



Mark Faulkner

CFO and Cofounder

B.S., Marine Biology, UNC
at Wilmington
B.S., Business Management,
NC State University

Role at Tenji

Since 2001, Mark has managed financing, budgeting, and logistics at Tenji, working closely with contractors and clients around the world. With aquarium husbandry experience in both marine and freshwater environments, he understands the nuance required to successfully design, fabricate, and install custom life support systems (LSS).

Project Highlights

Milne Center at Mystic Aquarium

completed 2020

This user-friendly, energy-efficient facility, delivered on time and on budget, was a years-long culmination of planning, communication, and collaboration led by Mark. He oversaw the entire process, from concept design to install. Tenji's extensive prefab, including a 22,000-gallon tank, allowed for a one-month installation despite requiring ten full truckloads of material.

Birch Aquarium at Scripps

completed 2018

Thanks to Tenji, this aquarium houses the largest seadragon exhibit in the world. Mark, as project manager and lead designer, constructed a highly specialized LSS to create the perfect conditions for this sensitive species. The aquarium has now entrusted Mark and the Tenji team with designing and building an 18,000-gallon habitat for little blue penguins.

Cook Museum of Natural Science

completed 2017

Mark managed the design and build of a 15,000-gallon sea turtle exhibit, a 1,200-gallon jellyfish exhibit, and an off-site quarantine facility for this museum. He coordinated with fabricators, general contractors, and other trades to ensure the project was delivered early and on budget.

Steinhart Aquarium

completed 2008

Mark led the Tenji team in designing and building 160 exhibits and a jelly culture facility at this aquarium over several years. He worked hand in hand with aquarium staff and designers to build all of the freestanding exhibits in this new facility, including standardized LSS interfaces for ease of use.

Skills

life support system (LSS)
design

project management

construction oversight

3D design software

Bluebeam Revu

relationship-building

trust-building

Affiliations

Aquatic Animal Life Support
Operators (AALSO)

American Zoo and Aquarium
Association (AZA)

Regional Aquatics Workshops
(RAW)

Marine Aquarium Conference
of North America (MACNA)

Prior Experience

Monterey Bay Aquarium, Curator

2005–2007

Managed a team of 15 aquarists; served as husbandry representative in design and construction of new exhibits.

Monterey Bay Aquarium, Senior Aquarist

2002–2005

Trained aquarists on care and maintenance of aquarium displays, including jellies, corals, and freshwater systems.

Monterey Bay Aquarium, Aquarist

1998–2002

Managed/maintained several aquarium galleries, collected specimens, and created temporary freshwater exhibits.