



*a nonprofit membership organization dedicated  
to improving and protecting our coral reef ecosystem*

**Post Office Box 430, Key West, FL 33041 • [reefrelief@gmail.com](mailto:reefrelief@gmail.com) [www.reefrelief.org](http://www.reefrelief.org)**  
**Reef Relief Headquarters & Environmental Center 631 Greene Street, Key West, Florida • Tel: 305-294-3100 • Fax: 305-293-9515**

Key West Bight Management District Board  
1300 White Street  
Key West, FL, 33040

Dear Board Members,

Reef Relief is deeply grateful to have been a longstanding tenant of the Historic Key West Bight and sincerely appreciates the continued support you have provided us over the years.

We would like to once again express our strong desire to remain in the Key West Bight area. While we understand that continuing to occupy 631 Greene Street may not be feasible in the long term, we are open to finding a reasonable compromise. During the October meeting, there was discussion about the Mallory Square revitalization project and the possibility of including an educational component. This was the first time we learned that Reef Relief might be considered for involvement, and while we are certainly interested in learning more, we currently do not have enough information to make a commitment to that location.

The idea of relocating Reef Relief to the historic Thompson Fish House has been discussed for several years. In the summer of 2017, Reef Relief board members, staff, and city employees conducted a walk-through of the building and identified several concerns that remain relevant today. The following issues would need to be addressed before we could consider moving into the space:

- Lack of air conditioning throughout the building
- Flooring that is inadequate for hosting children
- Absence of a bathroom
- Insufficient space to support Reef Relief's growing programs

We believe these and other minor issues can be successfully resolved. To feel comfortable moving forward, we would like to see the following improvements made to the building:

- Air conditioning: Install a new unit in the main part of the building and replace the existing upstairs unit, which appears dirty and potentially moldy. An additional unit may also be necessary upon expansion.
- Bathroom: Install a small restroom for staff and children. This could be completed in conjunction with dock repairs and sewer line installation, as mentioned at the recent meeting.
- Flooring: Assess the floors for safety concerns, including loose boards, exposed nails, and structural integrity.

- Storage and workspace: Add internal storage by potentially extending the upstairs area and enclosing part of the ceiling to create additional office or storage space.
- Entryway: Add a standard, HARC-approved door for easier and safer entry and exit, especially for visitors and children.
- Safe for public health: Evaluate the area for substances that can be hazardous to human health, such as mold, remove and treat accordingly.

In addition to these essential updates, Reef Relief would like to make the following enhancements to support our programs and community engagement:

- Install an elevated desk area to accommodate three staff desks and serve as a welcoming area for visitors.
- Designate a space for a small retail display.
- Create a ground-floor storage room for heavier equipment.
- Develop a multipurpose classroom/theater area with seating for at least 30 people. This space would be used to show educational documentaries from September through May, host visiting school groups, conduct public presentations, and support summer and spring break camp programs. During the school year, the area would feature educational displays highlighting local marine ecosystems.
- Install a Reef Relief sign outside the building.

We are truly grateful to the City of Key West and the Key West Bight Board for your continued willingness to collaborate with us. Reef Relief plays a vital role in the Key West community by providing a safe, educational environment for local youth, engaging volunteers and businesses in conservation efforts, and serving as a voice for the fragile marine ecosystems upon which the Florida Keys economy so greatly depends.

Thank you for your ongoing time, attention, and dedication to this project. We understand that there may be more conversations, and we appreciate being a part of that and appreciate the transparency. We would be happy to meet to discuss these ideas further or to provide additional clarification at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Reef Relief Board of Directors