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ēSea, a biophilic illusion making a splash at Children's Hospital in TN.

Sky Factory and the Tennessee Aquarium Make ēSea™ Donation for Children's Hospital at Erlanger

June 16, 2015 – The Sky Factory and the Tennessee Aquarium collaborated to bring ēSea, a Digital Cinema underwater portal to marine habitats, to the Children's Hospital at Erlanger, the 1st of its kind in the state. The partnership



Thom Benson, Senior Comm. Mgr., Tennessee Aquarium, Julie Taylor, Chief Dev. Officer, Cynthia Rhodes, Chief Nursing Officer, and Dr. Alan Kohrt, CEO, Children's Hospital at Erlanger.

enabled the Sky Factory to film the Tennessee aquarium's largest and most beautiful exhibit, the Secret Reef, as well as the Reelfoot Lake and the Flooded Amazon River exhibits.

"We are extremely grateful for the support of the Tennessee Aquarium and The Sky

Factory for allowing our patients and guests to benefit from not only a visual experience but also an educational experience by taking our patients and guests to various underwater worlds," said Cindy Rhodes, Chief Nursing Officer at Children's Hospital at Erlanger. "Providing a natural diversion will certainly have an impact on the child's and parents' hospital experience."

eSea was designed to provide the visually soothing, therapeutic benefits of living underwater environments—restoring emotional balance, reducing anxiety, and lowering blood pressure—while submerging the observer in a deeper experience, one that enlivens our innate, genetic-based need to bond with living systems (called biophilia) by bringing the beauty of sea creatures safely indoors.



Caption on the official plaque below the installation.

Research indicates that restorative environments, those healing to the human physiology, are defined by a nature connection. Marine life in particular exerts an alluring hold on our collective imagination.

“There are many regulated environments where setting up a

live aquarium is both a health hazard and a costly feature to maintain” says Skye Witherspoon, CEO of The Sky Factory. “Using the vivid realism of biophilic illusions we can simulate underwater habitats without the burden of real tanks.”

Using a sophisticated RED Digital Cinema™ camera, skilled videographers were able to film exotic species like Green Turtles, sharks, and colorful saltwater fish in the Secret Reef exhibit; crappie, sunfish, sturgeons and Map turtles in the Reelfoot Lake exhibit; and peacock bass, Tambaqui, catfish, and giant South American turtles in the Amazon River exhibit. As a high-tech illusion, *eSea* is recorded in *UltraHD*, then mastered and playback in high bit rate full HD, lending a visual realism that renders scenes beyond *blu ray* quality.

“We could not have received such high quality cinematography without the support of the Tennessee Aquarium,” said Jeff Johnson, The Sky Factory’s design specialist. “Chattanooga’s aquarium provided us with three gorgeous and diverse subjects, and what better place to debut them than in one of the nation’s largest public hospitals and the region’s only Children's Hospital.”

About The Sky Factory

The Sky Factory, LC is a unique fine art and technology company based in Fairfield, Iowa, USA. Founded in 2002, the company creates realistic *Illusions of Nature™* - virtual skylights and windows - that transform interior spaces. Sky Factory’s Digital Cinema product line features *UltraHD* motion and sound displayed on professional-grade LED edge-lit HD LCD monitors. For more information and a complete list of International Partners, visit www.SkyFactory.com.