



Near South  
Planning Board  
Catalyst for Growth

O: 312-987-1980  
E: [info@theNSPB.org](mailto:info@theNSPB.org)  
W: [www.theNSPB.org](http://www.theNSPB.org)

June 7, 2022

Ms. Laura Flores  
Chair, Chicago Plan Commission  
Department of Planning Development  
121 N. LaSalle St., Room 1101  
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Du Sable Lake Shore Dr.

Dear Ms. Flores:

Near South Planning Board (NSPB), a not-for-profit community-based organization serving the businesses, institutions, and stakeholders on the city's Near South Side, has had the opportunity to review the plans submitted by the Shedd Aquarium Society and the Chicago Park District for their property located at 1200 South DuSable Lake Shore Drive. The applicants' proposal consists of major exterior renovations to the aquarium to include enhancing the accessible entrance with new entry and ticketing pavilions; reconstructing and expanding the north terrace by 10 feet; and installing a new north gallery roof.

Serving as a key cultural/educational amenity in Illinois, it is imperative for an institution, such as the Shedd, to maintain its relevancy over time and to provide equitable, accessible, and quality programs for all to experience. As a major stakeholder on the City's Near South Side, it is equally important to continue investing in not only its property, but in the community as well. We believe the Shedd's Centennial Commitment and these improvements do just that.

The Shedd Aquarium is an amazing gem in our beautiful City along the magnificent lakefront and we support these necessary plans for improvement to maintain its quality status. Near South Planning Board does not believe these exterior renovations to the facility will have any adverse effect to the property which is located within the Public-Use Zone of the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection District. We do, however, want the Shedd to ensure the least minimal disruption for visitors to the aquarium and provide an update on their staging plans during construction and phasing.

Near South Planning Board overwhelmingly supports the applicants' request and urge the Chicago Plan Commission's approval as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson".

Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson  
President & Executive Director

c: Commissioner Maurice Cox  
Andrea Rodgers, APR, Senior Vice President, External Affairs & Marketing, Shedd Aquarium



Near South  
Planning Board  
Catalyst for Growth

O: 312-987-1980  
E: [info@theNSPB.org](mailto:info@theNSPB.org)  
W: [www.theNSPB.org](http://www.theNSPB.org)

June 7, 2022

Ms. Laura Flores  
Chair, Chicago Plan Commission  
Department of Planning Development  
121 N. LaSalle St., Room 1101  
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Du Sable Lake Shore Dr.

Dear Ms. Flores:

Near South Planning Board (NSPB), a not-for-profit community-based organization serving the businesses, institutions, and stakeholders on the city's Near South Side, has had the opportunity to review the plans submitted by the Shedd Aquarium Society and the Chicago Park District for their property located at 1200 South DuSable Lake Shore Drive. The applicants' proposal consists of major exterior renovations to the aquarium to include enhancing the accessible entrance with new entry and ticketing pavilions; reconstructing and expanding the north terrace by 10 feet; and installing a new north gallery roof.

Serving as a key cultural/educational amenity in Illinois, it is imperative for an institution, such as the Shedd, to maintain its relevancy over time and to provide equitable, accessible, and quality programs for all to experience. As a major stakeholder on the City's Near South Side, it is equally important to continue investing in not only its property, but in the community as well. We believe the Shedd's Centennial Commitment and these improvements do just that.

The Shedd Aquarium is an amazing gem in our beautiful City along the magnificent lakefront and we support these necessary plans for improvement to maintain its quality status. Near South Planning Board does not believe these exterior renovations to the facility will have any adverse effect to the property which is located within the Public-Use Zone of the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection District. We do, however, want the Shedd to ensure the least minimal disruption for visitors to the aquarium and provide an update on their staging plans during construction and phasing.

Near South Planning Board overwhelmingly supports the applicants' request and urge the Chicago Plan Commission's approval as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson".

Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson  
President & Executive Director

c: Commissioner Maurice Cox  
Andrea Rodgers, APR, Senior Vice President, External Affairs & Marketing, Shedd Aquarium

## Noah Szafraniec

---

**From:** O'Keefe, Bridget <bokeefe@daspinaument.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 10:01 AM  
**To:** O'Keefe, Bridget  
**Subject:** FW: Shedd Aquarium Project Update

---

**From:** Rob Hard <slcac.rob@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 5, 2022 2:46 PM  
**To:** Rodgers, Andrea <arodgers@sheddaquarium.org>  
**Cc:** O'Keefe, Bridget <bokeefe@daspinaument.com>; Curran, Meghan <MCurran@sheddaquarium.org>; Prentice Butler <Prentice.Butler@cityofchicago.org>; Weir, Ewa <ewa.weir@am.jll.com>; James Wales <jim.wales1120@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Shedd Aquarium Project Update

Dear Shedd Aquarium Centennial Commitment Leadership Team,

Thank you for keeping the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward South Loop Community Advisory Council (SLCAC) involved in the planning discussions for Shedd Aquarium's centennial initiatives. We appreciate that you have shared the unveiling of your comprehensive strategy to the exterior design phase with our group. We also appreciate that you have listened to other neighborhood organizations, such as the Grand Park Advisory Council. Your latest update of the plan is in sync with our perspective:

- Reconsideration of the materials for use on the enhanced entry
- Reconsideration of the landscaping plan to reflect plantings and watering for long-term
- Reconsideration of the design for a pavilion enclosure for now from the site plan

The community is extremely excited about the kick off of this impressive project that will mark the Shedd's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2030. Shedd Aquarium is one of Chicago's best assets to the city for local residents, businesses and tourists alike. And it's definitely loved by the South Loop community.

As additional progress is made, please keep SLCAC as an active participant in this project. Thank you again for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Rob Hard  
Chair, South Loop Community Advisory Council (4th Ward)  
Organizer, Chicago South Loop Explorers  
312-663-4800



## LANDMARKS ILLINOIS

People Saving Places

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Sandra Rand**  
Chairman

**Gary W. Anderson, AIA**  
Vice Chairman

**Bonnie C. McDonald**  
President & CEO

**Kathleen A. Swien**  
General Counsel

**Frieda Ireland, CPA**  
Treasurer

**Lee Brown, FAICP**  
Secretary

Peter Babaian  
Erika Block  
Tracy Dillard  
Jean A. Follett  
Joshua Freedland  
Tim Frens, CPA  
Mary Ottoson  
Ziad Salameh  
Cherryl Thomas  
Will Tippens  
Allison Toonen-Talamo  
Jack Tribbia  
Alex Wolking

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anthony Borich  
Bob Eschbach  
Jackie Taylor Holsten  
Mike Jackson  
Katie Kim  
Chris Lee  
Erica C. Meyer  
Brad Moeller, AIA, LEED  
Emilio Padilla  
Jeffrey Pezza  
Terri Salas  
Steve Schneider  
Martin C. Tangora\*  
Blair Todt  
Christy Webber

\*Life Director

### CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

Richard A. Miller

30 N. Michigan Ave.  
Suite 2020  
Chicago, IL 60602

[www.Landmarks.org](http://www.Landmarks.org)

June 8, 2022

(SENT VIA EMAIL)

Ms. Laura Flores, Chair  
Chicago Plan Commission

*RE: Proposed Renovations for Shedd Aquarium*

Dear Chairwoman Flores and Members of the Commission,

On behalf of Landmarks Illinois, I am writing to express support of the proposed renovation and addition plans developed for Shedd Aquarium that will be presented at the Plan Commission's June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Officials and representatives of Shedd Aquarium presented their project to our organization on January 19, 2022 and based on that presentation, with a few suggestions, Landmarks Illinois issued a letter of support in February to the Committee on Design. After reviewing additional changes, we continue to be comfortable with the overall renovation and addition plan and believe it meets the Secretary of Interior Standards. As we previously stated, Shedd Aquarium is a designated *National Historic Landmark* and the Secretary of Interior Standards for renovations and additions is the appropriate set of guidelines by which to review this project. Appropriately, the Shedd team reviewed the plan with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and shared with us feedback from that office, with which we are in continued agreement.

The principal feedback from the SHPO was to assure that any addition/expansion of the southwest accessible entrance be respectful of the historic building's original grand entrance on the west side by preserving its prominence. The design of the new southwest accessible entrance is respectful of the historic building in footprint and scale and does not distract from the west grand entrance. By separating ticketing and the accessible entrance into two distinct structures, the visual impact on the historic building has been lessened while increasing the efficiency of these different functions, which will help meet the museum's needs. We agree that the choice of a curvilinear design for both the southwest accessible entrance and the stand-alone ticketing pavilion, rather than employing angular forms like the historic building, is appropriate as they align with the rounded façade of the later-added oceanarium and also distinguishes the structures as later additions. The design feature we had previously questioned was the use of wood for the underside of the ticketing pavilion's roof, which appeared too casual in appearance. We are satisfied with the substitution of GFRC improving its appearance.

We understand the Lakeside Pavilion plan has been removed from the scope of the project. The proposed renovations to the North Terrace and the reopening of long-closed historic windows are appropriate improvements. We still believe the project to be respectful of one of the Chicago Lakefront's most prominent historic landmarks.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Lisa DiChiera  
Director of Advocacy

Cc: Emily Thrun, DPD

June 10, 2022

Andrea Rodgers, Senior VP of External Affairs

The Shedd Aquarium

1200 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive

Chicago, Illinois

Via Email: [ARogers@SheddAquarium.org](mailto:ARogers@SheddAquarium.org)

Re: Proposed modifications and plans to the John G. Shedd Aquarium Buildings, 1200 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive, Chicago.

We at Preservation Chicago support the proposed changes and modifications to the John G. Shedd Aquarium Complex, located on Chicago's Lakefront at 1200 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive. We recognize the historic marble clad Shedd Aquarium as a Chicago and world treasure, designed by the seminal firm of Graham, Anderson, Probst & White in 1929-1930, and the successor firm to D. H. Burnham & Company, Daniel Burnham and John Wellborn Root.

In general, we support this project and the reinvestment in this Chicago museum and institution which is recognized as one of the world's first large scale and permanent aquarium exhibits in North America and their commitment to the welfare of the animals within their collections, as well as the general public, as an educational facility.

We commend the team's approach to continue to stress historic Kovler Hall, as the main entrance and lobby to this living museum, as an important feature and a place to begin the visitor's journey though the Shedd Aquarium, even with the newly expanded ADA entrance to the structure.

It is our understanding that certain features like the Lakeside Terrace are to be eliminated from the proposed plans and that restoration of certain features, like the historic North Terrace, which has shown signs of deterioration, will be expanded modestly and reconstructed. Also, groups of historic windows on both the west and north principal elevations (10 in total) of the original John G. Shedd Aquarium building, which are currently blocked are to be restored and reopened. This is a very positive step forward in recognizing the importance of this iconic and historic structure.

We also understand that some of the historic halls will be modified and expanded for new exhibits and for the welfare of the aquatic animals in the Shedd's collections. While this fine overall, we do want to stress that the remaining historic vaulted exhibit halls remain intact, looking long-term to the future.

On the building's exterior, we understand the need to expand the ADA and school entrance to the building and the satellite ticket booth, especially following the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we are of

the opinion that the “trellis,” formerly known as the “sunshade” would negatively and adversely impact the viewsheds of the Shedd’s historic west façade, grand staircase, and the magnificent views of Downtown Chicago and the City’s skyline. The trellis structure would be considered an incursion by us in Burnham/Grant Parks and perhaps extending too far into the park and the domain of this public space. We are of the opinion that this same directional canopy guiding one to the Shedd Aquarium entrances could also be accomplished with special paving, which could even include a brick or a mosaic surface, which would not further obscure the historic Shedd Aquarium building, the west façade and entry and other Lakefront assets.

As indicated in our past letters of support, we would like to encourage the leadership and stakeholders of the Shedd Aquarium to consider and support a Chicago Landmark Designation of their historic building and facility, as further commitment to the general public and the people of Chicago.

The Museum of Science and Industry in Jackson Park and The Art Institute of Chicago, both historic first-class museums are designated Chicago Landmarks. We also are of the opinion, that noting a building as a Chicago Landmark, appeals to donors and visitors alike and could be an amazing fundraising asset.

If such an idea were considered, The Shedd Aquarium would be held in high regard as not only an institution, but an architectural landmark, joining the other great recognized buildings of Chicago’s built environment. That would be also uniquely special and want to encourage such discussions be furthered in the future.

Thanks for your consideration of these ideas and concepts.

Sincerely,

*Ward Miller*

Ward Miller, Executive Director

Preservation Chicago

cc: Megan Curran, Chief Management Experience Officer, Shedd Aquarium

Ewa Weir, JLL, Senior VP Project and Development Services, SVP Projects