



2016

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Texas State Aquarium is to engage people with animals, inspire appreciation for our seas, and support wildlife conservation.

OUR VISION

To be a global leader in fostering support for the conservation of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.





GREETINGS FROM THE TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM

Engaging people with animals, inspiring appreciation for our seas, supporting wildlife conservation—our mission drives the work we do every day, and 2016 was no exception. We experienced strong growth in visitation; over 500,000 guests were entertained and educated at your aquarium last year, a 10% increase over 2015. We were recognized for excellence locally, by the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce as the inaugural “Non-Profit Business of the Year” and nationally by the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration for our “Aquavision” distance learning program for the second year in a row.

Our animal family grew with the addition of Liko and Schooner, our newest Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, as well as hundreds of new fish, birds, reptiles and mammals that found a new home in Caribbean Journey. And speaking of Caribbean Journey, construction progress accelerated throughout 2016, and as of December we were at 80% completion. I hope by now all of you have had an opportunity to experience this amazing new adventure. And even with the strong focus on our Caribbean program, we continued to invest in our Gulf of Mexico building; Tentacles, our newest special exhibition opened to rave reviews in July.

Behind the scenes, our Animal Care team treated over 300 animals through our Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation program, and our educators worked with over 77,000 learners on site, at our Sea Lab facility, and via Aquavision where students from 18 different states, Mexico and Canada engaged in STEM learning activities.

Moving forward, we are continuing our focus on how we can become more impactful. Conceptual design is underway for our future Center for Marine and Wildlife Conservation. This new Center would include state-of-the-art facilities for aquaculture research and coral propagation. The Center would also serve as the headquarters for our Second Chances Wildlife Rehabilitation program. And finally, the Center would function as an extension to our Flint Hills Resources Center for Excellence in STEM Education. Actively engaging students in research, conservation and animal husbandry work alongside our teams is a key objective of the STEM Center. And along with student engagement, our plan is to provide space and access for researchers from other institutions to work collaboratively with our team in our collective wildlife conservation work.

The future Center for Marine and Wildlife Conservation is a critical component of our 2020 strategic plan and our vision: To be a global leader in fostering support for the conservation of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

Thank you for the tremendous support over the years. None of this work would be possible without you. Your involvement helps us in our pursuit of excellence, allowing us to deliver on our mission every day, in so many ways. We want to do more— with your help, we can.

Rob Hall, *Chair, Board of Trustees*
Tom Schmid, *President & CEO*

WELCOMING LIKO AND SCHOONER

2016 started off with a splash with the January arrival of our two newest bottlenose dolphins, Liko and Schooner. Each eight years old at the time of their arrival, Liko and Schooner came to the Aquarium from SeaWorld Orlando, where they were both born.

Liko, recognizable from his distinct countershading, and Schooner, with his light coloring, can be regularly seen by our guests in Dolphin Bay and during our daily *Dolphins!* presentations.

Liko and Schooner have also served as incredible wildlife ambassadors this year, helping us educate thousands of guests each year on the importance of protecting marine life. While bottlenose dolphins are not endangered, some populations are depleted. We have the privilege and obligation to give our animals the best care possible and we are committed to giving them the best every day.



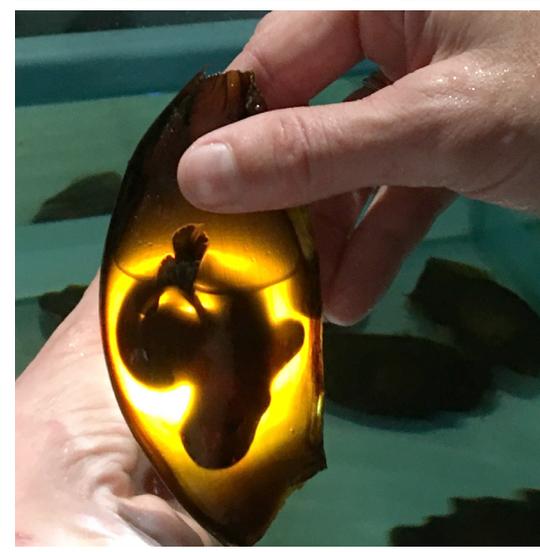
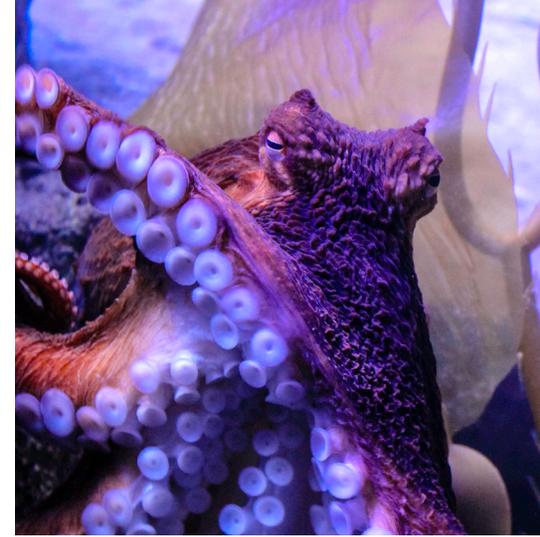
WRAPPED UP IN TENTACLES

Octopi, nautili, jellies and other strange and wonderful cephalopods descended upon the Texas State Aquarium this year with the opening of Tentacles. The Aquarium's newest exhibit, which celebrated its Grand Opening on July 1, provides guests with an up-close look at these unusual animals, and in some cases, even the opportunity to touch them.

Tentacles, presented by the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation, features nautilus cuttlefish and multiple species of jellies, including Pacific sea nettles and blue blubber jellies. A touch exhibit grants guests the unique, interactive experience of safely touching delicate moon jellies.

A favorite of the Tentacles exhibit is Otis, the giant Pacific octopus. A bit of a strange personality and a master of camouflage, Otis often amazes guests by changing colors depending on his mood.

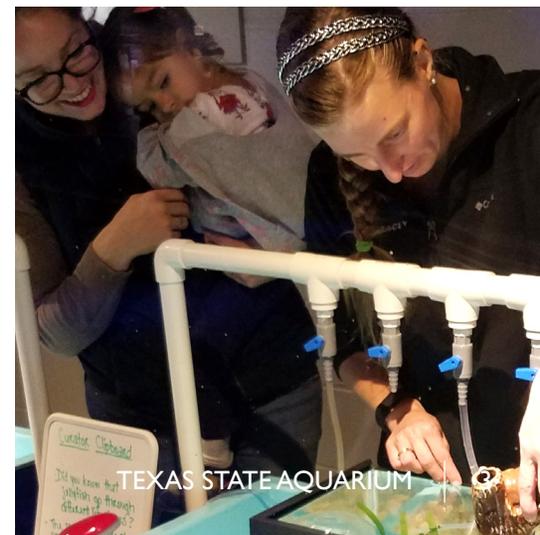
After less than a year of operation, Tentacles has already proven to be one of our most popular exhibits, with guests being enthralled every day by the otherworldly motions and features of these incredible animals.

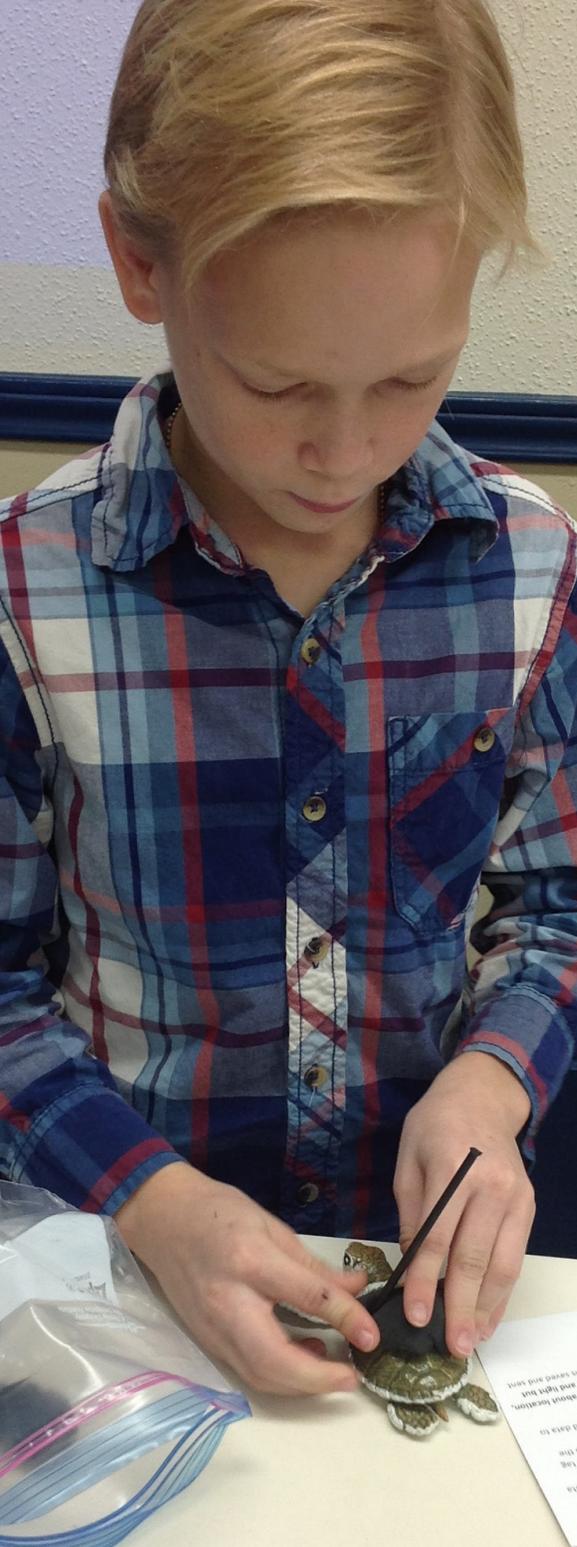


LIFE BEGINS IN THE AQUATIC NURSERY

The Aquatic Nursery also opened in 2016, allowing guests to follow ocean life through their earliest phases of life. It features juvenile moon jellies, cuttlefish, shark egg casings, and even a baby octopus. Guests are also able to observe bamboo shark eggs, colloquially known as "mermaids'

purses," and see juvenile sharks that are just a day or two old. The nursery is also a vehicle to convey the importance of sustainability because it allows the Texas State Aquarium to maintain our own animal populations through onsite breeding operations.





EDUCATION

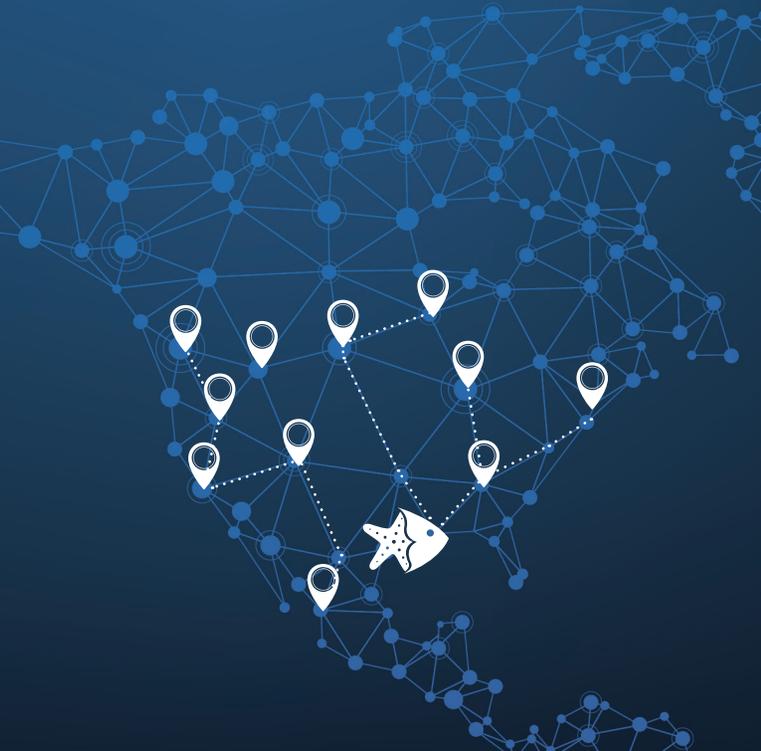
Every day and in every way, our Education team is investigating best practices in STEM education and engagement. We're focusing on STEM skills and processes, building environmental literacy, facilitating conservation activities, and promoting STEM careers.

Our programs include hands-on, critical thinking lab and exhibit-based learning activities for distance learning, outreach and special event audiences; public, private and homeschool students; as well as sleepover, mini-camp, and day camp participants. As the most affordable and wide-ranging option, our Aquavision distance learning program brought the Texas State Aquarium to classrooms across Texas as well as 18 other states as far away as California and Vermont. Students from Mexico and Canada also had the opportunity to remotely experience the Aquarium through Aquavision.

Our programs connected students with both our highly-knowledgeable staff and scientists, but also scientists from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi's (TAMUCC) Harte Research Institute, the University of Texas Marine Science Institute at Port Aransas, TAMUCC's Center for Coastal Studies, Texas A&M University – Galveston, Texas State University's

Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, and the International Crane Foundation.

With the opening of Caribbean Journey, our education programs will continue to expand to support inclusive and collaborative learning, promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) exploration and discovery, and empower students to reach their full potential.





EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Aquarium's Flint Hills Resources Center for Excellence in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Education had an outstanding year, reaching 77,000 students in 2016, a significant increase over the 65,000 students we connected with in 2015.

7,500



AQUARIUM DISCOVERY
FIELD TRIPPERS

1,300



CAMPERS ENGAGED IN
STEM-IN-ACTION

655



HOMESCHOOLERS

1,280



YOUNG EXPLORERS
SLEPT WITH THE FISHES

14,000



OUTREACH LEARNERS

17,000



AQUAVISION
VIRTUAL VISITORS

450



TEACHERS
TRAINED



CONSERVATION

Conservation of wildlife and the ocean is a top priority at the Aquarium. While our exhibits, presentations, and education programs teach hundreds of thousands of guests each year about the importance of preserving and protecting wildlife, we also make efforts to partner

with other prominent conservation organizations and contribute to meaningful conservation efforts.

In 2016, our conservation partnerships and support efforts included:

Aquarium Conservation Partnership:

Includes advocacy and participation in plastic pollution reduction projects.



\$25,000

AZA SAFE
(Saving Animals From Extinction)
Vaquita Conservation Action Plan



\$1,500

American Elasmobranch Society



\$10,000

Aquarium Conservation Partnership



\$1,500

Gladys Porter Zoo
(Kemp's Ridley sea turtle Bi-National project)



\$5,000

Chicago Zoological Society,
Dolphin Welfare Study



\$1,000

The Ocean Project Partner Membership



\$1,750

SCORE
(Sexual Coral Reproduction),
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium



In 2016, we made significant financial contributions to help save the world's most threatened marine mammal, committing \$75,000 to date for rescue, conservation, and awareness efforts.

SAVING THE VAQUITA



The Aquarium fights for the preservation of all animals, but the plight of the vaquita, a critically endangered porpoise, was of special significance to us throughout 2016. The vaquita's numbers have plummeted in recent years, with 30 or fewer remaining as of late 2016. The vaquita's downfall is largely attributed to their entanglement and drowning in illegal gillnets used by fishermen in Mexico's Gulf of California.

While a permanent gillnet ban was announced in July 2016, and Mexican government patrols have been set up to enforce the law, illegal fishing persists, and

the vaquita population continues to decline at an alarming rate.

The Aquarium raises awareness for the plight of the vaquita through social media, interpretive displays, and by commemorating International Save the Vaquita Day. During our Summer SeaCamp, even young learners made their voices heard with a banner declaring 100 reasons to save the vaquita. We also invited hundreds of guests to sign a sponsored petition to ban harmful gillnets.





ANIMAL CARE RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

Thousands of guests enjoyed the Aquarium's wildlife exhibits and thrilling presentations throughout 2016, but few of them may have noticed the Animal Care staff working diligently behind the scenes to keep our animals healthy, well-fed, and mentally stimulated. Day in and day out, our Animal Care staff's hard work and tireless dedication helps ensure the Aquarium is able to exceed all standards and look after our animals' welfare.

Led by Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Jesse Gilbert, Animal Care ensures that all animal care areas and exhibits are clean, safe, and well-maintained. It also handles all animal presentations, from our regularly-scheduled *Dolphins!* and *Wild Flight* presentations to providing guests with up-close animal encounters in our main lobby.

A job in Animal Care requires immense attention to detail, as each species and individual animal has its own unique and very specific needs. Perhaps the most carefully maintained Animal Care process is their diet plan. Animal Care ensures that each animal only gets the freshest and most high-quality ingredients, with their vegetables, fruits, meats, and other meals held to restaurant-quality standards.

Animal Care staff, including our veterinary staff, also keeps an eye on each animal's health. They are given regular checkups using state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment, and when needed, given prompt medical treatment.

Left: Senior Aviculturist, Lauren Attaway, bonds with Xena, our Linnaeus' two-toed sloth.

GIVING “SECOND CHANCES” TO OVER 100 ANIMALS



Second Chances is our wildlife rehabilitation program that rescues and cares for sick, injured, or orphaned shorebirds, raptors, sea turtles, and marine mammals.

This valuable community service continues to expand with state-of-the-art equipment and highly-trained staff.

Second Chances had yet another successful year, treating and releasing more injured and ill shorebirds and raptors than the year before. In 2016, Second Chances treated 346 birds, 88 more than in 2015, and released 125 birds back into their natural habitat. Concerned citizens brought in many of the program's patients, but thanks to an increase in staff, Second Chances was also able to personally go out to rescue 113 birds themselves.

Laura Martinelli, Manager of Wildlife Rehabilitation in 2016, said the year was full of success stories, but one that stands out for her is the release of a large clutch

of black-bellied whistling ducks at Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve. The event pushed Second Chances' release numbers for 2016 past 100, breaking their previous record of 86 releases in a calendar year. "It was a huge milestone, the birds looked great, and we got to partner with another local conservation group in the area," said Martinelli. "I would say that it was a win-win-win for all parties involved."

Second Chances also closed out 2016 with the release of three brown pelicans at Padre Island National Seashore, partnering with park officials on the release. The pelicans were picked up by Second Chances staff in the Corpus Christi area after becoming entangled in fishing line and tackle.

As the Aquarium expands with Caribbean Journey, the Second Chances program will have more resources to rescue, rehabilitate, and release injured wildlife.

In 2016, Second Chances treated 346 birds, 88 more than in 2015, and released 125 birds back into their natural habitat.





STUDENTS
REACHED THROUGH
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

77,000

17,000
AQUAVISION
VIRTUAL VISITORS



CCISD 4,000
STUDENTS



655
HOMESCHOOLERS

450 TEACHERS
TRAINED

14,000
OUTREACH LEARNERS

4,000
CONSERVATION
EVENTS ATTENDEES

1,280
YOUNG EXPLORERS
SLEPT WITH THE FISHES

1,030
CAMPERS ENGAGED IN
STEM-IN-ACTION

32,000



VOLUNTEER
HOURS



509,358

GUESTS JOURNEYED THROUGH
THE GULF OF MEXICO IN 2016



NUMBER OF GUESTS SINCE
OPENING IN 1990

12,715,870

446 VOLUNTEERS
DONATED
THEIR TIME



232 EMPLOYEES

346

INJURED & ILL
ANIMALS
TREATED



1 MILLION APPROX.
GALLONS OF WATER IN OUR EXHIBITS



6,679



ANIMALS WHO CALL
THE AQUARIUM HOME



125

REHABILITATED
ANIMALS
RELEASED



633 SEAFOOD WARS
GUESTS



850 ADOPT-A-BEACH
VOLUNTEERS



TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM



GREEN INITIATIVES

In 2016, significant headway was made in the Texas State Aquarium's commitment to environmental sustainability. In addition to hosting conservation-focused events throughout the year, three major new green initiatives were implemented:

CONTINUED SAYING "SAYONARA!" TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

The Aquarium continued phasing out single-use plastics enacting several eco-smart swaps. Beverages in aluminum cans replaced those packaged in plastic bottles previously offered in our restaurant and café, and our gift shop discontinued its use of plastic bags, opting for environmentally-friendly paper and reusable cloth bags instead.

PROCLAIMED BOXED WATER IS BETTER

Party for the Planet, an annual event celebrated nationwide by members of the Association of Zoos

and Aquariums, kicked off locally this year with the Aquarium's announcement of its shift to serving boxed water. Boxed water is 100% recyclable and 100% BPA free— a sign of our commitment to reducing waste and minimizing plastic pollution in our ocean.

BOOSTED RECYCLING REACH

The Aquarium made the switch from "plastic only" recycling bins to new receptacles outfitted for single-stream collection. The switch makes recycling easier for guests, employees and volunteers by eliminating the need to manually separate recyclable materials.

CONSERVATION MET HANDS-ON FUN DURING THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Adopt-A-Beach
- Endangered Species Day
- International Save the Vaquita Day
- Green Halloween
- Party for the Planet
- Seafood Wars
- World Oceans Day
- World Wetlands Day

AQUARIUM AFTER-HOUR AND PRIVATE EVENTS

In 2016, the Aquarium continued to awe and entertain after-hours guests attending private events held in the Aquarium's unique scenic event spaces. These events not only help support our conservation and education programs, they bolster our reputation as a cultural hub and gathering space for members of the community to connect with each other.

2016 events included:

9,598



EVENT GUESTS

74



PRIVATE EVENTS HOSTED

1,841



BIRTHDAY PARTY ATTENDEES

60



BIRTHDAY PARTIES HOSTED

1,753



OVERNIGHT CAMP-IN ATTENDEES

40



OVERNIGHT CAMP-INS HOSTED



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

DOLLAR DAYS

Thanks to the generous support of our corporate partners—H-E-B, NavyArmy Community Credit Union and Whataburger—the Aquarium hosted three Dollar Days in 2016. Our partners' support allowed us to provide the Aquarium experience to over 31,000 guests from across the state who might otherwise not be able to visit.

COMMUNITY DONATIONS

The Aquarium was pleased to donate hundreds of tickets and memberships to 250 deserving non-profits in support of their fundraising efforts to further their missions.

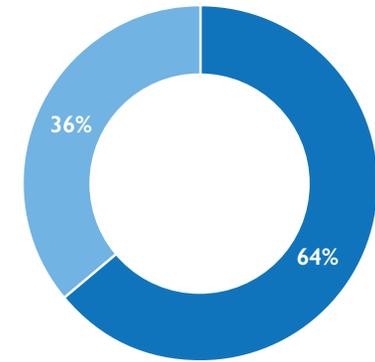
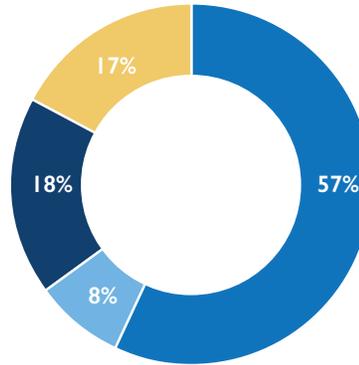
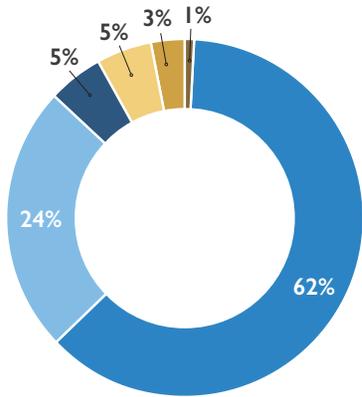
ECONOMIC IMPACT

While the Aquarium continued to serve as a place where thousands came to discover ocean life, it also played a pivotal role outside its walls, contributing to local wildlife conservation efforts and the Coastal Bend community. In 2016, the Texas State Aquarium provided a tremendous economic boost to the Corpus Christi area, with an estimated annual impact of nearly \$50 million. The Aquarium also supported nearly 800 area jobs with almost \$15 million in salaries and contributed more than \$4 million for local taxing districts.

In 2016, over 31,000 guests experienced the Aquarium during Dollar Days.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2016



Operating Expenses**

Salaries & Benefits	\$6,667,927
Aquarium Operations	\$2,564,429
Advertising	\$572,836
Cost of Goods Sold	\$571,066
Major Repairs/Equipment	\$254,013
Accrued Interest	\$ 98,071
Total Operating Expenses	\$10,728,342
Net Income	\$ 835,343

Operating Revenue*

General Admission	\$6,556,025
Retail Programs	\$2,117,070
Visitor Programs	\$1,964,829
Enterprise Programs	\$ 925,761
Total Operating Revenues	\$11,563,685

Fundraising Income*

Campaign Caribbean	\$2,349,092
Donations, Grants & Special Events	\$1,309,173
Total Fundraising Income	\$3,658,265

Attendance **509,358**

*Unaudited

** Does not include depreciation expense

VOLUNTEERS

Much of the Texas State Aquarium's success is credited to a group of incredibly special members of the Aquarium family— our volunteers. Ranging in age from 12 to 90 years old, these dedicated folks join in our mission by donating their time and talents both on the front lines and behind-the-scenes in all corners of the Aquarium. In 2016, a total of

446 individual and group volunteers (169 of those being “actives” who volunteer on a consistent basis throughout the year) accounted for more than 31,200 hours. This represents a 26% increase in hours from 2015 and equates to more than \$304,230 in value!

GUEST SERVICES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:

Tom Sullivan

Tom, a 26-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, has volunteered since 2015. He has donated almost 300 hours of his time, primarily as a Naturalist— engaging guests with wildlife as they explore exhibits.



ANIMAL CARE/ DIVE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:

Brenda Tuxhorn

Quietly working behind-the-scenes, Brenda has cared for hundreds of animals as a volunteer with WildFlight and Second Chances since 2001. She has graciously donated over 5,954 hours of her time.



ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:

Barbara Stever

As one of our charter volunteers, Barbara is part of a group that started volunteering before the Aquarium opened. Over the last 25 plus years, she has donated over 3,670 hours of her time!



RETURNING AQUATEEN OF THE YEAR:

Kendall Messer

Kendall has donated over 1,015 hours of her time as a fourth-year AquaTeen. She enjoys manning the tattoo booth and helping Second Chances staff.

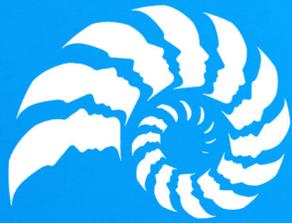


NEW AQUATEEN OF THE YEAR:

Ryan Silver

Ryan has volunteered since 2016 and has over 143 hours of volunteer time. Ryan is going into his second year as an AquaTeen and is also a member of the Teen Science Café Leadership Team.





TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM
NAUTILUS SOCIETY

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY TO THE TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM...

The Nautilus Society honors those individuals who leave a legacy gift to the Texas State Aquarium to endow the future of the Aquarium. By becoming a member of the Nautilus Society, you will provide lasting resources that will ensure the Aquarium remains a Texas star for generations to come, while also addressing your financial goals.

For more information on leaving a legacy gift to the Texas State Aquarium, contact Courtney Cook McLain at 361.881.1255.

DONOR PROFILE:

SHERRY AND CHARLES KOLB, DDS

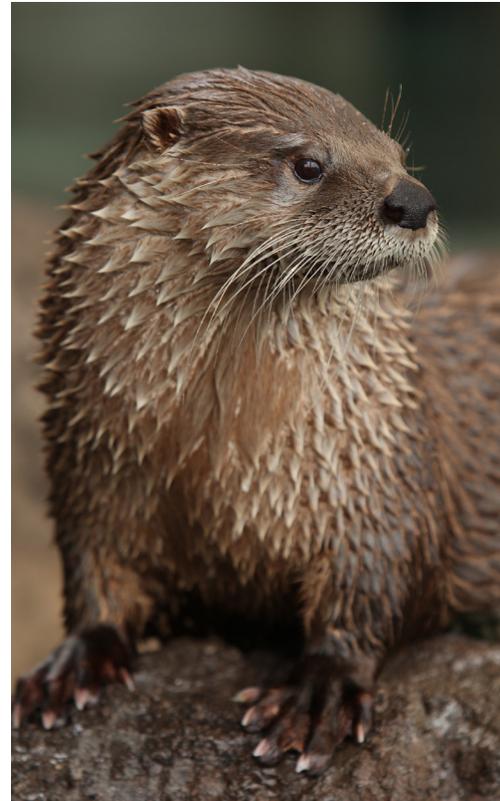
Family and community are the most important things in the world for Dr. Charles (Chuck) Kolb and his wife, Sherry. Their steadfast commitment to both has always been evident in their successful careers, their happy home lives, and their decision to support the Texas State Aquarium.

The Kolbs have deep roots in Texas, where their families have long been active members of the community and part of the local history. Chuck's family has been in Texas for more than a century, having moved to Sinton, Texas in 1906. Chuck was born and raised in Sinton, just a short drive from Corpus Christi, while Sherry was raised in the Texas Panhandle. The couple now resides in Portland. "We've always been civic-minded," said Sherry, a quality she credits her father with instilling in her.

The Kolbs' community and family values shine through even in their careers. Dr. Kolb has been a dentist in Taft, Texas since 1970, and now practices with his children, Dr. Jonathan Kolb and Dr. LeAnn Kolb-Snod. Sherry also has a dental background as a Past President of the Alliance to the Texas Dental Association. Together, the Kolb family has been bringing smiles to their community for years.

While two generations of the Kolb family share the same profession and workspace, their strongest bond is through the grandchildren, Nathan, Emily, Madison, Chaz, and Turner. It's now a family tradition for Chuck and Sherry to pick up the kids from school on Fridays and go straight to the Aquarium. "They just get so excited," laughs Sherry. "The very youngest – he wants to touch and feel everything." They've also taken their grandchildren to the H-E-B Splash Park and the Aquarium summer program, SeaCamp.

The Kolbs' support is yet another sign of their lifelong commitment to family and community. Through their generous contributions, the Kolbs are helping the Aquarium continue to be a place where countless other families can come to learn, discover and bond together.



CAMPAIGN CARIBBEAN

Campaign Caribbean, the capital campaign raising funds for the Caribbean Journey expansion project, continues to receive great philanthropic support from generous individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations. At the end of 2016, Campaign Caribbean stood at over \$47.4 million. We are sincerely appreciative to all those who have joined with us to make Caribbean Journey possible.

\$8,000,000 and Up

Tom and Cora Keeler Estate
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

\$3,000,000 - \$7,999,999

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
H-E-B

\$1,000,000 - \$2,999,999

Cheniere Energy
Ed Rachal Foundation
Flint Hills Resources, LP
The Greehey Family Foundation
Donald Seberg Family Trust
Josephine I. Seberg Estate
Whataburger/The Dobson Family
Anonymous

\$500,000 - \$999,999

American Electric Power Foundation
Louise G. & John O. Chapman, Jr.
Earl C. Sams Foundation, Inc.
The John G. & Marie Stella Kenedy
Memorial Foundation
Valero Energy Corporation

\$250,000 - \$499,999

Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust
Lisa & John Dorn
Phyllis & George Finley,
In Memory of Dr. George A. "Buck" Finley, IV
Fulton Construction/Coastcon
Holt Companies
Larry & Pat McNeil Foundation
Estate of Rosemarie L. Schwarzer
Deneece & Wayne Squires
Estate of Dean Walker Vorhes

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Lana & Barry Andrews
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The Fondren Foundation
Samantha & Dos Gates

George & Mary Josephine Hamman
Foundation

Sherry & Charles Kolb, DDS
Carroll Patton Matthews
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company-Corpus Christi
Keleigh & Stuart Sasser
Celiika Strom
Larry & Karen Urban

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Gloria & Edward Hicks/
Susan & Charles Hicks
Maureen Miller
J. Ted Oakley
Omni Hotels & Resorts
Clayton & Billie Poenisch
Richard Family Foundation
Marsha & Gregg Robertson
Kim & Tom Schmid
Mike Shaw Toyota/
Mike Shaw Toyota Kia
Catherine & Sam L. Susser
Anonymous

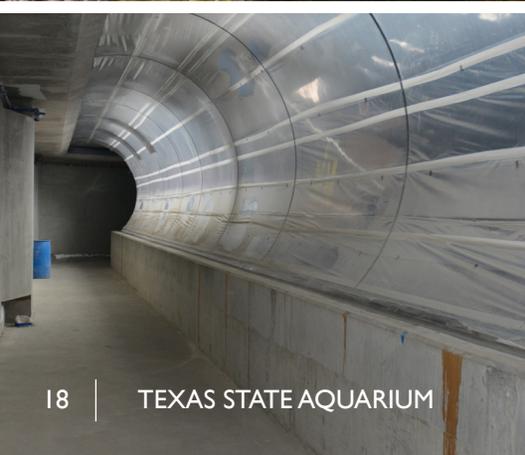
\$25,000 - \$49,999

Peggy & Avinash Ahuja
Braselton Homes &
The Braselton Family
Julie Buckley
Lualhati S. Flynn
Dr. Robert & Gloria Furgason
The Gentry Company Family
In Memory of Hoyte Gentry
Darryl & Teresa Haas
Kim & Matt Hammer
Ken & Laurel Herring
Gaylord & Sue Hoyt
Edward A. Martin
Lou Adele & Bob May
Lucy & Dick McCracken
Patty & Hank Nuss
Mamie & Alan Stoner
Steve, Colleen & Anne Sullivan
In Memory of Janis Y. Sullivan

The Albert & Ethel Herzstein
Charitable Foundation
ValueBank Texas

\$10,000 - \$24,999

John & Myriam Bell
Dr. Ruby Payne & Thornton
Hardie Bowman IV
Patsy & Garnett Brooks
Debbie & Darrell Coleman
Bill & Peggy Clark
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Cone
Mary Jane & Carl E. Crull
Martha & Charles DeCou
Elinor & Ben Donnell
Dugan Eye Institute
In Memory of Susie Dugan
Richard Durham
Ann & David Engel
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Since 2012, this group has helped to further the mission of the Texas State Aquarium by serving as the next generation of Aquarium advocates among their peers and fundraising for Aquarium programs.

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The Texas State Aquarium AQUA Society was established in 2011 to honor the Aquarium's most generous donors. Individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations who have supported the Aquarium with cumulative giving of \$25,000 or more are recognized by this distinguished society. AQUA Society members have made a significant commitment to further the Texas State Aquarium's mission of engaging people with animals, inspiring appreciation of our seas, and supporting wildlife conservation. We remain grateful for society members' continued philanthropic support.

The 2016 AQUA recognition event concluded with the presentation of the Aquarium's highest honor, the Golden Star Award, a distinction reserved for our most passionate and visionary supporters. Our 2016 recipient was Judy Hawley, past Board Chair and longtime ambassador and advocate for the Aquarium.



President and CEO, Tom Schmid, celebrates with Golden Star Award Honoree, Judy Hawley.

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BEACH BALL

On May 14, 2016, the Texas State Aquarium hosted its 10th successful Beach Ball gala, presented by returning sponsor, Andrews Distributing Company. To celebrate the Caribbean Journey expansion project, a "Caribbean Carnivale" theme was woven throughout the evening. Guests enjoyed the tropical flair of colorfully-costumed conga dancers, live steel drum musicians, and a Caribbean-inspired dining experience. The event concluded with a rousing performance by the Surf City All-Stars featuring original Beach Boy David Marks and Dean Torrence of Jan & Dean.

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The President's Council is a group of esteemed individuals who are dedicated to the continued growth and vitality of the Texas State Aquarium with annual contributions of \$1,000 or more. President's Council members are invited to private events with the President to learn more about current programs and projects as well as exclusive events. The President's Council is crucial to the continued growth and vitality of the Texas State Aquarium, and we remain grateful for their continued support.

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Construction of the Caribbean Journey jungle gallery progresses under its landmark skylight in July of 2016.



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