

JOIN US

Conservation-Focused College and Career Prep

"I am passionate about conservation and, thanks to Aquarium on Wheels, I want to pursue a career in the field of marine biology."

-ANA BROWN, 2017 AQUARIUM ON WHEELS STUDENT



PHOTOGRAPH BY THERESA KEIL

This summer, Aquarium on Wheels students presented their original play, "Justice for the Chesapeake Bay," at Enoch Pratt Free Library branches across Baltimore, teaching audiences—primarily younger students—about local ecosystems through performance, an animal encounter and interactive games and activities.

Aquarium on Wheels is a 10-month after-school program for Baltimore City and Baltimore County high school students interested in marine science and conservation. The program focuses on college and career readiness, peer-to-peer learning and hands-on STEM education.

Watch a video with Aquarium on Wheels students at aqua.org/aquarium-on-wheels.

The Aquarium on Wheels Summer Play Series is proudly sponsored by



Customized partnerships and engagement opportunities are available for leading members of our corporate family. For more information, visit aqua.org/partners or contact:

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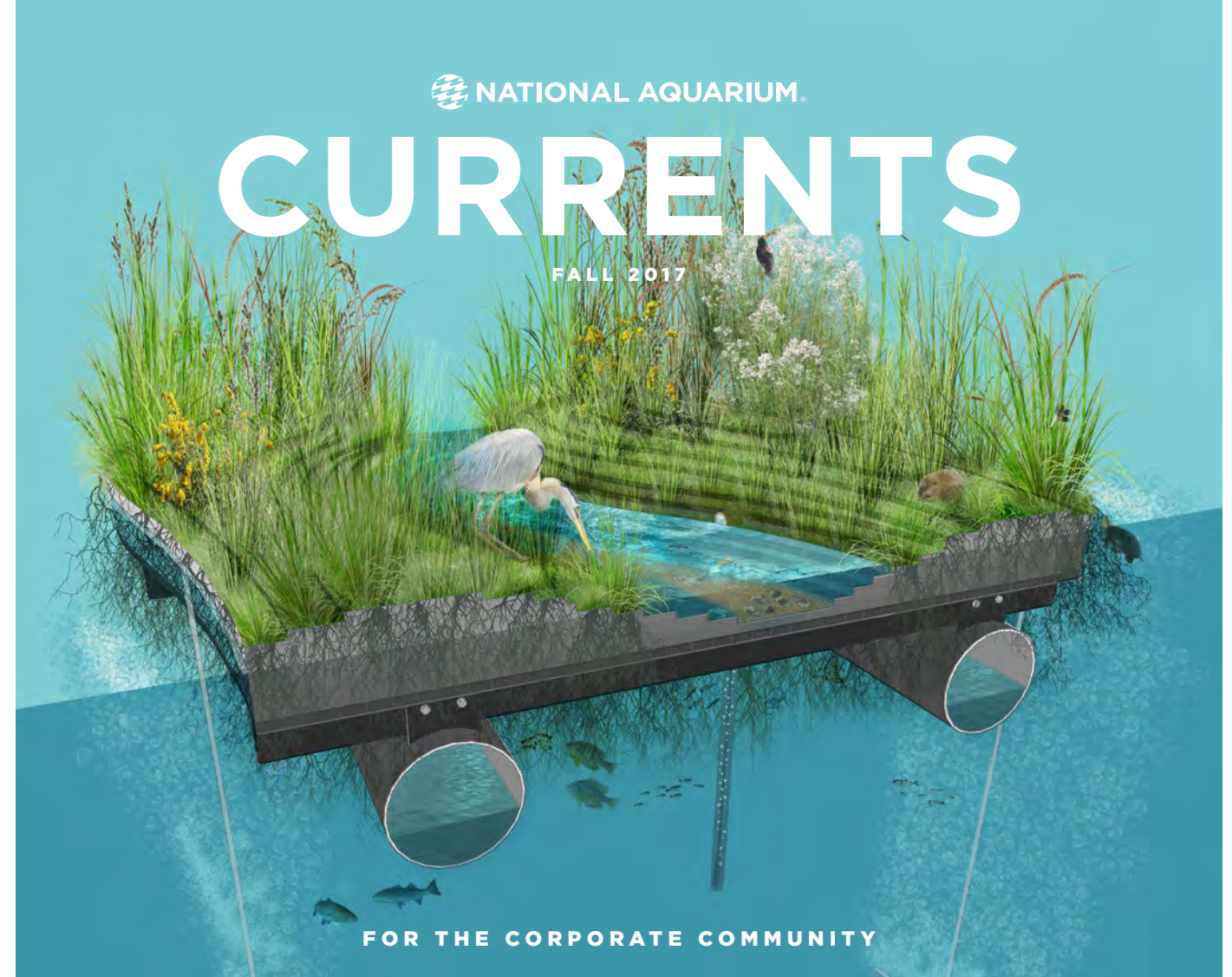
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NATIONAL AQUARIUM.

CURRENTS

FALL 2017



FOR THE CORPORATE COMMUNITY

Wild Wetlands: Creating New Habitats and Learning Opportunities

The Aquarium has installed a new floating wetland prototype in the slip between Piers 3 and 4 in the Inner Harbor. The prototype is part of an expansive, ongoing project to turn our waterfront into a living laboratory that promotes healthy water, attracts native species and teaches students and other Inner Harbor visitors about wetland ecosystems.

Floating wetlands are artificial islands with a porous base. In August, Aquarium staff and volunteers planted native grasses into the prototype, with nutrient-absorbing roots reaching the water below.

The prototype features a shallow, submerged channel where small species can hide, feed and spawn, and compressed

air lines that release microbubbles to aerate the water. All of this is set upon adjustable, water-filled pontoons and secured to steel pilings along the pier.

The harbor was once home to native plants that supported marine life, including oysters, blue crabs and rockfish, as well as aquatic birds and reptiles. The floating wetlands will reintroduce salt marsh habitats and create a home for American eels, blue crabs, turtles, night herons and other species, while improving water quality and supporting life above and below the water's surface.

These wetlands will also provide a new green space where students and visitors can explore and learn about the plants and animals native to these habitats,

and gain a better understanding of the Inner Harbor's environmental health and its connection to the Chesapeake Bay and ocean.



A rendering of the slip between Piers 3 and 4 depicts the Aquarium's future plans for its waterfront.

VISIT AQUA.ORG/WATERFRONT-CAMPUS

FEATURED PROGRAM

MAKING THE AQUARIUM ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANASTASIA TANTAROS

THE AQUARIUM'S BUSY SEASON FOR ENCOURAGING LOCALS TO VISIT FOR LESS IS UNDERWAY.

In addition to ongoing access programs—including Half-Price Friday Nights presented by M&T Bank, Read to Reef in partnership with the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and Maryland Mornings—upcoming events include Pay What You Want Day in November made possible with the generous support of T. Rowe Price, and Dollar Days in December in cooperation with the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore.

Overall in 2016, the Aquarium welcomed more than 100,000 guests—most of whom were local families—for free or reduced admission through our community access programs. Guest feedback following these events is overwhelmingly positive.

One guest recently said, “We would never be able to visit the Aquarium without this program.” Another said, “This was a wonderful experience for our family that would have otherwise not been in the budget!”

Catching Up with Barton Seaver

Writer, chef and sustainability advocate Barton Seaver was in Baltimore recently to join the National Aquarium in conversations about the heritage, culture and future of seafood.

During a private event at the Aquarium and on stage at the Baltimore Book Festival with National Aquarium Seafood Smart™ Director Tj Tate, Seaver spoke about our relationship with the ocean's perceived abundance and why we must embrace seafood sustainability—for our ocean and ourselves.

Seaver—whose anthology “American Seafood” will be released in November—has been a leader in the sustainable seafood movement for more than 20 years. During that time, he's addressed all sides of the issue, including food security, commercial fishery challenges, climate change and our health.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SEAFOOD SMART™, VISIT AQUA.ORG/SEAFOODSMART.



PHOTOGRAPH BY THERESA KEIL

FEATURED PROGRAM

“Every year, we hear countless anecdotes of students who work diligently to earn this reward; they are proud to have the opportunity to treat their families to a night out at the Aquarium through Grade A Student Night.”

-JENNY HAMILTON, COMMUNITY PROGRAMS MANAGER, NATIONAL AQUARIUM

GRADE A STUDENT NIGHT

While there is an abundance of access opportunities throughout the fall, the Aquarium offers similar events all year long. In June, the Aquarium welcomed 2,479 guests to its 25th annual Grade A Student Night celebration, which rewards area students who achieve three or more A's (or equivalent) in any one marking period with free admission for themselves and one adult, plus reduced tickets for additional guests.

To accommodate the growing popularity of Grade A Student Night, this year's event took place over two nights for the first time. The extended celebration served twice the number of attendees from surrounding communities, welcoming 575 families and recognizing 1,010 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade from schools in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Howard County.

An additional 60,000 Maryland students also experience the Aquarium completely free of charge each year as part of our free school group program, made possible by philanthropic support and collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education. We are seeking new partners to help us meet growing demand from schools—consider joining us as we expand free access to the amazing hands-on STEM learning resources that the Aquarium offers. Related recognition and impact storytelling opportunities are available.

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING SPONSORS FOR GRADE A STUDENT NIGHT AND OTHER COMMUNITY ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES.

VISIT AQUA.ORG/PARTNERS.

Joining Forces Against Plastic Pollution

A shocking number of plastic straws, grocery bags, beverage bottles and other items end up in our waterways, where they have devastating effects. Experts estimate that there are 5 trillion pieces of plastic floating in the ocean, with more entering every day.

These facts spurred the National Aquarium, Shedd Aquarium and Monterey Bay Aquarium to establish the Aquarium Conservation Partnership to tackle plastic pollution and advance the conservation of aquatic ecosystems.

The National Aquarium collaborated with our partners at Sodexo, the Classic Catering People and Pepsi to eliminate single-use plastic foodware in our building as of summer 2017. Disposable plastic products have been replaced with reusable, compostable or more sustainable options.

