

COX SCIENCE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

NEW \$5 MILLION GIFT TO FURTHER SUPPORT THE EXPANSION

Cox Science Center and Aquarium (CSCA) announced that **Ken Griffin**, Founder and CEO of Citadel and Founder of Griffin Catalyst, has committed an additional \$5 million to fund CSCA's expansion, bringing Griffin's total project-related giving to \$13 million. Griffin's funding has been earmarked for the Center's expanded state-of-the-art aquarium, which will take visitors through the Everglades, Florida's inland rivers and Gulf Stream waters.

With more than 130,000 gallons of salt and freshwater tanks, the space will also include alligators, touch tanks, jellyfish and other aquatic animals that tell the story of Florida's aquatic ecosystems. Griffin's funding will also improve interactive educational experiences in Florida's fifth-largest aquarium setting, including those developed in partnership with the **Reef Institute**, impacting nearly 500,000 students annually, 70% of whom are Title 1.

"Ken's generosity, enthusiasm, and foresight is truly remarkable," said CSCA Board Chair **Eric Stonestrom**. "We are grateful for the support he has shown for the expansion of CSCA's facilities and the educational opportunities we provide and cannot overstate how central Ken's commitment is in our ability to call attention to protecting and restoring our backyard waterways and advancing our mission of opening every mind to science."

"The Cox Science Center and Aquarium ignites curiosity and opens minds to the wonders of science and STEM learning," said Griffin. "I am proud to support this state-of-the-art facility, which not only strengthens South Florida as a premier destination for world-class cultural and scientific institutions, but also fosters the next generation of engineers, researchers, and problem solvers."

The expansion currently underway will allow CSCA to exponentially grow its attendance to serve nearly one million guests annually in new and renovated spaces, including a new science building visible from I-95, new outdoor spaces, and one of Florida's largest indoor aquariums. The current indoor/outdoor campus is expected to double in size from 50,000 sq. ft. to more than 100,000 sq. ft., with the aquarium increasing in size from 10,000



Ken Griffin



TOP: Gulf Stream; **BOTTOM:** Touch Tank

gallons to 130,000 gallons.

In addition to floor-to-ceiling aquariums, other new installations will include an interactive extended reality experience, displaying signature programs from rocket launches to deep sea exploration; a digital arts studio to promote skills that align with high-demand jobs and an expanded biology lab that consolidates the Center's preferred provider status to all schools in Palm Beach County.

Construction began in May 2024, with completion expected in 2027.

The Cox Science Center and Aquarium features more than 80 hands-on educational exhibits, a 10,000 gallon aquarium, a digital planetarium and an outdoor science trail. The Cox Amphitheater hosts daily live science shows, seasonal laser shows and special events.

To learn more about the CSCA's capital campaign contact **Kelly Garvis** at 561.469.7392, email kgarvis@coxsciencecenter.org or visit www.CoxScienceCenter.org/Support-us.