

# About the Seattle Aquarium



## The Seattle Aquarium Connections program

The Seattle Aquarium aims to be inclusive and welcoming to all, and believes that our audience should reflect the diversity of our region. Toward that end, the Seattle Aquarium Connections program provides complimentary admission tickets through community partner organizations.

The goal of Seattle Aquarium Connections is to provide opportunities to experience the Aquarium to those in our community who might otherwise experience barriers to engaging with us. To support our mission of *Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment*, we hope to create authentic, mutually beneficial relationships that build trust among the Aquarium and our partner communities, and provide quality, culturally relevant marine conservation educational experiences to all.

## Who qualifies for the program?

Eligible community partners include service-based nonprofit or governmental organizations that support members of marginalized communities including but not limited to: low-income families; communities of color; immigrant and refugee communities; people with disabilities; the deaf community; people who are blind; families or individuals experiencing homelessness; and others. If your organization is interested in becoming a partner, please apply using our [online form](#).

## What is expected of community partners?

Community partners must designate one primary contact to represent the organization and act as a liaison between their organization and the Seattle Aquarium. This primary contact is responsible for ordering and distributing Aquarium tickets and/or vouchers to their organization. This includes any coordination with other coworkers, programs and/or locations that would like to utilize the benefits of the Connections program. The primary contact is also in charge of tracking distributed tickets on the distribution logs provided by the Aquarium and returning those distribution logs before ordering more tickets.

Further, the primary contact is responsible for educating all programs and individuals within their organization about the Connections program. If the main contact changes, it is the responsibility of the Connections partner organization to inform the Seattle Aquarium of the change. We do recognize that one designated contact may not be feasible for larger organizations and if this is the case for your organization, please reach out to the Connections team.

The Seattle Aquarium lists all community partner organizations through the Connections program and links the primary contact on our website.

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## What are the benefits of being in the Connections program?

Community partners enjoy complimentary admission, access to \$25 memberships, outreach programming and special event opportunities. The Seattle Aquarium Connections program distributes two types of complimentary tickets (group reservations and individual printed tickets) as well as membership vouchers to our partner organizations using our online request form.

**Group reservations\*:** Online registration is required for groups of 10 or more people (including chaperones) who are coming to the Aquarium together and must be reserved at least two weeks in advance. You will receive an entrance confirmation to bring when entering the Aquarium; printed tickets are not required for group reservations. This option reduces costs and is more sustainable than printing paper tickets.

**Individual printed tickets:** These tickets are distributed to qualifying families and patrons of partner organizations who wish to visit the Aquarium on their own. Tickets must be recorded in the provided distribution logs and are valid for one year from the date they were printed. If you are an organization bound by confidentiality laws, please make a note on your log and include all the information you are able to provide. Aquarium tickets may only be distributed to staff members of partner organizations if said staff qualify for services that you provide.

**Connections membership vouchers:** These vouchers offer a full year of Aquarium membership, at a significant savings, to low-income families. Partners can distribute Connections membership vouchers to community members who would like to purchase an Aquarium Family Plus membership for \$25. A Family Plus membership allows unlimited admission for two named adults and up to six of their children/grandchildren (ages 18 and under) plus one free guest admission per visit (accompanied by a named member or child of named member). This membership is equivalent to the Family Plus membership currently offered to the public and includes all the same great benefits. Vouchers must be recorded in the provided distribution logs and are valid for one year from the date they were printed. For more information on the Connections membership benefits and policies, visit our [Connections membership webpage](#).

*Tickets and vouchers should never be used as a reward, incentive or donation item for fundraising. They do not have a cash value, are nontransferable, should never be sold, and are not to be given to employees or non-qualifying individuals for personal use.*

**Outreach programming\*:** Community partners can engage with the Seattle Aquarium through enhanced on-site visits (as capacity allows), at your location or community event, and via our field programs (you can schedule a time to join us at a local beach during low tide with our [Beach Naturalist](#) program or along the Cedar River and at the Ballard Locks to view salmon through our [Cedar River Salmon Journey](#) program). For programming at your location, we can come to your site to host a booth, and/or give an educational program or presentation on an as-available basis. For more information, contact [us](#).

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## \*What are the current COVID-19 adjustments/protocols?

The Seattle Aquarium has worked closely with local health experts to provide a safe and fun experience when visiting the Seattle Aquarium. To be able to reopen and protect the health of our animals, guests, staff and volunteers, we've made some changes you need to know about before visiting. All this information and more can be found on [our reopening webpage](#), as well as answers to frequently asked questions.

Some things to note for our community partners through the Connections program: Due to the current health guidelines we are not accepting group reservations and requiring that all guests enter the Aquarium with a timed ticket. Currently, individual printed tickets distributed through the Connections program are not timed tickets and community members using these tickets will need to enter the Aquarium and follow signs for the non-timed ticket line. Our guest services associates will then make a reservation for the next available slot. While the wait time typically doesn't exceed 15 minutes, we can't make any guarantees.

Our [Beach Naturalist](#) program is taking place in spring/summer 2021, however other outreach programming is paused as we reassess and evaluate our outreach offerings given current circumstances. At the end of 2020, we reached out to existing community partners to fill out a community needs assessment and are still analyzing this data. We will be providing more information to our community partners as this information becomes available and as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve. Thank you for your patience.

## How to apply to be a Seattle Aquarium Connections community partner:

You must provide the following information using our [online application](#):

- Organization name and physical address (mailing address if different)
- Primary contact information (name, email, direct phone number)
- Website address
- An organization description and/or mission statement
- A description of the demographics and/or populations you serve, as well as the number of people you serve
- Nonprofit federal tax ID number
- Estimated number of tickets you would request per year
- Brief description of how you plan to utilize the program

**Apply online.** If you have any questions about the online application, please call: (206) 693-6139 or email [connections@seattleaquarium.org](mailto:connections@seattleaquarium.org).

## Seattle Aquarium mission:

*Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment*