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[Link]

<https://www.seattleaquarium.org/ocean-pavilion>

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COMMISSION

AGENDA MEMORANDUM Item No. 11a

BRIEFING ITEM Date of Meeting September 27, 2022

DATE: September 15, 2022

TO: Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

FROM: Mike Merritt, Senior Policy Director

David Yeaworth, Commission Office Strategic Advisor

SUBJECT: Port-Aquarium Strategic Relationship

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021 the Port of Seattle Commission voted to contribute \$5 million to the Seattle Aquarium as a means of 1) developing a “strategic relationship” 2) helping to fund the forthcoming Ocean Pavilion, and 3) to create a marine-focused exhibit in the Pavilion. The order also asked that the Executive Director forge a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Port and the Aquarium to create a framework for the relationship and distribution of funds.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The MOU has been executed by both parties. Key highlights in it include:

Work Group

The Aquarium and Port will establish a work group with representatives from both parties to investigate opportunities for the two institutions to collaborate. The current list of potential topics is:

- 1) Tourism and other economic development
- 2) Sustainability
- 3) Marine habitat conservation and restoration including underwater acoustics, kelp research, and killer whale research
- 4) Workforce development
- 5) Equity, diversity, and inclusion

Biennial Work Plans

The Work Group will create and implement two-year work plans on matters of common interest related to both parties’ missions and values. Projects within the workplan may and will likely include:

Template revised April 12, 2018.

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<https://www.thincdesign.com/>

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- 1) Events
- 2) Promotional materials
- 3) Community outreach
- 4) Job fairs
- 5) Staff- and volunteer-trainings
- 6) Placemaking and signage

Marine Exhibit

Once open in 2024, the Ocean Pavilion will contain an exhibit titled ‘The Port Sound Walk,’ which will provide visitors with an audio experience of underwater life and a display of port-related jobs. An ad hoc advisory committee of Port leadership has been meeting with staff from the Aquarium and the Aquarium’s exhibit designer, Thinc Design, since March 2022, to envision the exhibit.

The Commission will receive a briefing from the Aquarium, Thinc Design, and Port staff on September 27, 2022, regarding ‘The Port Sound Walk,’ the MOU, plans for forming the Work Group, and creating and implementing the inaugural biennial work plan.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

The Port and the Aquarium have agreed to the payment and deliverable schedule below. The parties may agree to an updated schedule by written amendment.

DELIVERABLE LUMP SUM INVOICE SUBMITTAL AND  
DELIVERABLE DUE DATE

Project Progress Report \$100,000 After MOU Execution  
Project Progress Report \$1,000,000 January 1, 2023  
Project Progress Report \$1,000,000 January 1, 2024  
Final Project Report and \$900,000 After Project completion and  
Notice of Completion of the opening of the Ocean Pavilion  
Project and marine-focused exhibit  
highlighting the Port's  
programs  
Progress Report \$1,000,000 January 1, 2026  
Final Progress Report \$1,000,000 Prior to the expiration of the  
MOU in 2027

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING

- (1) Port-Aquarium Strategic Relationship Slide Deck
- (2) Port Sound Walk Exhibit Slide Deck
- (3) Port-Aquarium Strategic Relationship Memorandum of Understanding
- (4) Commission Order 2021-13

Template revised September 22, 2016.

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PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

November 16, 2021—The Commission passed Order 2021-13 directing the ED to forge an  
MOU between the Port and the Aquarium to create a framework for the strategic  
relationship and distribution of funds.

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