

**National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
Eco-Discovery Center Exhibit Upgrades and Improvements
at
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Request for Proposal
Scope of Work**

Introduction:

The mission of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is to enhance the work of national marine sanctuaries in their goal to protect essential U.S. marine waters and to ensure a healthy ocean. NMSF is working in partnership with NOAA Sanctuaries and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to review the existing exhibits of the Eco-Discovery Center and develop a plan for upgrades and improvements that help interpret the natural and cultural resources of the Florida Keys and specifically those resources under the stewardship of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and National Marine Sanctuary Act. The vendor who is selected to fulfill this scope of work will enter into a contract with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation that is funded with federally-sourced funds.

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation invites proposals for the review and design services, including concept, preliminary and final design process and packages for upgrades and improvements of interactive, immersive displays at the Eco-Discovery Center located in Key West, Florida. These exhibits will interpret the resources of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for the public.

Located in NOAA's Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Complex on the Truman Annex waterfront in Key West, the Center features more than 6,000 square feet of interactive exhibits, which interpret the resources and management efforts of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, two national parks, and four national wildlife refuges. Current exhibits include a simulation of the Aquarius underwater research habitat, complete with sights and sounds experienced by the "aquanauts", and a high-definition theater screening a 17-minute video about Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary by world-renowned filmmaker Bob Talbot.

Visitors can also peer through an underwater camera to watch the spectacle of coral spawning, learn about the armaments that once defended remote Fort Jefferson, or take a journey through the natural habitats of south Florida, from the Everglades to teeming coral reefs. Admission is free.

Of note, the Eco-Discovery Center opened its doors in January 2007 and only minimal exhibit upgrades have taken place since in the last 10 years.

Requirements:

The vendor should provide:

- Comprehensive consulting and design services including:
 - Concept design – including initial bubble plan and schematic of visitor space
 - Preliminary design – exhibit options, graphic styles, interactive and media element options, 3-D concept sketches, floor plans and elevations
 - Final design – Modifications to preliminary design, print ready quality design drawings for fabricator use for production drawings, media elements, cases and lighting (as needed).
- Detailed construction drawings of all exhibit components based on final design, including specifications necessary for fabrication of all exhibit components.
- Vendor will work closely with site staff to determine schedule and meetings.
- Design Charrette and other site visits as needed.





The Terrestrial exhibits highlight the above-water eco-systems, including hardwood hammocks, mangroves, and beaches.



The Marine exhibits provide a glimpse of the undersea environment that the Keys are famous for.



A mock-up of the Aquarius - the only undersea laboratory dedicated to marine science.



The high-definition Theater features a 17 minute video on the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary by world-renowned filmmaker Bob Talbot.

Location:

The Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center is located at the end of Southard Street in the Truman Annex in Key West, across the street from Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park.

35 East Quay Road
Key West, Florida 33040

Information:

https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/eco_discovery.html?s=visit

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