



The Amazing World of the Unsalted Seas

Funding Request

Great Lakes Aquarium is requesting \$200,000 in surplus tourism tax money for the development of an exciting new project. The requested funding will be used to redevelop 3,500 square feet of space on the Aquarium's first floor, overlooking the Duluth-Superior Harbor and the historic Aerial Lift Bridge. This space will house a new exhibit, *The Amazing World of the Unsalted Seas*, focused on the large lakes of the world.

There are 253 large lakes in the world. These unique lakes are more than 500 km² (193 mi²) in size, and hold more than two-thirds of the freshwater on the planet. They are home to diverse populations of people, plants and wildlife. Global water resources are limited, and access to safe drinking water and aquatic food sources is already a concern for millions of people. It is vital for the global community to recognize the value of the world's freshwater by taking actions to preserve, clean and protect it.

In order to tell this complex and important global story in an engaging way, the Aquarium will be focusing on four main themes: Freshwater Resources, Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Understanding Large Lakes with Science. These concepts will be presented through a combination of multi-media presentations, static interpretive panels, hand-on interactive exhibits and live animal displays.

This project provides Great Lakes Aquarium with its first opportunity since 2000, to increase exhibit gallery space. The new gallery is possible because of space left vacant from the relocation of the Aquarium's education programming to the second floor Discovery Center in July 2015. It is the Aquarium's intent to have this exhibit become a permanent feature in their facility.

With a budget of \$726,500, the Aquarium has received \$250,000 from the State of Minnesota; committed \$201,500 from its own operating budget; and is requesting \$200,000 from the City of Duluth. The Aquarium is planning to raise the remaining balance of \$75,000 from other sources.

Proposed Budget and Timeline

Timeline

Grant Agreement Completion:	Summer 2015
Research and Design:	Summer-Fall 2015
Gallery Preparation:	Fall 2015-Winter 2016
Construction and fabrication:	Fall 2015–Summer 2016
Grand opening:	August 2016

Budget

Gallery Preparation (demolition and site preparation):	\$265,000
Biodiversity (theming, tanks, exhibit signage):	\$68,500
Freshwater Resources (theming, exhibit signage):	\$15,000
Climate Change (theming, exhibit signage, interactives):	\$18,000
Large Lakes Science (theming, exhibit signage, interactives):	\$65,000
Sturgeon Touch Tank (theming, tank, life support, signage):	\$165,000
Introduction to Large Lakes (interactives, signage):	\$10,000
Staff time:	<u>\$120,000</u>

Total: **\$726,500**

Sources of Funds

Legacy Fund Appropriation (FY15-16)	\$250,000
GLA Cash/In Kind Contribution	\$201,500
Matching Funds:	<u>\$275,000</u>

Total: **\$726,500**

