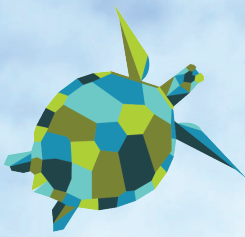


**OCEAN
CONNECTORS**



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This moment marks 14 years of providing environmental education to youth in underserved Pacific coastal communities. We have taught more than 34,000 youth in San Diego County, California and Nayarit, Mexico, with our ocean-STEM, multiyear curriculum. Our programs for these students have proven to increase marine science knowledge and foster positive environmental attitudes and behaviors.

As 2022 approaches and we prepare for our 15-year anniversary, we invite you to renew your support for the Ocean Connectors mission. We could not have reached this historic milestone without the generous support of our partners, donors, and volunteers. Please consider joining our new Membership Program by subscribing to monthly or annual recurring donations, to ensure the continued upward trajectory of our work.

We are delighted to share with you the successes of our 2020-2021 school year in our inaugural annual report. We are very grateful for the continued support of the individuals, businesses, and communities that make up the fabric of our work *Connecting Youth for Conservation*. Thank you!

With gratitude,

Frances Lang
Executive Director

Mission



Our mission is to educate, inspire, and connect youth in underserved Pacific coastal communities through the study of migratory marine life.

Vision



Our vision is to cultivate a future generation of passionate, globally-aware, and empowered coastal residents who take active steps to enjoy and protect ocean health.



Educate

students to increase academic engagement, support classroom learning goals, and motivate them to pursue ocean-STEM careers.



Inspire

environmental stewardship by introducing children to the tools, knowledge, and awareness to actively practice conservation.



Connect

youth with the ocean and provide access to diverse, hands-on learning opportunities in coastal environments

2021 AT A GLANCE



4626

Students
impacted



48

Presentations
given



40

School
partnerships



3

Interns
hosted



254

Teachers
engaged

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Flagship Cruises & Events has been proudly celebrating San Diego's natural beauty since 1915. The local, family-owned fleet serves as a venue for luxury events, educational tours, transportation and thrilling adventures on the water.

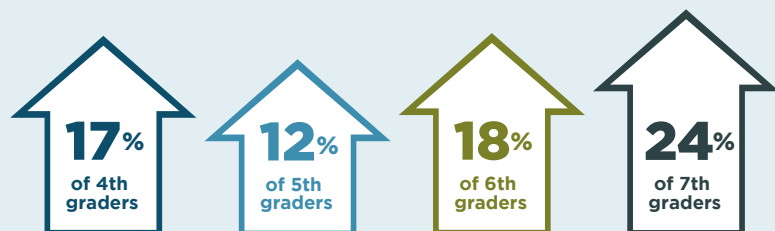
Aboard Flagship's whale watching excursions, Ocean Connectors students get to experience a memorable journey in search of gray whales migrating off the coast of San Diego. The tours provide up-close views of minke whales, fin whales, seals, sea lions, dolphins, migrating birds and other vibrant marine life as well.

With deep ties to the community and a legacy that began more than a century ago and introduced the world's first whale watching cruise in 1955, Flagship remains focused on the future. The entire team is committed to energy conservation, waste reduction, recycling and sustainable food sourcing to preserve San Diego's pristine waters for generations to come.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Knowledge Gains

All students showed improvement in knowledge of marine science, environmental literacy, and conservation, as measured by pre and posttest assessments.



Percentages show the increase in number of students who scored 100% posttest vs pretest.



Behavioral and Attitudinal Changes

4th and 5th graders scored 80% or higher on posttests measuring attitudes and behaviors, indicating they are more inspired to take individual actions to protect the environment and respond to climate change impacts.

80%

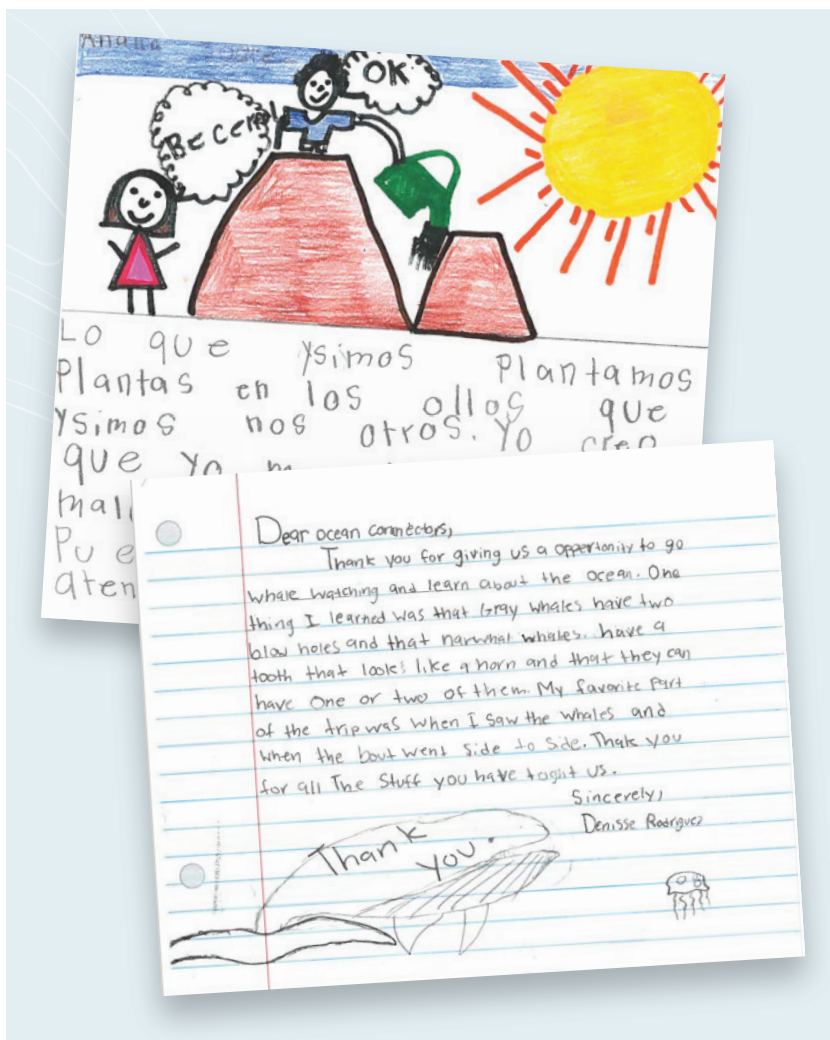
FAMILY FEATURE

Something me and my family are doing to help the environment is picking up trash by the sewer. Also by not using plastic straws and not using plastic bags.

- 4th grade student

My family and I recycle plastic. We do this to help stop animals in the ocean from dying because of it.

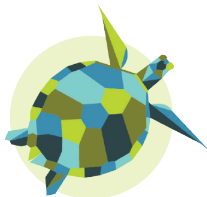
- 6th grade student



YEAR IN REVIEW

Virtual Field Trip Videos

Virtual field trips were developed to help students increase academic engagement, support classroom learning goals, and motivate them to pursue ocean-STEM careers. These videos were viewed a total of 984 times.



Sea Turtle
Discovery



Bird & Habitat
Study (Part I)



Bird & Habitat
Study (Part II)

“Migration Quest”

300 educational board games were developed for distribution to local families and elementary school classrooms.

COVID RESPONSE

To the question “How satisfied are you with our response to the COVID pandemic?” teachers reported:

80%

program satisfaction rating

76%

average improvement in student
academic engagement

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

NAYARIT, MEXICO

In addition to providing educational materials, presentations, and field trips for students in Mexico, our binational identity is expressed during the Ocean Connectors “knowledge exchange”. The knowledge exchange consists of artwork, letters, and videos exchanged between students in the United States and Mexico to share information about migratory marine life. This creates a cross-border, peer-to-peer dialogue promoting environmental stewardship and global awareness.

Our bilingual Knowledge Exchange not only promotes a positive narrative about coastal conservation but also encourages our multicultural audience to practice communicating in both English and Spanish.



27

Schools
in Mexico

2328

Students
served

16

Communities
engaged

ECO TOURS



Wildlife Kayaking



Birding and Biking



Whale Watching

Ocean Connectors Eco Tours are personalized, one-of-a-kind experiences. Tours are conducted in partnership with local businesses and are led by certified guides who are experts in marine science, recreation, and conservation. 10% of each Eco Tour ticket supports the Ocean Connectors mission. That means when you take an Eco Tour, you're helping to make these same types of wonderful outdoor experiences possible for local schoolchildren!

[Click to Learn More or Book a Tour →](#)

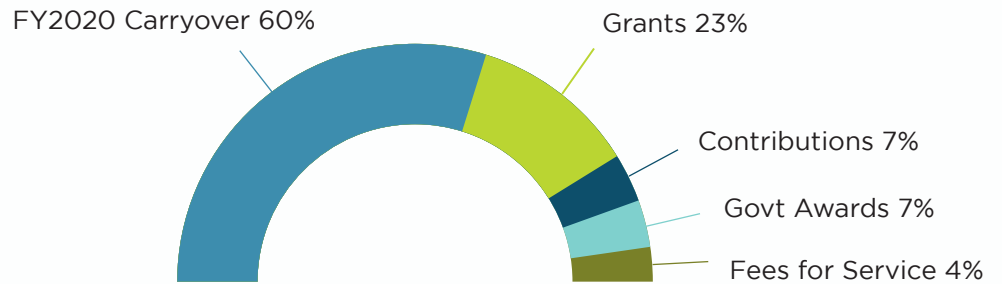
FINANCIAL REPORT

FY 2021

\$237k

Revenue

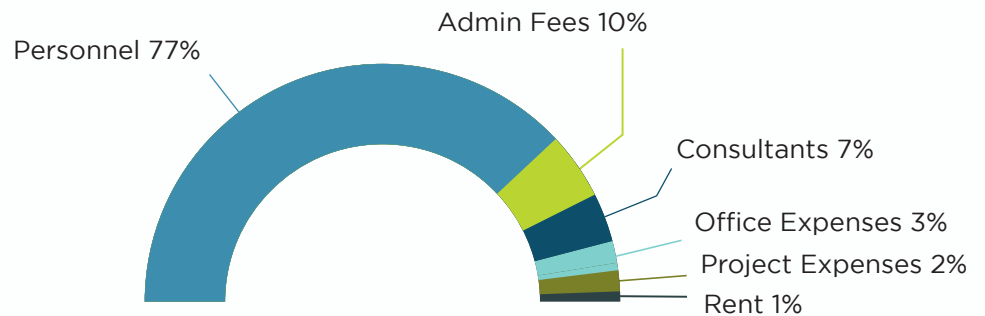
Income by Function



\$269k

Expenses

Expenses by Function



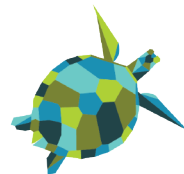
TO OUR SUPPORTERS,

Thank you

from all of us

at

**OCEAN
CONNECTORS**



Donate

Donations to Ocean Connectors provide thousands of students with access to free environmental education programs each year, connecting youth for conservation, supporting academic success, and creating advocates for ocean health and sustainability.