
From the Pacific Business News:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2021/02/16/uss-bowfin-reopens.html>

USS Bowfin Museum reopens after two years, \$23M in renovations: PHOTOS

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The Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum at Pearl Harbor is reopening to the general public this week, museum organizers announced Tuesday.

The reopening comes after two years and \$23 million in renovations to the 12,000-square-foot museum, and organizers will hold a private, socially distanced dedication ceremony on Feb. 23 to commemorate the event.

The renovated museum includes a 3,000-foot expansion that showcases educational museum wings detailing the history of the U.S. Navy's submarine force including traditional exhibits, multimedia, and interactive displays.

A standalone section of the submarine museum titled "Freedom Isn't Free" is dedicated to all 4,000 U.S submariners who died at sea during combat and peacetime.

"We compiled photos and biographies of all the submariners on 'Eternal Patrol' in which museum visitors can learn about the ultimate sacrifice made by these brave men," said Pacific Fleet



THE PACIFIC FLEET SUBMARINE MUSEUM

Submarine Museum Executive Director Chuck Merkel, in a statement

The museum also features a new entrance to complement the recent renovations of the Arizona Memorial Visitor Center located next door.

“After many years of fundraising, conceptual planning and construction, we are proud to reopen the doors to our renovated facility,” Merkel said. “This is one of the few museums in the world where you can learn about the proud history of the U.S. Navy’s submarine force during the eras of World War II, the Cold War and today, and also be inspired by its bright future. The museum provides an educational aspect to our park visitors and complements our USS Bowfin moored outside the museum.”

Donors and stakeholders that helped to fund the museum renovations include:

Landlord and project approval: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii (NAVFAC Hawaii)

Project financing: Bank of Hawaii and U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program (USDA RD)

Five-Star Donors (\$250,000 and above): Huntington Ingalls Industries, Northrop Grumman, State of Hawaii Grants in Aid, MIG Inc., Ron Gibson Entertainment

Four Star Donors (\$100,000 and above): Hawaiian Electric Industries, Lockheed Martin, Lawrence H. Dorcy Foundation, Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company

“Without the support of these and many other organizations and individuals, the museum expansion and improvements would not have been possible,” Merkel said. “We also thank the countless many who donated valuable museum submarine artifacts and memorabilia over the years.

“We also say mahalo to all the visitors to the USS Bowfin and park over the years, particularly during this recent pandemic and related economic downturn,” he said. “Our staff is very grateful for their financial support during these challenging times.”

The project’s architects and contractors included: MIG-Portico for architectural and exhibit design, Constructors Hawaii for

construction, Pacific Studio for exhibit construction and installation, Electrosonic for audio-visual equipment, and Weatherhead Experience Design for audio-visual content.

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