



OUR MISSION

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

FY2020  
Annual  
Report

# INSPIRE

As a serious science playground and zoo,  
CuriOdyssey builds the minds of tomorrow today



Over **750** visitors attended  
two free Community Days

More than **50,000** kids in  
our community experienced  
CuriOdyssey



More than **22,400** people had an  
encounter with an animal either on  
or off-site. Over **8,200** of these  
were one-on-one experiences.

CuriOdyssey offers reduced admission and low-cost memberships for qualifying families through the Museums for All initiative. Over **1,300** visitors received reduced-cost admission and **251** families signed up for a membership.



# EDUCATE

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CuriOdyssey created an online platform to bring science to at-home learners.

**408** students attended online science classes for a total of **3,606** classroom hours



**5,098** kids and teachers came to CuriOdyssey for field trips (12% of these were **FREE**)



**80** animals are flourishing under our superb Association of Zoos & Aquariums accredited care

**110,867** people engaged with CuriOdyssey.



It was a challenging year with the coronavirus pandemic and local wildfires that impacted air quality. CuriOdyssey was closed from March 14 through June 23. After reopening, we closed for six days due to air quality issues related to the wildfires. Despite the challenges, CuriOdyssey maintained visitor engagement at 53%.

# VOLUNTEER & CONSERVE

Partnered with numerous organizations for special events and conservation initiatives and research

**7,167** hours of service  
by **203** volunteers  
(equivalent to **3.7**  
full-time employees)



## In Memory of Dr. Betty Cosgrove

Betty volunteered  
at CuriOdyssey  
for 17 years and  
brought joy to  
thousands  
of children



Collaborated with AZA S.A.F.E, Felidae  
Conservation Fund's Bay Area Puma  
Project, FrogWatch USA, Northern  
Pacific Tree Frog Pond, Ringtail  
Research, River Otter Ecology, Urban  
Wildlife Research, and Western Pond  
Turtle Ecology & Conservation Projects



# ARAGON BURLINGHAM

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



On November 11, 2020, the CuriOdyssey Board of Trustees voted to approve Aragon Burlingham as CuriOdyssey's permanent Executive Director. He had been serving as the Interim Executive Director since July 13, 2020.

Aragon has the unique background of having first enjoyed CuriOdyssey as a parent when his children were younger and then serving as a 2019-20 CuriOdyssey Board member, before becoming executive director this year.

Aragon felt honored to “be considered to lead an organization with a near 70-year history that is an incredible gem in the Bay Area. My passion for early science learning was so beautifully aligned with CuriOdyssey, which wants to keep kids passionate about science as they learn using our inquiry - and phenomena-based learning model. All the pieces resonated with me.”

Aragon hit the ground running, starting when CuriOdyssey just reopened after a 3-month closure with greatly reduced staff in the midst of a pandemic. He quickly identified 11 primary goals with input from the board, all of which were completed or on track by the end of his first 90 days. These goals included establishing a sustainable budget, adopting a comprehensive strategic plan and developing his vision for the organization.

Aragon's passion for early childhood science education and the future of CuriOdyssey are evident. Over the next year, he is looking forward to “continuing to strengthen the organization, focusing the team's activities, and laying the groundwork to establish CuriOdyssey as a leader in early science education regionally and nationally.”

When asked about the long-term future of CuriOdyssey, Aragon's face lit up: “I see CuriOdyssey thriving....I envision our new campus having several buildings over

the next few years. Our evolving education portfolio will support teachers, community partners, and children, especially those furthest from opportunity, across the country with virtual delivery options. We'll be building all of these pieces together in the coming years and have fun doing it!"

Aragon tries to reserve Saturdays for family time with Dana and their blended family that includes 4 children, aged 10 to 19. They live on the coast and love the outdoor life. It's "out of the house by 9am with toes in the sand by 9:30am!" They enjoy surfing, boogie boarding, being outside with the family dogs, Poppy and Maverick, and preparing a meal together at the end of the day.

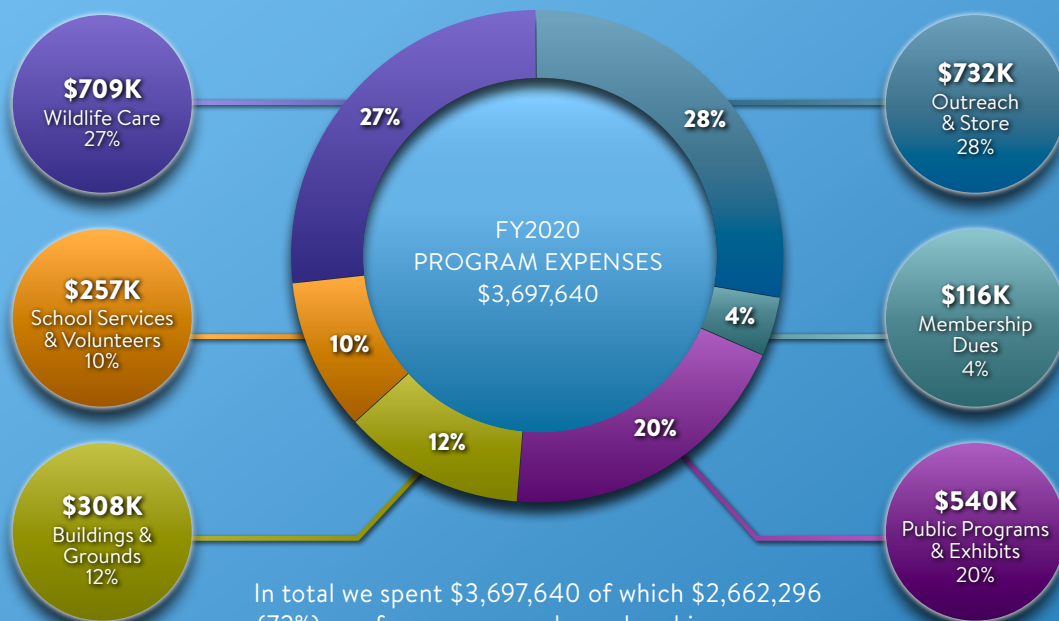
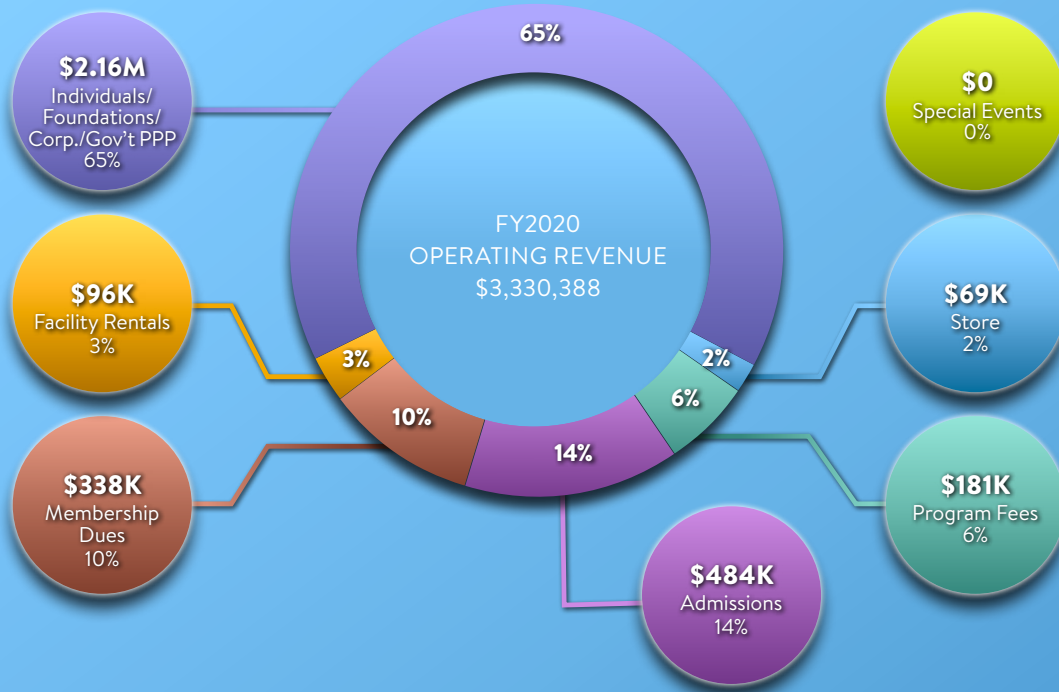
Another way Aragon spends a significant amount of his free time is by volunteering. This personal commitment to volunteer work gives Aragon a deep appreciation for volunteers. "I really value and honor the act of volunteerism and the passion that comes with it. It's a sacrifice, a beautiful one, where you are choosing to give up some of your time with family and friends to do work that is in service of the community. I'm really grateful for what our volunteers do."

CuriOdyssey Board Chair Laurel Miranda was "thrilled" to remove the Interim from Aragon's title. "I feel fortunate the Board was able to find a new Executive Director with the right experience and skillset to lead CuriOdyssey during these challenging times. Aragon has a strong science background, successful management and design-thinking experience, and founded, led and raised significant funds for a nonprofit that specialized in virtual tutoring of at-risk youth by STEM professionals (We Teach Science Foundation). Aragon is an inspiring leader with expertise in both strategy and operations. I think you will also find that he is an exceptional listener who encourages innovation, imagination and collaboration. I know Aragon will do a brilliant job helping us fulfill our mission to inspire love for science and curiosity about the world to create a brighter future."



# FINANCIAL REVIEW

FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2020



In total we spent \$3,697,640 of which \$2,662,296 (72%) was for program and membership expenses and \$1,035,344 (28%) was for administrative and fundraising expenses.

CuriOdyssey saw a 71% increase in Annual Giving (which included a \$577K PPP grant) and a 53% decrease in earned revenue as compared to the prior fiscal year. The expense numbers represented here do not include non-cash adjustments such as in-kind, depreciation and rent expense.



# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING CURIODYSSEY'S EVENTS!

## ***First Friday Family Nights***

continued virtually in 2020! Each first Friday of the month, parents and kids enjoyed a live performer and a talk with a scientist while meeting wildlife or experiencing science up close. **604 viewers** enjoyed these virtual family nights in FY2020.





**THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS** WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE ANNUAL FUND  
BETWEEN 10/1/19 - 9/30/20! YOUR SUPPORT PAVES THE WAY FOR THE NEXT  
GENERATION OF PROBLEM-SOLVERS, INNOVATORS AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
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*Many thanks to all of our generous supporters!*

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Alaska Airlines

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

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Our five grandchildren, Grady, Blakely, Reagan, Ellie, and Luca

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