



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALLING ALL CREATORS!
SHEDD DRAWS UPON YOUNG ARTISTS
FOR NATIONAL OCEAN ART CONTEST WITH COASTAL AMERICA

*As a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center, Shedd Calls for Artistic Expressions of the World's Waters
from Kindergarten to College*

CHICAGO—[Shedd Aquarium](#) is looking for the “Picassos” of the next generation to paint a picture of the importance of the oceans, coasts and even the Great Lakes of our own backyard. As part of a national call for entries through 20 Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, Shedd is accepting submissions for the [Coastal America Ocean Art Contest](#) through Dec. 20, 2011. Sponsored by Coastal America, a North American initiative to restore, preserve and educate the public about coastal ecosystems, the contest encourages learning about the [National Ocean Policy](#) and the “[Essential Principles of Ocean Literacy](#)” through colorful entries of original artwork from students of all levels.

“Instilling a sense of appreciation and understanding of the world’s waters among the leaders of tomorrow is critical to protecting our waters,” said Dr. Ilze Berzins, Executive Vice President of Conservation at Shedd. “We’re proud to be the local hub for an exciting contest that invites a creative approach to two of the aquarium’s missions: conservation and education.”

Artwork will be judged on its visual impact, artistic merit and how clearly it conveys the vision of the [Nation’s Ocean Policy](#). Entries will be judged by grade-level categories: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 and university and college. Each entry should include a brief narrative between 50 to 150 words explaining which principle of ocean literacy the work reflects.

To encourage an understanding of the ocean’s influence on people’s lives and how people impact the oceans, a group of educators and scientists created the Essential Principles of Ocean Literacy:

1. The Earth has one big ocean with many features.
2. The Ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of the Earth.
3. The Ocean is a major influence of weather and climate.
4. The Ocean makes Earth habitable.
5. The Ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.
6. The Ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.
7. The Ocean is largely unexplored.

A first place prize and two honorable mentions will be awarded. Winning artwork will be displayed at the Shedd Aquarium. Local first place winners will go on to compete on the regional level, and ultimately the national competition in Washington, D.C., where their work will be displayed in a public venue.

Hard copy submissions of art and photography must be sent to:

John G. Shedd Aquarium
Ocean Art Contest
Education Department
1200 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL. 60605

Digital photography submissions may be sent to outreachprograms@sheddaquarium.org.

For more information about the contest, please visit the Coastal America website at www.coastalamerica.gov or Shedd's website at www.sheddaquarium.org.

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*Shedd Aquarium is supported by the people of Chicago and the State of Illinois.
Shedd Aquarium is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the
Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums*

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