OMSI Coastal Discovery Center Partnership Development
December 2013 Update

Design / Construction

- OMSI issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for design teams interested in working on the Coastal Discovery Center, in July 2013. The RFP was advertised in Portland and Newport, and included specific verbiage to include professional form the coastal community in the design team. We received nine proposals and selected a team led by Dangermond Keane Architecture (DKA) of Portland, Oregon. Other key members of the team are:
  - **Seigel and Strain architects**. This firm has deep experience designing outdoor education facilities, including many camps and outdoor school settings.
  - **Walker Macy Landscape Architects** also has deep experience with outdoor education facilities such as the B’nai B’rith camp and Camp Collins. They were also the landscape architects for the Oregon Coast Aquarium.
  - **ESA Vigil – Agrimis** Environmental Engineers have offices in Portland and Tillamook.
  - More information can be found at [https://www.omsi.edu/coastal-discovery-center](https://www.omsi.edu/coastal-discovery-center)

- The design team is in the Conceptual Design phase of the project, scheduled to be complete by early winter 2014.

- We are in the process of writing an RFP to solicit proposals for a General Contractor. The goal is to have a contractor selected by early Spring 2014. The RFP will be advertised in Portland and Newport.

Education

- **Lincoln County School District**: OMSI is a partner with the Lincoln County School District on their recently awarded 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. OMSI will be one of a number of out-of-school time partners in the Newport community participating in the project. OMSI and the Lincoln County School District will collaborate over the next couple of years to create programming for in-service days during the school year. In the summer of 2016 OMSI will offer several scholarships for Lincoln County students to participate in OMSI summer programming as part of this agreement. OMSI met with the superintendent of Lincoln County Schools who is looking forward to partnering with OMSI.

- **Oregon Sea Grant**: OMSI was awarded a 2.1 million dollar National Science Foundation (NSF) grant titled *Designing Our World*, and Oregon Sea Grant, located at the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport is a formal partner on this project. OMSI is working with Tracy Crews, Marine Education Coordinator at the Hatfield Marine Science Center visitor center and Shawn Rowe, Marine Education Learning Specialist as we implement the deliverables on the grant. The project takes place over four years with the majority of the collaboration occurring in year three (2016), the same year that the CDC opens. OMSI and Hatfield Marine Science Center are also developing a partnership MOU spate from the NSF grant.

- **Westwind Stewardship Group**: Jamie Hurd and Steve Tritz met with the Westwind Stewardship Group (WSG) Executive Board in October 2013 and presented an overview of the CDC. WSG operates an Outdoor education facility (Camp Westwind) about two hours north of the CDC site, slightly south of Cascade Head. Like OMSI they offer both outdoor school and summer camp programs. Jamie Hurd also attended a work weekend at WSG in November. We are working with Matt Taylor to develop an MOU agreement.
South Beach State Park: OMSI has been engaged in discussions with South Beach State regarding an MOU partnership agreement associated with educational opportunities at the Coastal Discovery Center. In the interim, OMSI worked with JR Collier, Park Manager at South Beach State Park, to complete an agreement related to the Park’s use of Tsunami evacuation routes across OMSI property. South Beach State Park is adjacent to the OMSI site on the south and west side of the property. Tsunami Hill, the initial evacuation site in case of a Tsunami, is located slightly northeast of the property. This past summer, OMSI took nine camp groups and eight classes, or approximately 200 participants, to camp at South Beach State Park as part of OMSI’s various summer programs exploring marine science and dune ecology.

Oregon Coast Aquarium: OMSI continues to meet, almost monthly, with the Oregon Coast Aquarium to explore each organization’s areas of expertise and identify opportunities for future collaborations. The Oregon Coast Aquarium focuses on marine mammals and their habitats. OMSI focuses on coastal and dune ecologies. These focus areas are complementary, and OMSI looks forward to establishing a mutually beneficial partnership with the Aquarium. OMSI invited the Aquarium to partner on the NSF proposal Designing Our World along with OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center, but the Aquarium declined due to concerns regarding the capacity of their staff. OMSI and the Aquarium share a board member.

Newport Fisherman’s Wives Club: OMSI continues to meet with Sara Skamser, former head of the Fisherman’s Wives Club, to explore potential educational partnerships. The Newport Fisherman’s Wives Club is a nonprofit that works to further the causes of industry, safety, seafood education, and family support. Fishing is an important industry in Newport and OMSI is exploring the opportunity to create programs that teach about the fishing industry, habitat preservation, fishing industry technology and ancillary industries, such as net making and boat building. Sara Skamser is the owner and founder of Foulweather Trawl, a company that develops excluders (nets that exclude certain fish species) and other gear.

Business

Chamber of Commerce: OMSI joined the Newport Chamber of Commerce last year. Lorna Davis, Executive Director, is very supportive of OMSI coming to Newport and the Coastal Discovery Center. Jamie Hurd gave a presentation on the Coastal Discovery Center to the group in March 2013. We will give another presentation in the Spring of 2014 once the CDC conceptual design work is complete.

Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation (YBEF): OMSI became an official member of the organization in September 2013. Membership is by invitation only. YBEF was established to encourage and promote growth and economic development in the greater Yaquina Bay Region. Its members represent a cross section of public and private businesses and community leaders. This group was the driving force behind establishing Newport as a hub for ocean observing.

Government

City of Newport: OMSI completed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Newport in March 2013 outlining expectations regarding street improvements, right of ways, and the wetlands conservancy. The OMSI site contains two wetlands which will be protected and placed in conservancy.
City of Newport Tourism Grant: The City of Newport awarded OMSI a $150,000 Tourism Grant to support construction of the Coastal Discovery Center. Receipt of the funds requires a 1:1 match. The grant was made possible by funds from the City of Newport transient room taxes.

Community

- OMSI met with leaders from SOLVE, a non-profit that facilitates volunteer service and conservation projects that help restore natural spaces in the state of Oregon. We are exploring the possibility of making the CDC site a location for future SOLVE volunteer projects focusing on the removal of invasive species, in the case Scotch Broom.

- Newport Storytelling Project: In partnership with the Noyce Foundation, OMSI sent a film crew to Newport to interview local leaders about the Central Coast’s economic strategy related to ocean observing and the partnerships that have led to strategic success. Their stories help to highlight why Newport is such an ideal location for OMSI’s Coastal Discovery Center. JoAnn Barton, President of the Board of Commissioners for the Port of Newport, hosted the filming at her house and participated in an interview. Other Newport interviewees included: Fran Matthews, Owner and Founder, Marine Discover Tours; John Lavrakas, President of Advanced Research Corporation and Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation board member; and Bill Hanshumaker, professor at Oregon State University and Oregon Sea Grant.

- Lincoln County Fair: In July 2013 OMSI hosted a science education booth at the Lincoln County Fair for three days. The booth included live reptiles (iguana, and two snakes), over a dozen brain teasers, and ongoing science demonstrations. OMSI provided Lincoln County a greatly reduced rate for participation in the fair.

- OMSI Summer programming: OMSI summer programs (day classes and residential camps) collectively brought 17 groups to Newport during the summer of 2013. Some groups have been able to spend the night at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. All of the groups have gone to Hatfield Marine Science Center and out on the ocean on the Marine Discovery Tours.