FY2021

CURIODYSSEY IMPACT REPORT

SCIENCE playground & ZOO





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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your support of our work as we strive to change the face of science learning for all the children in our community. CuriOdyssey is a non-profit science and wildlife center dedicated to our mission to:

Inspire love for science and curiosity about the world to create a brighter future.

It takes the support of the many donors and volunteers honored in the following pages to ensure that CuriOdyssey can continue to serve increasing numbers of young people with game-changing science and wildlife education.

In spite of the challenges posed by the pandemic, we are celebrating some exciting new developments from this past year, including:

- The completion of fundraising for Phase One of our new campus campaign project which includes the opening of our Whooosh! inclusive physics-in-action playground (opened in November 2021) and the Bay Gallery & Labs (groundbreaking in April 2022)
- The launch of our new STEMCorps mentorship program, which prepares underrepresented and underprivileged students for opportunities in STEM learning
- A deeply engaged and growing board we welcomed several new talented members and achieved 100% participation in giving
- Pivoting operations to include foot-powered exhibits and reimagining our winter pop-up, IlluminOdyssey, as an outdoor exhibit in order to keep our animals, visitors, and staff members safe

Now more than ever, our community needs CuriOdyssey as a safeguard against challenges to science and the environment. On behalf of the CuriOdyssey staff, board, and rescued wildlife, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your continuous support for all that we do here at CuriOdyssey. Thank you for making such a profound impact this year.

With gratitude,

trajon Durling

Aragon Burlingham Executive Director



OUR MISSION AND VALUES

OUR MISSION

Inspire love for science and curiosity about the world to create a brighter future.



OUR VALUES

Integrity: We do what's right.

- We consider safety in everything we do.
- We are accountable, transparent and respectful.
- We are committed to environmental sustainability, conservation and the welfare of the animals in our care.

Creativity: We imagine a better way.

- We are innovative, curious and creative.
- We value fun and imagination.
- We create a better future.

Community: We are inclusive.

- We value teamwork, transparency and collaboration.
- We encourage self-direction and empowerment.
- We design for diversity, equity and inclusion by centering marginalized voices.

OUR PILLARS

Education

We create programs that immerse children in hands-on, interactive, exploration-based experiences with science and nature, igniting their curiosity and creating the next generation of critical thinkers. We give children opportunities to be active participants in their own learning. Educational opportunities are presented in a variety of formats, including: camps, workshops, our at-home science center, school field trips, homeschool programs, and STEMCorps.

Exhibits

CuriOdyssey's Exhibits Department creates original, innovative hands-on exhibits that encourage visitors of all ages to touch, observe, listen, wonder, and experiment with simple scientific phenomena. With in-house design and rigorous on-site prototyping, we ensure that visitor interactions with our exhibits are rich with layers of phenomena that demonstrate various scientific principles, real without simulation and allowing interaction with actual physical forces, and right-now with visitors experiencing immediate outcomes through their interactions. These are all crucial elements for engaging early learning experiences.

Wildlife

Our Wildlife Program is the centerpiece of nature education within our organization. The care, conservation, protection, and education it provides are vital to our role as a science and wildlife center and as a champion for the Bay Area environment. CuriOdyssey is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which is a high honor as less than 10% of the 28,000 zoos and aquariums in the US receive this accreditation. Many of our animals are rescued and would be unable to live in the wild due to imprinting on humans or injury.

Campus Campaign

CuriOdyssey's campus redesign project will replace our current facility's aging and limited infrastructure with a 21st century, world-class center for early science learning. The new campus will include eight new buildings and a playground. This campus expansion will support the planned increase in local, regional and national programs, additional exhibit space to accommodate market demand, and more education labs to reach even more children, especially those furthest from opportunity.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



THE CURIODYSSEY EXPERIENCE

A serious science playground

CuriOdyssey is a science museum and zoo dedicated to providing early science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. Our mission is to inspire love for science and curiosity about the world to create a brighter future.

We do this in three ways – by providing unique and innovative programs, exhibits and up-close encounters with native California wildlife that lay the foundations for lifelong interests in earth, physical and life sciences. In 2021, we served 76,000 visitors. Before the pandemic, we served nearly 200,000.

All of our offerings are designed to encourage children to develop critical thinking skills, drive self-directed learning so as to become more engaged, and have fun while learning to love science. Because science is key to our future, we are committed to helping give rise to the next generation of science-fluent citizens.

76,000

people in our community experienced CuriOdyssey

ACCESS FOR ALL

Science education is a right, not a privilege

Ensuring that underprivileged children have the opportunity to experience our transformative programs is critical to us, so one-quarter of our workshops and field trips for schools and groups are offered free or at a reduced cost.

We offer several free and reduced-cost programs for those from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure equal opportunities to experience our transformative programs. These include: the Museums for All initiative to provide reduced-cost admission and memberships, STEMCorps, workshops, field trips, Discover & Go library passes, and a summer camp scholarship fund.

1,400

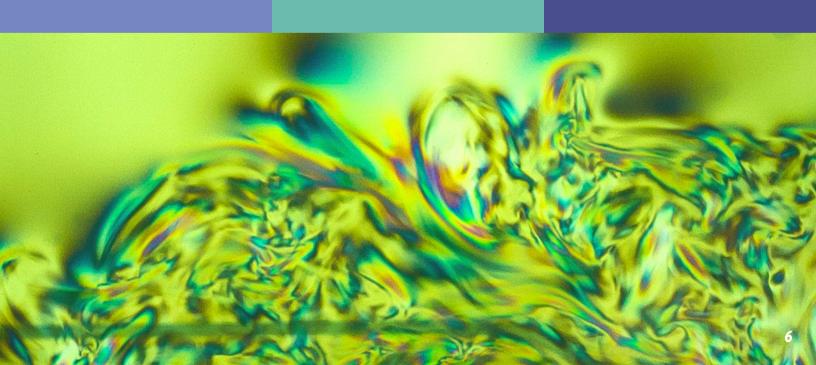
visitors received reduced-cost admission through Museums for All



qualified families signed up for a reduced-cost membership



per person for reduced-cost admission



3,005

children and teachers served through CuriOdyssey education programs



campers joined us for Camp CuriOdyssey



campers on the Camp CuriOdyssey waitlist

7

EXCITING PROGRAMS

STEM is interdisciplinary and interwoven into our everyday lives

CuriOdyssey believes that it is critical to have STEM education at a young age to leverage a child's amazing and developing mind. The skills of creativity, inquiry, observation, problem solving and discerning fact from opinion are fostered through STEM education and are vital to the development of future generations of innovators, problem-solvers and decision makers.

Camp CuriOdyssey returned in person this year, using the outdoor spaces around CuriOdyssey to offer safe science learning. Camp CuriOdyssey provides an immersive science experience that is physically and emotionally safe, inclusive of diverse learning abilities, driven by the camper, and conducted with the utmost respect for children as intelligent learners.

INSPIRING EXHIBITS

Innovative, hands-on exhibitions that you won't see anywhere else

2021 represented a continuation of adaptations and pivots for the Exhibits department as we created evolving strategies in response to ever-shifting public health guidelines. While working within these guidelines, we were able to safely adapt experiences in a way that met the needs of families in our community. We were always forward thinking, leveraging closures and downtimes to emerge with stronger experiences and content on the other end.

In the beginning of the year there were no indoor exhibits and no physical interactive science exhibits. By the end of 2021 we had brought back almost all our phenomenon-based interactive exhibits and reopened our most popular signature seasonal exhibition, IlluminOdyssey, in its classic indoor form. Our in-house crafted exhibits are original designs that will not be found in any other science center.



91

exhibits on the floor to engage our visitors



of those exhibits were created in CuriOdyssey's own fabrication shop



classic exhibits converted to foot-powered fun





40 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)



estimated value in FTE work

7,350

personalized interactions for families and groups

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteers are critical to our success

Volunteers work with every department at CuriOdyssey from speaking to visitors about animals to leading activities to helping behind the scenes. With the pandemic, volunteers pivoted with us to provide virtual learning opportunities in addition to onsite experiences when it was safe to do so.

Our volunteers help create an authentic, inquiry based, and immersive environment, while providing meaningful, robust, and personal learning experiences. Volunteers create meaningful and memorable experiences for visitors by interpreting CuriOdyssey's wildlife collection and engaging visitors with touchable biofacts.

This year, CuriOdyssey launched its STEMCorps initiative with a Mentor Program connecting volunteer STEM professionals with students who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM. The program seeks to enhance the resources available for BIPOC youth to pursue STEM learning in a safe space where they can connect with and be encouraged by supportive role models.



RESCUED WILDLIFE

Accredited care, conservation, protection, and education

CuriOdyssey is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which is a high honor as fewer than 10% of the 28,000 zoos and aquariums in the US receive this accreditation. Many of our animals are rescued and would be unable to live in the wild due to imprinting on humans or injury.

The animal encounters we offer connect our young visitors with wildlife and give them a concrete foundation for becoming respectful, compassionate, science- and nature-literate people who understand and care about our planet and the animals to whom it is home. Children cannot learn about the natural world without experiencing the animals who live in it.

Our comprehensive care approach ensures that the 66 non-releasable animals who live here experience optimal quality of life. In addition, we are involved in conservation work impacting endangered and threatened species.

66

animals in CuriOdyssey's Association of Zoos & Aquariums-accredited care



pounds of fish to fill Gunner the otter's belly each year CuriOdyssey has several Conservation Partners that it annually offers grants and donations to. We focus on local efforts but are not limited by any cause or distance.

This year we provided relief aid to AZA S.A.F.E. and continued to collaborate with River Otter Ecology Project, Felidae Conservation Fund's Puma Project, Urban Wildlife Research Project, Western Pond Turtle Conservation. New partners included Planet Bee Foundation and Raptors Are The Solution (RATS).



CURIODYSSEY CAMPUS CAMPAIGN

A new space for a more science-literate community

CuriOdyssey's campus redesign project will replace our current facility's aging and limited infrastructure with a 21st century, world-class center for early science learning.

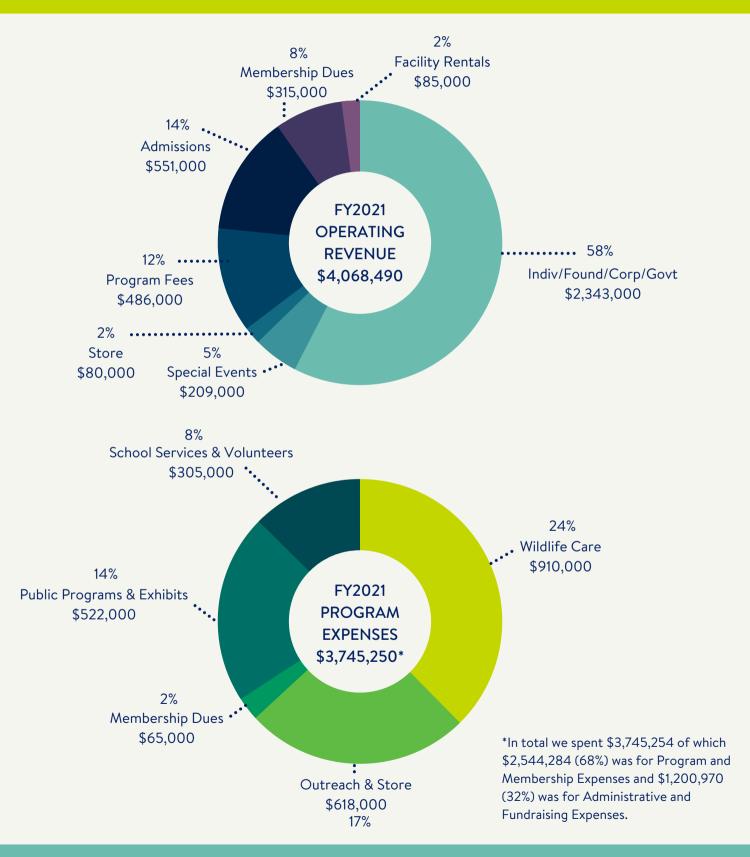
The new campus will include eight new buildings and a playground: the Bay Gallery & Labs, entry pavilion, otter exhibit, learning labs, headquarters for our wildlife keepers and the zoo's education animals, administrative offices, workshop and main gallery. Each will be designed to take full advantage of our incredible setting and views, and will better incorporate the outdoors, accommodate a greater number of visitors, and offer enhanced ADA accessibility.

Phase One of the project is comprised of our Whooosh! inclusive Physics-in-Action playground, which will open in FY2022 in November 2021, and the Bay Gallery & Labs. The Bay Gallery & Labs will feature interior and exterior exhibit space, interior and exterior classrooms, and a recording space, all with spectacular views of the San Francisco Bay. Groundbreaking for the new building will take place in Spring 2022 with the grand opening in Spring 2023.

PHYSICS-IN-ACTION PLAYGROUND

FINANCIAL REVIEW

FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2021



CuriOdyssey saw a 41% increase in Annual Giving and a 48% increase in earned revenue as compared to the prior fiscal year. The expense numbers represented here do not include non-cash adjustments such as inkind, depreciation and rent expense.

YOUR SUPPORT PAVES THE WAY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF PROBLEM-SOLVERS, INNOVATORS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS WHO WILL CHANGE AND SHAPE OUR WORLD.

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Many thanks to all of our generous supporters!

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REDWOOD SOCIETY

CuriOdyssey's Redwood Society recognizes those who have chosen to support CuriOdyssey through planned giving.

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Ava and Melvin's "Magical" Friendship given by Olenka Villarreal

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CuriOdyssey's Wildlife Keepers given by Barbara and Jerry Carmine

CuriOdyssey Staff given by Alexandra Shwarzstein

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Kai and Fin given by Anonymous

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Our Beloved Pet Mice & Rats given by Anonymous

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Sake the Cat given by Amy Huang



OUR AMBITIOUS BUILDING CAMPAIGN WILL CREATE A WORLD-CLASS SCIENCE AND WILDLIFE CENTER PROVIDING HIGH IMPACT INFORMAL SCIENCE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY.

\$5,000,000 AND ABOVE

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\$1,000,000 AND ABOVE

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