

## Soberanes Fire Relief Benefit at the Monterey Bay Aquarium

Monterey's [Downtown Dining](#) group and the nonprofit Monterey Bay Aquarium are hosting a fire relief benefit Sunday, August 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. during [Evenings by the Bay](#) at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Downtown Dining is enlisting local chefs to prepare amazing dishes, and local wineries are donating delicious wines, all to be sold that evening with proceeds benefitting the [Soberanes Fire Fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County](#).

Beginning at 6 p.m. residents of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties, with valid identification, enter free of charge. Monterey Jazz Festival's Artistic Director Tim Jackson will be the featured musical performer, with band Tim Jackson & Friends.

For more information about how to support those affected by the fire visit [Soberanes Fire Fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County](#). For more information about Sunday's event call 831-647- 6886, or visit [Eventbrite](#) to purchase food and beverage tickets in advance.

### UPDATE:

Sunday night's Soberanes Fire Benefit was the largest night event on record at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Nearly 3,400 tri-county residents were admitted free of charge, plus another 225 volunteers associated with the event - including chefs, community volunteers (Salinas Downtown Rotary Club and Monterey Cannery Row Rotary Club, Monterey High School students, and aquarium staff who were not working but who volunteered their time). There were additional guests in the building who had been visiting the Aquarium during the day and who stayed into Evenings by the Bay for the fire benefit.

There were 25 chefs and 28 food stations; we served wines from Bernardus, Mercy and J. Lohr; and beer from North Coast Brewing Company. Coffee was donated by Carmel Valley Roasting Company and US Foods donated the apple juice for the kids area, among many other donations.

The weekend's events, including a farmers market at The Wharf Marketplace, cash donations from Salinas Valley agricultural companies, the Soberanes Fire Benefit at the aquarium and direct donations to Community Foundation at the aquarium event, generated roughly \$180,000. The aquarium event alone raised over \$110,000.

The combined events nearly doubled the Community Foundation's Soberanes Fire Fund in a single weekend - to a total of around \$400,000.