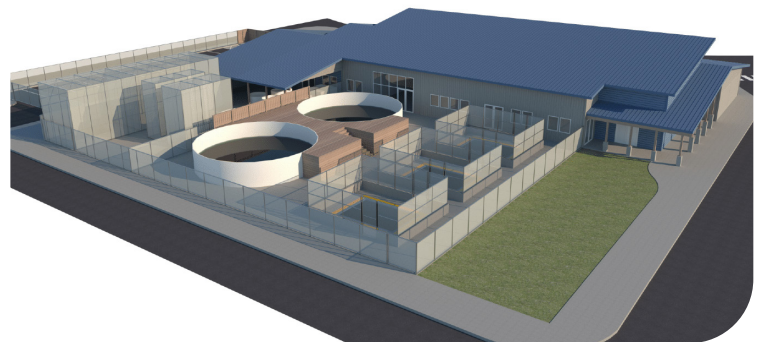
The 2019 State Legislature appropriated \$5M for the Aquarium's capital construction projects. However, it was rescinded during the Coronavirus pandemic due to lack of Lottery Bond revenue. The Aquarium had already started construction on Phase I, and had to find other revenue sources to complete Phase I projects in 2022. In 2021, the State Legislature awarded \$5M for Phase II capital construction, which enabled architects to finalize plans, and procure replacement tanks and life support systems. A former Oregon kelp exhibit in the third gallery was transformed into a warm water Indo-Pacific coral reef exhibit. A pond at the entrance to the first gallery is being reclaimed this winter. Unfortunately, high inflation, supply backorders, labor shortages and State funding covenants have doubled the initial cost estimation. With \$8.7M raised toward a now-\$14.3M goal, the Aquarium was compelled to pause Phase II construction until fall 2023 – pending additional funding.

2023-2025 REQUEST: \$5 MILLION FOR PHASE II AND PHASE IIIB CAPITAL



\$3.5M for PHASE II: Three indoor galleries narrate the complexity of the Pacific Ocean from Oregon’s coastal ecosystem to the depths of the Pacific Rim. Improvements will bring construction up to code on the 30yr. old facilities, and include an expanded touch pool, plus seamount, sea horse, mangrove, giant octopus and other exhibits. A former corridor will be converted into a new sea jelly gallery of kreisels illuminating sea nettles and graceful jellies. Underutilized exhibit space will be transformed to better accommodate changing exhibits that lure return visitors. Interpretive signage (in both English and Spanish) and interactive digital monitors will connect visitors to additional content on our website – available in 100 languages using Google Translate. The third gallery will present species and conservation issues applicable to the greater Pacific Rim. Visitors will learn about the impact of climate change, plastic pollution, ocean acidification, and the warming, rising seas have on marine and human life.

\$1.5M for Phase IIIB: The Aquarium annually treats 250-300 marine wildlife in old warehouse facilities with limitations that make it difficult to quarantine injured or ill animals. Phase III will be segmented into two stages. We have enough funding raised for Phase IIIA to build a new Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation Center with clinical facilities for veterinary diagnostics, observation and treatment of endangered marine wildlife as well as our own collection. It will also serve as a research and teaching facility for veterinary practicums and students interested in marine careers. Phase IIIB, estimated to cost \$2.3M, will encompass life support systems and outdoor animal enclosures adjacent to the new marine rehabilitation center. Solar panels will be incorporated into as a renewable energy source to offset increased utility costs associated with pumping, heating and cooling water for life support. The Aquarium will seek private funding in addition to \$1.5M from the State to complete Phase IIIB, and start construction in 2023-24.



OTHER CONTRIBUTORS: Roundhouse Foundation, Sunderland Foundation, M.J. Murdock Trust, Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund, Schlesinger Family, Jim Pattison/Roth’s Fresh Market, Miller Family Holdings, James & Shirley Rippey Foundation, Ann & William Swindells, Hearst Foundation, and Hillman Family Foundations, David & Christine Vernier and Al Gleason are the top contributors for Phase II and Phase III. We will also seek EPA DOE and new IRA funding for clean energy infrastructure.

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