



John G. Shedd Aquarium
The World's Aquarium

June 26, 2005

On June 24, 2005, our visitors and Shedd Aquarium had a special opportunity to host Stacy Nyikos, author of the new children's book "Squirt." Stacy visited Shedd Aquarium to do a book reading and signing. This was a wonderful opportunity to develop a program that integrated literature, aquatic science, and art in a fun engaging way.

After each reading, guests had an opportunity to purchase copies of the book and participate in a short craft activity where they made "Squirt" cups. This program certainly added an unexpected bonus to the guest experience. In all total about 150 guests participated in the program. Considering the diversity of other programming that was taking place around the building, this was a remarkable number. Reactions from guests were nothing short of "Great idea!.....This is cute!.....I want to make one!"

We certainly plan on bringing Stacy as well as other authors back in the future. Together with these authors, we hope to build more exhibit based programming that combines art, science, music and literature into a fun learning experience for all.

Sincerely,

Robert Romanowski
Floor Programs Education Coordinator
John G. Shedd Aquarium