



CURIODYSSEY IMPACT REPORT

FY2023

CuriOdyssey

SCIENCE
PLAYGROUND
& ZOO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Letter from the Director

2 Our Mission and Values

3 Our Pillars

4 The Year in Review
The CuriOdyssey Experience, Exciting Programs, Access for All, Dedicated Volunteerism, Inspiring Exhibits, Rescued Wildlife, Conservation, CuriOdyssey Campus Campaign

24 Financial Review

25 Donors
Annual Fund, CuriOdyssey Campus Campaign

38 Acknowledgements



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your partnership with us as CuriOdyssey enters its 70th year serving the Bay Area with immersive and impactful hands-on STEM education.

As an organization, our talented and dedicated teams helped us add to a sterling list of accomplishments in 2023, including:

- Our new Bay Gallery & Labs building, part of our campus rebuild project, opened in June, featuring the new ViewPoint Exhibit, showcasing phenomena in the world around us.
- Last summer, we removed both the \$1 ticket fee and the \$35 annual membership fee for our Museums For All programs, which increases access for all Bay Area children and families, regardless of financial means. Eligible families can now visit CuriOdyssey with zero out-of-pocket costs. In addition, we expanded the qualifying criteria for the related Membership For All program, which grants qualifying families free admission for twelve months.
- Our popular special exhibition, IlluminOdyssey, which began its seventh season in November, attracted more than 31,000 visitors.
- Our Sensory Sunday events, held four times a year and designed for guests of all ages who are neurodivergent, attracted 530 attendees. This event was made possible with the support of our partners: Chance to Excel Foundation, AbilityPath, Autism Society San Francisco Bay Area, Magical Bridge Foundation, and the PARCA Auxiliary.
- The Winter 2023 storms dealt a serious blow to our campus with fallen trees, a power outage, flooding, and damage to our buildings and other enclosure. We were closed from March to June, but with support from San Mateo County, private foundations, and individual donations, we were able to repair the damage and reopen once again to serve our community.
- Response to our matching gift challenge helped us raise over \$325,000.

In 2023, despite the storm closures, we welcomed over 107,000 visitors and are well on our way to serving pre-pandemic numbers.

On behalf of the CuriOdyssey staff, board, volunteers, and animals, thank you for your ongoing support, which enabled us to continue our important work this past year, providing accessible, cutting-edge early STEM education to young people in the Bay Area.

With gratitude,



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, school field trips, homeschool programs, and STEMCorps. The four pillars of our STEMCorps approach are: STEM mentors, educator professional development, youth development, and community partnerships.

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.

Accessibility

We firmly believe that justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion are fundamental rights for all and that continuous work and ongoing support are required to create a safe space so that staff, volunteers, and patrons will thrive. We offer several free and reduced-cost programs for youth from under-resourced communities to ensure equitable opportunities to experience our transformative programs. Our work in accessibility also includes our Magical Bridge-designed playground for all abilities as well as Sensory Sundays designed for guests who are neurodivergent or have sensory sensitivities.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



THE CURIODYSSEY EXPERIENCE

A serious science playground

107,218

visitors walked through CuriOdyssey's doors this year despite

14

weeks of closure due to extreme weather and storm-related damage



50,000+

children engaged with CuriOdyssey at our campus or in the community



9

First Friday
Nights

2,212

visitors enjoyed live music, food vendors, educational and exhibit offerings, and animal encounters at this monthly event

EXCITING PROGRAMS

STEAM is interdisciplinary and interwoven into our everyday lives

6,367

children, teachers, and
caregivers served through
school and public programs





6
Camp CuriOdyssey.
programs that
served a record
736
campers



ACCESS FOR ALL

Science education is a right, not a privilege

4,700

visitors received free admission through Museums for All

505

qualified families signed up for a free membership

1,300

visitors received free admission through other discount programs



Sensory Sundays
launched in
July
2023



530

visitors who are
neurodivergent or have
sensory access needs enjoyed
two free afternoons of
museum and zoo exploration



50

volunteers supported
visitors at this event

11%

of Camp CuriOdyssey campers had need and accommodation requests on their registration forms



300+

hours of in-camp support were provided to these campers

88%

of feedback from caregivers highlighted the positive experience of their child, emphasizing feelings of safety, understanding, and support at camp



1,816

individuals received a scholarship for a school program or youth and family program

333%

increase in scholarship participants from FY22

\$64K

of these scholarships were subsidized by contributed revenue



Anonymous Testimonials from Camp Scholarship Families

“I’m so grateful and honored that you have provided these unique opportunities for my daughters that we would not have been able to provide. They are both lovers of nature and all life, from the smallest bug, to the biggest sea creatures. They go from climbing trees and collecting special plant and stone tokens every day on their walks to/from school. It is so special and lucky that they get to have that natural interest cultivated further, especially through CuriOdyssey, a place they love.”

“My daughter had an amazing time at the camp. Something that she would not have been able to experience without the scholarship program. She is usually shy and even though she had not one friend in sight, she was still very excited to attend camp each day and hated to leave at the end of the day. It caused us to visit more and when I discovered the Membership for All program, I did not hesitate to apply.”

“Thank you for providing this opportunity to the local youth. I have wanted to send my girls to the camp for years, but it was not within our budget.”



CURIODYSSEY
STEM  **CORPS**

50

students served in the
STEMCorps Mentor
Program

12

high school youth served in
the pilot Youth Leadership
Development Program

223

students served through our
Community Partnerships

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteers are critical to our success

250

volunteers

8,810

hours of service

4.6

Full-Time Equivalent
(FTE)





15,000+

personalized
interactions for
families and groups

\$303,000

estimated value
in FTE work

\$34.39

estimated value
per hour



INSPIRING EXHIBITS

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

23,751

visitors explored
IlluminOdyssey
(November 4, 2022-January
9, 2023)

6

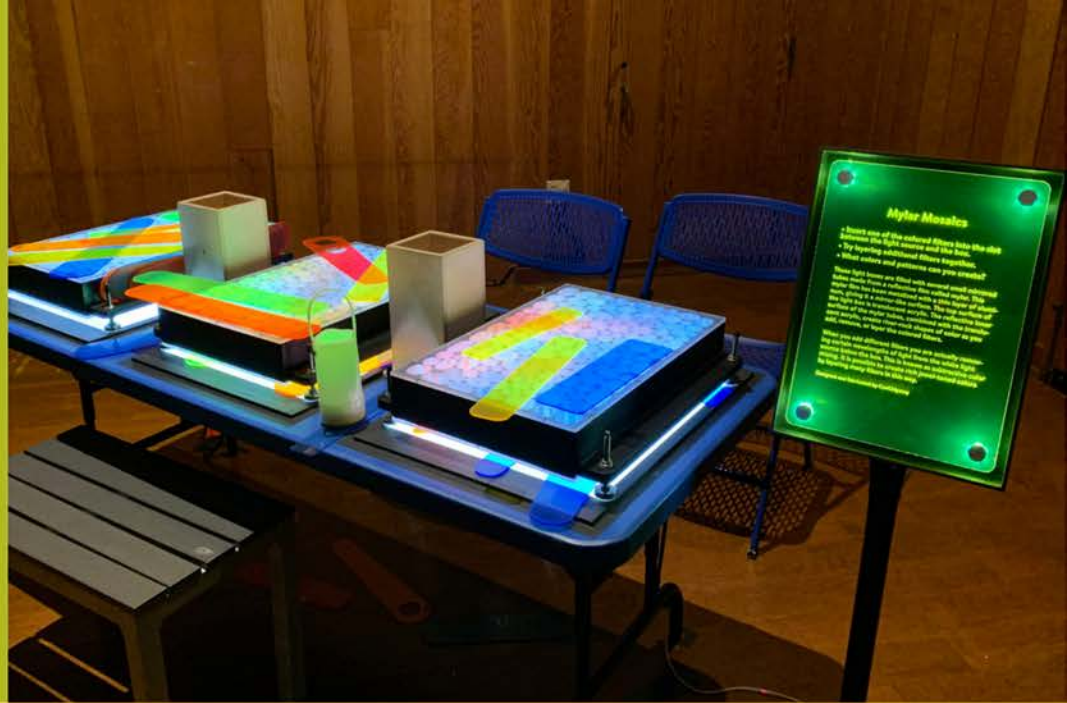
years of IlluminOdyssey,
our beloved winter light
science experience

24%

increase in
IlluminOdyssey visitors
over the previous year



Added self-illuminated graphic content to center the science behind IlluminOdyssey.



15

new exhibits as part of ViewPoint, the first permanent, and largest, exhibition built in-house in over six years



Fall into Science, a new seasonal exhibition, was launched featuring new exhibits such as Pepper's Ghost, Haunted Paintings, and the return of autumn decor including flower arrangements, carved jack-o-lanterns on pikes, singing pumpkins, and more!



RESCUED WILDLIFE

Accredited care, conservation, protection, and education



63

animals



38

species

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

CONSERVATION

To inspire hope to heal the planet through collaborative learning, action, and inclusion



12

grants awarded as a part
of our expanded
conservation grants
program

25

community members
attended our Bioblitz event,
co-hosted with San Mateo
Parks as a part of the Bay
Area Nature Challenge

60+

people in attendance when
CuriOdyssey co-presented
at the AZA conference on
SAFE strategies for
western pond turtles

CuriOdyssey is a participating partner and member of the
Veterinary Working Group for the Wildlife Trafficking Alliance



Revitalized the pollinator garden and accompanying educational signs and created new painted lady butterfly diorama with planned butterfly release days



Began strategic mapping design for conservation trail on CuriOdyssey grounds that will help connect exhibits to the zoo. The intent is to create an "integrative science story path" as visitors walk around the facility.

CURIODYSSEY CAMPUS CAMPAIGN

A world-class center for early science learning in San Mateo County

Bay Gallery & Labs
opened

June
2023

First new building
added to campus in

30
years

Included upgraded landscaping with pathlighting and outdoor
gathering spaces for teaching and events



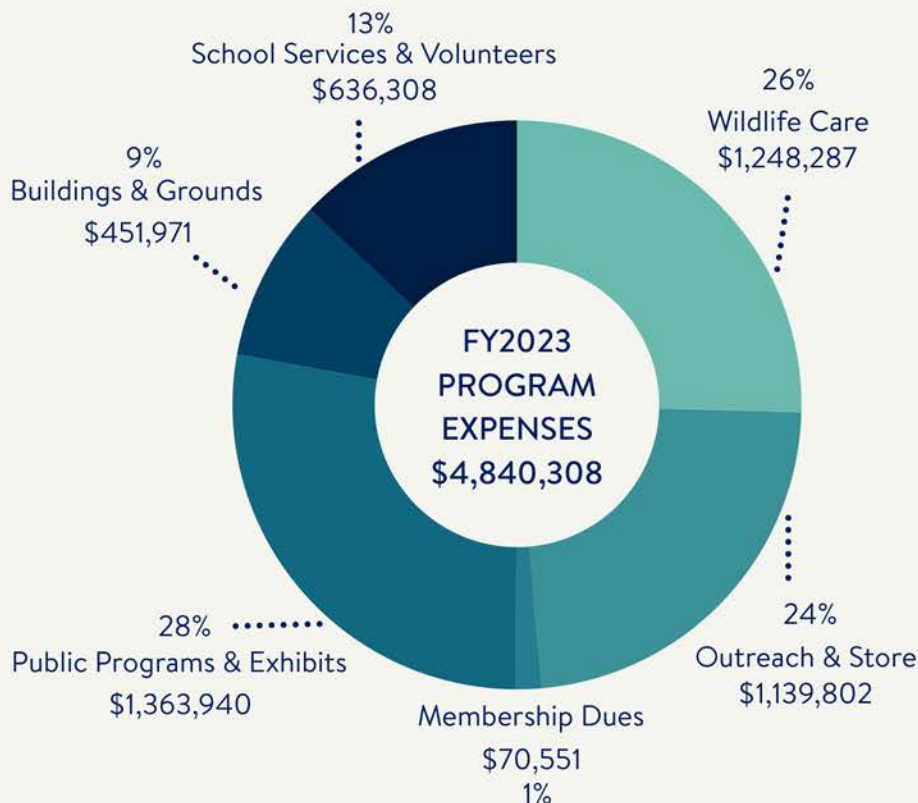
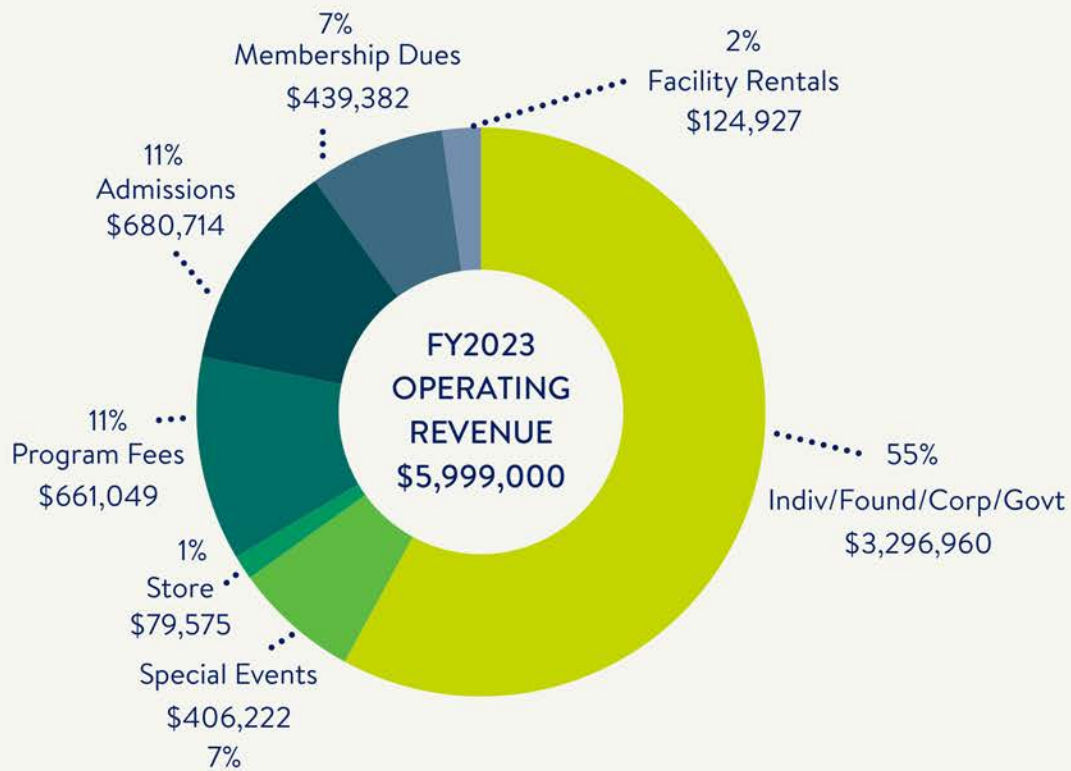
1,023

visitors experienced
the Bay Gallery & Labs
on opening day



FINANCIAL REVIEW

FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2023



In total we spent \$6,305,407, of which \$4,840,308 (77%) was for Program Expenses and \$1,483,087 (23%) was for Supporting Expenses. Prior to the pandemic, nearly 200,000 (unaudited) children and families visited the Organization each year to observe the native California animals and experiment with scientific phenomena. The long-term effects of the pandemic, combined with an emergency 11-week closure during the year, led to a 45% decrease (unaudited) in visitation from pre-pandemic levels over the period October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

DONORS



Did you know that our lesser hedgehog tenrec's closest relatives are otter shrews and golden moles? They are not related to hedgehogs at all. Tenrecs and hedgehogs are a great example of convergent evolution, which is when animals evolve similar solutions to similar problems. Despite not being closely related, they both likely evolved their similar spiny armor in response to needing a way to protect themselves from predators.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTED BETWEEN 10/1/2022– 9/30/2023!

Your support paves the way for the next generation of problem-solvers, innovators,
and environmental stewards who will change and shape our world.

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

County of San Mateo
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The David and Lucile Packard
Foundation
The Anne Wojcicki Foundation

\$50,000 AND ABOVE

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\$1,000 AND ABOVE

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VMware Foundation (Employee
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Jessica Yu and Nicholas Tompkins

\$250 AND ABOVE

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Beato

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTED BETWEEN 10/1/2022– 9/30/2023!

Your support paves the way for the next generation of problem-solvers, innovators,
and environmental stewards who will change and shape our world.

REDWOOD SOCIETY

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

Julia Bott
Laurel Brinkman
Thomas and Joan Brown
Susan and John Carver
Sharon and Joel Friedman
Paul E. Hazelrig Jr., MD and Victoria Hull Hazelrig
Dale and Sue Kocienski
Linda and Sterling Lanier
Lorry I. Lokey
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Suze Moon
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Osborne
Raptor Conservancy of Virginia
Constance Sevier
Mrs. Edwin Taylor
Terri Tienken
In Memory of Marie Travis
Diana Turner
Margaret G. Utterback Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Way
Penny Wilkins and Paul Grishaber

GIFT-IN-KIND

Alexander Valley Vineyards
Evelyn Chung
Julia Feldman and Oliver Medzihridsky
Par 3 at Poplar Creek
Seagen

***Many thanks to all of
our generous supporters!***



GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OF

Jessi Allen & Arrott Harrington

given by Laine Harrington, Lee Harrington, Kathy Howard, Genie Swyers

Mary Allendorph

given by Anonymous

Betty & Fred Barnes

given by Pamela & John Garvic

Logan & Suode Bauer

given by Bilige Suode & John Bauer

Charlotte & Levi Becerra

given by Alfredo Becerra & Rachel Naishtut

Kyte & EverBella Bediako

given by Kwadwo & Erin Bediako

Abigail Bernhardt

given by Jessica Bernhardt & Theodore Goldstein

Mateo Cabiles, Jr.

given by CherryLynn Cabiles

Evelyn Calihan

given by Laura & Arjun Kurpad

Anne Campbell

given by Gail & Martin Harband

Anne Campbell & Michelle Green

given by Karen & Dallan Clancy

Lee, Joan, & Jen

given by Donald & Omneya Walton

Summer Chang

given by Grace Omoto

Charlotte

given by Anonymous

Tim & Kate Christian

given by Kevin & Helen Christian

Sam Clark

given by Michael Keller

Lola Saning Dayrit

given by Christina D. Kessler

Catherine Foster

given by La Donna Ford

Jennifer Gale

given by Anonymous, Douglas Williams & Madelyn Bedig-Williams

Anita Galeana

given by Steve Epstein

Maureen Garrett

given by Vinney Arora

Sara Hannigan

given by Anonymous

The Lankton Family

given by Barbara Lankton

Christopher Johnson

given by Brian & Joan Johnson

Mary Kittredge

given by Darlene Rickert

Audrey Kronkright

given by Cynthia Lee

David Kurpad

given by David & Rachel Kammeyer

Linda Lanier

given by Leslie & Mike Trigg

In support of Latino & other children of color in our area

given by Pablo & Silvana Quintanilla

The Lorton Family

given by Paul Lorton, Jr.

Crosby Lund

given by Darlene Rickert

Emmy Lund

given by Darlene Rickert

Keegan Lund

given by Darlene Rickert

Allison MacQueen

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Doron Markus

given by Abi Karlin-Resnick & Andy Cheng

Ryden Maschwitz & Violet & Xavier Chiou

given by Victor & Alice Chiou

Candace Mikler

given by Anonymous

Isabel Miranda

given by La Donna Ford, Dipika Khanna, Lisa Valerio

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given by Bob & Cindy Chase, Stephanie Domingo, Jill & Christopher Escher, Jane Gardner, Jessica Hickingbotham, Kate & George Korsh, Jeffrey & Christine Krolik, Anne & Matt Lynde, Mairin D. Macaluso, Lou & Marci Palatella, Rebecca Ranninger & Marc Owen, Lisa Valerio, Amy & John Wang



GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OF

Nana Moon

given by Rick & Echo Wodarczyk

Ada Phoenix

given by Chris Phoenix & Jane Rieder

Liz Pinegar

given by Darlene Rickert

Jean-Paul Pitre

given by Steve & Elizabeth Hrudey

Mary Prouty

given by Jason & Rachel Simpson

Nisha Razak & Hakim Razzak

given by Anonymous

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