



CuriOdyssey Campus Campaign Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: June 2023

[General Information](#)

[Phase One: Whoosh Physics-in-Action Playground + Bay Gallery & Labs](#)

[Phase Two: Otter Exhibit + Wildlife Enhancements](#)

[Phase Three and Beyond](#)

[Gifts](#)

General Information

- **Why does CuriOdyssey have a campus campaign?**
 - CuriOdyssey's campus redesign project will replace our current facility's aging and limited infrastructure with a 21st century, world-class center for early science learning.
 - The new campus will be built with donor funds which are separate from funds used for General Operating expenses.

- **What does the campus campaign entail?**
 - The new campus will include eight new buildings and a playground (Whoosh! Physics in Action completed November 2021), the Bay Gallery & Labs (completed June 2023), entry pavilion, otter exhibit, learning labs, headquarters for our wildlife keepers and the zoo's education animals, administrative offices, workshop and main gallery. Each will be designed to take full advantage of our incredible setting and views, and will better incorporate the outdoors, accommodate a greater number of visitors, and offer enhanced ADA accessibility.

- **What will happen to the old building?**
 - We anticipate that once all eight buildings are completed, our existing building will be replaced with natural landscaping, picnic areas, and easy access into the new buildings.

- **How long will the campaign stretch for?**
 - The duration of the campaign will be determined by the time it takes to raise the revenue to complete the 8 building campus. We hope to have the entire campus completed by 2032.

- **What is the campaign goal and budget?**
 - The total campaign budget is approximately \$60M.

- **Who makes the decisions and has oversight of the project?**
 - CuriOdyssey has a dedicated Director of Campus Capital Program who oversees planning and execution of all master plan buildout projects.

- **Why is the campaign organized in phases?**
 - In Fall 2019, CuriOdyssey leadership met with Sares Regis, a real estate management firm, who suggested a campus concept that could be funded over time. This strategy allows for incremental campus expansion as we raise funds and conserves our financial resources by allowing us to stay in our current building during construction.

- San Mateo County leaders embraced the idea and became active partners. The County has extended CuriOdyssey's ground lease through 2084 and invested \$1.1M of Measure K funds in Phase 1 of the Master Plan execution..

Phase One: Whooosh Physics-in-Action Playground + Bay Gallery & Labs

- **What is the playground?**
 - Whooosh! Inclusive physics-in-action playground signals CuriOdyssey's commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging. Conceived in partnership with Magical Bridge to be a playground for all abilities and is the only inclusive playground at a museum.
- **When did the playground open?**
 - The Grand Opening took place on Saturday, November 13, 2021. The playground is open during CuriOdyssey's open hours of Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00am-5:00pm and is included with the admission fee.
- **How much did the playground cost to build?**
 - \$3M, which includes \$1M in pro-bono project management and construction services from Sares Regis and Whiting Turner.
- **What is the Bay Gallery & Labs building?**
 - One of CuriOdyssey's most flexible structures, providing both exhibit gallery space and interior classrooms. The gallery is open as of June 2023 with a new exhibition of 15 pieces that encourage visitors to observe, listen, wonder, and experiment with simple scientific phenomena. The two lab classrooms have state of the art audio-visual systems and the ability to be combined into one space of over 1400 square feet.
- **Bay Gallery & Labs building cost to build?**
 - Total costs are about \$7M.
- **Is the new building ADA-compliant?**
 - The new Bay Gallery & Labs meets all Local, State and Federal accessibility code requirements.
- **When did the Bay Gallery & Labs open?**
 - The building received its official Certificate of Occupancy in May 2023. The labs have been in constant use since the building became available. The public Grand Opening for the new ViewPoint Exhibition in the Gallery was held on June 24, 2023.

Phase Two: Otter Exhibit + Wildlife Enhancements

- **What is the new otter exhibit going to be like?**
 - The new Otter Exhibit will relocate to one of two sites (decision to be made in Summer 2023) to begin weaving together the zoo and museum facilities and make a big splash at the heart of the CuriOdyssey campus and house up to four otters. CuriOdyssey has hired Perry Becker Designs of Orlando, FL to lead the Otter Exhibit preliminary design process.

- **What will happen to Gunner and his current exhibit?**
 - Until the new Exhibit is completed, Gunner will remain in his current home.
 - The original Otter Exhibit, designed and built as a part of the original Wildlife Enclosure area in the early 1980's, is considered by AZA standards to be too small for more than one otter. The exhibit is grandfathered in until the new exhibit is complete.

- **When will the Otter Exhibit open?**
 - Our goal is to raise the funds needed to build the exhibit and complete construction in late 2024/early 2025.

- **How much will the Otter Exhibit cost to build?**
 - We are currently finalizing the costs, timeline, schematics and renderings and hope to have details in early fall 2023.

- **What are the other wildlife enhancements that will be made?**
 - We anticipate undertaking some structural and habitat upgrade work in both the bobcat and gray fox enclosures.

- **What will happen to the animals and their current exhibits?**
 - The majority of our exhibits will remain intact.
 - In April 2022 we received our 5th consecutive 5-year AZA accreditation. An AZA team spent 2 full days reviewing all aspects of CuriOdyssey, and specifically each animal's exhibit and care plan.

Phase Three and Beyond

- **What are your next planned phases?**
 - In conjunction with our work on the Otter Exhibit (Phase Two), we are also revisiting our Master Campus Plan to determine the sequence for construction on the six remaining building sites. We anticipate sharing the revised Master Plan in 2024.

Gifts

- **What kind of support do you currently have for this campaign?**
 - We have fully funded the Whoosh! playground and the Bay Gallery & Labs from generous individual, foundation and County donors.

- **How do I donate?**
 - Online at www.curiodyssey.org/give-now
 - Check – see address below
 - Donor advised fund – see tax ID below
 - Stock donation – please reach out to us for a stock transfer form
 - Wire – please reach out to us for wire information
 - Legacy gift – did you know you can add CuriOdyssey to your will?
 - Matching gift – [check here](#) to see if your employer can match your gift!
 - See below for contact information if you'd like to discuss other giving options

- **May I pledge a gift to be made over time?**
 - Absolutely, please reach out to us for a pledge form and to discuss the amount and time period in which you'd like to donate.

- **How will donors be publicly acknowledged?**
 - All donors at the \$5,000+ levels will be acknowledged with a fence picket at the playground. We will reach out to you to confirm your naming preference.
 - Donors over \$25K will be presented with additional naming opportunities.
 - For the naming opportunities below, please reach out to us to discuss open opportunities like:
 - \$25,000+ level – bench
 - \$100,000+ level – animal exhibit
 - \$250,000+ level – room within a building
 - \$5M+ level – building

- **What is your tax ID?**
 - CuriOdyssey is a 501(c)(3) organization and our tax ID is 94-1262434.

- **Who do I contact if I have more questions?**
 - Please reach out to Maureen Garrett, Chief Development Officer, at maureen@curiodyssey.org or call her at 650.340.7571
 - You can also write to us at CuriOdyssey, 1651 Coyote Point Dr, San Mateo, CA 94401