

CITY OF SHREVEPORT

OLLIE S. TYLER
MAYOR



OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
AND COMMUNICATIONS

AFRICA PRICE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
AND COMMUNICATIONS

505 Travis Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Tel: 318.673.5008
FAX: 318.673.5055
Cell: 318.716.8794

africa.price@shreveportla.gov
www.shreveportla.gov

PRESS RELEASE

September 7, 2016

New Aquarium set for Shreveport

Mayor Ollie Tyler announced today that the City of Shreveport will get its first aquarium along the Red River.

The City has worked for the past 12 months with the Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program (EAP) and Planet Aqua Group (PAG) to bring this exciting venture on board. The item is on next week's City Council agenda for approval.

"The City of Shreveport is so very proud to announce that we are growing economically and attracting businesses that will enhance the quality of life for our citizens and visitors. I'm so proud to announce that we are set to have our first ever Shreveport Aquarium!" said Mayor Tyler. "The former Barnwell Gardens and Arts Center will be transformed into a venue that continues to connect people with nature."

The Aquarium is a \$4.3 million project that is expected to attract more than 140,000 guests in its first year.

"We are very excited to finally unveil this highly interactive aquarium experience and look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with the citizens of Shreveport and beyond," said Jon Whitehead, with Planet Aqua Group.

The City of Shreveport sought the Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program's assistance in performing due diligence to ensure Planet Aqua Group's Shreveport project was a viable recruit for downtown.

"This has been an exciting opportunity to work with the City and Planet Aqua Group to bring a unique startup to downtown Shreveport," said David Smith, executive director of EAP. "Jon and his team's passion for marine life, conservation, and education will have a lasting positive impact on our community."

Learn more about the Shreveport Aquarium at <http://www.shreveportaquarium.com/media-kit/>. The password is mediakit2016

-Shreveport-