



UC San Diego
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

Press Release

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Media Contact: Beth Chee
bchee@ucsd.edu | 858.775.4574

Birch Aquarium Unveils *Blue Beach*, Launches Happy Hour Series

Happy Hours kick off July 10 in a new space that includes a giant floor mural and stunning ocean views.

La Jolla, CA (June 8, 2023) — Just in time for World Ocean Day, Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography is unveiling *Blue Beach*, a place for people to connect with the ocean and each other.

Blue Beach features a 4,500-square-foot floor mural depicting the bathymetry (or map of the depth) of the underwater canyons off La Jolla Shores, plus pedal-powered music from Rock the Bike and comfy seating, all surrounded by stunning ocean views.

“I hope that our community leaves *Blue Beach* feeling relaxed by the ocean but also pleasantly surprised by what they’ve learned, from the wonders of La Jolla’s deep underwater canyons to the uniqueness of our annual leopard shark aggregations,” said Director of Exhibits, Megan Dickerson. “We’ve now created a space where our community can learn and play together within view of the ocean that we are so inspired to protect.”

From July 10-August 30, 2023, *Blue Beach* will be home to a series of family-friendly happy hours featuring a special menu of craft beer and wine paired with bite-sized foods and tasty treats. The happy hours take place Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 5 to 6:30

p.m. (last call at 6:20) and also include music, outdoor games and pop-up interactions with Scripps scientists.

Happy hours are included in the cost of admission, with food and beverage for sale by The French Gourmet.

Guests can also connect with the ocean through opportunities to engage with scientists from Scripps Institution of Oceanography on select evenings. The new space also allows for additional hands-on activities to explore ocean science in a deeper, more meaningful way.

Blue Beach is located on the south plaza near *Shark Shores* and the aquarium's famed Shark Head photo op.

Birch Aquarium is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Labor Day. Tickets are 24.95 for adults and 19.95 for kids. Annual Memberships are also available. Please note that advanced reservations are required and the aquarium occasionally closes early for special events. Visit aquarium.ucsd.edu to check the daily schedule and to purchase tickets.

About Birch Aquarium at Scripps

Birch Aquarium at Scripps is the public exploration center for Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. Perched on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, Birch Aquarium features the groundbreaking work of Scripps Oceanography and UC San Diego scientists as well as conservation breeding programs, and interactive exhibits. Birch Aquarium's mission is to connect understanding to protecting our ocean planet, which the aquarium achieves by engaging, hands-on learning opportunities for nearly 500,000 guests as well as more than 50,000 pre-K-12 students each year. Visit aquarium.ucsd.edu for more information.

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