PO Box 3232, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 3X8
Telephone 604 659 3400 Facsimile 604 659 3515 www.vanaqua.org
Accredited by American Zoo & Aquarium Association
Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums
Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Aquaquest FAQ's

What is the goal of Aquaquest? Why was it built and what is the vision?
Aquaquest – the Marilyn Blusson Learning Centre was inspired as part of the Aquarium's commitment to education and conservation, and to enhance the Aquarium's economic, cultural and social contributions to the local community. Aquaquest promises to be a healthy, innovative space for learning, which will model, inform and challenge our visitors, other public institutions, businesses and governments to continue the pursuit of excellence in environmental responsibility.

What is in Aquaquest?
Aquaquest houses the new Canaccord Capital Exploration Gallery, which includes new interactive exhibits and the Windows on Research area, a brand new Clownfish Cove children's play area, an environmental newsroom, a new wet lab and classrooms, a 170-seat theatre, as well as administrative offices for Aquarium staff.

What is unique about the Canaccord Capital Exploration Gallery?
Unlike other Aquarium galleries that are tied to a geographical location, the new gallery aims to show visitors a whole new way of viewing animals. Visitors are challenged to look at an animal's body features and to figure out how it survives in its environment – from jellies to elephantnose fish, and mosquitoes to barnacles. By featuring weird hunting techniques and unusual adaptations instead of specific animals, animal care staff will switch around the animals living in these exhibits.

What is the building's total cost and square footage?
The building cost $22 million and the square footage is 52,000.

Who is behind the name of Aquaquest?
Aquaquest - the Marilyn Blusson Learning Centre was named after Marilyn Blusson. Marilyn and her husband, Stewart, are Vancouver philanthropists who donated $5 million to the new building. This is the largest gift the Aquarium has received in its 50-year history.

How is this a first among aquariums worldwide?
The Vancouver Aquarium will be the world's **first aquarium** seeking to have a building certified as gold under the international LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standard for green buildings. With the construction of this new Learning Centre, we have a perfect opportunity to weave conservation principles into the very walls of our building. The Aquaquest building generates less waste and uses less energy than regular buildings.

What is LEED Certification?
The Canada Green Building Council promotes the design and construction of environmentally friendly buildings in Canada. It rates those buildings through a program that awards points for meeting specific criteria. When construction is finished, Aquaquest will be independently audited against the LEED® Canada Rating System, and will be awarded a rating based on its degree of sustainability.

vancouver aquarium
50 amazing years

PO Box 3232, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 3X8
Telephone 604 659 3400 Facsimile 604 659 3515 www.vanaqua.org
Accredited by American Zoo & Aquarium Association
Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums
Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Why is the Aquarium pursuing a LEED gold certification?
In order to 'walk our conservation talk', the Aquarium is going for gold. By having a building that reduces waste and energy consumption, the Aquarium will have less impact on the natural world.

What are some of the special environmental features of the building?

- The Aquarium's existing seawater system is no longer just for animals: it will also supply water to the new radiant cooling system. This system will cool the pipes embedded in the concrete ceilings.
- A special system of pipes carries hot and cold water through the concrete ceilings, regulating room temperature. This system is far more efficient than standard forced air heating or air conditioning – ambient seawater from Burrard Inlet cools the system in summer and an energy-efficient condensing boiler heats it in winter.
- Rainwater, collected from the roof, will be used to flush toilets and water plants. This will help us to use less city drinking water.
- Aquaquest is designed to minimize long-term disturbance to adjacent plants and wildlife by limiting the amount of heat and light leaking from its internal spaces.
- A displacement air system provides a continuous flow of fresh air into the building.
- Special paints, glues, carpets, sealants and building materials that contain low VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) have been used to help maintain the health of the building's occupants.
- Office furniture is provided by Herman Miller, one of the world's most socially responsible companies and leading manufacturers of recyclable furniture.
- Building systems are monitored closely to maintain optimal energy efficiency.
- Landscaping uses native plants to reduce the need for irrigation.
- Aquaquest features the city's first green wall. A vertical green screen on the outside of the building is planted with native hardy plants, providing insulation to the building both in summer and winter. It also attracts and encourages insects and bird life.

What materials were saved from the old building?
After demolishing the old administration wing, the Aquarium recycled more than 90 per cent of the former building's concrete, steel, glass and frames.

Are there other green buildings in the City of Vancouver?
The Aquarium's new building is one of several green building projects completed or underway in Vancouver. The City is making a long-term commitment to reduce the environmental impacts that buildings have on the local environment and the global climate. The Aquarium supports this vision.

Who is our team?
The following consultants contributed to the construction of Aquaquest and its LEED Gold applicaton:

Stantec Architecture Ltd.
Stuart Olson Construction
Equilibrium Consulting Inc.
Cobalt Engineering
R.A. Duff & Associates Inc.
LMDG Building Code Consultants Ltd.
KD Engineering Co.
Bennett & Associates
Sharp & Diamond Landscape Architecture & Planning
Halldorson Specifications Inc.
Geopacific Consultants Ltd.
KD Engineering Co.
Herman Miller

vancouver aquarium
50 amazing years