



Seattle Aquarium 24/7/365

Thanks to your support, more people than ever before—families, schoolchildren, community members and more—are discovering the wonders of Puget Sound and the ocean, and learning how to care for our fragile marine environment. Our region's population is burgeoning, the ocean's health hangs in the balance, and marine conservation education isn't just important anymore; it's crucial. This is a 'round-the-clock endeavor, and one that won't stop because it simply can't: as you know, it's essential.

Welcome to a day in the life at your Seattle Aquarium.





Dear Friend of the Seattle Aquarium,

During 2015 the Seattle Aquarium continued to expand our capacity and impact in support of our mission, *Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment*. While it is only our fifth year of nonprofit operations, we demonstrated aggressive resilience to build attendance during massive seawall construction on the waterfront and increase revenue and engagement with people on the beaches, in the schools, in scientific work and conservation efforts, and in public policy.

We have become the highest-attended cultural attraction in Seattle's downtown core and an institution that increasingly matters. Our role as a host and convener for conservation continued to grow, with the Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE contestants testing ocean acidification measurement instruments on our deck, and scientists reporting on ocean health research in Puget Sound and elsewhere in the world. In addition, our research on sea star wasting was important to the development of scientific understanding of this mysterious disease.

Looking to the future, we completed work on the Seattle Aquarium master plan, adopted by our board of directors and the Seattle City Council. This sets the direction for an expanded Seattle Aquarium, which we will build on our new central waterfront with your support!

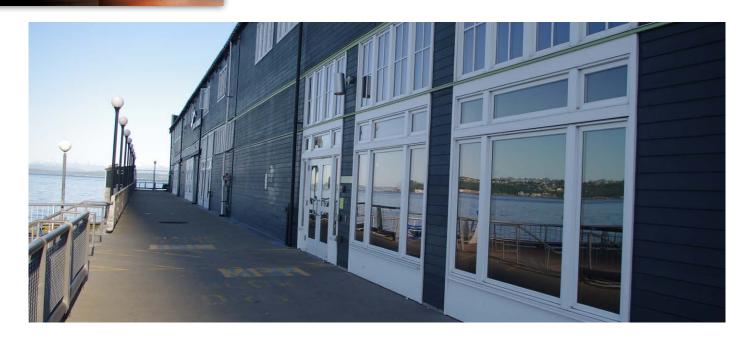


Randy J. Tinseth

Chairman, Board of Directors

Robert W. Davidson President & CEO

The Seattle Aquarium is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution owned by the City of Seattle. Donations to the Seattle Aquarium are tax deductible under the Internal Revenue Code. Donations can be made by calling (206) 693-6284 or visiting Seattle Aquarium.org.



The day begins well before our doors open to the public





Visit SeattleAquarium.org/volunteer to view a list of 2015 volunteers.



Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Seattle Aguarium. For those of you who volunteer-thank you! You're among the first to arrive in the morning, performing critical tasks such as preparing meals of sustainable seafood for the animals, feeding them, tracking what and how much they've eaten, cleaning exhibits before the day's visitors arrive, and much more. You continue sharing your expertise—not to mention diving skills-throughout the day, and often return in the evenings for trainings or to assist with events.

In 2015 alone, 1,335 volunteers donated a record 100,023 hours of service to the Aquarium. That's the equivalent of 48 full-time staff, and a value of \$2.3 million. Over 32.000

of those service hours were contributed by teens in the Youth Ocean Advocates program. Generous donor support provides training and supervision to this dynamic group of teens, who work with Aquarium visitors and the larger community to inspire conservation action.

Conservation conversations are the focus of another donorsupported enterprise: the Beach Naturalist program. If you spent time on a Seattle beach on a low-tide day last summer, odds are good you saw volunteer naturalists in their red hats, at the ready to answer questions and provide on-the-spot information about how to care for the beautifully fragile nearshore habitat. In 2015, 235 volunteers engaged beachgoers in over 55,000 conversations at a dozen local beaches—and the Beach Naturalist program received the first-ever Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Innovation in Volunteer Engagement Award.

"I love educating people about marine conservation and exposing them to the cool diversity of life in our oceans!"

-Irene K., Seattle Aquarium volunteer











9:30am: Doors open—welcome!

With your support, a record number of visitors experienced the stunning diversity of life below the surface in 2015—a total of 851,296 people came through our doors last year, despite challenges presented by the ongoing seawall construction project. Over 37,000 of those visitors were students who traveled to the Aquarium from 558 schools in 116 districts to learn about and be inspired by the marine environment.

Thanks to generous donor backing of the conservation education fund, students from qualifying schools can receive both free Aquarium admission and financial assistance for transportation. Donors also provide scholarships for off-site programs that take place in classrooms and on local beaches.

Underserved students aren't alone in receiving free admission to the Aquarium. Access for low-income and special-needs "Between financial and transportation restraints, visiting the Aquarium wouldn't have been possible without your generous ticket donation. It was an experience that won't be forgotten."

–Megan, Neighborhood House (community ticket program partner)

groups is made possible through partnerships with 317 human services organizations across the state: just under 40,000 tickets were distributed in 2015. If these groups can't travel to the Aquarium, your support allows us to bring our programs to them.

The theme of accessibility continues inside the Aquarium itself where, instead of complicated signage, you'll find welcoming interpreters dressed in blue, eager to talk about the exhibits and animals inside, marine conservation, ocean acidification—whatever grabs

your interest. Interpreters who speak languages other than English are easily identified by the buttons they wear. Guests who want to know exactly how silky a sea cucumber feels and aren't able to reach into a tide pool can still enjoy the experience when an interpreter brings the animal, safely ensconced in a bowl, to them. This low-signage/high-talk model ensures that every trip to the Aquarium is a new experience, whether you've visited two times, or 200.









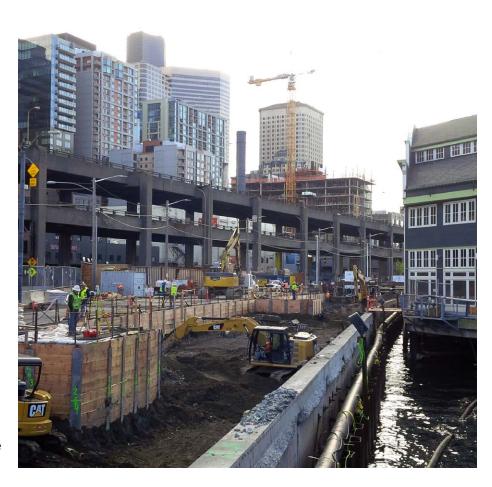


Planning for the future is a key part of each day

Community members, business owners, government employees, stakeholders and constituents came together last year to express support for an expanded Seattle Aquarium—resulting in unanimous Seattle City Council approval of the freshly completed expansion master plan in August.

If you've visited the Aquarium on a rainy weekend morning, or virtually any day during the summer, you know that there is great need for an enlarged facility. Not only because of the excited crowds thronging the exhibits, but also because of what's happening along Seattle's waterfront, in the Puget Sound region, and around the world.

We are at a remarkable moment in time: the City is actively engaged in redevelopment of the central waterfront; our region's





population is estimated to increase by over 25 percent by 2040; and our local waters, along with the one world ocean, are being increasingly impacted by the effects of ocean acidification and other damage caused by humans. The Aquarium's mission, Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment, has never been more urgent, or more compelling. To fulfill that mission, we must increase our capacity.

Approval of the draft master plan—developed via an inclusive, collaborative process, with

generous funding from the City of Seattle, the Gates Foundation and the Satterberg Foundation—represented a critical step toward the vision of an expanded Aquarium. Next: fleshing out the master plan through concept

design. Your involvement will be critical as we move through this exciting, important process, and undertake the real work of bringing your 21st-century aquarium to life.

"After I get my marine biology degree, I'd like to come back and work at the new Aquarium."

—Teen volunteer Bethany Shimasaki, addressing the Seattle City Council









Every day at 2pm: Meet our marine mammals

As an Aquarium supporter, you know that caring about an animal leads to caring about its health and habitat. For many, a commitment to marine conservation begins in the eyes of a single, entrancing animal. That's why daily events—like "Meet Our Marine Mammals," when you can watch Barney the harbor seal demonstrate how he's been trained to open his mouth and get his teeth checked—are such a big part of the Aquarium's draw. These animal experiences are the perfect way to connect people to our mission of Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment.

Animals gave us a lot to care about in 2015. Mishka, a rescued sea otter who arrived in January, became the first of her species to be diagnosed with asthma—and was subsequently trained to use an inhaler, just like humans do, to treat her illness. Northern fur seals Flaherty and Leu joined us in March, and harbor seal Hogan made the move from his previous home at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in December.

Your support helps make possible partnerships with peer institutions like the one that brought Hogan to his new home at the Seattle Aquarium. It also allows our staff to collaborate

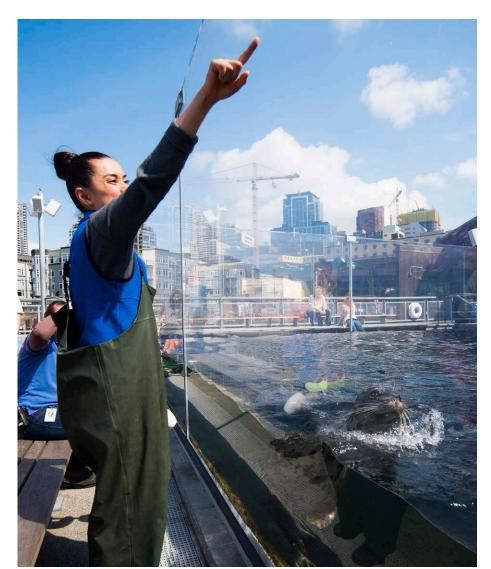
with the larger scientific and research communitiesmaintaining six leadership positions with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and like-minded organizations; managing four studbooks for AZA; collaborating in veterinary medicine with other accredited aguariums and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA); participating in research efforts spearheaded by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife; and more.

"We came straight to this exhibit. We've been at the Aquarium an hour, and we're just barely getting started."

-Aquarium member, visiting with two adult sons

















Hawaii reef fish survey

Meanwhile, behind the scenes...

Millions of sea stars have perished as a result of sea star wasting disease and what's being called the largest wildlife die-off ever recorded. Ocean acidification is affecting local shellfish and other species around the world—yet measuring ocean pH accurately is difficult. Endangered marine species are hunted and harvested every day. Coral reef habitats are threatened, which impacts the animals that depend on them for survival.

With your help, the Seattle Aquarium is much, much more than the exhibits, animals, activities and experiences that bring hundreds of thousands of people to Pier 59 every year. It's a place where:

- Staff veterinarian Dr. Lesanna
 Lahner contributes significantly to
 ongoing research to understand
 sea star wasting disease in
 collaboration with partners such
 as the SeaDoc Society, Cornell
 University, the Wildlife
 Conservation Society and the
 USGS National Wildlife Health
 Center.
- Contenders for the world's fastest and most accurate pH sensors, to measure ocean acidification, were tested as part of the Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE.
- Support was gathered online for Washington State Initiative 1401, to increase penalties for trafficking in products derived from 10 species facing extinction and which passed with a 70 percent approval rate in November.
- A census of reef fish along the northwestern side of Hawaii's Big Island is conducted each year as part of a search for shifting baselines, an ecological indicator of changes in fish abundance and diversity that may correlate with local environmental changes.

Thank you for all you do to make this important work possible.

"I saw a lot of coverage about sea star wasting disease in the news—and knowing that the Aquarium was involved in the research made me feel really proud to be a member."

-Seattle Aquarium member



Button polyp coral





Diseased and healthy sea stars







After hours and still humming with activity

Each year, tens of thousands of people experience the Aquarium after dark—when the cashiers have gone home and the last toddler has reluctantly retreated from the dreamlike allure of the Ring of Life exhibit.

With your help, community members come for events like the Aquarium Open House, a free evening to welcome families receiving support from selected human services agencies in Seattle and King County. Perhaps you participated, and walked the length of the Aquarium, hearing 17 different languages and seeing kids, parents and grandparents exploring our exhibits for the very first time: that's the norm at this well-loved, well-attended event.

They come to learn about important marine conservation issues, as they did during the "Addressing Ocean Acidification" event in April, when 200

absorbed guests gathered for a dialog with local and international experts on ocean acidification science, policy and outreach.

With your support, they also come to receive instruction. In 2015, 235 volunteer naturalists expanded their knowledge of the nearshore environment during evening trainings so they could hold more effective and compelling conversations with beachgoers as part of the Beach Naturalist program.

And they also come because the

Aquarium is simply a great place to host a party or civic event. On 122 nights in 2015, your Aquarium transformed itself: into a dreamcome-true wedding venue, an elegant setting for corporate celebrations, the location of a conference on ocean acidification, a lively prom destination, a launch pad for successful fundraisers, and more. And, as a result, 22,223 people who might not otherwise have visited—had the opportunity to fall in love with the wonders of the marine environment we all share.

"So many great activities...we were engaged the entire time and my kids are still talking about the salmon dissection."

-Aquarium Open House attendee





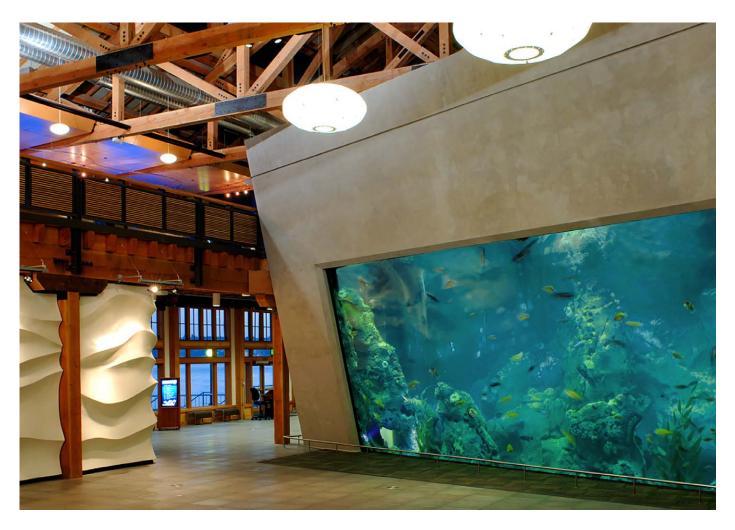








2:30am: Night watch





The Ackerley Foundation Puget Sound Hall is empty and quiet. Only when the Aquarium is this deserted is it possible to hear the sound of the mammoth machinery that propels the surge action inside the Window on Washington Waters exhibit, designed to mimic the natural flow of tides along the rocky cliffs of Neah Bay.

Even at this late hour, of course, your Aquarium is teeming with life: Animals have needs that

don't stop just because the doors have closed for the day. One such animal joined us in 2015—not to be placed on exhibit, but instead to receive lifesaving care. When a cold-stunned olive ridley sea turtle was stranded and picked up on Oregon's Cannon Beach in December, the animal was transported to the Seattle Aquarium: Washington's only recognized sea turtle rehabilitation facility. Thanks to your support, "Tucker"

(so named because tucking his tail was the first evidence of life he showed after arriving, unresponsive, at the Aquarium) was slowly and expertly nursed toward health.

Not all the Aquarium's nocturnal activities are this dramatic; some are far more mundane. But all are essential, and none could happen without your help. Preparing meals of sustainable, restaurantgrade seafood for our animals. Monitoring the pumps that filter 6,480,000 gallons of Puget Sound seawater through our exhibits every day. Maintaining the equipment that ensures the exhibits and animals inside will stay safe in the event of an emergency. Preparing for yet another jam-packed, enthralling, inspiring day at your Seattle Aquarium. Doors open at 9:30.

"The thing I appreciate the most about being here at night is how quiet the Aquarium becomes after the sea of humanity has left."

-Steve Lock, Seattle Aquarium biologist









2015: More notable moments







Outstanding marine advocates honored

Martha Kongsgaard and Dr. Terrie Klinger were honored for their outstanding work on behalf of protecting Puget Sound at the Chairman's Dinner in January.

Ms. Kongsgaard was awarded the Seattle Aquarium Medal for her accomplishments with the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council and Governor Inslee's Marine Resources Advisory Council, among others.

Dr. Klinger was presented with the Seattle Aquarium Conservation Research Award for a stellar career as an applied marine ecologist at the University of Washington School of Marine Affairs, School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences and the Washington Ocean Acidification Center; she also served on the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Panel on Ocean

Acidification and helped establish the Ocean Acidification Experimental Lab at the UW Friday Harbor Laboratories.

For his exemplary service, dedication and contributions, 15-year veteran board member Stuart T. Rolfe received the Scott S. Patrick Inspirational Award, named for the late Aquarium board member who served with extraordinary passion.





Seattle Aquarium Executive Chef Betsy Davidson

Sustainability and Smart Catch

With your help, the Aquarium continues its commitment to sustainability—by adopting wise green practices inside our own facility, and sharing conservation actions that can be implemented at home by Aquarium visitors and the community at large. Those efforts took another step forward in 2015, when the Aquarium became a founding member of Smart Catch, a program created with chefs and for chefs to recognize restaurants working toward ensuring an abundant supply of seafood for generations to come.

Ninja Sharks and your Seattle Aquarium

Shark enthusiasts across the country were treated to an expert look at the "ninja skill" adaptations and conservation of six shark species during a new program aired during the Discovery Channel's Shark Week and featuring a panel that included Aquarium Director of Conservation and Education Jim Wharton.





Thank you

To the entire community that comes together in support of the Seattle Aquarium, its mission of *Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment*, and the myriad ways that mission is manifested every day.



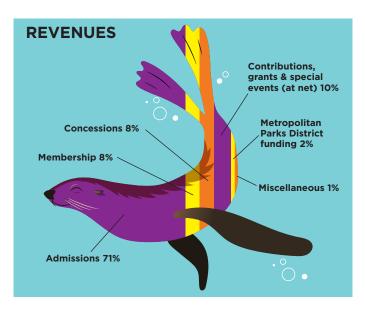


Seattle Aquarium annual report

Balance sheet (\$s in '000s) 2015

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Total liabilities and net assets	\$8.695	
Total net assets	\$6,539	
Temporarily restr. net assets	3,417	
Unrestricted net assets	\$3,122	
Leasehold financing Total liabilities	\$ 2,15 6	
Liabilities and net assets Payables and other	\$2,156	
Total assets	\$8,695	
Property plant and equipment, net	3,411	
Long-term receivables	5,030	
Cash and investments Receivables and other	\$2,243 3,036	



Revenue and expense (\$s in '000s) 2015

Unrestricted operating revenue

Admissions	\$10,813
Membership	1,219
Concessions	1,291
Contributions and grants	392
Metropolitan Parks District funding	300
Special events (at net)	755
Miscellaneous	213
Restricted net assets released from restrictions	5 701
Total unrestricted operating revenues	\$15,684

Unrestricted operating expense

Temporarily restricted revenue

Change in unrestricted net assets	\$14,837 \$847
Total unrestricted operating expenses	
Fundraising	1,092
Management and general	2,627
Program expenses	\$11,118

Restricted activity

Change in restricted net assets	\$(307)
Restricted net assets released from restrictions	(701)

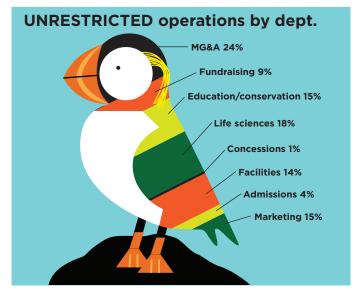
Net assets, beginning of year	\$5,999

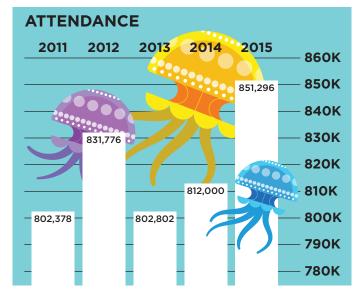
Net assets, end of year The statements shown above are condensed versions of our audited financial statements and do not include footnote disclosures. A copy

of our audit report containing financial statements and accompanying

Please contact Ryan Dean at (206) 693-6116 or r.dean@seattleaguarium.org to obtain a copy.

footnotes is available upon request.





\$394

\$6,539

2015 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

To all who attended—thank you!

SEACHANGE

More than 350 guests attended the third annual SeaChange breakfast in March, enjoying Ray Troll talking about his work as an artist and ocean conservationist, and learning from Dr. Lesanna Lahner, Seattle Aquarium veterinarian, presenting on sea star wasting disease. Guests contributed more than \$125,500 in support of our mission.

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SPLASH!

Friends of the Aquarium and community leaders came together in June for the Seattle Aquarium's 24th annual *Splash!* gala. The fun-filled evening with silent and live auctions raised more than \$1 million for our mission. Special thanks to Honorary Chair Mary L. Bass and the 2015 *Splash!* planning committee for their support and leadership.

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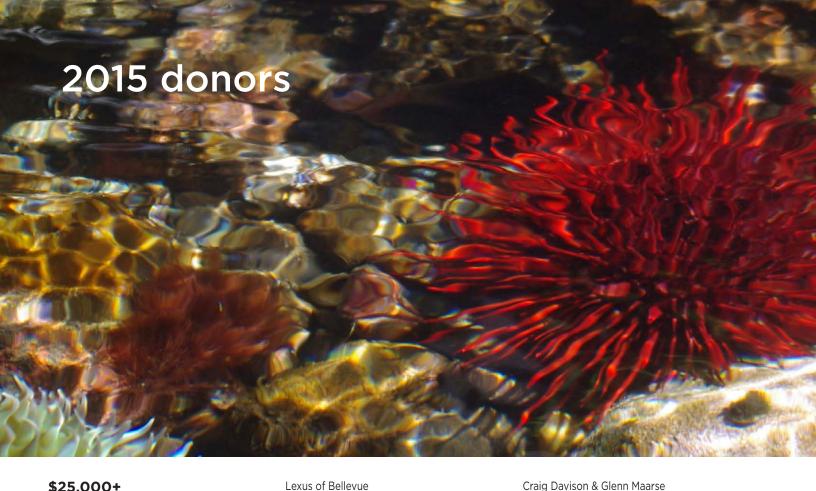
Ben Bridge Jeweler

ADULT SWIM

Congratulations to the auxiliary board on their inaugural Adult Swim event, chaired by Tom Raaf, which introduced a new audience of nearly 300 young professionals to the Aquarium and its mission. The night of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dancing and a small silent auction raised funds and showcased the Aquarium illuminated after dark.

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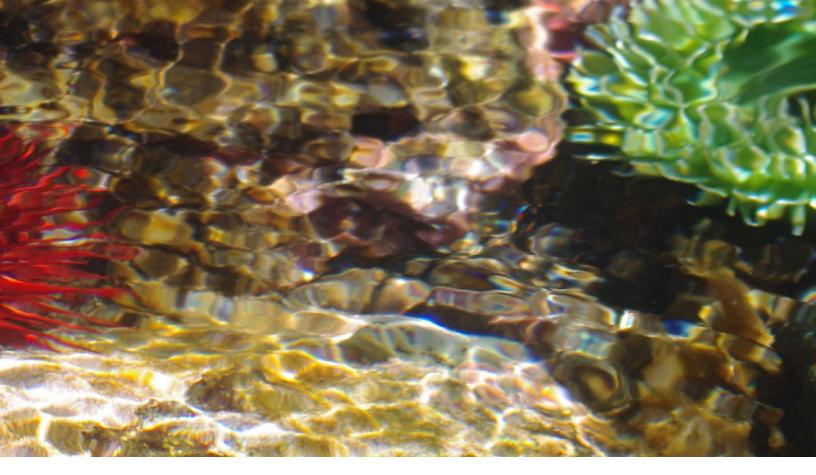
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\$500-\$999

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Auxiliary board launches

As a growing and thriving city, Seattle is attracting a new generation of people, many of whom share a passion for Puget Sound and the marine environment. The recently formed Seattle Aquarium auxiliary

board aims to involve young professionals and their communities in the Aquarium's mission through innovative and engaging programs, events and activities. The group's first event, Adult Swim, was held in late 2015.

Young professionals auxiliary board

As of December 31, 2015

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Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment



