

CURRENTS

WINTER 2018

FOR THE CORPORATE COMMUNITY

Partners in Design: Floating Wetland Prototype Honored

The National Aquarium's floating wetland prototype, created by design firm Ayers Saint Gross, recently won a 2018 American Society of Landscape Architects Honor Award for Research.

Aquarium staff and Ayers Saint Gross landscape architects collaborated with scientists and engineers from Biohabitats, McLaren Engineering

Group and Kovacs, Whitney & Associates to create a more sustainable and high-performing floating wetland as part of the Aquarium's efforts to transform its outdoor campus into a living lab. The award jury noted that the project is "a template for how to do waterfront design."



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID COFFEY



Becoming More Bird Friendly

The Aquarium and Ayers Saint Gross also collaborated on a bird-strike prevention graphic installed on the Aquarium's exterior in August.

It's estimated that in North America alone, 300 million to 1 billion birds die each year by colliding with glass.

Aquarium staff and volunteers from Lights Out Baltimore monitored bird strikes on Aquarium buildings and identified where strikes are most likely to occur. The new graphic, installed in those areas, uses a pattern recommended by the American Bird Conservancy and makes the Aquarium's campus more friendly to migrating and native birds.

FEATURED PROGRAM



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANASTASIA TANTAROS

Community Connections in Bloom: OrchKids Students Visit Aquarium Thanks to Corporate Members

Thanks to the generosity of the National Aquarium's corporate community, 169 students who take part in the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's OrchKids program visited the Aquarium free of charge in May to celebrate the end of the 2017-18 school year.

The students' tickets were donated through Community Connections—a charitable ticket donation program supported by National Aquarium corporate members—and represented the single largest Community Connections ticket donation to date.

Founded by Music Director Marin Alsop, OrchKids is a year-round, during- and after-school music program designed to create social change and nurture promising futures for youth in Baltimore City.

"We welcome guests from all over the globe, but I am especially proud of all we do to ensure that a visit to the National Aquarium is within reach of all our neighbors right here in Baltimore, particularly children," said Aquarium President and CEO John Racanelli. "OrchKids does amazing work in our community and we are grateful to corporate members for making their Aquarium visit possible."

Whenever an organization joins the Aquarium as a corporate member, a designated number of complimentary tickets are added to the Community Connections coffer based on the level of membership, from 10 tickets at the Small Business level, to 150 at the Corporate Circle level.

Since Community Connections launched in spring 2017, the Aquarium has been able to donate a total of 5,000 tickets to 150 nonprofits through the program.

If your company has a relationship with a nonprofit that would benefit from admission to the Aquarium, please encourage them to visit aqua.org/communityconnections to apply for tickets.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANASTASIA TANTAROS

More Terrapins in More Classrooms Thanks to Subaru

During the 2018-19 school year, 10 Maryland Subaru retailers are partnering with the National Aquarium to offer the Terrapins in the Classroom program to schools in their local communities.

Through the program, students come face to face with the state reptile—the diamondback terrapin—and observe and study the animals throughout the year. Students collect growth data, observe behaviors, learn animal-care techniques, research the natural history of the species and form emotional attachments with these temporary classroom companions. At the end of the school year, students release the terrapins back into their natural habitat.



PHOTOGRAPH BY THERESA KEIL

The partnership pairs Subaru retailers across the state with schools in their communities.

Subaru also donated STEM-themed books to each school participating in Terrapins in the Classroom.

Beyond Subaru's support for Terrapins in the Classroom, the company hosted a special night at the Aquarium for local Subaru owners, and donated science-related books to Baltimore-area schools. Subaru also supports the Aquarium's mission by providing Aquarium-branded Subaru vehicles for use in conservation and community initiatives, including a new 2019 Ascent.

“At Subaru, we know the deepest learning happens when students have the tools they need to inspire new ways of thinking and seeing the world,” said David Bull, zone retailer marketing manager for Subaru of America, Inc. “Partnering with the National Aquarium and supporting the Terrapins in the Classroom program is a natural fit for both the [Subaru Loves Learning](#) and [Subaru Loves the Earth](#) initiatives. Subaru of America, Inc. and our local retailers are delighted to support the Aquarium to help instill a love for the environment, as well as provide hands-on STEM education opportunities for youth.”



PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN LO

RECAP

Locals Visit for Less



With support from Pepsi, the Aquarium's 2018 Grade A Student Night celebration welcomed 1,960 guests over two nights. The program rewards local students who achieve three or more A's (or equivalent) in any one marking period with a free evening of entertainment and exploration. This year's event welcomed 474 families and recognized 854 pre-K-12 students from schools in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Howard County.

Fall is community access season at the National Aquarium,
thanks to support from our corporate partners!

- Admission at the Aquarium was free after 5 pm on October 26 for Free Fall Friday Night, in collaboration with the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts.
- Pay What You Want Day, made possible with the generous support of T. Rowe Price, was held on November 4.
 - Dollar Days, an annual holiday tradition in collaboration with the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, was held on December 8 and 9.
 - As always, admission is half-price every Friday after 5 pm through Half-Price Friday Nights, presented with the generous support of M&T Bank.

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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