



MAKE A SPLASH!



**GREAT LAKES AQUARIUM
AN EXHIBIT PROPOSAL
ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND
FY 20/21**

Water connects us with the world and each other.

When people understand the role of water in their lives, they are better equipped to address major issues such as climate change, fisheries management, drinking water and weather safety in their communities. This is vital for the water-rich future of Minnesota.

Lake Superior Center dba Great Lakes Aquarium exists to showcase the wonder of freshwater ecosystems through hands-on learning, play and animal encounters for all. We engage more than 170,000 people with water and wildlife each year. Now, in 2020, we will celebrate our 20th anniversary with a vibrant new exhibit experience: **H₂O**.

We invite you to make a splash with us and make a difference for the better.

GREAT LAKES AQUARIUM BY THE NUMBERS

176,000 GUESTS
VISIT ANNUALLY

**10,000 SCHOOL-AGED
CHILDREN** ATTEND
CAMPS AND CLASSES

**10,000+ STUDENT
CONTACT HOURS**
THROUGH CLASSROOM
OUTREACH AND
TEACHER RESOURCE KITS



PROJECT OVERVIEW

People are drawn to water. For fun and work, food and drink, refreshing the mind and body - it's central to life in Minnesota.

Even though we interact with water on a daily basis, it's not often that we pause to explore how water works. What's special about this substance? Why does it do the things it does? How would our lives be different without water? How do we know if water is safe to drink? How do we keep water clean? What are people doing to celebrate, improve and protect water in Minnesota? How does water connect us to the world?

Great Lakes Aquarium proposes a new exhibit gallery that explores these questions through hands-on interactive exhibits for the public. The exhibit will feature elements that engage people with the unique properties of water, the methods for and importance of maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems and the role that water - and the Great Lakes in particular - plays in human communities. Woven into the tactile experiences will be opportunities to explore the ecological, cultural and economic importance of Lake Superior and the Great Lakes.

At the center of this 2,500 square foot exhibit, a Great Lakes water table will demonstrate Minnesota's connection to the world through the flow of water, wildlife and goods. Interactive elements will encourage experimentation with the structure and function of natural and man-made structures such as locks and dams. This new water table will be designed for use by all people with access points at varying heights, audio descriptions of content and tactile experiences for people with low vision. It will feature place names in English, Ojibwe and Braille. Additional hands-on exhibits will showcase key properties of water in the context of the water cycle. Strategically placed social cues will pose questions to stimulate conversation and intergenerational learning. Opportunities to observe cause and effect will promote experimentation. In addition, the exhibit will encourage creativity and collaboration to solve challenges. These skills are key to the health and vibrancy of successful Minnesota communities.

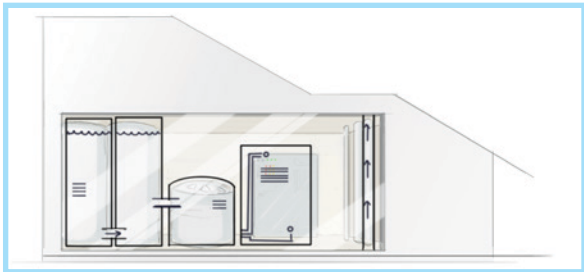
The Aquarium will build on existing relationships with state, county, city and tribal entities to represent many touchpoints with the region's aquatic ecosystems. This includes building an interactive model of the wastewater treatment facility to compare it with Aquarium life support systems and natural wetland function along the St. Louis River. It includes narratives of food harvesting from water in the region. It encourages people to play, connect and reflect surrounded by water and their community.



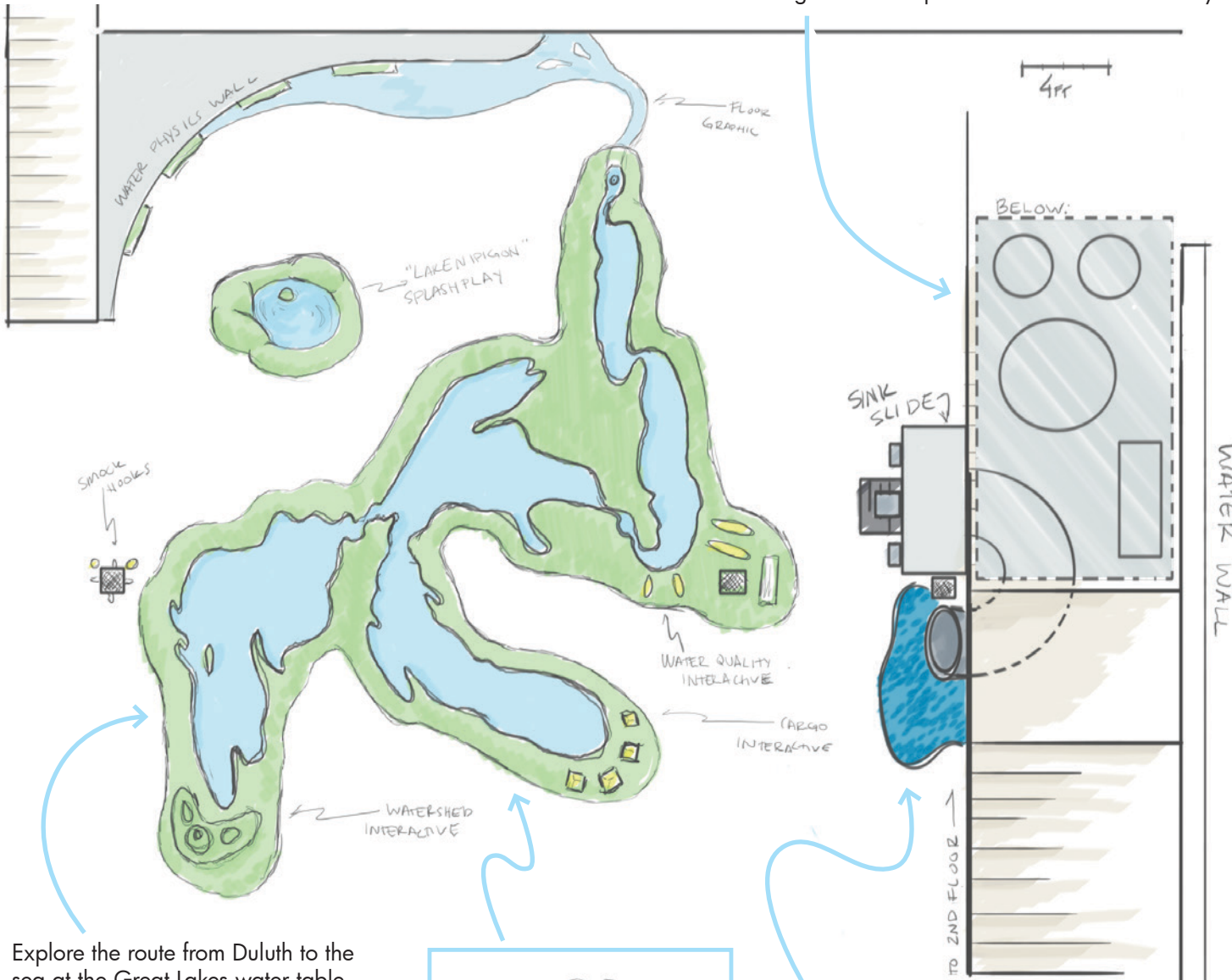
“What are people doing to celebrate, improve and protect water in Minnesota?”

PROPOSED EXHIBIT

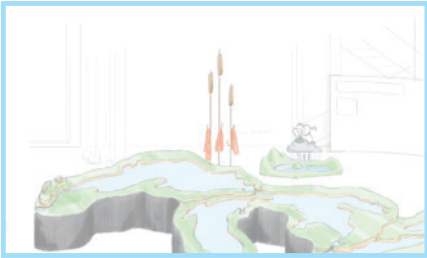
The Great Lakes water table and its satellite interactives invite hands-on exploration and experimentation in water concepts ranging from physics and chemistry to commerce and cultural history.



A cutaway wall shows how water quality is managed at the Aquarium and in our community.

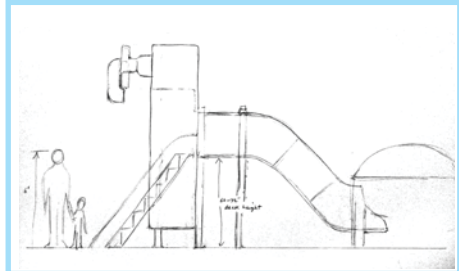


Explore the route from Duluth to the sea at the Great Lakes water table.



Navigate the locks and canals with a model boat.

A sink slide illustrates what happens after something goes down the drain.



TIMELINE

Research and Design	July 2019 - September 2019
Fabrication and Production	September 2019 - April 2020
Installation	April 2020
Finishes	May 2020
Exhibit Opening Event	June 2020

BUDGET

CATEGORY	AMOUNT	FUNDING SOURCE
Design	\$10,000	Great Lakes Aquarium
Fabrication (Interactives and Water Table)	\$250,000	Legacy Fund
Interpretive Labels and Photography	\$20,000	Partner Match
Multi-media	\$10,000	Partner Match
Staff (Design and Installation)	\$120,000	Great Lakes Aquarium
TOTAL	\$410,000	

The Aquarium is currently seeking partners from all sectors to contribute to the project as content collaborators, fabricators and funders. Historically, Great Lakes Aquarium has completed major exhibit projects with excellence and economy. We are able to design and install exhibits for approximately one-third the cost of exhibit design firms. This also serves to keep Legacy funds within the state and our community as we employ designers, fabricators and artists from within our region. Potential partners include state, county and municipal entities.

PAST ARTS & CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND PROJECTS



Funded in FY 2016, **Unsalted Seas** brings visitors closer to the life, function, challenges and beauty of the planet's largest lakes.



Funded in FY 2014, **Shipwrecks Alive!** showcases the story under the waves as submerged structures become habitat for wildlife.



GREAT LAKES AQUARIUM

CONTACT INFORMATION

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