

Executive summary

Ocean Discovery Center (working name) · 20 October 2026

*Status: **PLANNING PHASE**. An independent plan; nothing is funded or built yet. Not an official project of, or endorsed by, the City of Bethlehem or ArtsQuest, and not an Aethon facility.*

What it is. A planned center for free or low-cost public ocean education in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: the seafloor, marine life and underwater robots that explore them. People have directly seen less than 0.001 percent of the deep seafloor ([NOAA Ocean Exploration; Bell et al. 2025](#)). It would reuse a building, use solar energy, and recycle and compost. Money is a tool, never the goal or a barrier.

Who it helps. Schools, families, future engineers and scientists, curious adults, and anyone needing a calm space or step-free access.

Where. Planned location: South Bethlehem (the SteelStacks campus and the East 3rd Street corridor). No building chosen; no owner or venue contacted. Planned seaport links, for field trips: Philadelphia, Newark/Elizabeth.

Status. Planning phase. An independent plan; nothing is funded or built yet. No organization, nothing for sale, no opening date. Partner: Aethon, the ocean data, mapping and exploration company founded by the plan's author. Aethon supplies the maps and data; the center does public education. Aethon does not fund, own, operate or approve the center. As of 20 October 2026, no other organization or port operator has agreed or been contacted.

Next steps. Free public programs with organizations that agree. Then, if each works, a temporary exhibit in a host venue, and a small center after a feasibility study. An aquarium is a separate decision; default no.

What it needs. A venue for programs, a fiscal sponsor or nonprofit, and advisors in science, education and accessibility. This summary asks for no money.

Website: <https://ocean-discovery.vercel.app> · Sources: <https://ocean-discovery.vercel.app/research>



Illustration of the planned center, not a design. No building has been chosen. [Pictures of each place](#) are on the website.