



The BLUEprint master planning process envisions how the National Aquarium of the 21st century should look, operate and fulfill its mission.

To help drive our vision to change the way humanity cares for our ocean planet, three projects have emerged as organizational priorities:  
the Animal Care and Rescue Center, Waterfront Campus and  
Dolphin Sanctuary.

BUILDING A MOVEMENT FOR OCEAN CONSERVATION

# WATERFRONT CAMPUS



BRINGING COMMUNITY TO THE WATER'S EDGE



**The installation of floating wetlands—made up of plants native to our coastal region—will bring the Chesapeake Bay within reach for visitors and students from our own community and around the world.**

The wetlands will create habitat for native species, while gradually improving the harbor's water quality.





### **A MICROCOSM OF THE BAY**

As each floating wetland island matures, it will increase biodiversity by providing habitats for native species such as blue crabs, American eels and an array of fishes.

### **PUTTING DOWN ROOTS**

Over time, grasses and plants develop underwater roots that provide shelter and nutrition for marine species, while securing the surface of the wetlands for animals that live above the waterline.

### **TRIUMPHANT RETURN**

Many species that live among the wetlands have been missing from the Inner Harbor since the peak of the industrial age. Their return could signal a new era for this delicate habitat.







**RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES**  
Placement of floating wetlands in the Inner Harbor will allow hands-on access to Chesapeake Bay ecosystems for thousands of students.

**IN TOUCH WITH CONSERVATION**  
Citizen Science programs will allow students to participate in water quality monitoring, biohut inventory events and wildlife observation just steps from the Aquarium.

**AN OASIS FOR ALL**  
The location and accessibility of the floating wetlands will allow millions of Inner Harbor visitors to experience the real Chesapeake Bay as part of their Baltimore experience.





## CONSERVATION MEETS INNOVATION

The design and construction of our floating wetlands bring Bay wetland ecosystems to life in the Inner Harbor.

### 1 - MICROSCOPIC LIFE

A porous, plastic base offers growing surfaces for beneficial microbes and allows pollutant-absorbing roots to reach the water.

### 2 - A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

A shallow center channel offers smaller species protected places to hide, feed and spawn.

### 3 - STEPPING UP

Planting at tiered heights mimics a natural wetland's many microhabitats.

### 4 - THE WATER CYCLE

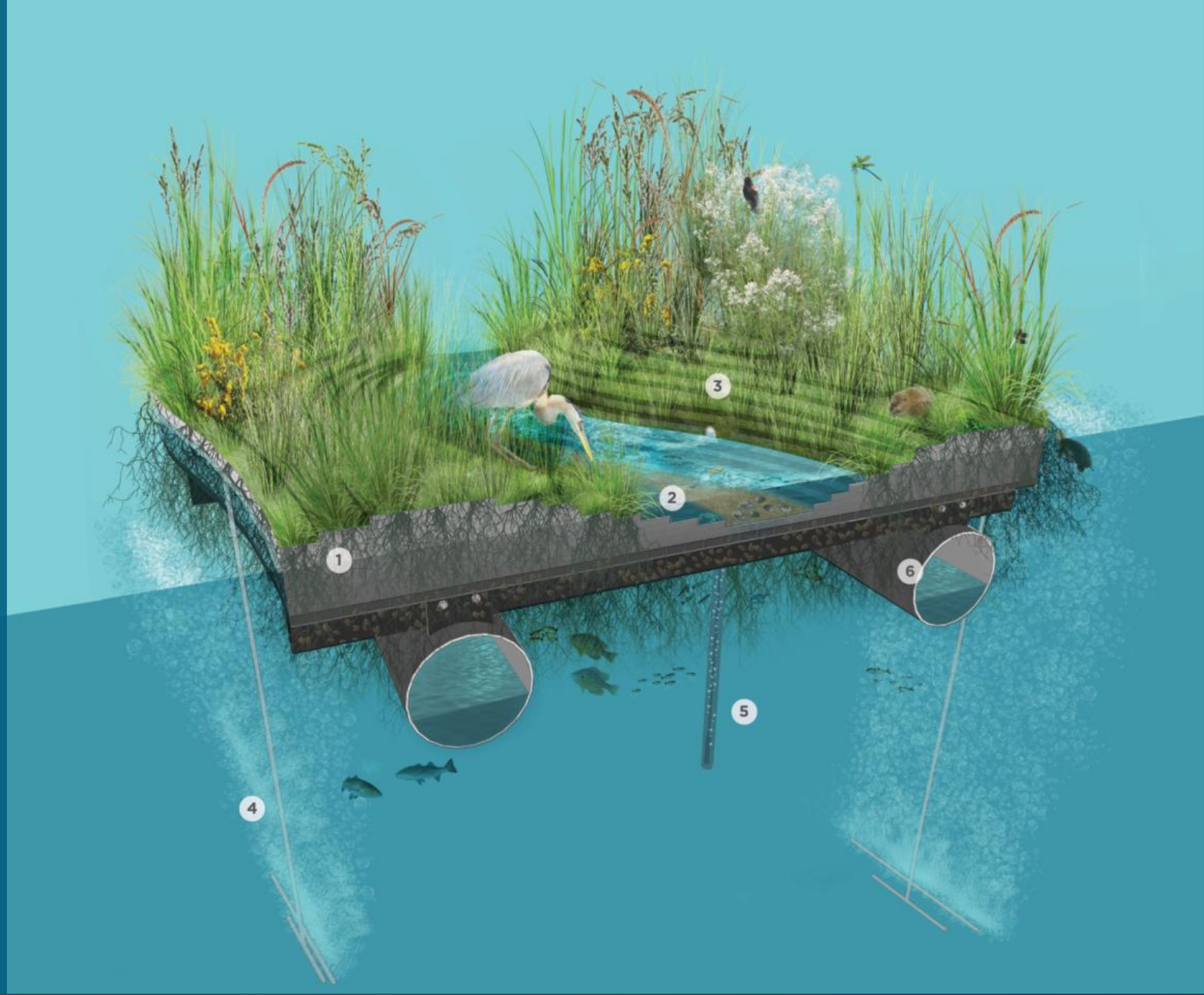
Microbubbles are released by compressed air lines to aerate harbor water, helping to prevent harmful algal blooms.

### 5 - FRESH AIR

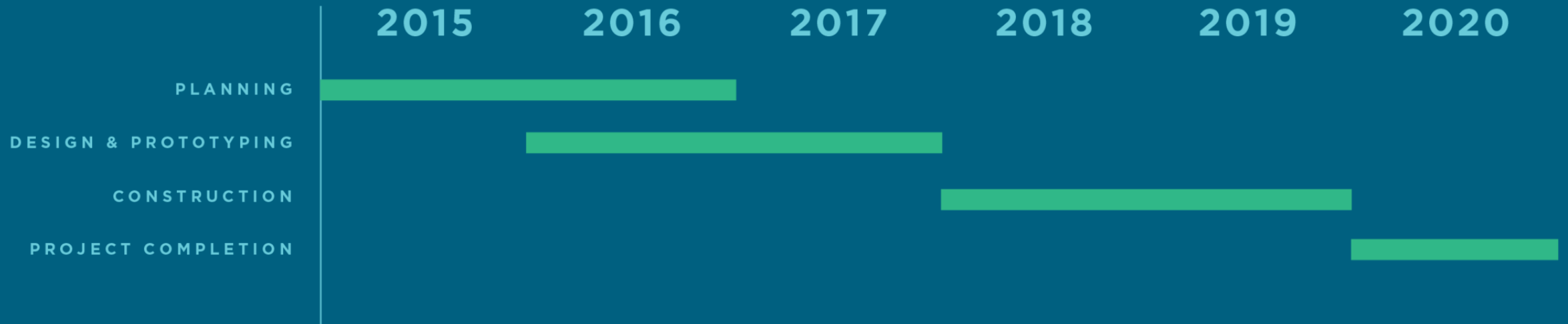
Air bubbles lift cool water into the channel, recreating the water movement of a changing tide.

### 6 - STAYING AFLOAT

Air can be added to the water-filled pontoons to adjust the wetlands' buoyancy.



# TIMELINE



**BUDGET**  
**\$14,000,000**



## A Living Laboratory

Floating wetlands will not only beautify and enhance our surroundings; they will allow thousands of local students to gain hands-on science experience right here in Baltimore City.





## Bringing Conservation Home

The National Aquarium's Waterfront Campus on Baltimore's bustling Inner Harbor provides a remarkable opportunity—and awesome responsibility—to positively impact the water around us.





Our Waterfront Campus will reintroduce  
celebrated Chesapeake Bay biodiversity  
into the Inner Harbor.

Our commitment to conservation  
must begin with the world  
that surrounds us.



## Meet Symone

The Atlantic Ocean is a mere 90 miles from Baltimore, yet for many of the nearly 84,000 students in the Baltimore City Public Schools system, it may as well be a million miles. National Aquarium Education Program Coordinator Symone Johnson will coordinate an educational partnership that will allow all Baltimore City Public Schools seventh grade students to experiment with and learn from these new habitats right at the water's edge through our Waterfront Campus.







Your generosity and support  
will help us reimagine and revitalize  
our beloved waterfront city.

Your gift will  
make a difference.

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**Contact our Philanthropy Team**

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WATERFRONT CAMPUS

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