



**BUILDING THE MINDS  
OF TOMORROW TODAY**

**CuriOdyssey**  
AT COYOTE POINT

# FY2016 ANNUAL REPORT



AS A SERIOUS SCIENCE PLAYGROUND, CURIODYSSEY BUILDS THE MINDS OF TOMORROW TODAY

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being a part of our largest annual audience ever, for supporting our free programs for underserved students, for your continued interest in our summer science camps, and for the incredible enthusiasm for our plans to renovate and modernize our facility in the years ahead.

CuriOdyssey is a non-profit science and wildlife center dedicated to changing the face of science learning for all kids in our community. It takes the support of the many donors and volunteers listed in the following pages to ensure that CuriOdyssey can continue to serve increasing numbers of young people with game-changing science and wildlife education. Thank you for making an impact this year. Parents and teachers who have experienced our programs say it best:

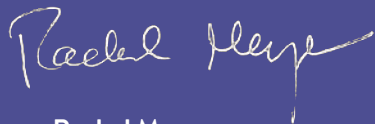
*"At CuriOdyssey children learn how the world works. They are learning to be thinkers, explorers, scientists at heart."* – parent comment

*"It was very special to hear how much fun he was having and all that he was learning."* – camp parent comment

*"With CuriOdyssey, students are encouraged to be curious and to ask questions. This approach inspires lifelong learning."* – teacher comment

Now more than ever, our community needs CuriOdyssey as a safeguard against challenges to science and the environment. I look forward to your support as we continue to give kids the superpower of science.

With sincere thanks,



**Rachel Meyer**  
Executive Director



**7,466** young learners received  
**2,600** hours of facilitated science



**163,425** children and adults visited CuriOdyssey



**655** education programs were delivered including wildlife workshops, science classes on-site and in schools, seasonal camps, and homeschool programs



**8,640** students visited CuriOdyssey for self-guided field trips



**2,976** free facilitated science programming student/hours for students at Fiesta Gardens International School and LEAD School



**13,609** children experienced our mobile programs



**1,015** teachers and **3,949** parent chaperones learned from our model of inquiry-based education when they brought their children to science workshops and field trips to CuriOdyssey



**4,986** children and adults visited for free on Community Days



**1,785** students and **1,006** teachers and chaperones received **294** hours of learning through **42** workshops for schools and groups





# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2016, CuriOdyssey connected more kids to the natural world and deepened their understanding of the scientific process. Through education, exhibits and wildlife encounters, more kids gained the ability to think critically and become the innovators and problem-solvers we need today and in the future. It is more important than ever that children understand how to make decisions based on facts, not opinion.

More children and adults in the community are engaging with CuriOdyssey's serious science playground than ever before. This year, our attendance and educational programs continued to break records. We saw increases in program fees, membership revenue and store net revenue.

## VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY: THEY'LL THINK. THEY'RE PLAYING.

CuriOdyssey's dedication to providing a science-based experiential learning environment for young children is recognized by our community. Research shows that parents value CuriOdyssey because it is an exciting and safe place that helps children develop interests in science and wildlife. They also enjoy its close proximity to Coyote Point Park, its intimate atmosphere and well-designed educational programs, and its spectacular bay-side setting. Their children love CuriOdyssey because it is fun.

## RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE

This fiscal year, 181,224 people engaged with CuriOdyssey, an 8% increase over the previous fiscal year and the highest attendance ever. Our consistent annual increases in attendance resulted from CuriOdyssey's innovative science and wildlife exhibits, public science programs, workshops and camps. Educators, parents, and children returned often to learn about science and discover how it can be used to change and shape our world.

## NEW ANIMALS

This year, CuriOdyssey welcomed new animals to our wildlife family. Two black crowned night herons, two burrowing owls and five pond turtles joined our Walkthrough Aviary. Two guinea pigs joined the educational team, along with four Madagascar hissing cockroaches! Our animals are vitally important to our educational efforts in helping young children appreciate wildlife and respect the natural world.

## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

CuriOdyssey is a recognized leader in the community for science education. In 2016, our educational outreach to the community grew and thrived. We increased the number of hours of facilitated science programming, the number of student participants and field trip visits, the number and types of educational programs delivered, and number of children experiencing mobile programs. More children and adults visited on our free Community Days and students received free facilitated science programming at Fiesta Gardens International School and LEAD School. We added a creative new program, Homeschool S.T.E.A.M. Makers, for our growing homeschool community and broadened camp themes to include engineering and art. CuriOdyssey educators work closely with the school's administration and teachers to ensure that science lessons support Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.

## CONSERVATION

Once again, CuriOdyssey supported conservation efforts in the Bay Area. We led the Bay Area chapter of FrogWatch in its 5th year as a citizen science project to engage the public in monitoring local frog and toad populations. We financially supported native wildlife research projects including the Bay Area Bobcat Study, the Western Pond Turtle Communication Project, the Ringtail Research Project and the Urban Wildlife Project. We sent several keepers and educators into the field with Ringtail Research to gain a better understanding of this animal's behavior in the wild. CuriOdyssey nurtured our current partnerships and strived to build our efforts with even more local conservation organizations.



# THANK YOU TO OUR

## SUPPORTING SCIENTISTS FROM ALL SETTINGS: **THE SOBRATO BRISSON FAMILY**

When Sheri Sobrato Brisson bid on a three-month membership at CuriOdyssey, she was not quite sure what to expect. "I was surprised and delighted. Right in my backyard was this amazing science and wildlife center in a gorgeous setting—just the perfect size for my children." Sheri was so enthusiastic she hosted her son's birthday party at CuriOdyssey to introduce more people to this special place.

At a behind the scenes tour, Sheri learned more about CuriOdyssey's work with the underserved. Thirty percent of school programs are free of charge to underserved youth through all settings, a valued feature of CuriOdyssey's work in science education. With this background, Sheri and her husband Eric felt motivated to make a leadership commitment of \$250,000 to *The Campaign for CuriOdyssey*. "I feel like CuriOdyssey is making a real difference in our community. Now more than ever, we need to support organizations that address local needs and engage local kids," noted Sheri. "We've been involved with a number of nonprofits in our community and, at CuriOdyssey, Eric and I feel that our gift can make a real impact."

## SUPPORTING FURRY AND FEATHERY AMBASSADORS: **BOTHIN FOUNDATION**

In 2016 we proudly partnered with the Bothin Foundation with a commitment to providing our animals with the best medical care possible. All of our animals are unable to live in the wild due to imprinting or injury, and many require specialized care. We strengthened our capacity for animal care this year by creating a new staff position, a combined role of wildlife keeper and veterinary technician. With a generous grant from the Bothin Foundation, we were able to leverage this skillset by upgrading our animal medical room with anesthesia, dental, and surgical equipment.

Program officer Judi Powell visited CuriOdyssey to understand the needs of our wildlife department, noting, "The Bothin Foundation is proud to support essential care for CuriOdyssey's animal collection. Clearly, the animals are a much beloved part of this organization and we are delighted to help insure that these furry and feathery ambassadors can continue to engage the Bay Area's children in environmental stewardship." Since every animal CuriOdyssey brings into its collection is a lifelong commitment, maintaining the health of the animal collection is an investment that pays off each time we connect a child meaningfully with the natural world. We thank the Bothin Foundation for their generous support.





# PARTNERS

## SUPPORTING FIELD TRIPS FOR ALL: *THE AMOS-GROSSER FAMILY*

Sher Amos-Grosser renewed her relationship with CuriOdyssey after visiting with two 12-year old girls. She was delighted and amazed to see CuriOdyssey through their eyes. The girls were fascinated with the animals and exhibits. They independently poured over the animal fact cards in the habitats and engaged in deep discussion about what they were learning. They explored each exhibit and giggled while playing over a very memorable three hour visit. CuriOdyssey's mantra, "They'll Think. They're Playing" now makes perfect sense to Sher.

Sher said, "Coyote Point is a destination with so much to offer, including the museum and zoo, beach, park, walking trails, and more." The whole Amos-Grosser family is involved in deciding how to give back to their community. They appreciate CuriOdyssey's commitment to provide admission, classes and programs to underserved schools, so they donated to the annual fund. Sher said, "Our neighbors and community live on both sides of Highway 101, and Hillsborough has the capacity to give back to our community." She said she hopes her family's support ensures that "more school kids will visit CuriOdyssey for field trips. CuriOdyssey should be a resource for all."





# THE CAMPAIGN FOR CURIODYSSEY DONORS

The Board of Trustees and staff of CuriOdyssey gratefully acknowledge those who have supported The Campaign for CuriOdyssey thus far. With the new CuriOdyssey facility as our hub, we plan to scale our model for real, serious science education, giving even more kids the superpower of science.

We make every effort to recognize our donors accurately. If your name is not present or you are not recognized properly, please contact Kate Korsh, Director of Development, at 650-340-7571.

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CuriOdyssey's success is possible because of the dedicated and generous individuals who volunteer their time.

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### Program Volunteers:

*CuriOdyssey has a large and dedicated community of over 120 program volunteers, some of whom have donated thousands of hours over many years.*

### 2016 Volunteer Leadership Award recipient:

Rachel Miller

*Rachel received this annual award from the Board of Trustee's Chair and the Volunteer Advisory Team in recognition of her inspirational leadership, exceptional volunteerism, and extraordinary contributions on behalf of CuriOdyssey. Since starting as a Wildlife Aide in 2007, Rachel has contributed almost 1900 hours of volunteer service to CuriOdyssey. She now volunteers as a TWIG and Wildlife Presentation Assistant.*

### Volunteers who contributed 200+ hours in 2016:

Bobbie Carmine

Fallon Cox

Leigh Simpson

Don Walton

Petra Zuniga

### Volunteers who marked five or more years of volunteering in 2016:

Lisa Adasiewicz

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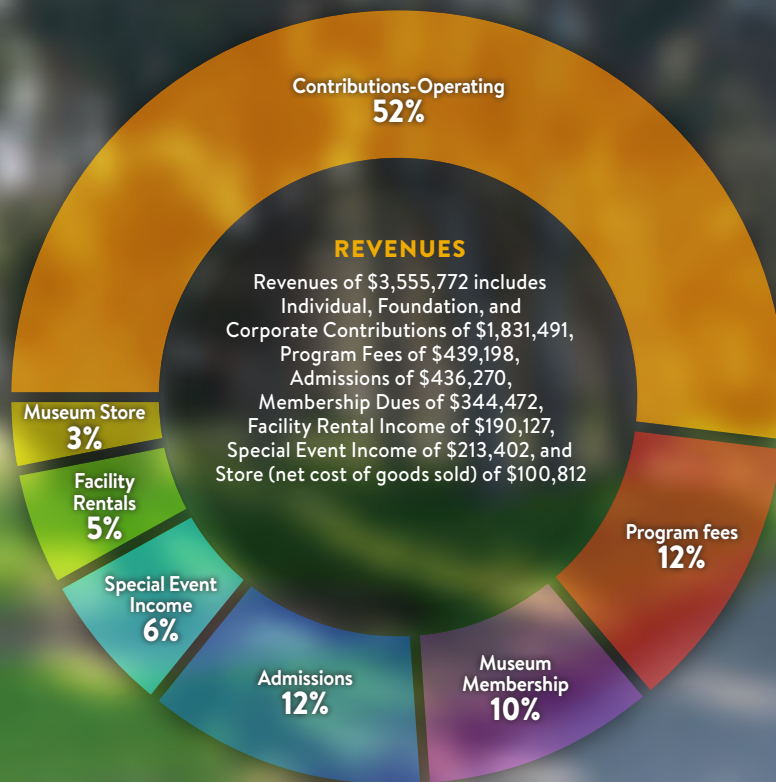


# FINANCIAL REVIEW

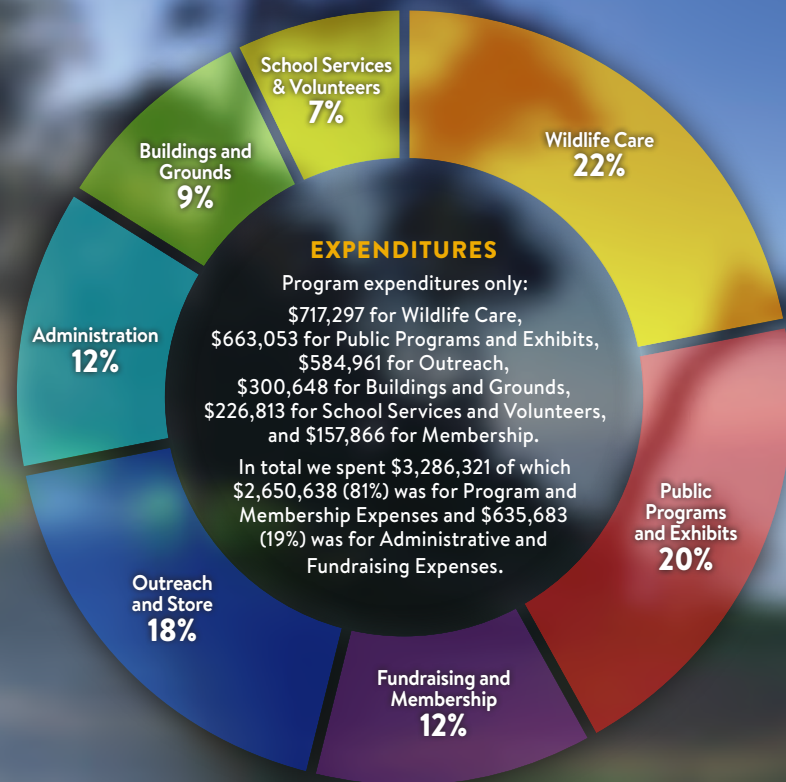
FISCAL YEAR 2016: OCTOBER 1, 2015 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

CuriOdyssey saw an increase in earned revenues as compared to the prior fiscal year.  
The numbers presented here do not include non-cash adjustments (in-kind donations, depreciation, etc.)

## FY 2016 REVENUE



## FY 2016 PROGRAM EXPENSES







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