



July 17, 2025

The Honorable Amy Howorth  
Mayor  
City of Manhattan Beach  
1400 Highland Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Dear Mayor Howorth,

First and foremost, thank you for your continued support of Oceanographic Teaching Stations, Inc. (OTS) and our stewardship of the iconic Roundhouse Aquarium. Your commitment to this beloved landmark has helped it remain a place of inspiration, education, and community pride.

The Roundhouse Aquarium has become a center for hands-on marine science education, community engagement, and global outreach. Since the completion of its renovation in 2018, the Roundhouse Aquarium has welcomed and served more than **1,100,000 guests and students**. These visitors have engaged in our interactive exhibits and participated in immersive learning programs focused on the importance of the ocean and the marine life that inhabits Santa Monica Bay. A substantial portion of these guests also contribute to the **local Manhattan Beach economy**—shopping, dining, and enjoying services offered by nearby businesses, making the Aquarium not only an educational cornerstone but also an important economic driver for the city.

Our top priority is maintaining the Roundhouse Aquarium as a first-class destination, with engrossing exhibits that educate the public. Maintaining the Aquarium in pristine condition requires ongoing care, particularly given its location in a marine environment. To ensure that the Aquarium remains safe, functional, and impactful, we must proactively invest in its infrastructure and systems.

To help us address these needs, OTS respectfully requests that the City of Manhattan Beach consider an annual allocation of **\$110,000 for each of the next three years** to support **repairs and maintenance** of the Roundhouse Aquarium. The requested funds would be used solely for repair, maintenance and replacement as needed of tanks, exhibits, displays and life support systems. This investment is essential to preserving the facility, safeguarding our marine exhibits, and continuing the delivery of meaningful experiences for our visitors from Manhattan Beach and around the world.

We believe that this investment in the Roundhouse aligns with the City's values and priorities—and with the deep affection that our residents and visitors hold for this iconic space. Your support will help ensure that the Roundhouse remains a cherished public resource for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership in preserving one of Manhattan Beach's most treasured assets.

**Respectfully,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hillel Cohn".

Hillel Cohn  
Chairman of the Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grace Adams".

Grace Adams  
Executive Director

# Roundhouse Aquarium's Investment Request to the City of Manhattan Beach

\$80,000 annually for the next three years to cover:

- Repairs and Maintenance
- Equipment Replacement Purchases

Funds will be placed in a restricted account



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# Roundhouse Aquarium Equipment

- Roundhouse currently has equipment with a cost basis of approximately \$1.6 million
- Equipment includes tanks, pumps, life support systems, pipes, displays, etc.
- Annual depreciation charges for equipment are approximately \$119,000 based on useful life schedules prepared by independent accountants
- Useful life schedules may be optimistic given our location over the ocean and constant exposure to harsh marine environment



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# Historical Maintenance Costs

- FY 23-24
  - Maintenance and Repair: \$42,000
  - Equipment Replacement Purchases: \$201,000
  - Total: \$243,000
  
- FY 24-25
  - Maintenance and Repair: \$45,000
  - Equipment Replacement Purchases: \$46,000
  - Total: \$91,000



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# Future Replacement Costs

- A substantial portion of the Roundhouse equipment is projected to have a useful life of 10 years
- Most of this equipment was placed in use in 2018
- We anticipate future equipment replacement costs of approximately \$650,000 between now and 2029



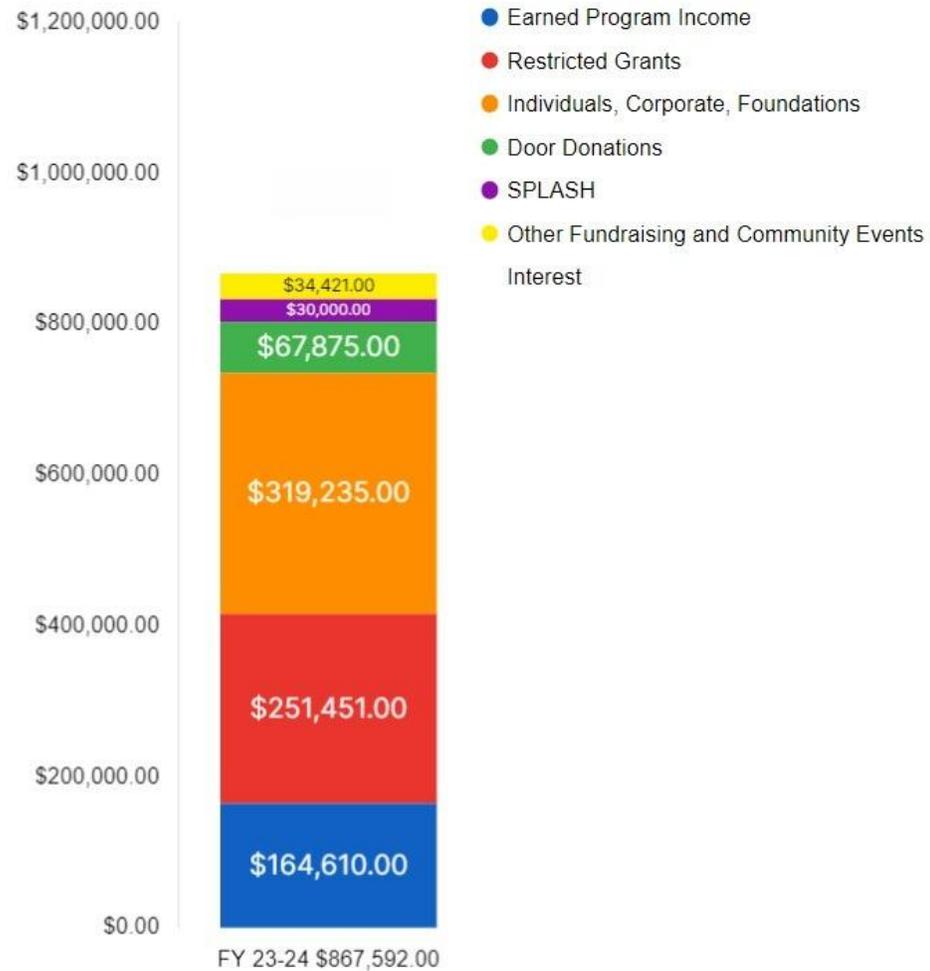
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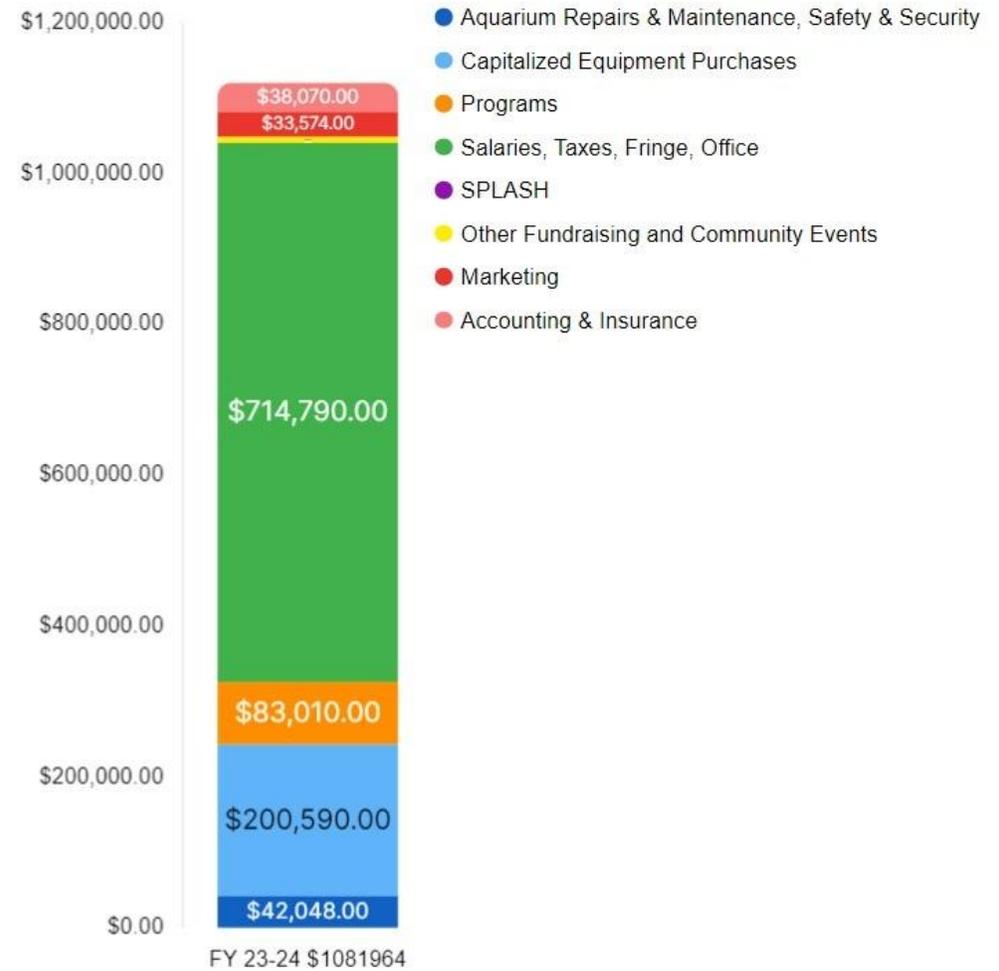
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## FY 23-24 Cash Inflow



## FY 23-24 Cash Outflow

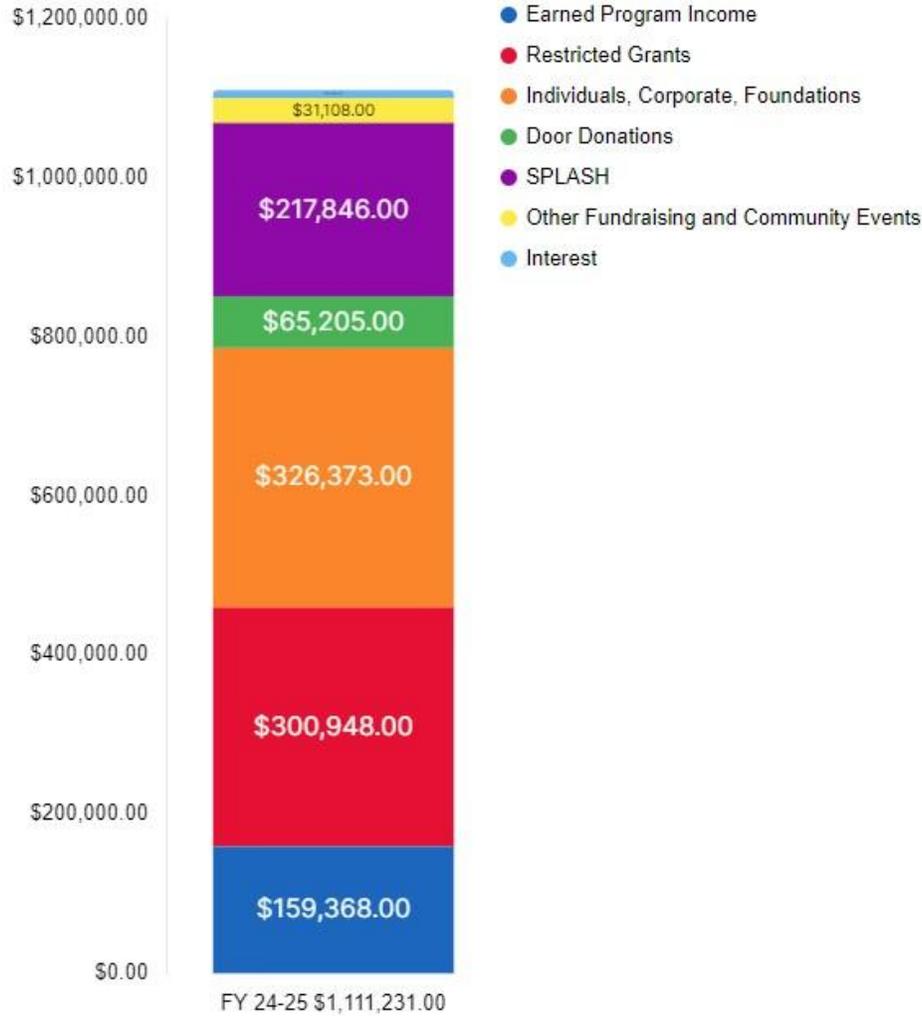


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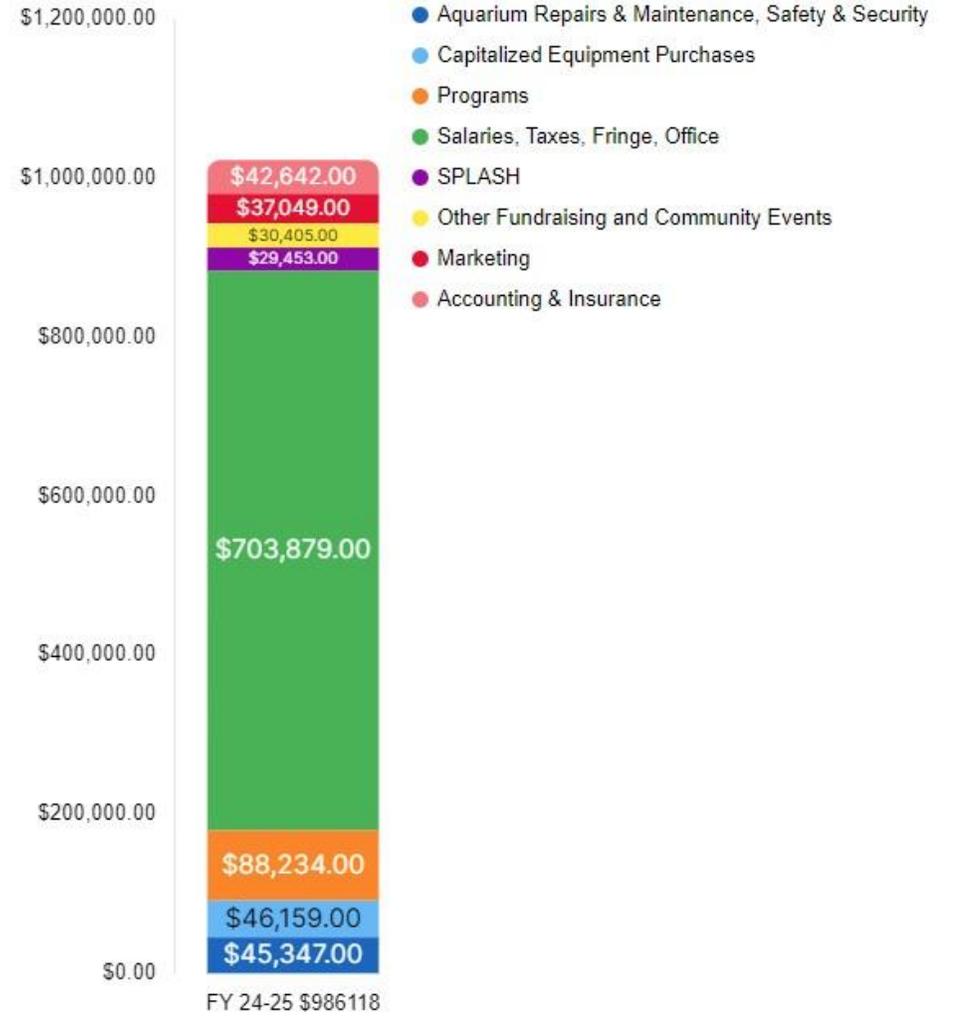


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## FY 24-25 Cash Inflow



## FY 24-25 Cash Outflow



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# Exhibit Lighting Upgrades – January 2024 - \$10,000

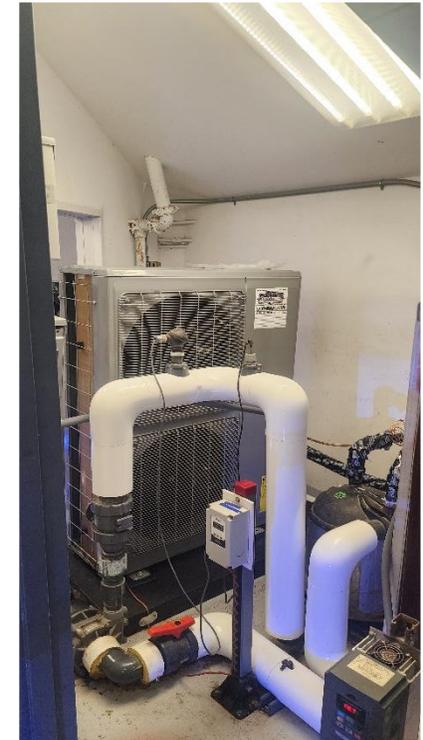
Before



After



# Chiller replacement due to age and failed heat exchanger – August/September 2025 - ~\$30,000



# Waterproofing second floor to leaks and damage to drywall ceiling below. April 2024- \$58,000



# Pipe insulation and ceiling repair. – January, July, August 2024 -\$89,000



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**Terrazzo Floor maintenance + Stone  
Revitalization and Repair –  
Quarterly -\$15,000(total) (\$2,400  
quarterly +\$6,500 for stone**



**Drywall repair due to water damage –  
December 2023, July 2024, April 2025 –  
\$25,000**



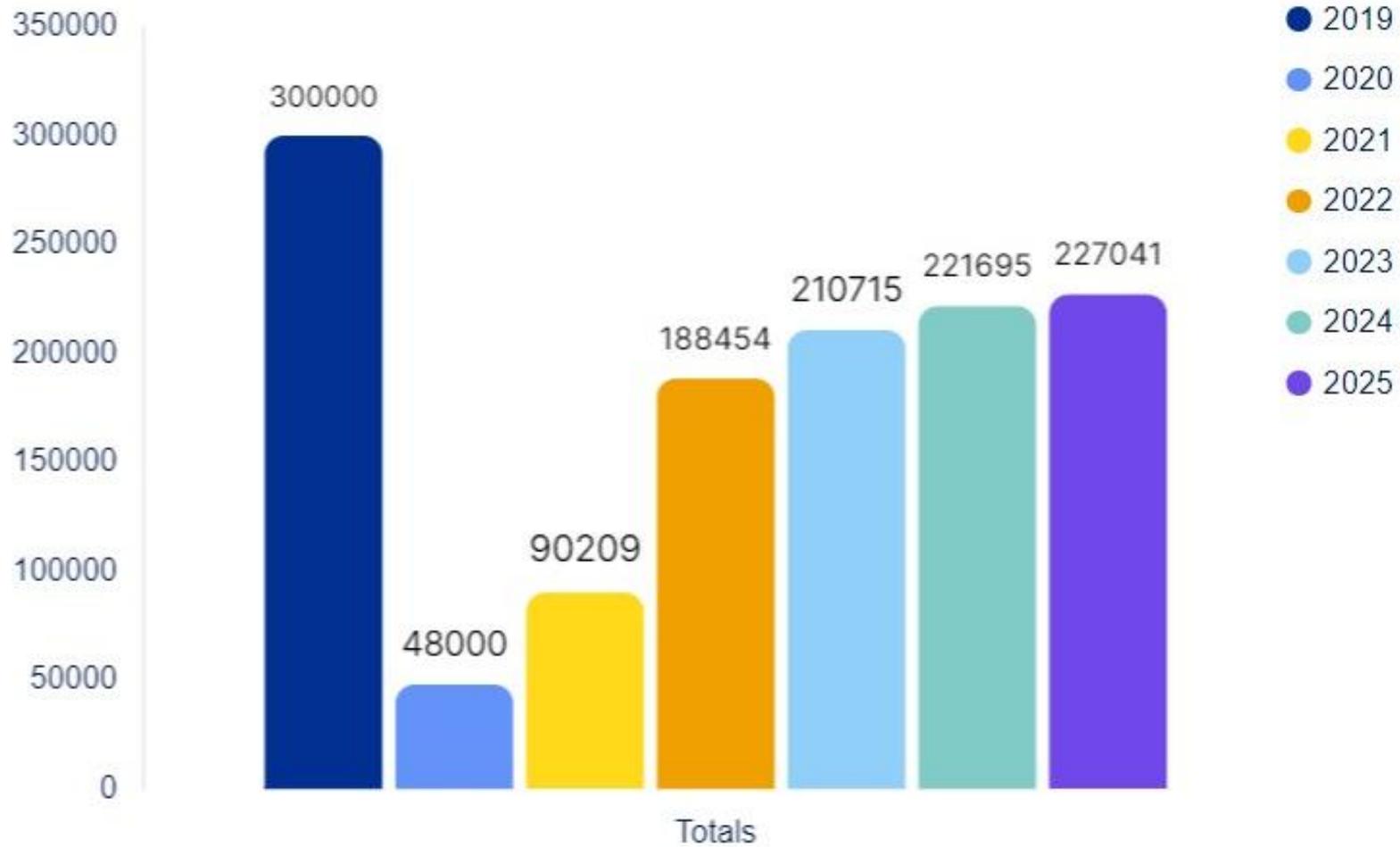
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# Visitor Counts Per Year

Visitor Totals 2019-2025: 1,286,114



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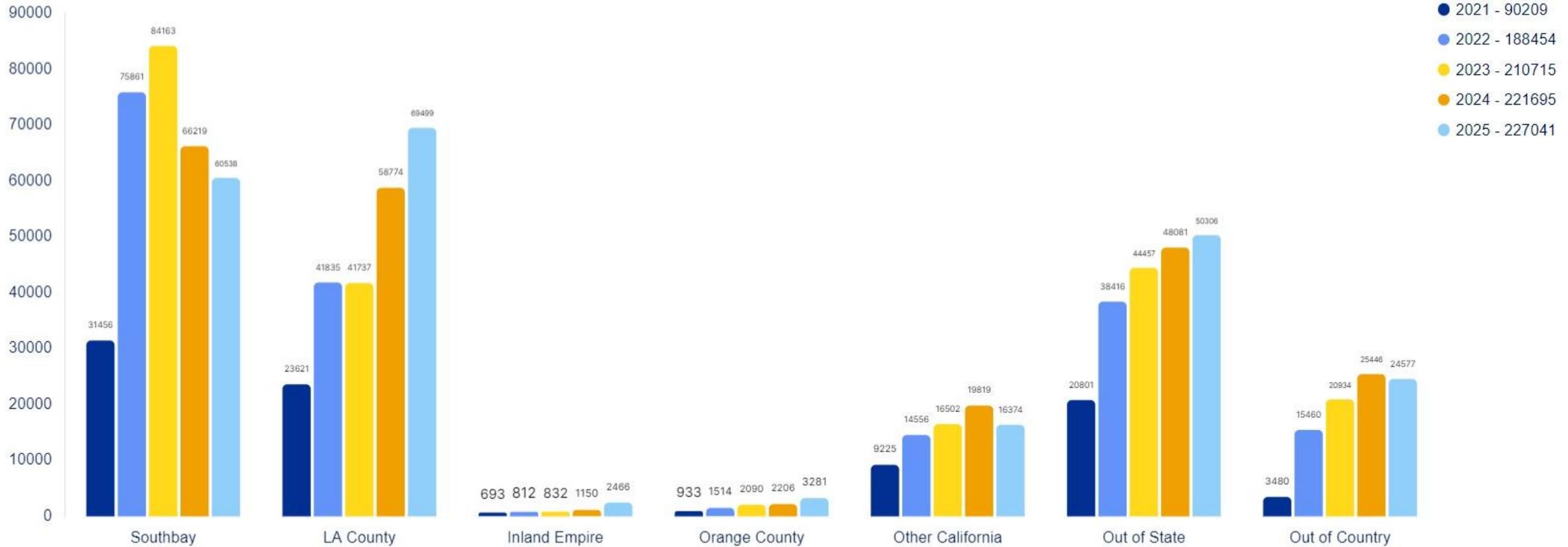


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# Where Guests Are From

Visitor Totals By Year 2021 - 2025



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# Roundhouse Aquarium as an Economic Driver

## A Small Aquarium with a Big Local Footprint

- **200,000+** annual visitors generate consistent foot traffic to the pier and downtown (*1.29M visitors over the past 7 years*)
- **\$25.7 million in estimated local economic activity**  
*Conservative assumption: 20% of visitors spend ~\$100 at nearby restaurants, shops, and parking*
- **~\$257,000 in direct city revenue generated** *estimated at 1% of visitor-driven spending*
- **Supports local employment** through full-time, seasonal and part-time jobs
- **Strengthens Manhattan Beach's brand identity** as a family-friendly, environmentally focused coastal destination
- **\$4 million + privately funded revitalization** improved infrastructure, visitor experience, and long-term economic value—**with little burden on taxpayers**



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# Notable Press: 34,282,652 Reached



## DAILY BREEZE

Da Vinci high schoolers create kids activity book for Roundhouse Aquarium



Four South Bay high school students just used their senior capstone project to engage younger generations in environmental stewardship, while also creating a tool for a local aquarium to teach children about marine life.

They created, with the help of staff at the Roundhouse Aquarium in Manhattan Beach, an educational children's activity book called "Waves of Color." It's intended to teach 6-to-8-year-old children about marine conservation, eco-conscious habits and emphasizing the importance of teaching young children how their actions impact the environment through fun facts, interactive questionnaires and coloring activities.

Da Vinci Schools also includes DaVinci Communications and DaVinci Science high schools, as well as hybrid TK-8 and high school programs, according to its website.

The Roundhouse does more than put sea creatures on display, but is a teaching center that promotes the study of the Santa Monica Bay's oceans, tidelands and beaches, and extend

### What to Know

- Earth Day Celebration
- Roundhouse Aquarium
- Manhattan Beach Pier
- April 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Free admission; pre-registration is encouraged
- Plankton races, dolphin spotting, and craft-making is on the

See article [HERE](#)  
UVM: 1,345,573

## Patch

### Officials Warn Against Swimming At These South Bay Beaches

High bacteria levels at these South Bay beaches have prompted an advisory warning people not to go in the water for the next few days.



An aerial view shows the devastation from the Palisades Fire on beachfront home 2025 in Malibu, Calif. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

MANHATTAN BEACH, CA — With an iconic coastline highway reopening last month between Malibu and Santa Monica for the first time since the devastating Los Angeles wildfires, a marine expert says people should consider avoiding nearby beaches for the foreseeable future.

See article [HERE](#)  
UVM: 9,219,689

## KTLA 5

### Something for the Summer: Shark Shacks

This Summer 2025, the Shark Lab is hosting Shark Shacks at various beaches along Southern California every week to help build an appreciation for sharks by reducing fear and informing the public about sharks and other marine life they may encounter at the beach.

As part of the Roundhouse Aquarium's ongoing partnership with the California State University at Long Beach's Shark Lab, July 21, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Shark Shack will be stationed at the aquarium at the end of the Manhattan Beach Pier. The Shark Shack is a travelling educational program that teaches the public about sharks and other marine life they may encounter at the beach and the ocean. The program travels across southern California to teach about shark behavior, nutrition and conservation. Age appropriate information and activities will be available during the visit.



This is a free event, but donations are encouraged.

July 21, 10a.m. - 2p.m.  
Aug. 4, 10a.m. - 2p.m.

**Shark Shack**  
Roundhouse Aquarium Teaching Center  
At the End of the Manhattan Beach Pier  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90226  
(310) 379-8117  
[RoundhouseAquarium.org](http://RoundhouseAquarium.org)

See broadcast [HERE](#)  
UVM: 5,022,033



The author's 'Hidden Coastal in Long Beach' are popular sites for shark-up publication. Photo by Kelly Senter

Southern California has no shortage of attractions, but big crowds can kill the vibe. Want to experience local arts, culture, and outdoor activities without the hassle? Check out these smaller attractions that are often less crowded, more budget-friendly, and worth a visit.

### 1. Roundhouse Aquarium (Manhattan Beach)



The iconic Roundhouse Aquarium, located at the end of the Manhattan Beach Pier, enjoys a unique location in L.A.'s South Bay. Photo by Wirestock Inc./Alamy Stock Photo

See article [HERE](#)  
UVM: 4,258,493



### 39 glittering light displays that show off SoCal's holiday spirit

Manhattan Beach Pier Lighting

Manhattan Beach • Free Walk-Through



Here's a chance to catch some lights and ocean breezes all for free. The 928-foot-long Manhattan Beach Pier is bedecked with lights all the way to the towering lights on the Roundhouse Aquarium at the end of the pier. Downtown Manhattan Beach has glowing snowflake lights and other illuminated decor in its business area, so this could be a nice way to walk, window shop and enjoy the ceaseless carol of the Pacific Ocean.

Dates: Through Dec. 25.

Hours: Nightly at dusk.

Admission: Free.

See article [HERE](#)  
UVM: 14,228,525



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**Oceanographic Teaching Stations, Inc.****Cash Inflow vs. Cash Inflow Report**

	<b>FY 23-24</b>	<b>FY 24-25</b>
Earned Income	\$ 164,610	\$ 159,368
Restricted Grants	\$ 251,451	\$ 300,948
Individuals, Corporations, Foundations	\$ 319,235	\$ 326,373
Door Donations	\$ 67,875	\$ 65,205
SPLASH	\$ 30,000	\$ 217,846
Community Events and Other Fundraisers	\$ 34,421	\$ 31,108
Interest		\$ 10,383
<b>Total Cash Inflow</b>	<b>\$ 867,592</b>	<b>\$ 1,111,231</b>
Maintenance, Repairs & Equipment Purchases	\$ 242,638	\$ 91,506
Programs	\$ 83,010	\$ 88,234
Salaries, Taxes, Fringe, Office	\$ 714,790	\$ 703,879
SPLASH	\$ 200	\$ 29,453
Fundraising & Community Events	\$ 7,752	\$ 30,405
Marketing	\$ 33,574	\$ 37,049
Accounting & Insurance	\$ 38,070	\$ 42,642
<b>Total Cash Outflow</b>	<b>\$ 1,081,964</b>	<b>\$ 986,118</b>
<b>Net Cash Outflow/Net Cash Inflow</b>	<b>\$ (214,372)</b>	<b>\$ 125,113</b>

## Footnote:

Maintenance, Repairs &amp; Equipment consists of the following:

*Aquarium Repairs & Maintenance, Safety & Security	\$ 42,048	\$ 45,347
*Capitalized Equipment Purchases	\$ 200,590	\$ 46,159
	<b>\$ 242,638</b>	<b>\$ 91,506</b>