

# WHAT DOES THE AQUARIUM MEAN TO ...?



**Area Economics** 



**Events** 



Research & Conservation



**Aquatic Zoo** 



Military



Therapeutic

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## **Agenda**

- History, Formation and Size
- Programs
  - » Military
  - » Animal
- Education
- Animal Care
- Research and Conservation
- Economic Impact

## **Pemberton Place 20 Plus Years Ago**



A closer view of Pemberton Place looking south towards Baker Street in the early 1990s Prior to the creation of Centennial Olympic Park, Pemberton Place was a jumble of old one and two story commercial buildings, many of which were in in bad condition

## Preparation for Centennial Olympic Park

 The original plan for the Park included all of the Pemberton Place properties up to Ivan Allen Boulevard (in green), for funding reasons, it stopped at Baker Street



 As park construction occurred, The Coca-Cola Company cleared what became Pemberton Place for its Olympic Venue (in green)—known as Olympic City





## Coca – Cola Company's Olympic City

 During the 1996 Summer Olympic Games eight acres of Pemberton Place was home to Olympic City which was Coca-Cola's sponsorship venue







# Centennial Olympic Park during the 1996 Olympics

Sponsor venues were located in the park and the Olympic Fountains became the iconic global image of the Park





### **Georgia Aquarium History**



May 2003 – Ground-breaking for the aquarium June 2003 – Construction begins

#### July 2009

construction of the new, \$110 million dolphin exhibit begins



#### April 2011

The AT&T Dolphin Tales exhibit opens as first major expansion



#### March 2016

The Georgia Aquarium's new Sea Lion Exhibit opens to guests

#### December 2001 to June 2002

 B. Marcus and J. Swanagan tours 56 zoos and aquariums in 13 counties to evaluate best in class

August 2002 - Coca-Cola

aquarium

donates the land to build the

November 2006 – Georgia Aquarium has 3.3 million guest in the first year

#### November, 2001

Bernie Marcus announces intention to create an aquarium in Atlanta donates \$250 million **November 23, 2005** – Georgia Aquarium opens it's doors as the World's Largest Aquarium



June 2009 – Georgia Aquarium has 10 millionth guest

#### January 2011

The Georgia Aquarium acquires Marineland and Dolphin Conservation Field Station near St. Augustine, Florida



#### March 2016

the Georgia Aquarium's 4D funbelieveable renovated Theatre reopens with a screening of "Happy Feet"

August 2014 – Georgia Aquarium has 20 millionth guest









## **HOW BIG IS THE AQUARIUM?**



### How big is the Aquarium?

- Attracts over 2 million visitors a year, over
   24 million since opening
- Largest attended venue in Atlanta (bigger than the Braves).
- Education attendance for the 2016 2017 school year will top 170,000 students.
- Event business will attract over 140,000 visitors.
- Military program will serve 2,262 veterans.
- Over 700 full time and part time employees.
- Over 1500 active volunteers, volunteering over 1.6 million hours since opening.
- Commissary (animal food preparation) prepares over 500,000 pounds of food annually.



- Over 10 million gallons of water, over 100 habitats and over 10,000 animals
- Correll Center for aquatic animal health is one of the largest in the world.
- Building is over 660,000 square feet
- Seven World Famous Galleries



### **Ocean Voyager**





- Whale Sharks
- Manta Rays
- 6.3M Gallon tank almost the size of a football field
- Habitat for swimming and immersions
- Research programs around Whale Sharks and Manta Rays



### **Cold Water Quest**





- Marquee Animals
  - Beluga Whales
  - African Penguins
  - Sea Otters
- Research programs around
  - Belugas
  - African Penguins

## **Tropical Diver**





- Marque exhibits is one of the largest Coral Reefs
- Research program centered around Coral Reef Restoration

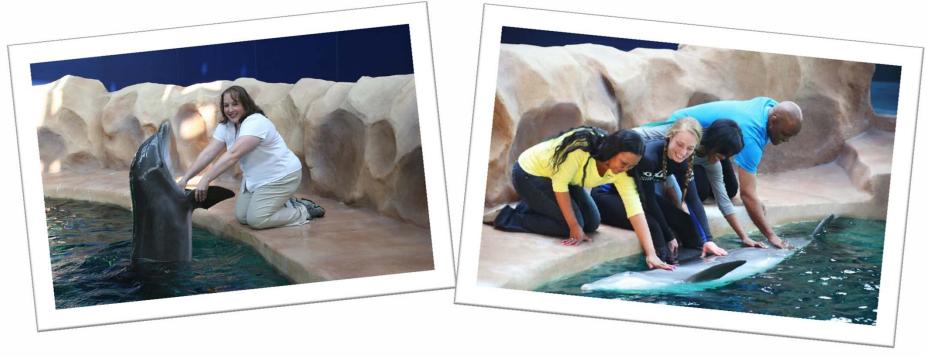
#### **River Scout**





- Centered around fresh water exhibit
- Research programs around sea turtles

## **Dolphin Celebration**



- Marque animals dolphins
- The Dolphin Conservation Field Station
- Greg Bossart is a leader in dolphin research "One Ocean One Health"
- Dolphin Research HERA Project



### **Aquanaut Adventure**







- Sponsored education admissions
- Education programs and workshops for all ages
- Classrooms inside the aquarium
- School program with Centennial Academy

#### **SunTrust Pier 225**





- Marque animals are the Sea Lions
- Conservation efforts around standard Sea lion

#### So much more than entertainment:



Gift from Bernie Marcus Not for profit 501c3 organization



Committed to Education for future generations



Global leader in Research and Conservation



## **Attachment through Programs:**

To create memories for a lifetime



Swim & Dive



Penguins Interactive



Military Programs



Education



Beluga Interactive



See Otter Interactive

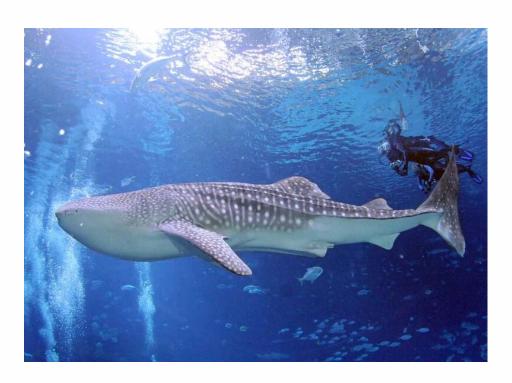


Google Week



#### **Animal Programs - Journey with Gentle Giants**





- Takes place in Ocean Voyager
  - 6.3 million gallon tank size of a football field
  - Allows for guest to swim with the animals to get the attachment to their beauty
  - Once in a lifetime experience

### **Military Programs**









- The Veterans Immersion Program for disabled veterans
- Over 2200 veterans life to date have been through this program
- Therapeutic and healing





## **Military Programs**





"My world is always overstimulated by the sounds and movements that take place in everyday life. When in the water that world of chaos slips away ...this was extremely calming and peaceful as the world slipped away. My take away is that there is a place in this world where one can find peace"

"This event has the ability to change how you feel and perceive things very quickly. I was able to mentally and emotionally get away from life outside the tank. I could see beauty in my life and believe that feelings can pass."





#### **Animal Interactives**









- Create an attachment to want to help
- Engage to a whole new level
- Educate
- Conserve/Conservation
  - Plastics, Styrofoam/Rubber Tires
- Immerse in the connection
- Inspire to "care" and take action
- Attention to a new level, new connection



# How Georgia Aquarium Gives Back through Education



XG

#### **Education at Georgia Aquarium: Goals**

- 1. Provide authentic learning experiences oriented around **STEAM** that awaken the curiosities of our students
- 2. Foster **partnerships** with stakeholders including teachers, parents, nonprofit and business leaders, and school districts
- 3. Serve as an accessible resource to our community
- **4. Equip educators** with the knowledge, skills, and best practices to translate contemporary environmental concepts into meaningful learning moments

#### STEAM at Georgia Aquarium

- All educational programming delivered through the lens of STEAM
  - Over 20 opportunities to showcase how experts at Georgia Aquarium leverage STEAM in their work on a daily basis and that there are 200 unique STEAM careers pathways at the Georgia Aquarium!
  - Exhibits day
  - Programming & curricular materials align to state and national learning standards
  - Georgia Aquarium supports special events including Georgia STEM Day and Atlanta Science Festival







#### **STEAM at Georgia Aquarium**

- New this year: STEAM Forward video series
  - Collaboration between Georgia Aquarium and Georgia-Pacific to goes behind-thescenes to highlight the variety of STEAM career pathways that exist within our organizations
  - Free educational video series designed for middle school students
  - Why?
    - Directly responds to one of the most important questions a student can ask: Why am I learning this?
    - Increases proficiency in STEAM subjects by reinforcing the content being learned in the classroom
    - Inspires students to study STEAM subjects in school and pursue STEAM careers

georgiaaquarium.org/STEAMForward





### **STEAM Forward**



# Partnerships: Community as Classroom

#### Centennial Academy

- Students in grades 1-5 at Centennial
   Academy come to "school" every day at
   Georgia Aquarium
- Re-imagines what the "classroom" can look like through a truly experiential learning environment
- Teachers from Centennial Academy collaborate with Georgia Aquarium educators to craft units around things like chemistry and measurement, marine ecosystems, and human impact on the environment
- Serves as a local model for how schools could think about using Georgia Aquarium as a resource
- Serves as a national model for how schools could think about leveraging community partners as a part of the classroom



Centennial Academy and Georgia Aquarium, together, we are bringing real life to real learning and real learning to real life. And that is the point. - Carol Santos, Head of School and Executive Director, Centennial Academy

# Partnerships: Field Trip Days sponsored by Google



- Georgia Aquarium hosting second annual Field Trip Days sponsored by Google November 14-18
- Google provides generous gift that allows us to cover the cost of admission, transportation, and lunch for 3,600 students across Georgia
  - Allows us to reach schools outside of Metro Atlanta that otherwise would not be able to afford the cost of transportation
- This year the program will ...
  - Serve middle school students in over 30 schools and 17 school districts across the state
  - Provide interactive experiences around STEAM career pathways





# Partnerships: Field Trip Days sponsored by Google



We're really in the business of opening students' eyes to the art of the possible. They come to the Aquarium and see worlds and careers they never knew existed. That's life changing. That's a future veterinarian, chemist, biologist or engineer that otherwise would not have been born.

- Kristyn Tumbleson, Director of Education



# Accessibility: Sponsored Education Admissions

Georgia Aquarium offers a Sponsored Education Admissions (SEA) program to ensure that diverse audiences, regardless of economic status, have an opportunity to participate in our unique educational experiences at no cost. We are able to provide this gift to Title I schools and non-profit organizations operating in Georgia thanks to private charitable donations from generous corporations, foundations and individuals.

#### By the numbers:

- Georgia Aquarium has welcomed over 1,000,000 students since 2005
- 250,000 of those students, or **one out of every four**, has been sponsored
- This year, Georgia Aquarium will sponsor over 75,000 students, which equals nearly one million dollars in fiscal support from Georgia Aquarium and the community



georgiaaquarium.org/SupportSEA

# **Equipping Educators: Professional Development**

- Georgia Aquarium's professional development opportunities are designed to immerse teachers in hands-on learning experiences so they can connect their own students to the wonders of the aquatic world
  - Since 2005, we have worked with over 1,700 teachers from across Georgia and the southeast which translates into 700,000 students who have been impacted by our programs
- Topics vary year to year based on teacher feedback and needs, and can be at Georgia Aquarium or out in the field with our partners. Experiences have included ...
  - Exploring the Deep Ocean with NOAA
  - Ocean Inspiring the Arts
  - Explore Georgia
  - Build Your Own Remote Operated Vehicle
  - Rivers to Reefs
  - Creeks to Coast





#### **Animal Care**



**Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health** 

#### **Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health**

- Aquarium's state-of-the-art animal health facility, research and conservation activities, and the partnership with the University of Georgia Veterinary School are part of the programs hosted through the Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health.
- Correll Center's 10,500 square foot space
- surgery suite with scrub room
- pathology room
- medical records room with technician office space
- water quality lab
- diagnostic lab
- treatment space.
- digital radiography
- digital ultrasound
- digital endoscopy/laparoscopy
- gas and water-borne anesthesia systems
- steam and gas instrument sterilization
- compound and stereo microscopes with digital cameras
- digital medical records system.

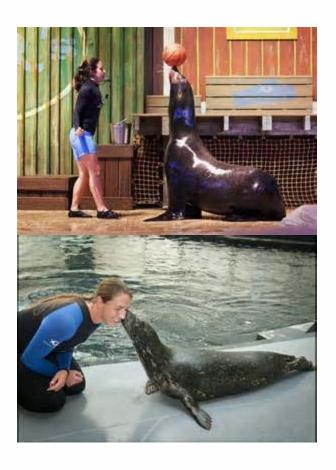
### **Hospital and Lab Facilities**

- Veterinary Diagnostic and Water Quality Laboratory
- Veterinary Pharmacy
- Ultra-Low Freezer Room
- Medical Records Room/ Technician Offices
- Treatment Room (Hospital)
- Avian Intensive Care Room (Hospital)
- Small Mammal Intensive Care Room (Hospital)
- Surgical Suite
- Equipment Storage Room
- Necropsy Room



## **Hospital and Lab Facilities**

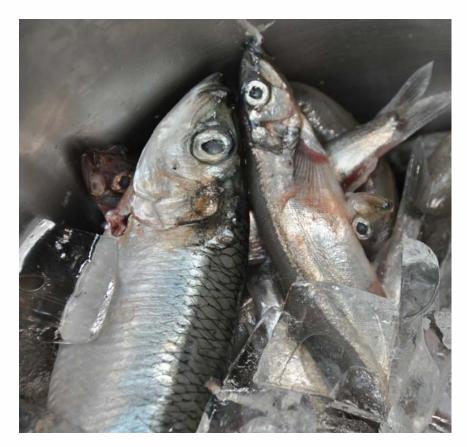
- Animal Training and Enrichment
- Animal Diets and Nutrition
  - carried out by a full time, on-staff nutritionist, nutrition technicians, biologists and volunteers. These operations ensure the best quality diets for the animals in our care, while maintaining the highest standard of food safety
- Comprehensive nutrition program within Georgia Aquarium provides
  - Operations management
  - Clinical nutrition
  - Nutrition education
  - Applied and basic nutrition research





# **Hospital and Lab Facilities**

- Georgia Aquarium commissary handles enormous amounts of seafood and fish-based seafood items including:
  - 47,000 lbs. (21,319 kg) of suberba and pacifica krill
  - 125,000 lbs. (56,700 kg) of capelincomprehens
  - 12,000 lbs. (5,443 kg) of pellets, flakes, gels/gruels



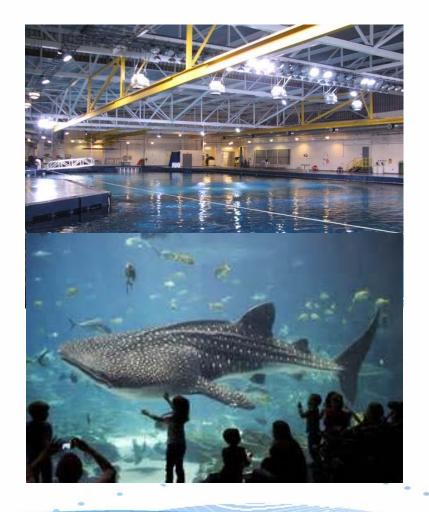
# **Life Support Systems**

- With more than 10 million gallons of water in more than 60 habitats, Georgia Aquarium possesses the largest and most technologically advanced pump and filtration system in an aquarium. The Aquarium's life support equipment is highly automated and controlled by a state-of-the-art system that can make 150 million decisions per second through a network of 24 computers. Each minute, over 170,000 gallons of water are filtered at the Aquarium.
- Life Support Systems staff are on the premises 24-hours-a-day to guarantee all systems run at peak performance around the clock. Aquarium laboratory staff test the water quality twice daily to ensure its at the safest standards possible for all the animals.



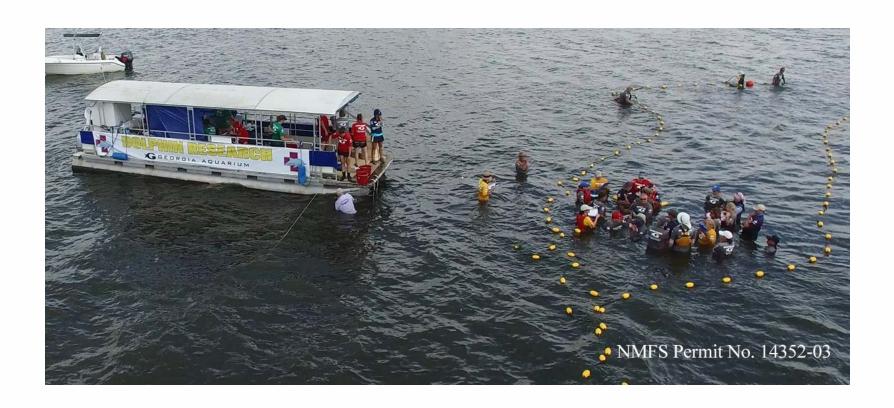
## Ocean Voyager

 Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot operates as a stand-alone system, as are all exhibits at Georgia Aquarium. This means they are closed loop filtration systems and are not connected to each other or open to any other natural source of sea water. All water in Ocean Voyager can be completely filtered within 60 minutes.





## **Research and Conservation**





## **Dolphins**

- Bottlenose dolphin Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HERA)
- A multidisciplinary and multi-institutional health based study
- 2003-2016, over 325 dolphins captured and examined in Indian River Lagoon (IRL), FL and Charleston, SC
- 59 peer-reviewed scientific publications from 2003-2016
- GAI research has proven that dolphins act as sentinels of change in the ocean environment that could impact human health
- First study to examine potential shared environmental exposure to mercury between human and dolphin populations in the same geographical region of Florida



# Georgia Aquarium Conservation Field Station

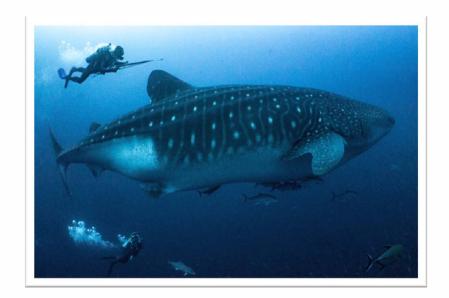
- Since 2008
- Marineland, Florida
- Member of the National Marine Fisheries Service Marine Mammal Stranding Network
  - Allows CFS to partner with a variety of government agencies and non-profit institutions
- Provides field assistance, necropsy support, sample collection, and processing
- Semi-annual photo ID survey along Florida's east coast
- Community outreach
- School camps





## Whale Sharks

- Global initiative
  - Mexico, St. Helena, Galapagos Islands, Indonesia
- Studying life cycle of world's largest fish
  - Satellite and behavioral tagging
  - Photographic Identification
- In-house behavioral study
- 1<sup>st</sup> genomic mapping of a whale shark done with tissue from one of our original whale sharks





## Coral

- Since 2010, Georgia
   Aquarium has been working in partnership with the Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF) in the Upper Florida Keys to help restore staghorn and elkhorn corals.
- In August 2016, Georgia
   Aquarium researchers
   retrieved coral gametes from
   the annual spawning and
   brought them back to the
   research lab in hopes of
   producing coral polyps.



# Other Research and Conservation Projects



### **Research and Conservation**

#### Beluga Whales

- Alaska Sea Life Center led project
- Health assessments in Bristol Bay, Alaska

#### African Penguins

- Animal care and veterinary assistance
- Financial sponsorship to SANCCOB (South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds)

#### Manta Rays

- Tracking migration through NE Florida
- Genetic sampling

### Southern Sting Rays

- Partnership with Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation
- Health Assessments on Sting Ray City population

#### Sea Turtles

- Migration studies in Dominica
- Nutritional studies at Georgia Sea Turtle Center

#### • Sea Lions

 Animal care and veterinary assistance with recent mass strandings along Pacific coast

### Sand Tiger Sharks

 Health Assessments on wild population in Delaware

#### Manatees

- Collaboration with Sea to Shore Alliance and Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Health assessments of Georgia population around Cumberland Island

# Research and Conservation By the Numbers

- Members of the Aquarium's research team have participated in nearly 100 funded research projects and authored more than 130 peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations.
- Georgia Aquarium researchers have deployed over 100 satellite tags on at least 6 different types of animals
- CFS staff has assisted with over 500 marine animal strandings including manatees, dolphins, turtles, small toothed whales, and a southern right whale. 97 bottlenose dolphins during 2013-2015 UME.
- CFS staff has reached 449 classrooms in northeast Florida, effectively reaching over 12,500 students with messaging about conservation in their own backyard



## **Research and Conservation Partners**











The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine





























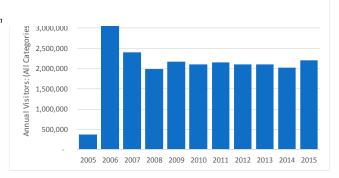
# Attendance Trends at the Georgia Aquarium

- The Georgia Aquarium had its peak attendance of 3.2 million visitors in 2006—its first full year of operation.
- Since 2007, attendance at the Georgia Aquarium has been between 2.0 and 2.4 million visitors annually with 24 million visitors since opening.
- General admissions account for the bulk of all visitors—88% in 2015, with educational visitors accounting for 7% of admissions and special event attendees 5% of all admissions.
- Attendance is projected to grow in 2016 with the opining of the new Sea Lion Exhibit

| ATTENDANCE AT THE GEORGIA AQUARIUM 2009-2015 |            |             |            |           |            |  |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|--|
|  | General    | Educational | Total      | Event     | Total      |  |
| Year   | Admissions | Admissions  | Admissions | Attendees | Attendance |  |
| 2005*  | 370,253    | =           | 370,253    | 122       | 370,375    |  |
| 2006   | 3,191,352  | -           | 3,191,352  | 107       | 3,191,459  |  |
| 2007   | 2,406,678  | 1,397       | 2,408,075  | -         | 2,408,075  |  |
| 2008   | 1,947,450  | 23,539      | 1,970,989  | 21,925    | 1,992,914  |  |
| 2009   | 1,953,740  | 105,467     | 2,059,207  | 121,407   | 2,180,614  |  |
| 2010   | 1,894,632  | 97,641      | 1,992,273  | 119,093   | 2,111,366  |  |
| 2011   | 1,888,113  | 142,804     | 2,030,917  | 128,848   | 2,159,765  |  |
| 2012   | 1,846,776  | 154,568     | 2,001,344  | 111,439   | 2,112,783  |  |
| 2013   | 1,850,221  | 127,626     | 1,977,847  | 124,159   | 2,102,006  |  |
| 2014   | 1,790,502  | 139,191     | 1,929,693  | 102,899   | 2,032,592  |  |
| 2015   | 1,948,783  | 156,079     | 2,104,862  | 106,012   | 2,210,874  |  |
| 2015   | 1,948,783  | 156,079     | 2,104,862  | 106,012   | 2,210,874  |  |

\* The Aquarium opened late November 2005

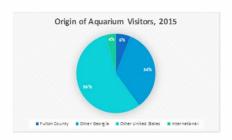
Source: Georgia Aquarium



## **Aquarium Visitor Characteristics**

Visitor data for the Georgia Aquarium provides a detailed look at the characteristics of its visitors:

- Origin—40% of the visitors to the Aquarium come from Georgia, 56% from the other 49 states and 4% are international visitors
  - Estimated 67% of total visitors are from outside Metro Atlanta
- 64% are first-time visitors
- Repeat visitors come about once a year
- 2.8 hours is the average length of stay
- 76% rate the experience excellent—64% likely to return
- Half of visitors purchase food and beverages and buy something in the gift shop
- The Georgia Aquarium compares favorably with its peers on all key metrics surveyed



| GEORGIA AQUARIUM VISITOR CHARACTERISTICS, 2015 |      |            |  |  |  |
|--|------|------------|--|--|--|
| Origin of Visitors                             | 2015 | Benchmark* |  |  |  |
| Fulton County                                  | 6%   |            |  |  |  |
| Other Georgia                                  | 34%  |            |  |  |  |
| Other United States                            | 56%  |            |  |  |  |
| International                                  | 4%   |            |  |  |  |
|  |      |            |  |  |  |
| First Time Visitors to Aquarium                | 64%  | 58%        |  |  |  |
| Repeat Visitors Number of Annual Visits        | 1.05 | 1.8        |  |  |  |
| Top Reason to Visit: Entertainment             | 35%  | 56%        |  |  |  |
| Average Length of Stay (hours)                 | 2.8  | 2.5        |  |  |  |
| Percentage Rating Experience Excellent         | 76%  | 78%        |  |  |  |
| Percent of Visitors Likely to Return           | 64%  |            |  |  |  |
| Heard About the Aquarium from Word of Mouth    | 50%  | 47%        |  |  |  |
| Purchased Food or Beverage                     | 46%  | 39%        |  |  |  |
| Purchased in Gift Shop                         | 47%  | 40%        |  |  |  |
|  |      |            |  |  |  |

<sup>\*</sup> Comparable data for eight Aquariums

Source: Morey Group, "Visitor Survey Report, Fall 2015"





### **IMPACTS FROM CONSTRUCTION**



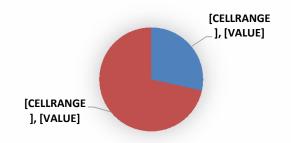


# Development Around the Georgia Aquarium

- Since the opening of the Georgia Aquarium in 2005 there has been \$1.25 billion of new investment in the Centennial Park Area, with an additional \$136.4 million in the pipeline—a total of \$1.74 billion in total new investment
- The investment of over \$495 million in the Aquarium and its 3 expansions has helped support nearly \$1.25 billion in additional private and public investment in the immediate vicinity
- Every \$1 invested in the Aquarium has help to stimulate \$2.50 of additional private and public investment to the area

Totals <u>exclude</u> Mercedes-Benz Stadium and the Atlanta Streetcar, proposed improvements to Philips Arena or the GWCC Convention Hotel

## Investment in Centennial Park Area since 2005



| INVESTMENT IN THE CENTENNTIAL PARK ARE |           |
|--|-----------|
| Existing/Completed Development         | \$Mil     |
| Georgia Aquarium + Expansions          | \$495.0   |
| Hotels                                 | \$422.7   |
| Other Attractions/Institutional        | \$371.9   |
| Residential                            | \$152.6   |
| Entertainment and Restaurants          | \$18.4    |
| Commercial Space                       | \$114.0   |
| City Capital Improvements              | \$29.0    |
| Development Pipeline (2016-17)         | \$136.4   |
| Total Investment Since 2005            | \$1,740.0 |

Sources: Central Atlanta Progress, Inc./BAG



# New Development Timeline - COP Tourist District

2005-06 \$381.0 M 2007 \$365.1 M 2008-09 \$420.1 M

#### Georgia Aquarium

The Glen Hotel 30 Allen Plaza

### Ellis Hotel Aquarium First Addition

World of Coca-Cola Centennial Park North Twelve Centennial Park Luckie Food Lounge 55 Allen Plaza Baker Street Ped. Crossing Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta Union Mission Americas Mart Addition 300 Marietta St W Hotel at 45 Allen Plaza Phillips Arena Suites Renovation Ivan Allen Jr Blvd. Improvements

#### Completion Year 🗲

2010-12

\$132.4 M

2013-15 \$260.0 M

Doubletree Hotel

Hyatt House Atlanta

2016-17 \$181.4 M

#### **Aquarium Dolphin Exhibit**

Fairlie Poplar Streetscape III Holiday Inn Express Suites Simpson-West Peachtree St. Marietta St. & Centennial Skyview Atlanta
Waffle House
Game X
ALoft Atlanta
Center for Civil & Human Rights
College Football Hall of Fame
Hotel Indigo

Aquarium Sea Lion Exhibit
Homewood Suites-Canopy
SpringHill Suites
Centennial Olympic Park
Post Centennial

Source: Central Atlanta Progress, Inc.







### **IMPACTS ON TOURISM VISITATION**





# Activities in Downtown COP Tourism District

- The Aquarium is the anchor of the state's largest tourism district.
- With approximately 2.2 million annual visitors it is the most visited attraction in the district by far.
- It serves as a key attractor in the area and through CityPASS and other promotions benefits other attractions in the area
- Over 9.4 million tickets to attractions and events are sold annually in the district, with the Aquarium accounting for 23% of all tickets sold.
- Total attendance at all venues in the district annually. exceeds 12.9 million visitors

| TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN DOWNTOWN COP TO        | OURIST DISTRICT |
|--|-----------------|
| Attractions                                  |                 |
| Georgia Aquarium                             | 2,210,874       |
| World of Coca-Cola                           | 1,100,000       |
| College Football Hall of Fame                | 200,000         |
| Center for Civil and Human Rights            | 250,000         |
| Children's Museum of Atlanta                 | 198,000         |
| CNN Studio Tour                              | 300,000         |
| Conventions                                  |                 |
| Georiga World Congress Center                | 862,069         |
| Georgia Dome-General Meetings                | 36,963          |
| America's Mart                               | 456,000         |
| Sporting Events                              |                 |
| Georgia Dome Spectator Events                | 1,388,427       |
| Atlanta Hawks                                | 413,234         |
| Atlanta Dream                                | 98,000          |
| Concerts, Plays, Festivals                   |                 |
| Philips Arena                                | 1,600,000       |
| Rialto Center for the Arts/Theatrical Outfit | 81,000          |
| Events at Centennial Olympic Park            |                 |
| Ice Skating Rink                             | 40,000          |
| Public Georgia Marathon                      | 40,000          |
| Shaky Knees Festival                         | 54,000          |
| Sweetwater 420 Fest                          | 60,000          |
| Parks  |                 |
| Centennial Olympic Park -general visitation  | 3,500,000       |
| Ticketed Events                              | 9,388,567       |
| Total Attendance                             | 12,888,567      |



# Georgia Aquarium Anchors CityPASS in Atlanta

- 383,843 visitors to the Georgia Aquarium used City Pass in the past three years (about 6% of all visitors)
- On average CityPASS users visited four attractions — 97% of the time including the Georgia Aquarium
- Of the 1.4 million visits to the seven CityPASS attractions in the past three years, 26% were to the Georgia Aquarium—the highest number among the seven attractions
- As the anchor attraction, the Georgia Aquarium helps drive demand to other attractions in CityPASS.

- Demographics of CityPASS Purchasers:
  - 98% stay at least one night in Atlanta region, 76% staying in hotels
  - 4 days—average length of stay
  - 90% are here as visitors/leisure travelers
  - 75% are from outside GA
  - 7% are international visitors
  - Half are traveling with children
  - 90% have at least some college education
  - Dominant Age group—25-54 78%
  - Distributed across all income groups

Source: CityPASS, Inc.

# Hotels in the Downtown Centennial Park Tourist District



- 1. Residence Inn Atlanta
- 2. Fairfield Inn & Suites
- 3. Holiday Inn
- 4. Hampton Inn & Suites
- 5. Glenn Hotel
- 6. Ellis Hotel
- 7. DoubleTree Atlanta
- 8. Westin Peachtree Plaza
- 9. Omni Hotel
- 10. Courtyard Atlanta
- 11. Hotel Indigo
- 12. Quality Hotel
- 13. Holiday Inn Express Suites
- 14. Twelve Centennial Park

- 15. W Atlanta Downtown
- 16. Hyatt Place
- 17. Best Western Plus Inn
- 18. Aloft Atlanta
- 19. Embassy Suites
- 20. Hyatt House Atlanta
- 21. Hilton Garden Inn
- 22. Home 2 Suites (Open 4/30/16)
- 23. SpringHill Suites (Summer 2016)
- 24. Homewood Suites by Hilton (Planned)
- 25. Canopy by Hilton (Planned)
- 26. Hard Rock Hotel (Planned)

 The Georgia Aquarium is at the center of the Centennial Olympic Park hotel district in Downtown Atlanta—with 26 existing and planned properties offering nearly 6,000 rooms



# Downtown/COP Tourist District Hotel Performance: 2000-15

- Market supply growth was stronger before 2005 compared to 2006 through 2015 (partially in anticipation of the Aquarium coming and favorable economic conditions). However, growth in demand has been stronger between 2006 and 2015 compared to 2000 & 2005.
- Despite the dip in 2008/2009 during the Great Recession, market occupancy levels reached new highs beginning with 2006, (strong Katrina impact), and again in 2014 and 2015, reaching 73% by 2015.
- Growth in occupied rooms increased by more than 382,000 room nights from 2006 to 2015—an increase of 38% over the period.
- Growth in Room Revenue increased from \$137 million in 2006 to \$212 million by 2015.
- Growth in RevPAR and Room Revenue is much stronger between 2006 and 2015 compared to 2000 and 2005.
- Downtown Conventions were up considerably in 2005-2006 period with damage from Hurricane Katrina closing down New Orleans bookings (Aug 2005).
- The Aquarium has helped Downtown become a tourist destination—with the combination of hotel rooms, restaurants, walkable/safe environment and other attractions creating the overall package.

| Downtown Atlanta Lodging Market- Select Properties - Historical Performance  Available Average |        |           |           |    |      |           |                |
|--|--------|-----------|-----------|----|------|-----------|----------------|
| •  | Room   | Occupied  | Occupancy |    | aily |           | Room           |
| Year   | Nights | Rooms     | Rate      |    | ate  | RevPAR    | Revenue        |
| 2000   | 3,642  | 828,758   | 62%       | \$ | 124  | \$<br>78  | \$ 103,041,949 |
| 2001   | 3,642  | 768,490   | 58%       | \$ | 125  | \$<br>72  | \$ 96,052,244  |
| 2002   | 3.642  | 771.285   | 58%       | \$ | 124  | \$<br>72  | \$ 95,318,411  |
| 2003   | 3,642  | 754.568   | 57%       | \$ | 117  | \$<br>66  | \$ 88.035,175  |
| 2004   | 4,242  | 901,478   | 58%       | \$ | 119  | \$<br>69  | \$ 107,148,705 |
| 2005   | 4,234  | 963,424   | 62%       | \$ | 125  | \$<br>78  | \$ 120,459,948 |
| 2006   | 4,187  | 1,002,405 | 66%       | \$ | 137  | \$<br>90  | \$ 137,326,280 |
| 2007   | 4,228  | 989,059   | 64%       | \$ | 149  | \$<br>95  | \$ 146,982,017 |
| 2008   | 4,595  | 950,555   | 57%       | \$ | 150  | \$<br>85  | \$ 142,410,202 |
| 2009   | 4,873  | 924,374   | 52%       | \$ | 141  | \$<br>73  | \$ 130,081,318 |
| 2010   | 4,886  | 1,065,252 | 60%       | \$ | 141  | \$<br>84  | \$ 149,813,853 |
| 2011   | 5,178  | 1,138,828 | 60%       | \$ | 133  | \$<br>80  | \$ 151,586,437 |
| 2012   | 5,112  | 1,139,256 | 61%       | \$ | 144  | \$<br>88  | \$ 163,574,948 |
| 2013   | 4,933  | 1,128,299 | 63%       | \$ | 149  | \$<br>93  | \$ 167,804,173 |
| 2014   | 5,026  | 1,251,242 | 68%       | \$ | 148  | \$<br>101 | \$ 184,842,160 |
| 2015E  | 5,227  | 1,384,127 | 73%       | \$ | 153  | \$<br>111 | \$ 211,969,998 |
| CAGR   |        |           |           |    |      |           |                |
| 2000 to 2005   | 3.1%   | 3.1%      |           | 0  | .1%  | 0.1%      | 3.2%           |
| 2006 to 2015E  | 2.5%   | 3.7%      |           | 1. | .2%  | 2.4%      | 4.9%           |
| 2000 to 2015E  | 2.4%   | 3.5%      |           | 1. | .4%  | 2.4%      | 4.9%           |
| Source: STR. Note: 2015E based on YTD data through November                                    |        |           |           |    |      |           |                |



# Hoteliers' Comments on how the Georgia Aquarium Impacts their Operations

- The Georgia Aquarium helped Downtown become a tourist destination by providing a major new attraction and a compelling reason to go. It is a key building block along with the new hotel rooms, restaurants, walkable/safe environment and other attractions that are part of the package attracting tourists and visitors to the area.
- The Georgia Aquarium helps produce room nights in slower seasons (August and December) and on weekends and holidays, which benefits the hotels in the area during traditionally slow periods.
- The hotel rate that is allocated to the Aquarium Package is based on Best Available Rate, which is generally the highest rate offered by the hotel for the time period.
- The Georgia Aquarium has been primarily a family attraction, but is expanding its targeted marketing efforts to attract commercial and group guests.
- The Georgia Aquarium has an attractive meeting venue which brings groups to downtown for banquets and special events.







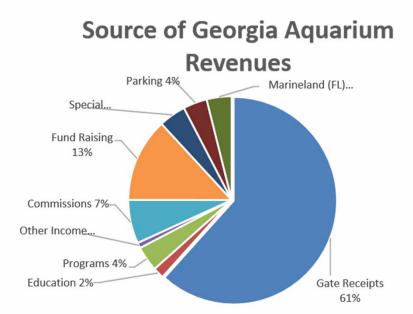


### IMPACTS FROM AQUARIUM OPERATIONS



# Annual Impacts from Operations - Revenues

- Of the Aquarium's total 2015 Atlanta revenues of \$86.8 M, it is estimated that:
  - Roughly \$46.1 million (53%) is likely to have come from visitors living outside of Georgia
  - \$54.4 million in total was generated from outside of the Metro Atlanta Region
- It is estimated third-party vendors, suppliers and concession operators generated \$19.6 M in total income in 2015 from operating the café, from merchandise sales and special events
  - A portion of that income was paid in commissions to the Aquarium
- Including income earned by third parties, direct revenue generated at the Georgia Aquarium are likely exceed \$100 million per year





## **How Aquarium Revenue is Spent**

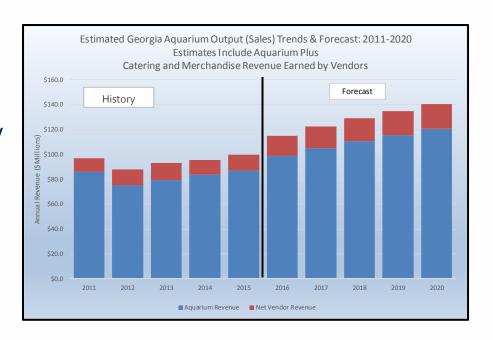
- Based on the Aquarium's 2015 Actual operating costs of \$63.9 Million:
  - Roughly 41% went to payroll, payroll taxes, employee benefits, training & related personnel expenses
  - Direct payroll approached \$21.4 million
  - Supported 700 direct jobs (54% full time) in Atlanta
  - Direct payroll has been growing at a 4% annual rate since 2011 and is projected to exceed \$25.3 M in 2016
- Non personnel costs also benefit the Atlanta Economy such as:
  - Purchased services
  - Legal, accounting, insurance & other professional services
  - Marketing activities
  - Equipment, furnishings, equipment, utilities
  - Repairs & maintenance, etc.

|                                    | 2015     | % of   |
|------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| AQUARIUM EXPENSES (\$Mil)          | Estimate | Total  |
| Personnel                          | \$26.4   | 29.3%  |
| Services & Professional Fees       | \$5.3    | 5.9%   |
| Advertising                        | \$6.5    | 7.2%   |
| Maint., Equipment & Supplies       | \$10.2   | 11.3%  |
| Communications & Utilities         | \$6.5    | 7.2%   |
| Insurance                          | \$1.2    | 1.3%   |
| Animal Aquisition/Research         | \$5.9    | 6.5%   |
| Fundraising, Program & Event Costs | \$1.7    | 1.9%   |
| Memberships, Travel & Other        | \$4.6    | 5.2%   |
| Replacement Reserve/Interest       | \$21.7   | 24.1%  |
| Total Revenues                     | \$90.2   | 100.0% |

Source: Georgia Aquarium

## **Aquarium Revenue Forecast**

- Including both the Aquarium and its commission operators – combined revenues are projected to approach \$115 M in 2016 and grow to \$140.5 M by 2020
  - Revenues are forecast to grow by 7% per year





Georgia Aquarium Economic Impact Analysis

### **REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE IMPACTS**





# **Summary Findings: Employment**

- Georgia Aquarium's economic impacts stretch far past its location in Centennial Olympic Park. From 2003-2015, economic activity produced by the Georgia Aquarium resulted in the following impacts:
  - Annual Permanent Employment The Georgia Aquarium directly supported a total of 2,046 jobs throughout the state of Georgia in 2015 including the Aquarium's business operations (37%), construction spending (16%) and on-site spending by Aquarium visitors and attendees (47% jobs), on food, merchandise and special events, etc.
  - Multiplier Effects of the permanent jobs attributable to the Aquarium (statewide) in 2015, it is estimated that 1,088 (53%) are direct, 428 (21%) are indirect and 530 (26%) are induced
  - Job Impacts by Location of the permanent jobs attributable to the Aquarium (statewide) in 2015, it is estimated that 73% are located in Atlanta/Fulton County, 28% are located throughout the rest of the Metro Atlanta Region and 2.1% are located elsewhere in Georgia
  - Construction Employment Spending on the Aquarium's initial construction and 3 subsequent expansions has supported a cumulative total 11,165 construction-related jobs since 2003
    - A construction-related job is defined as one job for one year that is created as a result of construction spending
  - Tourism Impacts Although not attributable to the Aquarium alone, out of region visitors in 2015 supported an additional 5,192 jobs statewide while visiting Atlanta for such things as lodging, entertainment, travel and other related off-site expenses.

## **Summary Findings – Economic Impacts**

- **Cumulative Impacts** from 2003-2015, total economic activity produced by the Georgia Aquarium resulted in the following impacts:
  - Personal Income An additional \$2.3B in personal income was generated of which, 47% was earned by residents of Atlanta and Fulton County, 51% by residents of other Metro-Atlanta Counties and 2.6% by residents of the rest of Georgia
  - Productivity A \$1.9B increase in GDP to the state of Georgia with 21% of that impact attributable to the Facility's construction and later expansions, 36% attributable to the Aquarium's business operations and 43% to total spending by on-site visitors since its opening
  - Output Generating over \$3.0B in total production over the same period

#### 2015 Impact of Tourism Spending

 Although not attributable to the Aquarium alone, out of region visitors to the Aquarium in 2015 generated enormous benefits to the Georgia economy including \$688M in total Output, a \$430M addition to State GDP and \$522M increase in Personal Income

#### Real Estate Impacts

Including the facility's addition to the value of the region's "Capital Stock" the Aquarium's cumulative economic impacts have created total demand for new construction of housing and commercial real estate totaling \$1.1B for non-residential and \$2.2B for new residential construction





### **PUBLIC REVENUE IMPACTS**



# **State and Local Fiscal Impacts**

- Aquarium Sales and Employee taxes generated an estimated \$3.4 million in local revenues and \$4.6 million in state sales and income taxes
- Total fiscal impact of nearly \$8.1 million in 2015

| Public Revenue Impacts                       |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Local Taxes                                  |                 |
| Atlanta/Fulton Co. Sales Taxes (LOST, Sewer) | \$<br>1,788,146 |
| Atlanta/Fulton County Schools (ESPLOST)      | \$<br>894,073   |
| MARTA  | \$<br>752,870   |
| Subtotal                                     | \$<br>3,435,090 |
| State Taxes                                  |                 |
| State Sales Tax (4%)                         | \$<br>3,576,293 |
| State Income Tax                             | \$<br>1,056,897 |
| Subtotal                                     | \$<br>4,633,190 |
|  |                 |
| TOTAL DIRECT STATE & LOCAL TAXES:            | \$<br>8,068,279 |



## Georgia Aquarium is many things:

- Key in developing the Centennial Olympic Park District.
- Key to the largest Aquarium in the America's to do great aquatic work.
- Key to being much more than entertainment.
- Key to our healing and therapeutic military programs.
- Key to educating, connecting, attaching, conserving and inspiring guests to care for these animals.
- Key to an education program that focuses on sponsored education and a program that gives back.
- Key to the best animal care in the world.
- Key to being a global leader in research and conservation.
- Key to local, area and state economic impacts.

