



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

THE MOMENT IS NOW...





*...to protect our changing, beloved Puget Sound and
mighty, magnificent blue ocean.*

THE MOMENT IS NOW...





*...to inspire people from our own region and all over the world
with the power, magic and wonder of life below the surface.*

THE MOMENT IS NOW...





...to reach deeply into the community, forming partnerships to share what we know, listen to diverse perspectives and collaborate for a more equitable future.

THE MOMENT IS NOW...





...to address the opportunities and challenges presented by our rapidly changing city, and the historic waterfront neighborhood we call home.

THE MOMENT IS NOW...





...to raise our voices and mobilize for the pressing issues facing our local waters and their inhabitants—as well as those from deeper depths and more distant shorelines.

WELCOME TO YOUR SEATTLE AQUARIUM



UARIUM



...where we are seizing the moment.

OCEAN PAVILION



Robert W. Davidson
President & CEO

Dear Friend of the Seattle Aquarium

The moment is now

For Puget Sound and the world's one ocean. They're changing faster than we can anticipate or keep up with, and the need to protect these precious, irreplaceable resources has never been greater.

For our city, which is experiencing a period of rapid and sustained growth the likes of which we've never seen before and which we may never see again.

And for the Seattle Aquarium, which sits literally between land and sea, in the center of a neighborhood at the beginning of a tremendous and visionary transformation.

We invite you to explore this annual report to discover key highlights of our 2018 achievements and impacts—both inside

and beyond our walls—and learn a bit more about our progress on the journey toward expanding into a 21st-century aquarium.

With sincere gratitude for all you do to make the important work of the Seattle Aquarium possible, and your support of our mission, *Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment.*

Bob Davidson
Bob C. Donegan



Bob C. Donegan
Chair



The new Ocean Pavilion will solidify the Aquarium's place as the centerpiece of the transformed waterfront. Rendering by LMN.

The expanding Seattle Aquarium

A place for learning, inspiration and action

To paraphrase the great marine biologist Dr. Sylvia Earle, the ocean is what makes life on Earth possible. The health of the ocean—and our own Puget Sound—is at stake, and the mission of the Seattle Aquarium has never been more important. Every day we take on the awesome responsibility of inspiring, educating and helping people to act on behalf of Puget Sound and our greater ocean.

The moment is now to grow

The Seattle Aquarium is a longtime and trusted leader in science and conservation related to our local waters; now we're excited to be launching new conservation partnerships in the Indo-Pacific's Coral Triangle, which shares many of the challenges faced by Puget Sound. These stories will be brought to life in an awe-inspiring new building, the Ocean Pavilion, to link Puget Sound health with the health of the greater ocean and motivate millions to act on behalf of the marine environment.

“The Ocean Pavilion will reconnect our city with our ocean roots and inspire a new generation of conservationists.”

—Martha Kongsgaard, chair, Seattle Aquarium
One Ocean, One Future campaign



The new building is designed to offer passersby a tantalizing window into the amazing sights and experiences inside. Rendering by LMN.

Common challenges linked across the Pacific

Putting global threats in a local context for a healthier ocean

Our waters are all connected. What happens here is directly linked to ocean health around the

globe. Whether it's plastic on our beaches, how to protect iconic species like orcas and whale sharks, or the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on oyster beds, corals, eelgrass and mangroves, we must work together to find common solutions to the crisis facing our one world ocean.

Centerpiece of the new waterfront park



It's never too early to inspire a commitment to ocean conservation.

The expanded Aquarium will be a defining civic gem along Seattle's improved waterfront. A once-in-a-generation project, the new Ocean Pavilion will take advantage of the removal of the Alaskan Way viaduct and propel us toward a world-class Aquarium campus fit for our growing city—inviting everyone to experience the ocean through a local lens.

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INCREASING ACCESS



A moment of conservation outreach with just one of our 350+ community partner organizations.

Connecting with diverse audiences

A manifestation of our goal to be inclusive and welcoming to all, and belief that our audience should reflect the diversity of our region, the **Seattle Aquarium Connections program** provides opportunities to enjoy the Aquarium to those who might otherwise experience barriers to engaging with us.

In 2018, your support allowed us to distribute **over 56,000 free Aquarium tickets through more than 350 partner organizations that serve marginalized**

communities across the Puget Sound region.

Aquarium staff also delivered specialized outreach programming, providing 23 class and outdoor experiences to community partner organizations such as East African Community Services; Refugee Women's Alliance; Latino Outdoors; Chinese Information and Service Center; and others.

Making DreamNights come true

These extraordinary, free events offer people with special needs or disabilities and their families a chance to

explore the Aquarium at their own pace, participate in activities modified for accessibility needs, and experience accommodations to sensory needs. **DreamNight at the Aquarium** has proven to be so popular that, with your support, we

now offer two events each year to ensure everyone has the space they need to fully enjoy their time with us.

In 2018, **working with our Connections program partners, we welcomed a total 884 guests** to our DreamNight events.



DreamNights provide a chance for all comers to enjoy the Aquarium at their own pace.

Reaching out to the deaf community

Marking its fifth year, our twice-yearly **Deaf Community Day** provides ASL-interpreted talks and activities throughout the Aquarium. ASL interpreters also joined forces with volunteer naturalists for a summertime deaf community beach walk.



Engaging with members of the deaf community on the beach.



Events like Open House allow us to share our important conservation messaging with families who are often experiencing the Aquarium for the very first time.

"We give...and we also get back."

Aquarium supporters Ivan and Jacquie Seda have deep roots in the Pacific Northwest. Ivan grew up spending weekends at his family beach property, "as far south in the Sound as you can get," and it's a tradition he and Jacquie continue with their own children today.

"There's a uniqueness to the Pacific Northwest," says Ivan. "As many places in the world as we've been, we haven't seen anything that tops it." Adds Jacquie, "It's important to us to preserve and protect the beauty of our region."

Being involved with the

Aquarium is one way that the Sedas fulfill that commitment. "You're creating impactful experiences for people who've never had the opportunity to pluck an oyster off the beach, helping them understand why ocean health is so important," Ivan says.

"The Aquarium's mission in itself is inspiring to us," Jacquie comments. "We appreciate being able to support that drive to conserve the health of Puget Sound and the ocean." Ivan adds, "We give, and we also get back—in the difference the Aquarium is making for our community."

Embracing underserved populations

Our annual **Open House** is a free, activity-packed and inclusive night offered to **families served by organizations that work with immigrant and refugee populations and**

others in low-income communities throughout the region. Support from donors like you helped us welcome over 800 guests from 10 community partners at the 2018 event, with signage provided in eight languages (in addition to English) and presentations interpreted in Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese and ASL.



Presentations at Open House are interpreted in four languages.

PROVIDING CONSERVATION EDU

Getting an early start on stewardship

The **Toddler Time** program provides a variety of age-appropriate, marine-themed activities for youngsters and their families visiting the Aquarium. Thanks to a generous sponsorship from U.S. Bank Foundation, there's no cost to attend—families can drop in any time that suits them on select dates throughout fall and winter. Toddler Time **completed its 13th season in 2018, offering over 1,700 kids and adults a chance to join the fun** on 29 dates.

Practicing science

on Puget Sound beaches

Citizen Science continued to educate and engage historically underrepresented high school students from Puget Sound-area schools in the 12th of its 15-year program. Assisted by 10 teachers, **just over 400 students participated in hands-on, inquiry-based, marine science education** by collecting nearshore monitoring datasets on 12 area beaches. Thank you to the Mannix Canby Foundation, Wells



Students frequently report a new sense of appreciation for the marine environment after participating in Citizen Science.

Fargo Foundation and an anonymous donor for helping to make this program possible.

Offering summer camps

that inspire and educate

The summer of 2018 saw 237 happy campers from pre-K through middle school enjoying a week of marine-themed conservation activities paired with healthy helpings of silliness and fun. With your help, we were able to **award 18 scholarships, totaling nearly \$7,000 in financial aid**, over the nine consecutive weeks of **marine summer camp**.

Honoring those who were here first

The Seattle Aquarium honors our location in the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples

who stewarded these lands and waters for generations, and continue to do so. Each fall, we partner in the **Salmon Homecoming**, which celebrates the return of the salmon to their home streams. In its 26th year, the school days portion of the event was **attended by nearly 1,000 people from 15 schools/districts**. Participants enjoyed a welcome by performers

Leveraging curiosity on local shores

In a beautiful example of the power of being in the right place at the right time, volunteer naturalists fan out across 12 local beaches on low tide days each summer, striking up conversations with people of all ages, answering questions about the intertidal habitat and sharing important information about how to care for it. **In its 20th season, the award-winning Beach Naturalist program attracted 235 volunteers who held over 65,000 conversations with the public over 21 dates.**

We also make the most of the opportunity to engage with the public

Aquarium interpreters delivering daily doses of inspiration:

- 3,488 formal interpretative talks
- 1,591 diver shows
- 212 story times



from the Muckleshoot Tribal School and the Suquamish Tribe, then explored 11 exhibitor booths hosted by local organizations devoted to salmon habitat enhancement, protection and environmental education.

each fall, as salmon make their way back to their spawning grounds along the Cedar River.

The 21st season of the Cedar River Salmon Journey program was a record-breaker, reaching nearly 20,000 people at five riverside sites.

CATION

We're proud to offer these successful programs with thanks to the City of Renton; King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks; King County Flood Control District; King County Library System, Renton; Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed; MMS Giving Foundation; Peg and Rick Young Foundation; Seattle Public Utilities; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District; and an anonymous donor.

Taking a leadership role

in the field of conservation empathy

Research shows that encouraging and developing empathy for animals in children is an important motivator toward action on the animal's behalf. The Aquarium's practice of employing empathy framing allows visitors to see all animals as unique individuals, worthy of care and conservation.



Caring about marine animals leads to caring about their homes and the larger marine environment.

Launched in 2015 in partnership with Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Woodland Park Zoo, the **empathy project is an innovative program that seeks to improve both our understanding of, and capacity to, foster empathy toward animals and inspire stewardship.** We continued the project in 2018 with seven hosted workshops around the country for a total of 20 institutions. The project was presented an Education Award by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums at their 2018 annual conference.

In a particular highlight, Director of Conservation Engagement and Learning Jim Wharton, along with a group of 30 industry thought leaders, was received by the Dalai Lama as part of the *Fostering Universal Ethics and Compassion through Museums* summit held in Dharamsala, India.

And, in December, we were thrilled to learn that the Aquarium was awarded, by an anonymous foundation, a four-year, \$2.4 million grant to significantly expand our programs and activities around this important work.

46,652 students and chaperones experienced the Aquarium in 2018

- *51% of those students attended our programs on scholarships*
- *42% were from under-resourced schools*

Thank you for helping to make this possible!



Your support helps us welcome kids who might not otherwise be able to visit.

Creating ways to earn college credit through volunteering

Through an innovative, National Science Foundation-funded badging program developed in collaboration with University of Washington, teen volunteers in the Aquarium's **Youth Ocean Advocates** program now have the

opportunity to earn college credit for their service. Deep thanks to the Peach Foundation, William Randolph Hearst Foundation and an anonymous donor for their support of this vibrant program.



Conservation commitments in action!

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

Expanding our conservation focus

with a new department

With your support, in 2018 the Aquarium bolstered its conservation efforts by creating a new department, **conservation programs and partnerships**, to bring new resources and expertise to its field conservation efforts and policy work.

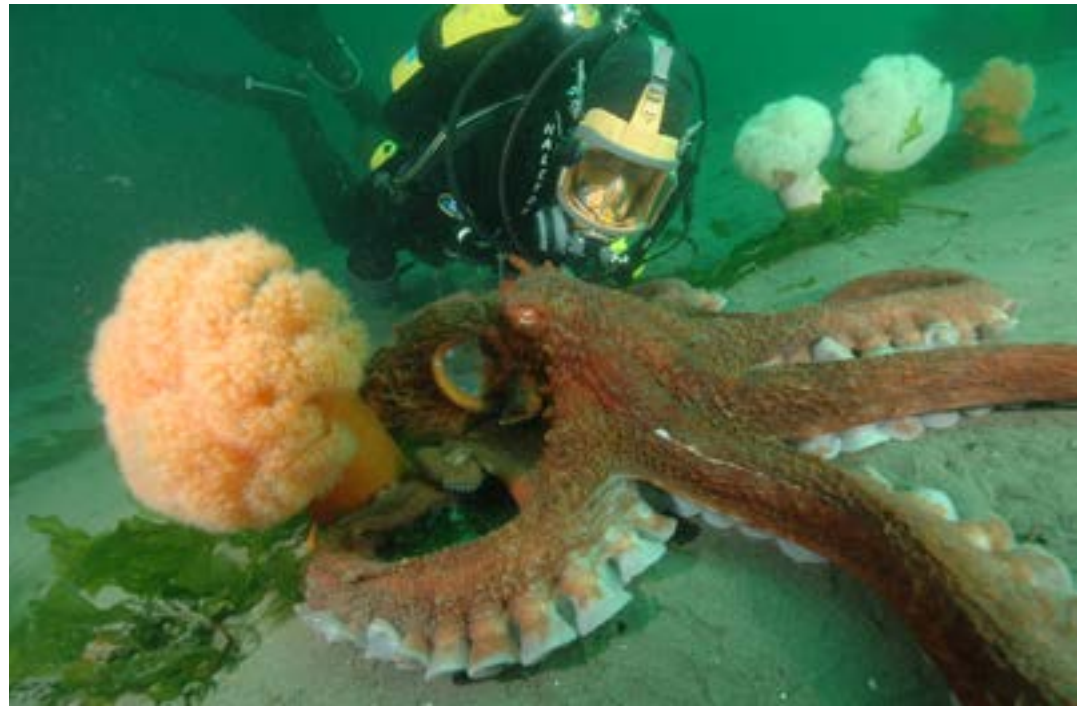


Director of Conservation Programs & Partnerships Dr. Erin Meyer.

Hired to lead the new department, Dr. Erin Meyer came to the Aquarium from the California Ocean Science Trust, where she led MPA monitoring programs, First Nation and community engagement efforts and a myriad of other projects. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.



Ocean Policy Manager Nora Nickum.



The conservation philosophies and priorities document will guide conservation work such as our annual octopus census.

Nora Nickum soon joined the team as the Aquarium's new ocean policy manager. Nora holds a master's degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and brings more than 10 years of experience working in the public policy and social justice fields.

Charting a way forward

In collaboration with the Aquarium's conservation leadership team, the conservation programs and partnerships team led the development of a **new conservation philosophies and priorities document** to guide our conservation work. The three key priorities—**climate resilience, sustainable**

seas and clean waters—will serve as a roadmap as the Aquarium pursues projects and programs that advance knowledge and understanding; improve management practices; change behaviors; co-generate solutions; and take action to improve coastal and ocean health.



The new document will also strongly inform our work in the Coral Triangle.

Deepening policy advocacy

To amplify the Aquarium's voice and increase our influence on important conservation policies and management practices, the conservation programs and partnerships team developed a policy review and action process in 2018. They also completed four multi-faceted policy campaigns (including letters, petitions, floor presentations, blogs, social media and more) and 21 comment letters, including releasing the Aquarium's first multimedia petition, which was focused on the Endangered Species Act.



Staff members counted 2,315 sea otters during the 2018 census.

Advancing understanding of sea otters

With your help, the Aquarium's commitment to sea otter research projects continued for its 18th year, including the **ninth year of sea otter foraging research** along Washington's outer coast and our most successful field season, across all research efforts, to date. Staff members spent 22 days in the field for the foraging research, counting 2,315 sea otters and documenting 582 foraging dives across 11

sites. Closer to home, we **completed a pilot study of measuring toxic compounds** in our sea otters' food, feces and blood to determine their exposure to, and the relative concentrations of, toxics in their tissues. The preliminary results suggest that the exposure levels faced by the sea otters in our care are currently below the recommended thresholds for humans. More work needs to be done to determine further exposures and the levels found in wild sea otters. In 2019, the team will utilize a similar approach for microplastics.



Surveying sites in Hawaii helps us understand changes to critical habitats over time.

Surveying habitats near and far

To **document changes to critical habitats over time**, the Aquarium surveys reef sites in the Salish Sea as well as off the coast of the Big Island of Hawaii. We completed our 14th year of rocky reef research in the Salish Sea in 2018, documenting roughly 1,500 individual fish across 16 species, conducting 33 dive surveys and capturing 16.5 hours of video. In our 10th year of Hawaii coral reef research, we documented approximately 3,000 fish across roughly 70 species, conducted 16 dive surveys at eight sites and captured eight hours of video.

Preparing first responders

to assist in an environmental disaster

Seattle Aquarium staff members were some of the first responders after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989. In 2018 your support helped make possible a training that will allow select members of our staff to train others to serve as certified first responders after an oil spill. Hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPER) training will ensure that **even more people can be on the front lines to help save animal lives in the aftermath of a spill.**



Invertebrates in our touch pools will always be a highlight, thanks to Janet's generosity.

"I love watching people's eyes light up when they learn something."

Janet Beckmann has been an Aquarium volunteer for over 10 years—and she also bears another proud distinction: she recently established our very first endowment, which will support invertebrate care in our touch pools in perpetuity.

"I love invertebrates," she says. "Their anatomy, their physiology...they're amazing."

Not surprisingly, Janet's favorite volunteer role is interpreting at our Life on the Edge exhibit, where she can share her invertebrate fascination with visitors from all over the world. "We've got something really special here," she notes. "When people come to the Aquarium, someone is there who can answer all their questions—

it's a unique experience."

Even after all these years, Janet is still learning new things about the invertebrates she loves, and she's grateful for the opportunity to share her knowledge with Aquarium guests. "It's brought me so much happiness over the years," she says, "I just want to give back."

ENSURING THE BEST POSSIBLE



Retiring Director of Life Sciences C.J. Casson.

Collaborating with peers

As a freshly re-accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), we were honored to co-host, with the Woodland Park Zoo, the best-attended AZA annual conference ever, in September 2018. Over 2,500 delegates from AZA-accredited institutions all over the world joined together to collaborate and share information about all aspects of animal care and conservation. **Aquarium staff members serve in key leadership positions** on several AZA committees.

The Aquarium had several proud achievements related to the conference: **we hosted 3,000 attendees for the first carbon-neutral, single-use-plastic-free icebreaker event**; our Fostering Empathy project and the Youth Ocean Advocates teen volunteer program were recognized with **AZA Significant Achievement awards**; and **our own Community Partner Program Coordinator Jasmine Williams was featured as one of 10 “AZA Heroes”** in a national social media campaign.

Celebrating a lifetime of excellence in animal care

In December, after a 40-year career at the Seattle Aquarium, **Director of Life Sciences C.J. Casson announced he would retire in May 2019.** C.J. joined our staff in 1979, just two years after the Aquarium opened. As he ascended through multiple roles, he developed a remarkable expertise that can be matched by few. His long and illustrious career has had tremendous impact not only within the Seattle Aquarium, but around the world and throughout the AZA community as well.

C.J.'s expertise with northern sea otters is particularly noteworthy. He was a vital element in

the Seattle Aquarium's proud distinction of being the **first facility in the world to have a sea otter conceived, born and successfully raised in a zoo or aquarium.** Based on his level of knowledge and experience, he was awarded the role of AZA North American Studbook Keeper for sea otters in 2002—a position he held until 2016. He also **oversaw the first successful birth and subsequent survival to maturity of a fur seal under human care.**

C.J.'s dedication to the very highest standards of animal care at the Seattle Aquarium has also benefited animals

at AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums worldwide. Since 2009, C.J. has shared his deep skill and knowledge as an AZA accreditation inspector—and as an AZA accreditation commissioner since 2011.

As impressive as these accomplishments are, they can't capture the sheer heart and passion with which C.J. approaches his work within and beyond the Seattle Aquarium. Even after 40 years, he remains awestruck by the beauty of life below the surface; fascinated by the animals that make their homes there; and extraordinarily dedicated to the service

that allows him to care for, protect and advocate for marine life everywhere.

We were honored to **recognize C.J.'s lifetime of professional excellence with the inaugural Seattle Aquarium Sylvia Earle medal** at our annual Ocean Conservation Honors (formerly Chairman's) Dinner in early 2019. Previously known as the Seattle Aquarium Medal, the award was renamed for Dr. Earle after we presented her with a lifetime achievement award in 2018.

ANIMAL CARE



Examining samples under a microscope is all in a day's work for Senior Veterinarian Dr. Caitlin Hadfield.

Sharing our expertise

to benefit animal health

It's a great compliment when our staff members are asked to consult or assist at other zoos and aquariums and/or use their skills and experience to benefit efforts in the field.

In one highlight from 2018, **Senior Veterinarian Dr. Caitlin Hadfield helped with wild sea otter work** at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which is actively involved in southern

sea otter research and conservation, alongside the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

In another, **Animal Care Specialist Caroline Hempstead and Animal Care Technician Aubrey Theiss participated in five research trips** on the Washington coast, evaluating sea otter activity budgets and participating in the annual sea otter census conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Enhancing enrichments

with donor support!

Many of the mammals in our care have benefited from the enrichment provided by a chance to play in (and munch on) cubed ice. But it was often in short supply, which meant that animal care staff couldn't provide it as frequently as they would have liked.

Associate Curator of Birds & Mammals Julie Carpenter went to work to obtain an ice machine, and the staff at Holland America Cruises stepped up in a big way. They held a bake sale, fun run and raffles to raise money for the new machine, which was installed in 2018. The mammals can now play in, and eat, all the ice they desire. Many thanks to Holland America Cruises!



Thank you to Holland America Cruises for the new ice machine!



Enrichments, such as this "birthday cake" made of ice and embedded with fish, enhance our animal care.

2018 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(\$ in 000's)

Assets

Cash and investments	\$5,537
Receivables & prepaid expenses	7,283
Facility expansion project costs	2,282
Property, plant & equipment	2,255
Total assets	\$17,357

Liabilities and net assets

Payables & other liabilities	\$2,470
Net assets without donor restrictions	\$7,492
Net assets with donor restrictions	7,395
Total net assets	\$14,887

Total liabilities and net assets **\$17,357**

Revenues and expenses

Revenue without donor restrictions	
Admissions & memberships	\$14,820
Concessions & other income	1,743
Contributions, grants, special events (net)	1,731
Net assets released from restrictions	1,861
Total revenues without donor restrictions	\$20,155

Expenses

Program expenses	\$15,615
Management & general	2,447
Fundraising	1,617
Total expenses	\$19,679

Change in net assets without donor restrictions **\$476**

Donor restricted activity

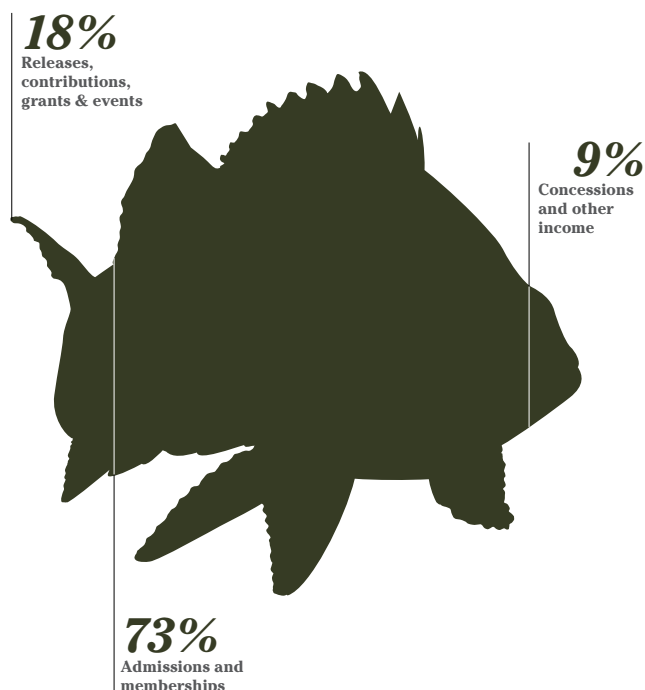
Temporarily restricted revenue	\$6,895
Net assets released from restrictions	(1,861)
Change in donor restricted net assets	\$5,034

Total change in net assets **\$5,510**

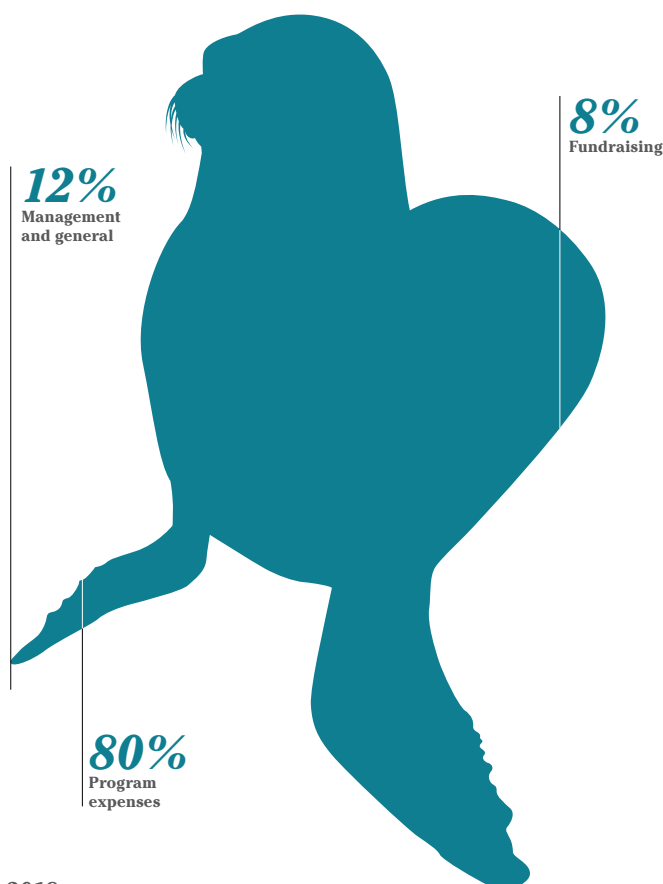
Net assets, beginning of year **\$9,377**

Net assets, end of year **\$14,887**

Operating revenues



Expenses



The statements shown above are condensed versions of our audited financial statements and do not include footnote disclosures. Complete audited financial statements are available on the Seattle Aquarium website.

2018 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Your support makes a difference!



The tiny grunt sculpin relayed a big message at Splash!2018.

Splash!

On June 1, 2018, more than 600 community leaders and friends of the Aquarium joined us for our annual *Splash!* gala. Inspired by Aiyana Blas-Rojas's heartfelt speech on the ways being a Youth Ocean Advocate (YOA) transformed her life, guests at *Splash!* raised more than \$850,000. Special thanks to Co-Chairs Natalya Leahy and Lisa McCabe; *Splash!* committee members Sean Butler, Erin Cantiberos, Craig Davison, Michael Guidon, Melissa Mager, Nathan Rauschenberg, Michael Trzupek, Sherri Warner and Carla Wigen; and the more than 100 volunteers who gave over 540 hours of service.

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SSA Marine
Turner Construction
UW College of the Environment
Washington Federal Savings
Washington Trust Bank
Wells Fargo
Wright Hotels



Chair Lisa Schafer and keynote speaker Julie Packard.

SeaChange

We are so grateful to the nearly 400 members of our community who joined event Chair Lisa Schafer at the SeaChange fundraising breakfast in October. Seattle Aquarium Conservation Partnerships and Programs Director Dr. Erin Meyer shared the Aquarium's conservation priorities: climate resilience, clean waters and sustainable seas. Julie Packard, founding executive director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, shared her conservation vision for aquariums as places that build

constituencies that work to protect and restore the world's aquatic ecosystems that sustain life. Moved by this vision, guest raised more than \$160,000 to help support the Seattle Aquarium's conservation and research efforts.

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PAE Engineers
Puget Sound Energy
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Adult Swim

With leadership from the auxiliary board, Adult Swim has evolved into the best event of the season for Seattle's young professionals to connect with the Aquarium and our mission. In its fourth year, this lively evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dancing and special animal encounters raised over \$63,000 while engaging a new and expanding audience.

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*...you inspire us every day with your commitment to
and support of our mission. **Thank you.***

\$1,000,000+

Anonymous
Anonymous*
Linda and Ted Johnson*
Stuart and Lee Rolfe*

\$500,000–999,999

The Grousemont
Foundation*
Kongsgaard-Goldman
Foundation*
Bruce and Jeannie
Nordstrom*

\$100,000–499,999

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D.A. Davidson*
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Erika and Alex Washburn*

\$25,000–99,999

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Foundations
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Willoughby*
WWW Foundation

\$10,000–\$24,999

Airbnb, Inc
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"The Aquarium lets every visitor see some of the magic that's below the surface."

For Raman, Tina and Audrey Sarin, the Aquarium is a family affair. Parents Raman and Tina are firm believers in supporting our mission—says Tina, "The more people know about what's happening in our waters, the more they'll care and take action to keep the ocean healthy!" Their daughter Audrey has provided hundreds of hours of service as a teen volunteer in the Youth Ocean Advocates program, and starting this fall she'll be studying marine science in her first year of college!

"We loved taking Audrey to the Aquarium when she was little,"

says Raman. "As she grew older, she got really interested in the conservation education programming—it was just a natural place for us to be involved."

Adds Tina, "It's important for us to support the Aquarium because it's sometimes the first place a child gets a glimpse at what's going on in the ocean and our local waterways. We believe that if you're interested in something, you can grow to love and care for it. The Aquarium helps spark that interest with hundreds of people every day."



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"We have a story to tell about a resource that's in trouble."

Growing up, Bill Greger spent his summers on Hood Canal, exploring tide pools and learning to fish with his dad. "I developed an interest as a kid and it stayed



with me," he says, adding, "I'm still fascinated, and now I'm 82." Bill became an Aquarium volunteer in 2001, shortly after his retirement, and is still going strong 18 years later.

Bill's favorite spot to volunteer is the Closer Look table, where he appreciates the opportunity to share the Aquarium's conservation messaging with people from all over the world. "When you've got folks from St. Louis who have never seen the ocean, and you show them what's in a tray of water from Puget Sound, they're utterly amazed," he says.

Along with his volunteer work, Bill is also a longtime Aquarium donor. He comments, "If I can make a contribution—with my time or money—that's what I want to do. I wish I could do more." Laughing, he adds, "If there's a chance that you could have made a difference and didn't... well then, pooh on you."

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Thank you to our incredible volunteers

In 2018, a total of 1,251
volunteers (524 of them new)
donated 113,423 hours of
service, the equivalent of
54.5 full-time staff, to the
Aquarium at an estimated
value of over \$2.8 million.
These figures include 31,960
hours of service by 289
participants in our Youth
Ocean Advocates program.
We're grateful every day
for this passionate and
committed group.
To view a list of our
2018 volunteers, go to
SeattleAquarium.org/adult-volunteers.

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