



## Great Lakes Aquarium at Lake Superior Center **Capital Improvement Projects**

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Funding request: HF2622 and SF2626

Lake Superior Center dba Great Lakes Aquarium (GLA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization charged by the legislature to carry out a mission of delivering freshwater education. The Aquarium draws visitors from throughout the Midwest and beyond to explore and observe diverse animal habitats. Daily interpretive programs give guests the opportunity to learn more about resident animals while watching them eat, play, or interact with our staff. Robust youth programming includes early childhood classes, camps, art classes, field trips and overnights. In addition to on-site offerings, outreach programs bring the wonder of GLA to community partners and events around the region.

The Aquarium has reached a threshold where demand exceeds the original building's capacity. GLA is poised for growth and is seeking support to move from a successful local attraction to a vibrant regional experience.

### **Mission**

To engage and inspire, encouraging stewardship of wildlife and water.

### **Vision**

Leading freshwater conservation by connecting all people to Lake Superior and the world's waters.

### **Aquarium by the numbers:**

Opened in July 2000

62,000 sq. feet

200,000 visitors annually  
from across the country and  
international tourists

10,000+ pre-k through  
12th grade students served  
each year

Over 1,800 animals representing  
235 species in our care



**Great  
Lakes**  
AQUARIUM

# Funding Request

Great Lakes Aquarium is requesting an appropriation of \$962,000 from the general fund for capital improvement projects and predesign for building expansion. The total project budget is \$1.1 million. Completion of these projects will improve water and energy conservation, increase staff and guest accessibility, expand educational offerings, and advance planning for exhibit gallery expansion.

## Capital Improvement Projects

Update water treatment to improve efficiency.



Improve pedestrian accessibility on grounds.



Improve parking surface and safety.



Build an early learning classroom.



Update audio and visual system.



Planning ahead for continued growth.



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