



Mike Bennett cutting the ribbon to the Portland Aquarium. (Photo credit Portland Aquarium)

Mike Bennett's Portland Aquarium!

No Live Animals - But Vibrant Cartoon Sea Creatures

The Portland Aquarium is home to 100% cartoon marine life characters—handcrafted by artist Mike Bennett and his team. While everything you'll see is made of art, light, sound, and storytelling, there's a strong educational current running through the experience. We worked closely with Chanel Hason, our local marine biologist,

to curate accurate and inspiring ocean facts throughout the space. You'll even get an Explorer Compendium—a field guide packed with info about all 100 species you'll encounter on your journey through Bennett Bay. It's where creativity and curiosity collide! The Portland Aquarium is fully ADA accessible. Our entire experience is designed to be navigable for guests using wheelchairs, mobility devices, or strollers. We want everyone to feel welcome exploring the wonders of Bennett Bay!

At this time, tickets to the Portland Aquarium are only available for purchase in per-

son at the Cascadia Marine Lab a.k.a. our front lobby. If there's a wait when you arrive, no worries—we've got a digital waitlist system! You can check out the Mike Bennett Studios museum and gift shop while you wait, or explore other parts of downtown Portland. We'll send you a text when it's your turn to dive into the depths of Bennett Bay. Starting in July we will start hosting birthday parties and other private events in the mornings before we open at 11am. If you are interested in renting our space for a private event or tour, let us know and send an email to pdxaquarium@mikebennettstudios.com.

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Don't Miss This on October 29, at The Old Church



Brandee Younger, harpist, composer and bandleader.

PDX Jazz Presents The Brandee Younger Trio!

BRANDEE YOUNGER is revolutionizing the harp's role in modern music. Over the past fifteen years, she has worked relentlessly to stretch boundaries and limitations for harpists. In 2022, she made history by becoming the first Black woman to be nominated for a Grammy® Award for Best Instrumental Composition. That same year, she was also nominated for an NAACP Image Award and later, the winner of the 2024 NAACP Image Award in the category of Outstanding Jazz Album for her latest album *Brand New Life*. Ever-expanding as an artist, she has worked with cultural icons including Common, Lauryn Hill, John Legend, Pharoah Sanders and Christian McBride.

Her original composition "Hortense" was featured in the

Netflix Concert-Documentary, *Beyoncé: Homecoming* and in 2019, Brandee was selected to perform her original music as a featured performer for Quincy Jones and Steve McQueen's "Soundtrack of America". Brandee is often noted for standing on the shoulders of the very women who ushered in the harp as a clear and distinct voice in jazz & popular styles – particularly Detroit natives Dorothy Ashby & Alice Coltrane. Her latest album, *Brand New Life*, builds on her already rich oeuvre, and cements the harp's place in popular culture. As the title of the album suggests, *Brand New Life* is about forging new paths—artistic, personal, political, and spiritual. Younger's music is imbued with a sense of purpose and respect of legacy, creating a larger platform for the harp to reach newer and wider audiences than ever before. In addition to performing and recording, Brandee Younger is on the faculty at New York University, Steinhardt School and The New School College of Performing Arts.

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