



## The Whale Sanctuary Project Letter from the Executive Director

November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The holidays are a time for gratitude, reflection, and looking ahead. And I want to personally thank you for your continuing support of the Whale Sanctuary Project.

While we are all impatient and eager to open the sanctuary, we have made significant progress this year with the receipt of the Offer of Lease and progress on the myriad environmental studies outlined in this newsletter.

And now we have reached a major milestone in our fundraising to create an authentic, gold-standard sanctuary for orcas and beluga whales: a generous commitment of \$5 million from the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation toward the Building Fund.

This commitment and all pledges for the Building Fund are used exclusively for capital costs: the land, the buildings, the infrastructure, and the state-of-the-art perimeter net that will surround the 100 acres of sanctuary waters.

Major benefactors make pledges and grants of this kind when they are confident of two things: First, that we are well on our way to completing all that is required by regulatory agencies. And second, that we can cover the day-to-day operating costs of the Whale Sanctuary Project.

Your continuing donations provide for these operating costs: everything from equipment to staffing to travel to our expert contractors and consultants.

Thanks to you, we have now completed most of the environmental work and have met our major goals for 2022. That's what we mean when we say that your support makes this project possible.

In the coming year, your donations, coupled with the grants toward the Building Fund, will move us ever closer to the day when we welcome the first whales.

Together, we can complete this first-of-its-kind sanctuary and open the door to a better future for captive whales everywhere.

Thank you for being part of this pioneering work. I wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday and a wonderful year ahead.

Charles Vinick, Executive Director