

## **NAVY SEAL MUSEUM SAN DIEGO**

### **Messaging + Long Project Description**

#### **KEY MESSAGES**

- **A Civic Landmark on San Diego's Waterfront**  
Positioned along San Diego's harbor at the edge of Lane Field Park, the museum extends the public realm and strengthens the city's connection to its deep military heritage. The architecture transforms a prominent waterfront site into an accessible civic destination that invites everyday engagement.
- **A National Platform for Education, Engagement, Purpose**  
Beyond commemoration, the museum is designed as a center for learning, connection, and inspiration. Through immersive storytelling, youth-focused educational initiatives, and meaningful community engagement, it will deepen public understanding of SEAL history and the enduring principles that define its performance and character. More than a place of remembrance, it will ignite a national sense of purpose – encouraging individuals to serve causes greater than themselves and to embody the values of commitment, resilience, and selfless service.
- **Architecture that Embodies the Navy SEAL Ethos and Mission**  
The building's sculpted form conveys strength while striking a careful balance between stealth and openness central to the SEAL Ethos. Calibrated daylight, durable materials, and faceted geometry reinforce both performance and presence.

#### **LONG PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

##### Honoring the Legacy of the U.S. Navy SEALs

The Navy SEAL Museum in San Diego is envisioned as a world-class institution dedicated to telling the story of the world's premier maritime special operations force long into the future. The mission to preserve the heritage, honor the fallen, and care for Special Operations Families informs every aspect of the project. As a civic partner, the museum aims to expand public outreach through youth education, immersive storytelling, and shared event spaces. Designed to embody the ethos of the SEAL organization with a strong architectural form and presence, the new museum welcomes the public to engage with its legacy.

**Entry Hero Rendering Caption:** A shallow reflecting pool at the Harbor Drive entry reflects the building's sculpted mass and reinforces the museum's relationship to the water.

San Diego's waterfront offers a uniquely fitting home for the new museum. Rooted in the region since 1945, the SEALs and their predecessors share a long history with the city as one of the world's largest military communities. The site—across from the USS Midway Museum, Broadway Pier, the Cruise Ship Terminal, and the Maritime Museum, and forming the northern anchor of Lane Field Park—positions the museum at the heart of the city's most vibrant district. Surrounded by steady foot traffic from Harbor Drive and the Santa Fe Depot, the site provides exceptional visibility and access.

The massing responds to the site's urban context, using angular geometries to convey momentum while preserving sightlines to the harbor. The museum's location at the end of Lane Field Park along Harbor Drive transforms the park's northern edge into a welcoming forecourt, where the building lifts to form a shaded, generous lobby. A shallow reflecting pool completes the composition, mirroring the building's sculpted mass and tying the museum to the rhythms of the waterfront. Together, the design creates a natural extension of the park and an everyday invitation to the community at one of the waterfront's most active pedestrian corridors.

**Northeast corner rendering caption:** Youth education space and a café are programmed at the museum's northeast corner, which opens onto a pedestrian-friendly street. Placing public programs here activates the quieter edge of the site, ensuring both sides of the building remain open and welcoming while contributing to a lively urban experience.

Inside, the museum provides a sequence of experiences that emphasize storytelling and narrative clarity. The exhibition guides visitors through the history and evolution of the SEALs, beginning with their origins during World War II and unfolding chronologically to the present day. Daylight is carefully calibrated through skylights and a high-performance envelope to support exhibit needs while being environmentally responsible.

The architectural form balances stealth and openness. Faceted metal surfaces—drawing inspiration from SEAL watercraft and equipment—interact with San Diego's coastal light, shifting in both depth and reflectivity throughout the day. A perforated skin filters daylight and reinforces the building's interplay of physical prowess and precision, echoing qualities central to the SEAL Ethos. The combination of perforation and dimples creates textural qualities that add kinetic depth, reinforcing the building's stature as an iconic landmark.

**Exhibit Section Caption:** Extending the full height of the 65-foot building, the central atrium will be visible from the street and designed to structurally accommodate large suspended artifacts such as military aircraft.

**North elevation rendering caption:** Strategically placed façade slices reveal glimpses of artifacts within, offering visual connections between the museum’s inner narrative and the waterfront outside.

**Aerial rendering caption:** The fourth floor offers an event space and terrace overlooking the harbor, providing a memorable setting for special gatherings and reflection.

Collectively, the site, architecture, and programming offer a landmark designed to deepen public understanding of the SEALs’ heritage, strengthen ties with the community, and celebrate those who have answered the call to serve.