

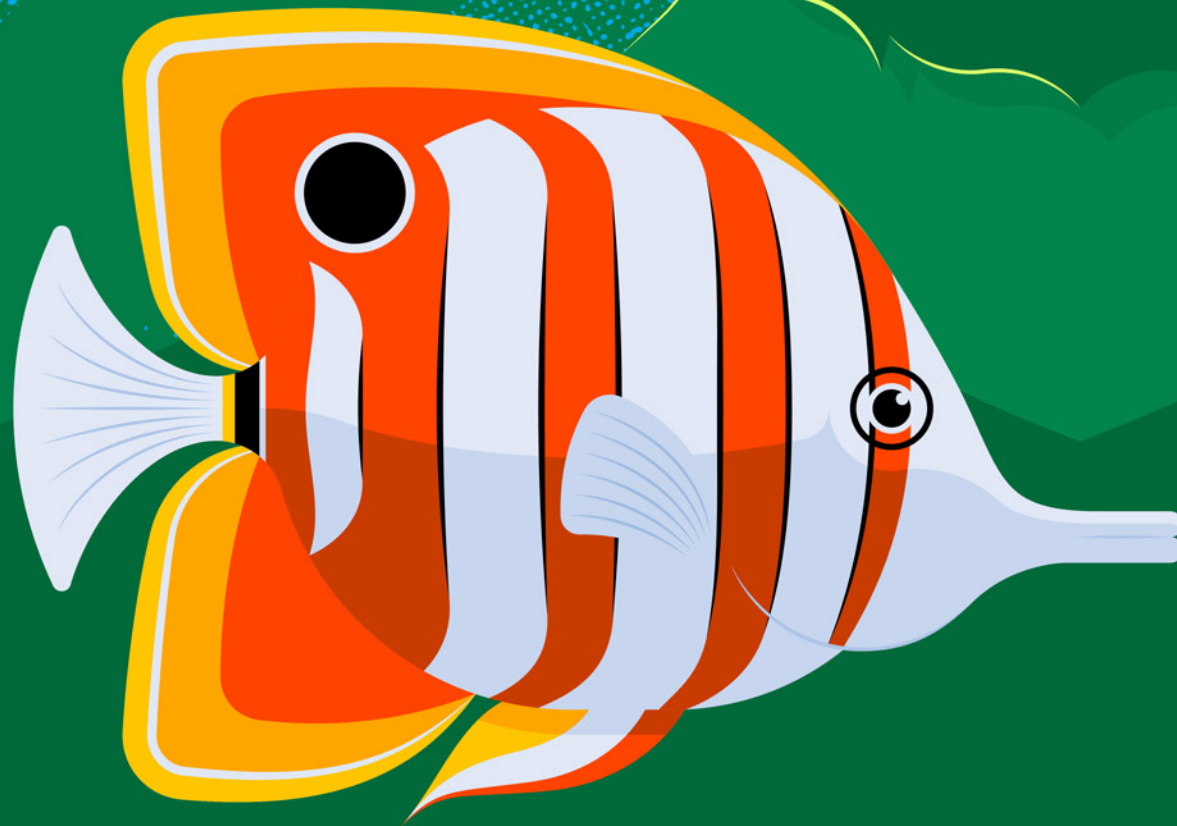
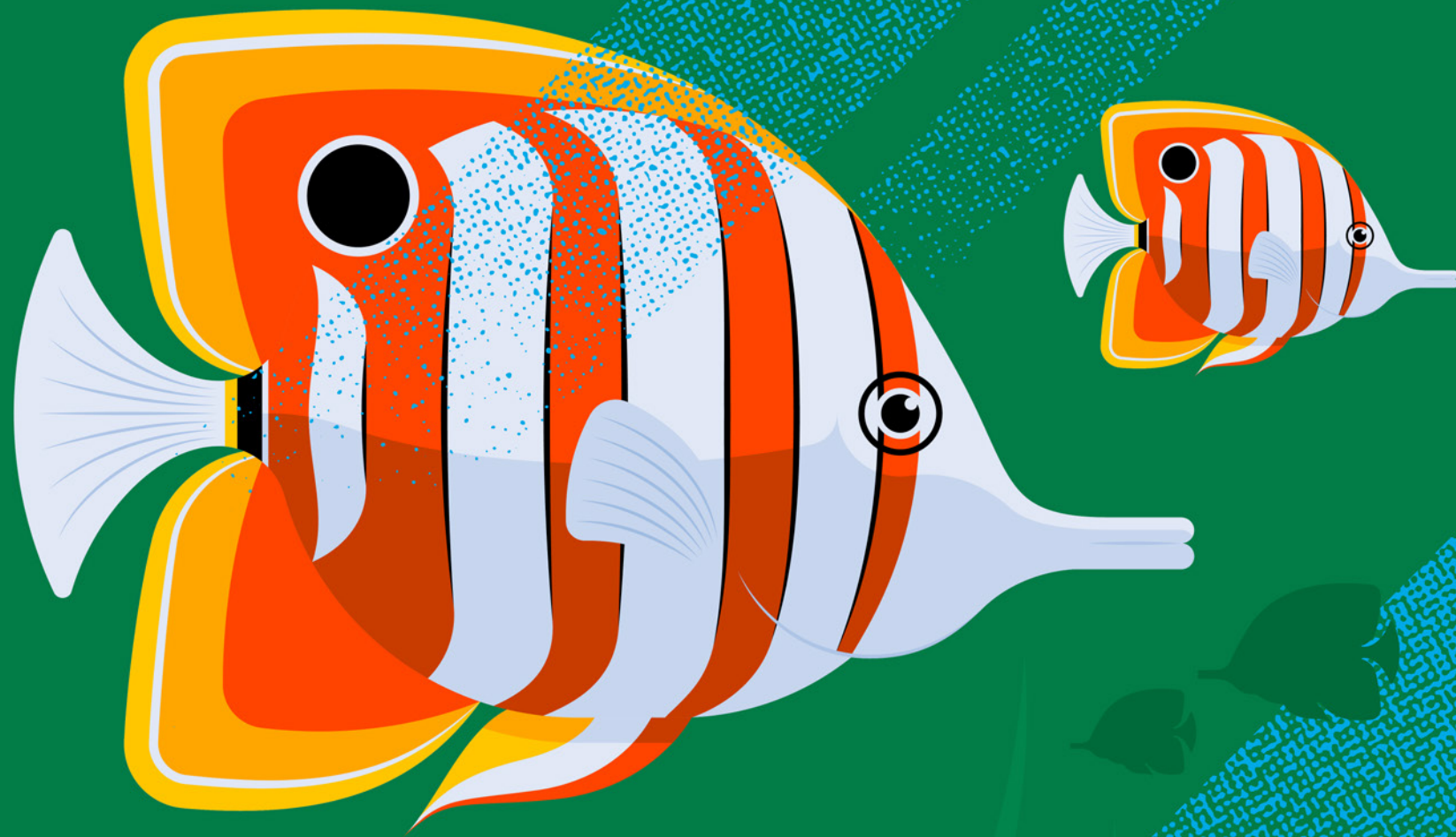
SEA *Change*

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



GEORGIA
AQUARIUM

a legacy
of wonder,
an ocean
of good.



As a leader in marine research, Georgia Aquarium contributes to the advancement of knowledge of our planet by studying animals at the Aquarium and in the ocean.

Our goal is to better understand our aquatic world so that we may conserve it for generations to come.

dear friends,

THIS PAST YEAR WAS REMARKABLE BY EVERY MEASURE.

As we celebrated our 20th anniversary, we welcomed more than three million guests, including more than one million during the summer months. Glow Nights exceeded every expectation, creating unforgettable experiences while introducing even more people to the beauty and importance of our ocean.

These accomplishments matter not simply because they represent record attendance, but because every guest creates another opportunity to inspire curiosity and deepen understanding. Their visits also directly strengthen our ability to care for animals, advance scientific discovery, and expand conservation efforts around the world.

Our impact extends far beyond our walls. We continued support of critical stranding response efforts with organizations such as The Marine Mammal Center in California and SANCCOB in South Africa, alongside our own rehabilitation efforts at home. These efforts helped ensure vulnerable animals received expert care when they needed it most.

At the same time, our research teams continued to ask and answer important questions about the health of our ocean. In 2025, Georgia Aquarium researchers co-authored 19 peer-reviewed scientific publications spanning species from whale sharks and manta rays to seals, sea otters, and freshwater systems.

Each rescued animal, every scientific break-through, and every inspired guest reminds us that meaningful conservation begins by helping people build a deeper connection with our ocean.

Beyond the numbers, it was a year that reinforced something more enduring: when purpose and discipline come together, good things follow. That work continues today, made possible by the steady support of our donors, the commitment of our partners, and the belief of our community.

Looking ahead, our direction is clear. We will continue to invest in world-class animal care, expand our research and conservation efforts, and create experiences that inspire the next generation of ocean stewards. We will do so thoughtfully, with a focus on impact, and with the understanding that our responsibility goes well beyond today. We hope you feel the same sense of pride and purpose that drives our work every day as you read our Annual Report.

NONE OF THIS HAPPENS WITHOUT PEOPLE.

To our team thank you for the care you provide, the standard you uphold, and the culture you sustain. To our donors and supporters, your confidence in our work makes all of this possible. And to every guest who walks through our doors you are part of this story and part of this mission.

If there is one thing we have learned over the past twenty years, it is that meaningful work, done well and over time, creates its own momentum. We are proud of what has been built, and even more energized by what lies ahead.

Thank you for bringing your passion, for inspiring wonder, and for leaving your impact.



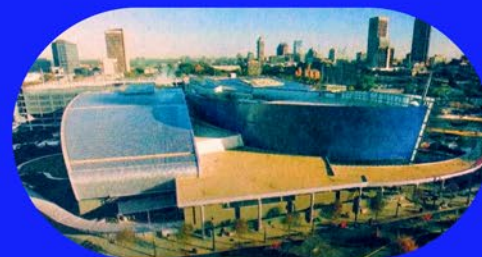
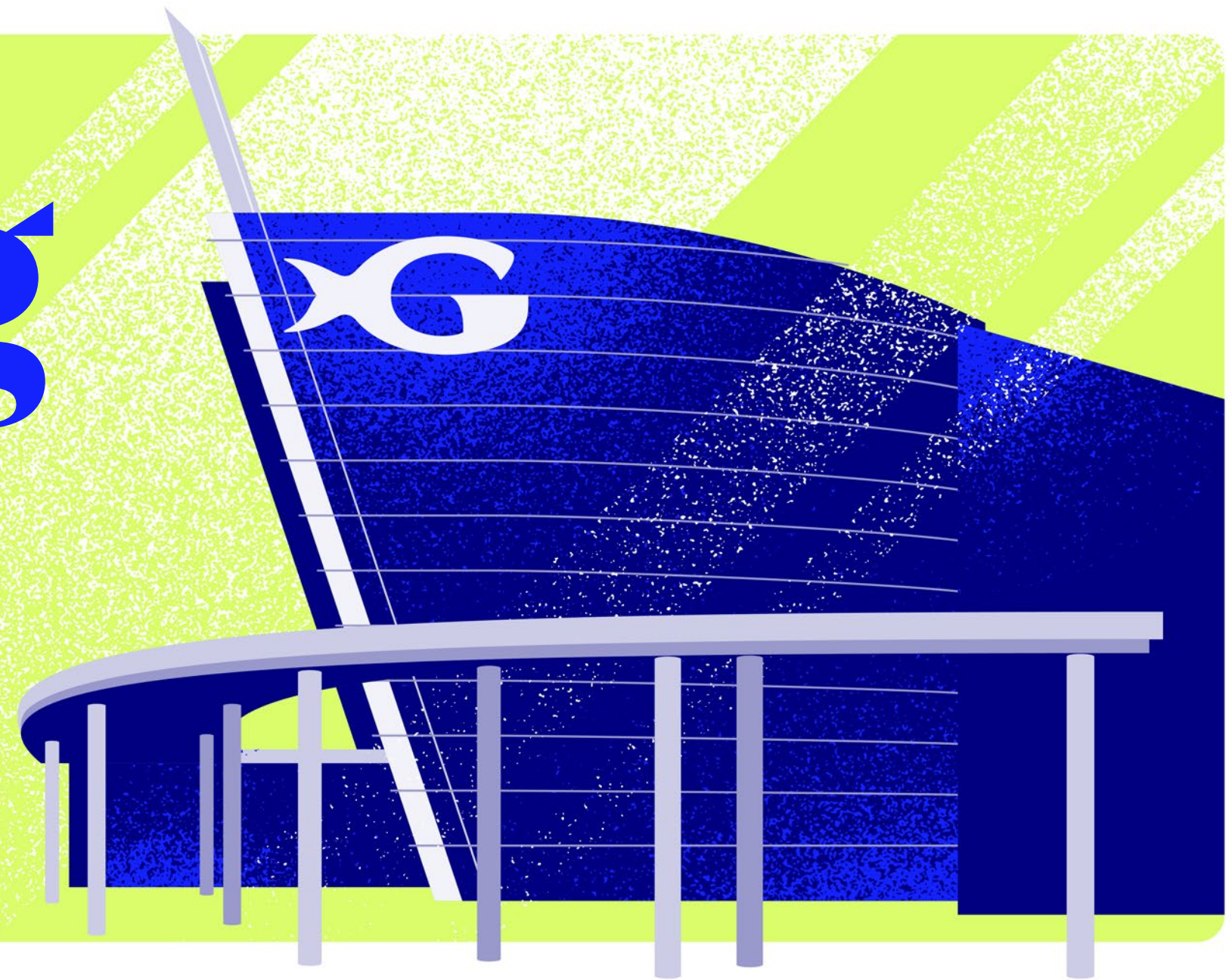
Respectfully,

Travis Burke, President & CEO

YEARS

two decades of making waves

FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS, Georgia Aquarium has been more than a place to see the marvels of the ocean—it's been a place where memories are made, families come together, and inspiration comes to life. We are dedicated to unlocking the ocean's wonder for all and providing transformative experiences that inspire a shared responsibility for conserving our aquatic ecosystems.



2006

Pete and Ada Correll gift the Georgia Aquarium Center for Aquatic Animal Health. The 10,500 sq. ft. facility offers University of Georgia students and faculty research and teaching opportunities while providing outstanding care for our animals. This is the first-ever aquatic veterinary teaching hospital integrated into an aquarium.



2005

As a gift to the city of Atlanta, Bernie and Billi Marcus donate \$250 million to build Georgia Aquarium. Coca-Cola donates 9.5 acres of land, and our major sponsors donate \$40 million, so that the Aquarium can open debt-free. The vision is to bring the ocean to Atlanta and share its wonder with those who might never have a chance to see the amazing animals that call it home.



2005

Georgia Aquarium opens our doors on November 23, 2005. Introducing the United States to an awe-inspiring marvel of the natural world: the whale shark. Coming to Georgia as rescues from seafood markets in Taiwan, this gentle giant—the largest fish in the sea—was one of the least understood species in marine biology at the time.



2025 | RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

TRACKING TITANS

In June 2025, **Dr. Cameron Perry, Research Scientist** at Georgia Aquarium, traveled to **Oman** as part of an expedition with an international team of whale shark researchers.

The research team focused on a large aggregation of whale sharks found off the coast of **Muscat** in the **Gulf of Oman**. Their goal was to collect data on the animals' biology and ecology by deploying satellite tags and collecting tissue and plankton samples. This research will help scientists better understand why whale sharks gather in this region, how long they remain there, and where they travel after leaving.

Over 19 days, researchers encountered 30 whale sharks, including 27 unique individuals. Satellite tags placed on several sharks are expected to remain attached for four to six months,

collecting valuable data on both horizontal and vertical movements in the water column. In addition to the tagging program, the team established a self-reporting system with the help of citizen scientists that allows them to share whale shark sightings via WhatsApp.

While on land, the group focused on holding educational events and partnering with local tourism services to raise public awareness. Many of the whale sharks encountered had scars from boat strikes—the hope is to champion protections and codes of conduct for the area.

There is still much to be learned about these gentle giants. Georgia Aquarium will continue to analyze this valuable data and build upon a regional catalogue with hopes of returning to Oman in 2026.



2007

Nandi, the manta ray, finds her home at Georgia Aquarium. After being accidentally caught in a shark net off the coast of Durban, South Africa, she spent a year rehabilitating but due to her size and care needs, officials sought a permanent home for her. We step in, arranging a remarkable 26-hour, 9,000-mile journey to bring her to Atlanta.

2008

It is no longer legal to fish for whale sharks off the coast of Taiwan, thanks in part to our conservation initiatives.



2009

Our ongoing partnership begins with the South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB), a hands-on rehabilitation center in South Africa, to help with the first-ever health assessment of penguin populations found on South African islands.



2008

Coral restoration efforts begin in the Florida Keys. Partnering with the Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF), this project focuses on outplanting small pieces of living coral, called frags, on Molasses Reef. This continued support has helped conservation efforts to restore and protect coral reefs, one of the most valuable ecosystems on Earth.



2008

Georgia Aquarium receives our first accreditation from The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).



2009

We welcome our 10 millionth guest, Annette Kalber, from Atlanta!



2025 | EXHIBITS & ANIMAL CARE

LIVING LANTERNS

Summer 2025 transformed Georgia Aquarium into an immersive, glowing wonderland for all ages. Guests of **Glow Nights** experienced the dazzling bioluminescence of marine life, such as corals and jellies, as well as captivating live performances and interactive activities, including glow-in-the-dark tattoos and themed photo ops.

Glow Nights coincided with the launch of our new bioluminescent exhibit, **Ocean Lights**, where guests encountered real-life glowing wonders of the ocean. These bioluminescent species' natural luminescence inspired our enchanting event. Visitors learned firsthand about the wonders of light in the dark depths of the ocean, culminating in a live demonstration of a bioluminescent marvel.

This novel exhibit includes the first-of-its-kind device, **Glow Sync Air**, created at Georgia Aquarium. It uses puffs of air, gently timed to music, to stimulate glowing bioluminescent algae in perfect synchrony. Glow Sync Air was designed, built, and tested in close collaboration between the **A/V & Multimedia Design** team and the **Zoological Operations Fish & Invertebrates** team to deliver a reliable guest experience that safeguards the algae culture and supports daily operations.



2009

Tallulah, our second manta ray, joins the Aquarium family.



2010

The first weedy sea dragon babies hatch. At this time, Georgia Aquarium is only the third facility in the United States to successfully hatch this species.



2011

Georgia Aquarium provides staff and sponsors research to study the diets of beluga whales and test for exposure to pollution that has caused long-term effects on beluga populations. Research focuses on understanding the nutrition of belugas in Bristol Bay relative to the endangered population in Cook Inlet.



2010

Twenty-six dolphins in Florida's Indian River Lagoon receive a health examination as part of the **Atlantic bottlenose dolphin Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HERA) project**. HERA was developed to determine dolphin health patterns in nature and their potential impact on humans.

Activities were conducted under Level A dolphin permit NMFS 21431



2011

Dolphin Coast Theater opens, at the time known as AT&T Dolphin Tales, featuring over 1,800 seats where guests can see dolphin behaviors, learn how we train them, and how to help them in the ocean.

2012

On January 9, 2012, our first penguin chick, Amara, hatches. Since then, we have welcomed 49 penguin chicks to our African penguin colony.

AQUARIUM NEWBIES

On February 1, 2025, we welcomed **African penguin Ishirini**. Her name means “twenty,” honoring the year she hatched as Georgia Aquarium celebrated its **20th anniversary**.

Two **common murre chicks, Apollo and Artemis**, hatched in 2025—the first of their species to hatch at Georgia Aquarium!



The Aquarium also successfully raised eight **spotted eagle ray pups**. Each pup was treated for and cleared of gill monogenean parasites—the second time this has been accomplished at Georgia Aquarium.

Flower, a bowmouth guitarfish pup, was born and successfully reared in 2025. Georgia Aquarium is only the second facility in the United States to successfully raise a bowmouth guitarfish pup, helping expand knowledge about this critically endangered species and supporting future conservation and reintroduction efforts.

Each of these births represents our mission in action: advancing research, enriching habitats, and inspiring the public to protect our ocean’s wildlife. As we celebrate two decades of care and conservation, we look forward to many more heartwarming arrivals in the years to come.



SPECIES SURVIVAL

Georgia Aquarium and its partners are piloting a new conservation initiative focused on the critically endangered **bowmouth guitarfish**, commonly known as the “**shark ray**,” a unique species that gives birth to live pups.

The genesis was the successful intervention to conserve the eastern population of the **zebra shark** under **The StAR (Stegostoma tigrinum Augmentation and Recovery) Project**. Since 2020, this project has expanded to include 60 zoos and aquariums worldwide. As of November 2025, 90 zebra shark eggs have been transported to **Indonesia**, resulting in 65 hatchlings and the release of 50 pups into the wild.

Shark Ray 360 has already made significant progress. Researchers have applied satellite and acoustic telemetry tags on five wild bowmouth guitarfish in **Taiwan** and **Japan** (the first ever to be tagged). Additional work includes genetic sampling of bowmouth from across the globe, placement of aquarium born animals for future breeding, and conducting preliminary investigations for nursery and release sites.

Georgia Aquarium also received a grant from the **Arthur L. & Elaine V. Johnson Foundation** to tag five more critically endangered bowmouth guitarfish in 2026. This work, alongside the birth of Flower, contributes to conservation plans for this beloved species.



90

ZEBRA SHARK EGGS
TRANSPORTED

50

PUPS RELEASED
INTO THE WILD



2013

Georgia Aquarium hosts the **Third International Whale Shark Conference**, an interactive roundtable about the burgeoning science surrounding the species. The conference provides a steady stream of content for outreach and education programs, thereby enhancing global efforts to preserve and protect the whale shark.



2014

Georgia Aquarium develops our **penguin nursery**. This new addition enhances our already successful African penguin breeding program.

2015

Georgia Aquarium celebrates our **10th anniversary**: welcoming **24 million+ visitors** including **1 million+ students** since opening in 2005.

2013

Three new **Animal Interactive Programs** unveiled: Dolphin Encounter, Sea Otter Encounter and Penguin Encounter.



2014

Georgia Aquarium, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Emory University completed the **first-ever shark genome map** using detailed blood chemistry and DNA from our whale sharks.



2015

Tank, our resident green sea turtle, finds his forever home at Georgia Aquarium. His journey began in 1990 when he was rescued after suffering a shark bite to his left rear flipper. Initially rehabilitated at the New York Aquarium, Tank spent time at several zoological facilities before coming to the Aquarium in 2015. At over five feet long and weighing more than 450 pounds, Tank is a true survivor and ambassador for sea turtle conservation.



2025 | RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

FRESHWATER FOCUS

Georgia Aquarium's **Research and Conservation and Dive teams** participated in two freshwater mussel surveys in the **Flint River** in 2025, joining research scientists at **The Jones Center at Ichauway**. Georgia Aquarium provided skilled divers to access deeper areas of the river not accessible by snorkel.

3,297 individual **mussels** across 13 species were identified, including

the **Winged Spike**, an extremely rare species previously thought to be extinct until being rediscovered in 2010. This work helps provide important population data for the lower **Flint River's Habitat Conservation Plan**.

This project is part of our spotlight on freshwater initiatives led by **Katelyn Herman, Manager of Conservation Programs**.

We hosted a freshwater workshop in November 2025, helping us establish our program framework, priorities, and partners for a scalable freshwater program focused here in Georgia on the **Flint River** and, eventually, the **Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River basin**.

2025 | COMMUNITY & SUSTAINABILITY

BETTER TOGETHER

GREEN TEAM

Georgia Aquarium's sustainability committee, **Green Team**, are dedicated to integrating conservation and sustainability into each aspect of our organization's operation.

2025 Green Team initiatives included repurposing retired wetsuits for more realistic dive drill training, securing reusable markers to cut down on waste, and introducing eco-friendly giveaways—reusable bags, beeswax wraps and silicone storage bags—for guests.

AQUARIUM VOLUNTEERS

Georgia Aquarium benefits from the generous volunteer efforts of our greater Atlanta community:

81,975
VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 2025

78
TEEN VOLUNTEERS DONATED OVER
10,150
HOURS

40
PAID INTERNS
ACROSS

15
DEPARTMENTS,
REPRESENTING

34
COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES

2016

Georgia Aquarium researchers led a group of scientists in performing the first-ever successful health assessments on a wild population of whale sharks in Cenderawasih Bay, Indonesia.



2017

Georgia Aquarium expands our Military Salute programming to include support for Gold Star Families and Military Mondays.



2018

Our puffin habitat opens in Cold Water Quest Gallery. This new addition features tufted and horned puffins as well as common murre and pigeon guillemots—all seabirds of the North Pacific. These species are part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP) program.



2016

Sea Lion gallery, Truist Pier 225, opens to the public. Since then, over 5 million guests have enjoyed our Sea Lion presentations, heard our sea lions' rescue stories, and learned how human actions can affect these animals in their natural habitat.



2017

On October 30, 2017, **Scarlett, the energetic California sea lion pup, is born**—the first sea lion to be born at Georgia Aquarium.



2018

Our first puffin chick, **Fern, hatches on July 21, 2018**. Since 2018, 12 puffin chicks, or pufflings, have hatched at Georgia Aquarium.

2025 | MILITARY SALUTE

HEALING WITH HONOR

Georgia Aquarium and The Home Depot Foundation, our Military Salute program's founding partner, are proud supporters of our armed forces. 2025 brought many new opportunities for our programming, as well as the expansion of some of our current offerings. With the help of multiple teams throughout the Aquarium, the Navy Experimental Dive Unit was able to perform in-water military reenlistments, promotions, and retirements over the course of the year, serving more than 24 active-duty service members for these special occasions. We continued our Military Volunteer Program and hosted the second annual Veteran Family Back-to-School Sleepover.

We launched a new shore-based veterans program in partnership with Fort Stewart's Soldier Recovery Unit. The group kayaked the coastal Georgia waters, learning about local ecology, diverse habitats, conservation efforts, and spent time relaxing and connecting with fellow service members in a calming environment.



VETERANS IMMERSION PROGRAM (VIP)

We had the honor of serving over 550 veterans through our Veterans Immersion Program (VIP) in 2025, with either a swim or dive in our Ocean Voyager, Built by The Home Depot gallery, as well as more than 1,500 total admissions for veterans and their families. Once a month, we also host non-military organizations to participate in our swim or dive programs as adjunct therapy. More than 95 individuals participated in 2025, including Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Shepherd Center, and Tommy Nobis Center.

VIP FIELD PROGRAMMING

Made possible through support from David and Jennifer Kahn Family Foundation, we hosted veterans over multiple, week-long field dive programs in partnership with Reef Renewal in the Florida Keys. Veterans worked in the coral nursery, providing the opportunity for camaraderie, connection, conservation, and service.



GOLD STAR FAMILY DAYS

We hosted over 250 Gold Star Family members during our 2025 Gold Star Family Weekend in June. This included two full days of activities at Georgia Aquarium, including meals, Behind the Seas Tours, and a sleepover!



2019

Georgia Aquarium hosts conservationists to develop a plan for species reintroduction to marine protected areas (MPAs) in their historic range, specifically Raja Ampat. Here, ReShark and the StAR Project are launched.

2019

The Aquarium on Animal Planet debuts—introducing millions to the amazing work that goes on behind the scenes every day at Georgia Aquarium.



2019

We celebrate our benefactor, Bernie Marcus' 90th birthday, raising money for four of Bernie's favorite causes including Georgia Aquarium.



2018

Georgia Aquarium becomes the first aquarium to earn Certified Autism Center (CAC) designation. This certification means that guests of all ages with autism or other sensory needs receive an exceptional experience that caters to their needs and connects them with the wonders of the aquatic world.



2019

A pair of southern sea otter pups make their way to Georgia Aquarium after being found stranded on the California coast. We welcome Mara, around 10 weeks old, and Gibson, who was only 5 weeks old. They join Brighton, Cruz, and Bixby, our other rescued southern sea otters, as ambassadors inspiring awareness and educating the public about conservation efforts for this threatened species.

MARINE MAPPING

In collaboration with the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**, Georgia Aquarium's **Kristen Binz**, **Dive Maintenance**, **Carolyn Murphy**, **Fish & Invertebrates**, and **Luis Ribero** and **Jessie Weber** from **Dive Immersion** lent their expertise as part of the team over a two-week expedition to **Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary**.

Situated off the Georgia coast, Gray's Reef is a unique "live bottom" reef where exposed rock provides habitat for sponges, corals, and other invertebrates, creating a dense carpet of living creatures on the sea floor.

With over 30 dives and 102 locations examined, the team visited sites no divers had explored before. Expedition goals were to collect data from mapping and dive surveys to assist in determining other locations with live bottom reefs, track species, note habitat links, assess potential threats, and detect any tropical species that might be expanding into more northern habitats.

This work helps fill critical data gaps and provides a better understanding of this habitat type and its focal species. As data is still being analyzed, it will contribute to NOAA's mapping strategy and marine spatial planning, as well as to building scientific knowledge and public awareness.

MORE THAN

30

DIVES COMPLETED

2

WEEKS OF RESEARCH

102

LOCATIONS EXAMINED



2020

Georgia Aquarium is the first aquarium to earn the prestigious recognition of being named a **Cognia Certified STEM Provider**.



2020

Georgia Aquarium becomes one of just three aquariums licensed as a **Class R research facility under the Animal Welfare Act**. This license is the highest standard of establishing ethical review of animal research for advanced scientific understanding.

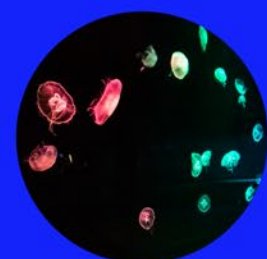
2020

The Wilkins Rhodes sensory room opens in partnership with **KultureCity** to support and accommodate Aquarium guests with sensory needs.



2020

Shila, our beluga whale calf, makes her grand entrance into the world. Born to beluga whale Whisper, Shila weighs 174 pounds and measures 5 feet, 4 inches long at birth. She now weighs 1,052 pounds and is 10 feet, 6 inches long.



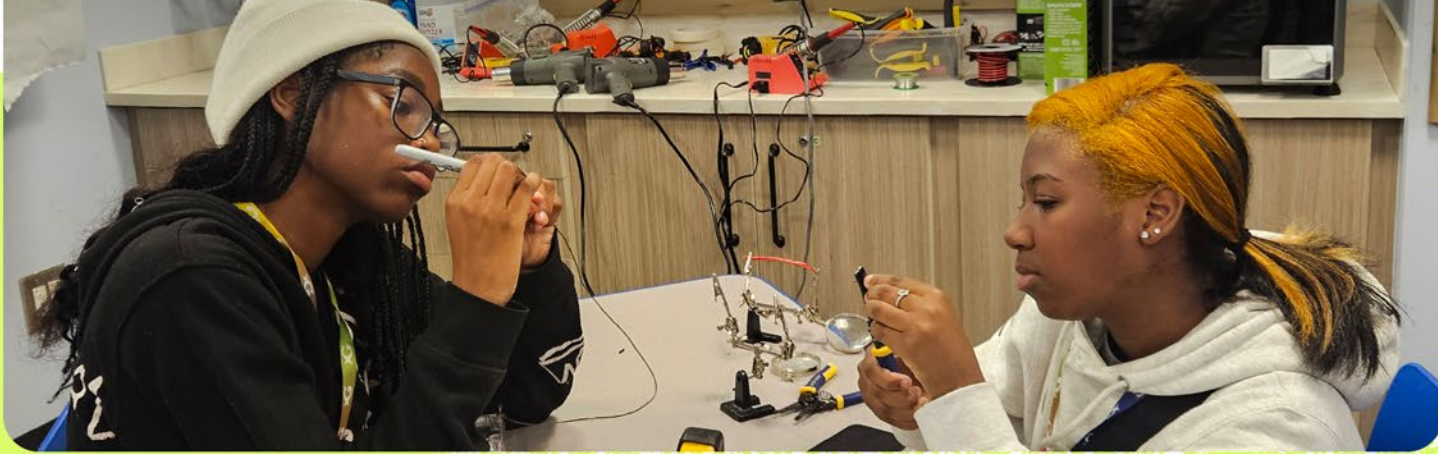
2020

Sharks! Predators of the Deep opens to the public, housing multiple species of charismatic, apex predator sharks.



2020

Georgia Aquarium goes virtual during the global **COVID-19 pandemic**. Offering online educational resources for students and teachers, adding additional webcams, providing virtual gallery tours, and expanding the ways our guests could interact from the safety of their homes.



2025 | EDUCATION PROGRAMS

AQUANAUTS, ASSEMBLE

In 2025, Georgia Aquarium's **Education team** launched a new onsite program, **Aquanaut Academy**, where students rolled up their sleeves and dove into the world of marine science. These classroom programs deliver grade-appropriate, inquiry-based learning that sparks curiosity, encourages critical thinking, and deepens scientific understanding.

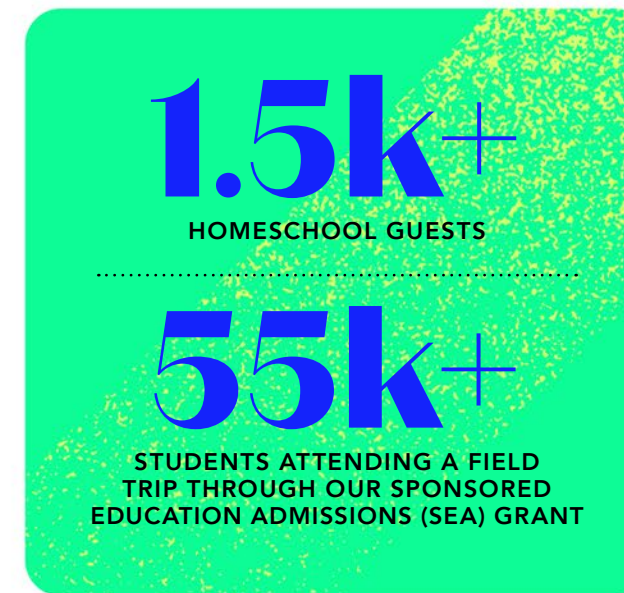
Our mobile classroom, **Aquanaut Express**, also re-launched in 2025, bringing Georgia Aquarium directly to schools and creating a space

for students to discover more about our changing ocean. With already 500 sessions and counting, this program has engaged over 14,200 students, instilling a sense of stewardship through hands-on activities and providing tools to practice conservation in students' everyday lives.

Education partnerships also continued with **DeKalb and Clayton counties**, as well as our annual teacher professional development workshops: **Rivers to Reefs and SeaKeepers**.

Other continuing programming included **ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) Camp** made possible through support from **David and Carolyn Gould** and our participation in the **Teacher of the Year** program with support from **Chick-fil-A**.

We also increased participating **NOAA Ocean Guardian Schools** in Georgia from 11 to 25, including support from **Joe E. Johnston Foundation** to sponsor **R. M. Moore Elementary STEM Academy**, a Title I school in Waleska, GA.



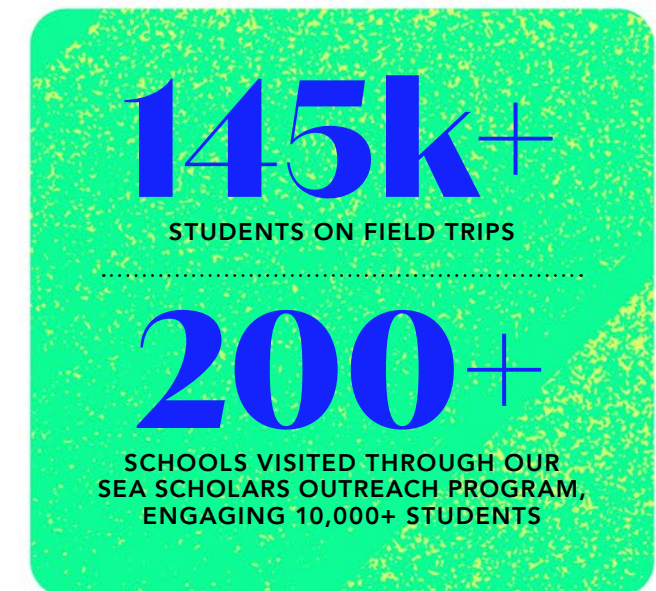
WAVES OF OPPORTUNITY

The **Dr. Brian L. Davis Marine Biology, Conservation, and Education Scholarship Fund**, was established in memory of our late President and CEO. A lifelong educator, Brian's passion for learning and advocacy for public education shaped the lives of countless students, and his legacy will continue to inspire and open doors for future generations to come. The inaugural scholarship was awarded to **Z. Nabahe**, currently attending **Stanford University**, whose fascination with marine biology encompasses ecology, individual animal studies, deep-sea research, and governmental policy.



CULTURAL EXPERIENCE PROJECT (CEP)

The **Cultural Experience Project** was launched to offer every **Atlanta Public School (APS)** student from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade the opportunity to experience the city's premier art and cultural venues. Georgia Aquarium is excited to provide an opportunity for Atlanta Public Schools' 7th grade students to visit and share materials that are aligned to **Georgia Performance Standards, Next Generation Standards**, and the new **Georgia Standards of Excellence**.



2020

Alligators return to Georgia Aquarium in a brand new habitat, Gator Crossing, providing a glass bottomed view of the largest reptiles in North America.



2021

Aquanaut Adventure: A Discovery Zone gallery receives a refresh. Creating a fully engaging experience, traveling in the footsteps of scientists and explorers through some of the most extreme environments on Earth.



2022

We are honored to host renowned marine biologist and Explorer-in-Residence at the **National Geographic Society, Dr. Sylvia Earle**, over a multi-day visit including community events.



2021

Through our partnership with Invest Atlanta, Georgia Aquarium begins to offer scholarships to rising college students from **Booker T. Washington High School** primarily focused on those pursuing degrees in marine biology and other related marine and aquatic fields.



2021

The **Veterans Field Immersion Program** is created under the **Military Salute umbrella**. Using an integration of the therapeutic nature of diving and service projects to provide veterans with meaningful and fulfilling experiences in the field. Since then, we've had 75+ participants in this program.

2022

Georgia Aquarium becomes a designated **Center for Species Survival** by the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

2025 | COMMUNITY & SUSTAINABILITY

AQUACULTURE

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Larval Programs, led by the Aquatic Collections Sustainability Committee (ACSC), focuses on fostering collaboration across AZA-accredited facilities to increase aquaculture production of marine aquarium fish and support sustainable acquisitions across the membership.

- Successfully cultured and raised **400+ blue stripe grunts** that were distributed through AZA ACSC program to other aquariums.
- Our **Jelly team** cultured **1,000+ jellies**, including **4 different species**, that are displayed in our exhibits.
- Received **1,200+ squarespot anthias** from **Hawaii's Oceanic Institute** as a part of our aquaculture collaboration contract. The majority are on exhibit in our **Tropical Diver gallery** and the remainder were shared with other AZA aquariums.

400+

BLUE STRIPE GRUNTS SUCCESSFULLY CULTURED,

12k+

SQUARESPOT ANTHIAS RECEIVED FROM HAWAII'S OCEANIC INSTITUTE



1k+

JELLIES CULTURED INCLUDING

4

DIFFERENT SPECIES DISPLAYED IN OUR EXHIBITS



2022

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuary System and bring attention to this wonderful milestone in ocean conservation with an event and exhibit in our Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot gallery. Gray's Reef off the coast of Georgia and our National Marine Sanctuaries are part of a nationwide network of 18 underwater parks that conserve more than 629,000 square miles of ocean and Great Lakes waters.



2023

Our coastal bird exhibit opens as part of our Dolphin Coast Presented By Margaritaville Vacation Club. Home to roseate spoonbills and scarlet ibis, this exhibit features both aquatic and arboreal elements—the first of its kind at Georgia Aquarium.



All activities conducted under USFWS Permit MAPER0034017

2022

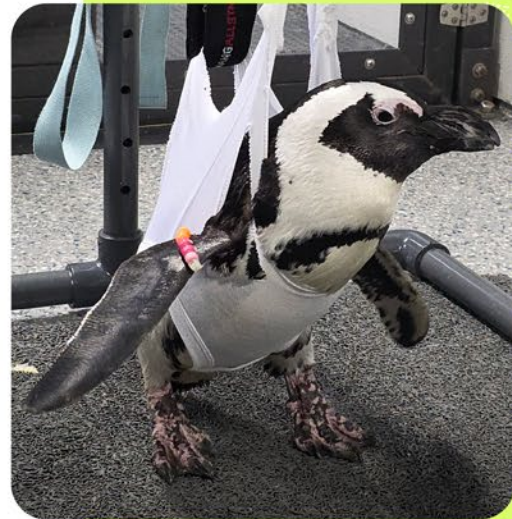
Georgia Aquarium joins the Manatee Rescue & Rehabilitation Partnership (MRP) to provide emergency care and housing for manatees in distress. Our involvement has blossomed over the years, successfully rehabbing and releasing seven manatees from our Animal Care Facility as well as receiving the Prescott Grant to support a customized manatee transport truck to aid in our efforts.

2023

Resident Pass (now called Aqua Pass) launches, allowing more locals than ever to experience all that Georgia Aquarium has to offer throughout the year for the price of a single-day ticket. We have since welcomed 350,000+ guests with the Aqua Pass.

2023

First NOAA Ocean Guardian Schools are selected in the state of Georgia, McCleskey Middle School in Marietta and Oglethorpe Charter School in Savannah. Georgia Aquarium partners with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to identify program participants and help implement project goals. We now have 25 participating schools!



2025 | EXHIBITS & ANIMAL CARE

NATURE, NURTURED

From the largest fish in the sea to tiny invertebrates, **veterinary medicine** is one of many pieces that helps Georgia Aquarium accomplish our mission.

When 18-year-old tufted puffin, **Von Zipper**, developed cataracts in both eyes, he became isolated and struggled to navigate his habitat. Georgia Aquarium's **Animal Health team** partnered with the **University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine** to perform cataract-removal surgery. Today, he's exploring confidently again, interacting with his colony, and may even find a mate, thanks to his restored sight.

Bat, a 21-year-old female African penguin, experienced a sudden loss of mobility in her feet and legs along with paresis of her nerves. Using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) at **BluePearl** veterinary specialty clinic, our team was able to diagnose an intervertebral disc herniation and spinal cord compression.

With supportive care, including anti-inflammatory medication and physical therapy, Bat has regained some function in both legs and feet that allow her to successfully navigate her habitat again.

In 2025, our **Animal Care Team** invested in new technology that allows us to perform ultrasounds completely underwater. This technology is mainly used for large sharks and rays that are difficult to access during routine exams, as well as other species. Through these advancements, the team has been able to:

- Learn about the reproductive cycles of female hammerhead sharks and gut motility in whale sharks.
- Perform general exams on manta rays and sawfish.
- Ultrasound corals to better understand some of their diseases.



2025 | COMMUNITY & SUSTAINABILITY

OUTREACH IN ACTION

Our **Community Outreach Program** fosters volunteerism among staff by creating meaningful opportunities that support the Atlanta Community. We strive to promote sustainability, conservation and community well-being through partnerships with local organizations aligned with

our mission. On Tuesday, April 22, Georgia Aquarium was closed to the public in honor of **Earth Day**—our incredible staff volunteered with local organizations in support of a healthier planet and as a nod to our 20 years of global conservation.

940+

VOLUNTEER HOURS
SUPPORTING OUR
LOCAL COMMUNITIES

171

STAFF PARTICIPATE
ACROSS 11 OPPORTUNITIES
ON EARTH DAY



2024

Explorers Cove opens, transporting guests through three vibrant coastal biomes: the estuary, salt marsh, and coastal ocean.

2024

Formalizes our conservation partnerships with two of Japan's preeminent aquariums, sharing the unique distinction of caring for both whale sharks and manta rays. With an initial term of 10 years and options for renewal, the partnership is intended to make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of marine environments.

2025

The StAR Project releases the 50th zebra shark pup from aquarium-bred eggs to Indonesian waters.



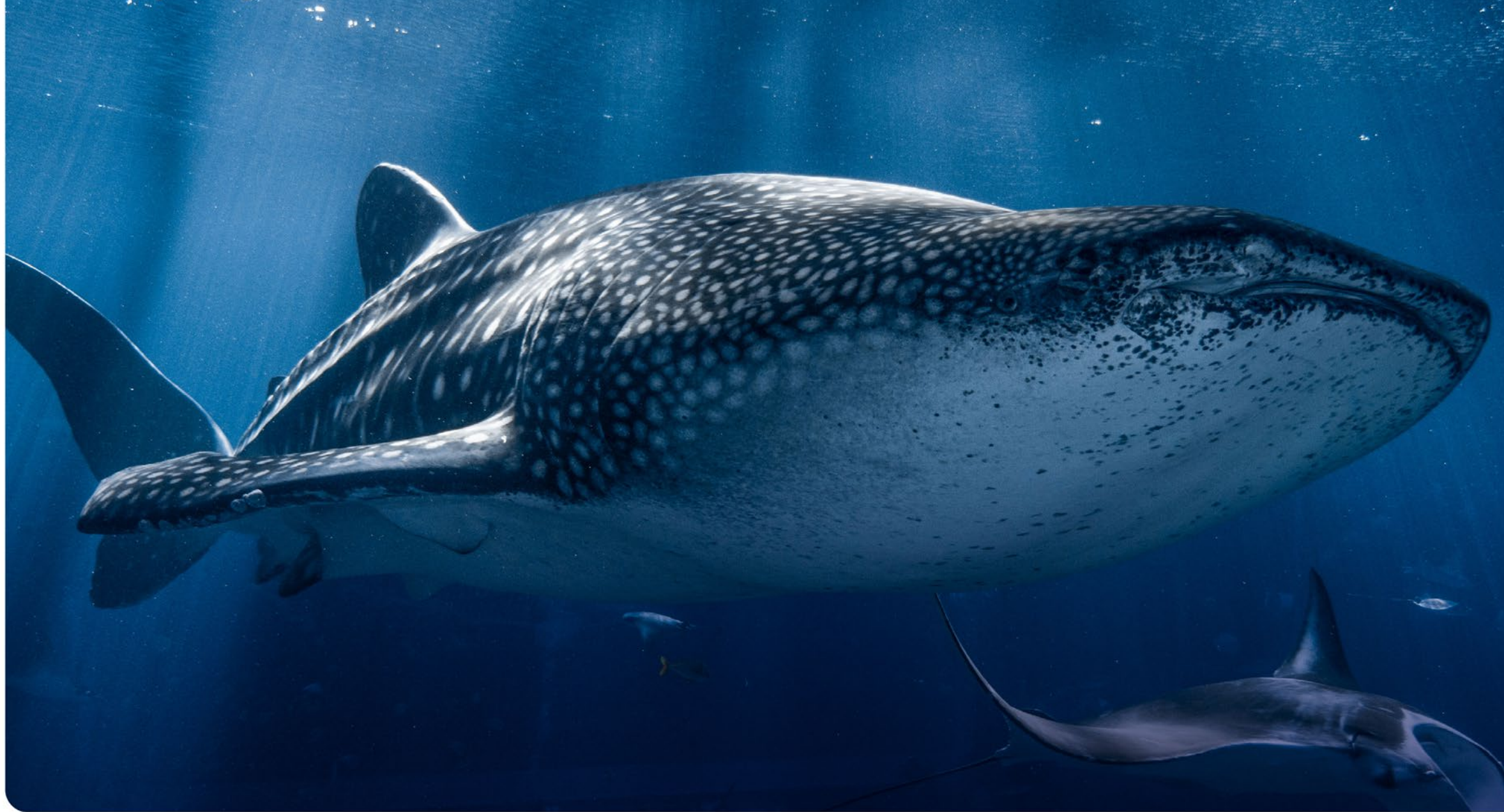
2024

Georgia Aquarium co-authors a pivotal study that mapped whale shark aggregation sites against global shipping lanes, identifying high-risk areas where deadly collisions are most likely. This work offers critical data to policymakers and marine traffic planners working to reduce threats to whale sharks in vulnerable regions.



2024

Georgia Aquarium participates in a monumental rescue of two beluga whales from the war-ravaged region of Kharkiv, Ukraine in June 2024.



2025 | IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING TAROKO

With heavy hearts, we shared the passing of male whale shark, **Taroko**, in August 2025.

Taroko came to Atlanta in 2007 from Taiwan where he was rescued from a seafood market. He showed more than **43 million people** the majesty of his species over the **nearly two decades** he lived at Georgia Aquarium. Taroko also contributed a wealth of data and information about whale shark biology, health, and behavior.

Caring for whale sharks is an immense honor and undertaking—we were privileged to know Taroko for so long and share him with all of our guests. Taroko was named for the Taiwanese national park that is **beautiful and larger than life**, and he will always be that to us.



2025

Georgia Aquarium researchers contribute to the discovery of a new whale shark aggregation site in the Coral Sea. This exciting development expands the map of where these animals travel and congregate. Every new discovery brings us one step closer to unlocking the full life history of the whale shark and, ultimately, how to protect it.



2025

New focus on creating mixed-taxa habitats, specifically combining fish communities with birds, to enhance our exhibits.



2025

Research conducted with manta rays at Georgia Aquarium directly contributes to identifying and officially recognizing a new manta species, *Mobula yarae*.

IN THE YEARS AHEAD, we're doubling down on what works: awe-inspiring experiences, meaningful community partnerships, educational programs, and conservation efforts that make a difference. Here's to the next 20 years of discovery, innovation, and stewardship.

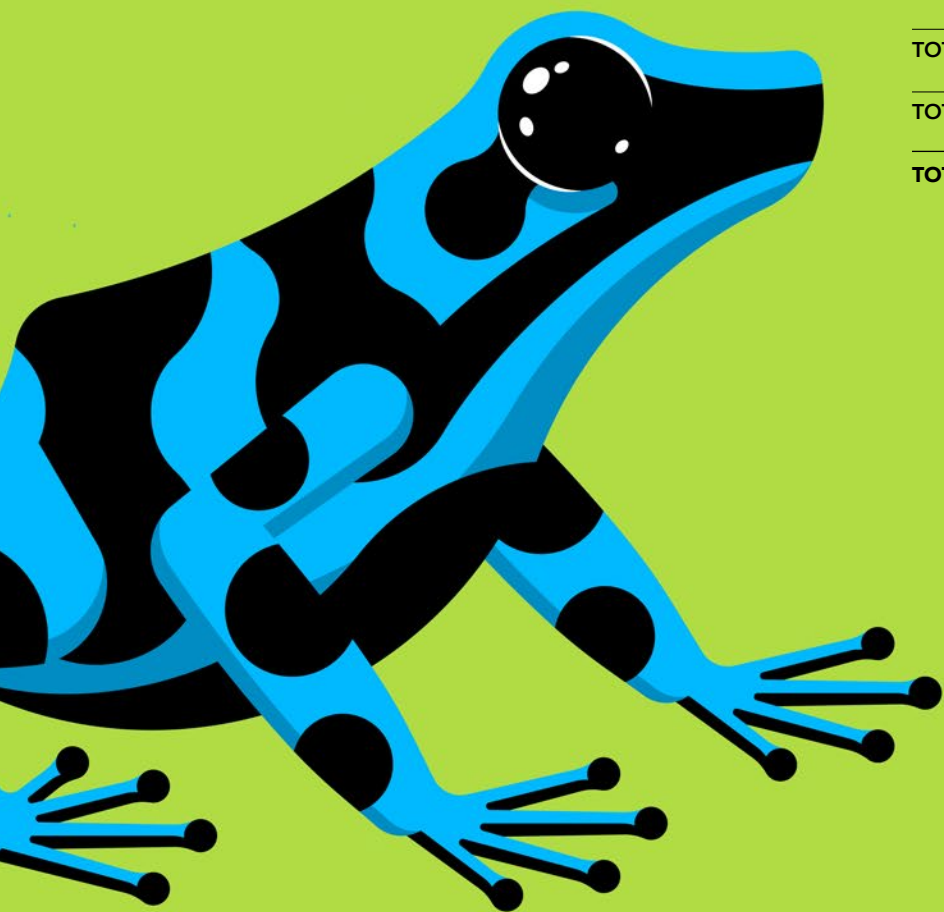
2025 income statement

REVENUE	
Gate	\$121,992,879
Fundraising	\$12,977,561
Other	\$43,817,129
TOTAL REVENUE	\$178,787,569
EXPENSES	
Personnel	\$53,216,781
Administrative	\$51,615,830
Other	\$19,241,592
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$124,074,203
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$54,713,366

Note: These figures are preliminary and unaudited. Audited financial statements will be available in a future update.

2025 balance sheet

TOTAL ASSETS	\$693,474,884
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$89,156,977
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$693,474,885



2025 presenting sponsors

Our Presenting Sponsors represent Georgia Aquarium’s highest level of sponsorship. These companies help support our mission to inspire awareness and preservation of our ocean and aquatic animals worldwide.



2025 board of directors

Our Board of Directors is made up of a group of dedicated individuals who have brought their impressive combined experience into one group. Together, they are committed to steering Georgia Aquarium into the future.

- Billi Marcus
- Francis Blake
- Ann-Marie Campbell
- Dan T. Cathy
- Michael J. Coles
- James S. Grien
- Melanie Isbill
- James Y. Kerr, II
- Kirk Kinsell
- Steve Koonin
- Michael A. Morris
- Timothy J. Pakenham
- Gary Peacock
- Ray Robinson
- Michael Russell
- Derek Smith
- Dr. Valerie Thadhani
- Kathleen Walters

thank you to our donors

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, we rely on the support of our community to ensure that we can continue our groundbreaking research initiatives, conservation efforts, educational programs, and community partnerships. By supporting Georgia Aquarium, these generous donors allow us to make a positive impact on the health and welfare of aquatic life from around the globe and remain at the forefront of aquatic science.

🐟 acknowledges members of Georgia Aquarium's Anchor Society, a philanthropic membership.

🐟 Heather and Aaron Abramowski	🐟 Arleen Azzam	Daniel J. Chen	🐟 Diana Einterz	Henderson Electric	David & Jennifer Kahn Family Foundation	Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Marcus
Active Production and Design	🐟 Mrs. Kimberly Baerncoopf	Chick-fil-A, Inc.	🐟 Jeremy Ellis	🐟 Ed and Cindy Hernandez	🐟 Ivan and Rhonda Kahn	🐟 David and Dorothy Markert Family
ACVB Foundation	Barbizon	Chubb & Son	Embassy Suites by Hilton Atlanta Buckhead	🐟 Dean and Leslie Hettenbach	Kaiser Permanente	🐟 Sherri Martin
🐟 Mr. and Mrs. John R. Adams	🐟 Misty Barkley	Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company	Embassy Suites Centennial Park	Hilton Atlanta	Ms. Patricia A. Kent	Mr. and Mrs. Trip Martin
🐟 Steven and Ellen Adams	Be Flawless	Cintas Corporation	e-RM Partners	Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta Midtown	Kia Motors	🐟 Randy and Angelique Martinez
Mr. Andrew Agustín	🐟 Kenneth Becker	City of Atlanta	🐟 Virginia and Mitch Ermentrout	Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Atlanta	🐟 Candace Kimbrough	🐟 John Maxie
🐟 Marisa Akinbola	🐟 Matt and Jeannie Beckett	CityPASS	🐟 Dennis and Kathy Esler	Holiday Inn Express & Suites Atlanta Downtown	🐟 Amber King	🐟 Mr. Josh McAfee
🐟 Mr. and Mrs. William Albertson	🐟 Lisa and Carl Billings	🐟 Katharine Paulsen Cobb	🐟 Danielle Eitzbach	🐟 Lukas Holliger	🐟 Andrea and Christopher King	🐟 Lauren and Matthew McCoy
🐟 Lauren and Josh Allen	Blackbaud Giving Fund	Chris Coco	🐟 Tabitha Evans	🐟 Christopher Hollis	🐟 Georgette Kiser	🐟 Kristin and Angus McFadden
Alloy	🐟 Mrs. Faith Blalock	🐟 Mr. and Mrs. John Cogan	Event Network, Inc.	David Holly	🐟 Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Klopman	McKenney's, Inc.
🐟 Amy and Marshal Allshouse	🐟 Arthur M. Blank	🐟 Marc and Sheryn Cohen	🐟 Mr. and Mrs. Dietmar Exler	🐟 John and Lisa Holzemer	🐟 Forest Knight and Stacie Edwards	🐟 Daniel and Cathy McLagan
🐟 Amber and Peter Almond	Bloomberg Philanthropies	🐟 Holly Coker	Express Color	The Home Depot	🐟 Jessica and Peter Koalenz	🐟 Kathleen McNamara
🐟 Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Almquist, Jr.	Blueally Technology Solutions	🐟 The Cole Family	Fahlo	The Home Depot Foundation	🐟 Kyle McNiel	🐟 Leola McNeill
🐟 Dr. Firelli Alonso	Boeing Company	Community Foundation of Louisville	🐟 Autumn and John Farley	🐟 Jeanette Howard	🐟 Merrill Family	🐟 Sumika and Jason Michael
Alston & Bird, LLP	🐟 Joanne Boggs	Compass Group	🐟 Brad Ferguson	🐟 Suzanne and Matthew Howard	🐟 William Schuman	Millennium Facility Services Inc
🐟 Mrs. Iveth Y. Alvarado	🐟 Dan and Marty Boone	🐟 Mrs. Darlene Conley	🐟 Charles Ferguson	🐟 Mr. Scott Hoyte	🐟 Albert Scott	🐟 Shannon Prewitt and Bryce Thomason
AMB Group	Michael Boos	Consco, LLC	🐟 Judy Fineman	🐟 Joshua and Lauren Huff	🐟 Seeube	Primrose School Franchising Company LLC
American Online Giving Foundation	🐟 Mr. Grigor Boyadzhyan	🐟 Carol Z. and Larry E. Cooper	🐟 Fire Protection Services LLC	Alice Kuzniak	🐟 Mr. and Mrs. George Sertl	Pulseworks
Tricia Anderson	🐟 Jessica Boyd	Evan Cordrey	Five Star Food Service	🐟 Michael and Catherine Lambert	🐟 Tejas Shah	Race Roster
🐟 Mr. Robert Anderson	Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC	Cortina Productions	🐟 Vanessa Ford	🐟 Mr. and Mrs. Scott Lampert	🐟 David K. Shellington	
🐟 Anonymous	Brasington Bailey Construction, Inc.	John Carvalho	🐟 A. Foster II	Brant and Megan Lardie	🐟 Douglas B. Shores	
Anonymous (2)	🐟 Mary Ellen and Neil Brigham	🐟 Janet and John Costello	🐟 Danielle Frazier	🐟 Dr. Dana Leader		
Apex Painting & Decorating Inc.	🐟 Cameron Brock	🐟 Ms. Jeanne Courval	Sherry Gardner	🐟 Dr. Myong S. Lee		
Apparel Manufacturing Company, Inc.	🐟 Mark and Timmerly Bullman	Carolyn Cray	🐟 Lykapheng Gasao	🐟 Dr. and Mrs. Nori and David Levine		
🐟 Carlos Arevalo	🐟 Elizabeth Burbano	Christine Cronquist	Georgia Department of Revenue	Michael Lewis		
🐟 Kimberly A. Arnold	🐟 Travis Burke	Georgia Natural Gas	🐟 Dr. Katherine H. Ingram	🐟 Mrs. Kirby Lewis-Hobba		
🐟 Dr. Larry Arnsen	The Burkehaven Family Foundation	Georgia World Congress Center	Hyatt Centric Midtown Atlanta	🐟 Kuilin Li		
🐟 Wayne and Joan Aronson	🐟 Mr. and Mrs. Gene E. Burleson	David A. Gilbertz	Hyatt House Atlanta Downtown	🐟 Yanning Li		
Arrow Exterminators, Inc.	🐟 Michael Burnette and Eniko Nagy	🐟 Travis Gonzales	Hyatt Place Atlanta Centennial Park	🐟 Meredith A. Lineberry		
🐟 Mr. Rudy Arroyo	🐟 CB Butler	Georgia-Pacific Foundation	Hyatt Regency Atlanta	🐟 Mr. and Mrs. James Linville		
Asahi/America	Ann-Marie Campbell	David A. Gilbertz	🐟 Dr. Katherine H. Ingram	Lockheed Martin		
Ascend Books	The Candler Hotel Atlanta	🐟 Kelly James	International Ozone Services, Inc.	🐟 Mr. Roland Loe		
Association of Zoos & Aquariums	Carlyle Fraser	🐟 Elizabeth Jensen	🐟 William and Lindsey Jacobs	🐟 The Long Family		
Atlanta Hilton Northeast	Employees Benefit Fund	🐟 Amy and Josh Jernigan	🐟 Lisa Jacobson	Lucero Lopez-Martinez		
Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel	🐟 Brennan M. Carmody	Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation	🐟 Kelly James	Francine Lucca		
🐟 Atlanta Reef Club	🐟 Charles and Elizabeth Cary	🐟 Christopher Johnson	🐟 Elizabeth Jensen	Lululemon		
🐟 Robert Augustine	🐟 Orreth Case and Roberta Hall	🐟 Jeanne Johnson	🐟 John and Laura Guitar	🐟 Amanda and Michael Lupoli		
🐟 Erron and Ginger Austin	🐟 Leticia Castellanos and Victoria Gomez	🐟 Kimberly Johnson	Hard Rock Cafe—Atlanta	🐟 Jennifer Lynn		
🐟 Mr. Alex Averitt	Catanach Service Group	Joe E. Johnston Foundation	🐟 Mr. Antione J. Harrell	🐟 Lizbeth Macias		
Avita QCare	🐟 Mr. Steven Cayton	🐟 Cecile Jones	🐟 Matthew W. Hart	🐟 Viktoras Mackevicius		
🐟 Maria and Sai Avula	Charities Aid Foundation America	🐟 Emily L. Williams Jordan	🐟 Monique Hart	🐟 Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Mainzer		
🐟 Saji Azerf		🐟 Tina Hebb		The Marcus Foundation		

🐟 Kristin Norris	🐟 Rob and Terri Rakusin	Shuman Farms, Inc.
🐟 David and Marsha Norris	🐟 Kristi L. Rappaport	Signia By Hilton Atlanta
Northside Hospital	RCK Services	Steve Skilken
Omni Hotel	🐟 Jessica Reilly	🐟 Rad Slough
OneDigital	Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel	🐟 April Smith
Otis Elevator Company	🐟 Kimberlee Reynolds	🐟 Bryan Smith and Chelsey DuBois Smith
OTR Solutions	🐟 Denise A. Rinaudo	🐟 Dr. Jaime Smith
🐟 Anna Padus	The Ritz Carlton	🐟 Tim Smith
🐟 Rebecca Paine	Road Runner Sports	Southeastern Paper Group, LLC
🐟 Nathan Pak and Corinne Cordasco-Pak	🐟 Grant Robison	
Palmetto Automatic Sprinkler Co., Inc.	🐟 Blanca Rojas	
🐟 Mr. and Mrs. Matt Palmgren	🐟 Edwin A. Rosa	
🐟 Cherie and Steven Pashley	🐟 Louis and Jane Rosko	
🐟 Robert Pavao	Margaret A. Ross	
PayPal Giving Fund	🐟 Benjamin and Lauren Rountree	
🐟 Laurel Peace	🐟 Mason and Ana Rountree	
🐟 Elizabeth and Nicholas Peacher	🐟 Edward Salvador	
🐟 Mr. and Mrs. Neville Pereyo	🐟 Justin and Ainsley Santa Barbara	
Performance Contracting, Inc.	🐟 Ms. Yvonne Saunders-Brown	
🐟 Phoenix Air Group, Inc.	🐟 Dr. Arthur Schiff, Dr. Patricia Schiff, Dr. Julia Schiff and Daniel Schiff	
Pinnacle Custom Signs	Schneider Fix Family Foundation	
🐟 Nancy Pollock and Amy Hudson	🐟 William Schuman	
Pop'N Creative Agency	🐟 Albert Scott	
🐟 Shannon Prewitt and Bryce Thomason	🐟 Seeube	
Primrose School Franchising Company LLC	🐟 Mr. and Mrs. George Sertl	
Pulseworks	🐟 Tejas Shah	
Race Roster	🐟 David K. Shellington	
	🐟 Douglas B. Shores	

gifts in kind

AMB Sports + Entertainment	Bold Monk Brewing Co.	Dave & Buster's	Steve Koonin—Atlanta Hawks & State Farm Arena	Photovation.Elite	Truist
Atlanta Ballet	Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Fernbank Museum	Lion Country Safari	Puttshack	United Distributors
Atlanta Botanical Garden	Center for Puppetry Arts	Five Iron Golf	Lorrie Fowler Art	Showtime Pictures	Universal Parking
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra	Chattanooga Zoo	Greenville Zoo	Margaritaville Vacation Club	South Carolina Aquarium	White Oak
Atlanta United FC	Chick-Fil-A	Henri's Bakery and Deli	Nashville Zoo	Speedway Children's Charities	WIN Sports Group
Barking Hound Village	The Coca-Cola Company	Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta Downtown	Omni Atlanta Hotel at Centennial Park	Total Wine & More	Wolfgang Puck Catering
Beat the Bomb	College Football Hall of Fame	The Island in Pigeon Forge		TOUR Championship	Zoo Atlanta
		John Ball Zoo		Tractian	Zoo Knoxville

These donations were received between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025. We have done our best to ensure correct listing; however, if your name is incorrect or omitted, please contact the Development department so we may correct our records. You can reach us at 404.581.4136 or DEVELOPMENT@GEORGIAAQUARIUM.ORG.



🐟 Melodie and Randolph Watson	Michael Williams
Waymo	Tammie Williams
🐟 Angel L. Webb	🐟 The Frances and Michael Williamson Family Charitable Fund
🐟 Paul Webb Charitable Fund at the North Valley Community Foundation	Dr. Jamie Wilson, Jr.
🐟 Kathy Welborn	🐟 Davis and Isabella Wood
🐟 Krystal and Erik Wendler	Wyndham Vacation Ownership, Inc.
🐟 Craig West	🐟 Jacob and Marilyn Yingling
Gerald Wester	The Zaban Foundation
Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel	🐟 Matthew Zinkus and Jennifer French
WestRock	
🐟 Mrs. Maureen Whately	
🐟 Michael D. White	
🐟 Susan and Tony White	
🐟 Grant Williams	

Anne Sturtevant	🐟 Rachel and William Virden
🐟 John Susong	🐟 Joseph Vivona and Heather Cumbie-Vivona
🐟 Chris and Lisa Sward	Stacey Wallach
SweetWater Brewing Company	🐟 Kimberly Ware
🐟 Dr. and Mrs. Edwin I. Swords, III	🐟 Marsean Warren and Iesha Bennett
🐟 Linda and Mel Teetz	Waste Management
🐟 Jeremy Thomas	
🐟 Mrs. Jessica Torres	
Tractian Technologies	
Truist	
🐟 Athena and Justin Touhey	
United Distributors, Inc.	
Universal Parking	
USI Insurance Services, LLC	
Vanguard Commercial Flooring	
🐟 Jaianandh Velrajan	
🐟 Mr. Yashwant Verma	
🐟 Karen and Dan Vigliotti	

together, we can create a sea change.

YOUR SUPPORT IS INVALUABLE
to Georgia Aquarium's commitment to
helping present and future generations
gain a greater understanding of the
connection between human,
marine, and ocean health.

For more information on all the ways you can help,
please contact our Development department at
404.581.4136 or **Development@GeorgiaAquarium.org**,
or visit **GeorgiaAquarium.org/Support**.



225 BAKER STREET NW, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30313
404.581.4000 | GEORGIAAQUARIUM.ORG