



Texas State Aquarium

December 12, 1985

Hector P. Garcia, M.D.
1315 Bright St.
Corpus Christi, TX 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

As you probably know, the Texas Legislature in May of this year passed legislation that designated the proposed aquarium being planned for Corpus Christi as "the official aquarium of Texas." It will be named the Texas State Aquarium.

It will be built by the Corpus Christi Aquarium Association, a non-profit corporation, and construction and operating expenses will be funded entirely by private donations. It will be located on the downtown bayfront of Corpus Christi.

It will not be just an attraction for local citizens or tourists. It will serve as a primary research center and educational facility for Texas students of all ages. It will be the largest aquarium of its kind anywhere on the Gulf Coast, and will exhibit underwater creatures exclusively from the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000,000 for its construction from interested individuals, businesses and foundations throughout Texas. We have already raised \$2,500,000 of that goal, even though our formal fundraising campaign will not begin until early 1986.

We are organizing a prominent statewide advisory committee to lend prestige and support to our efforts. We are particularly anxious that the co-chairs of this group be from the Corpus Christi area or have some ties to Corpus Christi even though they do not live here now.

We think it would be particularly appropriate, and we would be highly honored, if you would serve as one of four co-chairs of our Honorary Advisory Committee. The other three we have asked are Anne Armstrong, Vice President George Bush and Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson. All three have accepted our invitation.

Your long and distinguished record in behalf of equal rights for our Hispanic citizens is known throughout the country. President Reagan's awarding of the Medal of Freedom to you in ample evidence of the esteem in which you are held by all Americans.

Your joining with Vice President Bush, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Armstrong would give us the strongest possible team for our aquarium drive. We hope you'll say yes!

We want to announce our Advisory Committee chairs early in January. We will not begin to recruit members of the Advisory Committee until after the chairs have been selected. We expect to name 15-20 persons, all prominent Texans or former Corpus Christians.

I know how many responsibilities you already have, and I can assure you that your acceptance of our co-chairmanship will not entail any major commitment of time. We would ask you to lend your name and your presence to several events that will likely be scheduled late in 1986. But, absolutely nothing would be planned without the advance involvement and approval of your office.

Our advertising agency is currently preparing brochures and other materials which will be completed in several weeks. Since these items are not yet ready, I thought that perhaps the enclosed clippings from recent editions of the Caller-Times might be of interest.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Very best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Dorn".

John Dorn
President

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Enclosures