



# CURIODYSSEY IMPACT REPORT

FY2025

CuriOdyssey®

SCIENCE  
PLAYGROUND  
& ZOO

# MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

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Dear Friends,

What an incredible year it has been at CuriOdyssey—one marked by curiosity, resilience, and possibility.

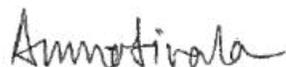
Every day, our campus buzzes with discovery. Children gather around our animal ambassadors, ask big questions about the natural world, and test their ideas through hands-on science. Families return again and again because CuriOdyssey is a place where learning feels joyful, accessible, and alive. Programs like camps, field trips, mentorship opportunities, and community access initiatives continue to spark moments that can change how young people see science—and themselves.

Equity and access remain at the heart of our work. Through initiatives such as Museums for All, camp scholarships, Sensory Sundays, and partnerships with schools across diverse communities, we are intentionally removing barriers to participation. We are committed to meeting our community members where they are and opening doors to science, wildlife, and environmental learning for all, because curiosity belongs to everyone.

This year also reflected a period of change. As an organization, we embraced these transitions with creativity and care. We commend our Board of Directors for its thoughtful leadership and steady momentum, and our staff and volunteers, whose ability to adapt, collaborate, and innovate ensure that CuriOdyssey remains a welcoming place of wonder and belonging.

Your generosity fuels programs, expands access, and empowers young people with the curiosity, confidence, and problem-solving skills they will need in a rapidly changing world. Together, we are building a future where learning is hands-on, inclusive, and inspiring—and where every child can imagine themselves as a scientist, a steward, or a changemaker. Thank you for being part of the CuriOdyssey community and for walking alongside us on this ambitious journey.

With gratitude,



Ashish Motivala  
Chair of the Board of Directors



Melissa Felder  
Interim Executive Director



## OUR MISSION

We inspire a 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.

# BY THE NUMBERS

A serious science playground with real impact

# 186,245

visitors came to  
CuriOdyssey this year

# 90%

of our pre-pandemic  
attendance

# 90,000

children engaged with  
CuriOdyssey on our campus  
and in schools, community  
organizations, and at  
community events

# 17,629

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

CuriOdyssey offers free  
admission and membership for  
qualifying families through the  
Museums for All Initiative.

More than

# 9,580

received free admission and

# 1,789

families signed up for a free  
Membership for All

# 377

volunteers contributed over

# 12,900

hours of service, equal to an  
estimated value of

# \$448,800

# WILDLIFE

Accredited care, conservation, protection, and education

**63**  
animals

**39**  
species

We welcomed 3 new species this year:

Ball Python  
Azure-winged Magpie  
Fulvous Whistling Duck

As an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), CuriOdyssey collaborated with the AZA community this year to welcome three azure-winged magpies. This acquisition marks our first intentional addition of non-native exhibit animals and represents an important expansion of CuriOdyssey's role in global conservation.

We also partnered with a local reptile rescue organization to add a ball python to its Animal Ambassador Program. Known for its calm temperament, this larger snake species is particularly well-suited for ambassador work, allowing guests to engage more closely with reptiles while fostering understanding and respect for these animals.

In addition, CuriOdyssey worked in collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Wildlife Trafficking Alliance on two separate occasions to provide temporary care for confiscated wildlife: for a male kinkajou, held temporarily at CuriOdyssey and then transferred to another AZA-accredited facility, and for a female North American raccoon that had been illegally kept as a pet. CuriOdyssey was able to provide a permanent home for this animal within its North American raccoon exhibit.

Visitor engagement remained strong across exhibits, with ducks continuing to be a perennial favorite. Often familiar to children through books, toys, and media, ducks naturally capture attention when observed in a live setting. The centrally located pond within the walk-through aviary offers excellent viewing opportunities, while the presence of multiple duck species contributes to increased activity and vocalization, enhancing the overall visitor experience.



# CONSERVATION

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



# 5

grants awarded to local organizations for critical conservation work

CuriOdyssey serves as a co-leader of the American Zoo Association's Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE) Western pond turtle program. The western pond turtle is the only remaining freshwater turtle species native to California.

CuriOdyssey's veterinary team provides critical health care for the animals housed at our facility. In addition to our regular health check-ups for all animals, we conducted 116 medical diagnostic tests as well as 98 exams on animals presenting with a medical concern or requiring a follow-up exam.

We consulted with veterinarians at 10 additional Northern California facilities on cases that required additional specialty in radiology, oncology, nutrition, and surgical treatment.

Lastly, as a testament to CuriOdyssey's dedication to optimizing well-being throughout an animal's life, our team regularly conducts quality-of-life assessments which help us understand the welfare of our animals as they age or live with chronic medical conditions.

# 155

regular health check-ups for all animals

# 57

preventative health exams



CuriOdyssey renewed its support as a partner of the American Zoo Association's Wildlife Trafficking Alliance (WTA). WTA is an organization that works closely with state and federal agencies, and other conservation partners to reduce - and eventually eliminate - the illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products. CuriOdyssey also serves on the veterinary working group for the Wildlife Trafficking Alliance.



CuriOdyssey's Conservation Department cultivated a partnership with UC Master Gardeners, with volunteers generously sharing their time and expertise to guide the planning and maintenance of our native garden revitalization initiative.

# EDUCATION

Learning that sparks lifelong wonder

Camp sessions at CuriOdyssey continue to inspire the next generation of explorers. This year we welcomed 512 campers and the largest Leaders-in-Training cohort in our history, with 41 teenagers volunteering for a combined 6,000 hours of service.

Our Camp Inclusion Team ensures that every child is supported in ways that allow them to fully engage, grow, and thrive at camp. This year, we spent a combined 1,650+ hours in camp providing accommodations and individualized support to 92 campers. In a survey sent to families served by the Camp Inclusion Team, 94% of respondents said their child felt included, understood, and comfortable asking for help during camp.

## 3,290

children received a scholarship for a school program or youth and family program, our largest number of recipients to date.

## 30%

of Education Program participants attended on a scholarship

## 66

organizations received scholarships for field trips or science workshops





The STEMCorps Mentor Program connected

20

student mentees with STEM professionals, providing each mentee with 10+ hours of hands-on STEM learning and career guidance.

81%

of mentees agreed that their mentor helped them enjoy science

93%

of mentees said that they liked the STEM Mentor program

STEMCorps empowers under-resourced youth to pursue STEM learning opportunities. Through informal mentoring sessions between youth and STEM professionals, leadership opportunities for students of color, professional development programs for educators serving under-resourced youth, and community partnerships, STEMCorps strives to create new pathways and inspire BIPOC students to explore STEM-related careers. Developing future generations of diverse, science-fluent critical thinkers is essential as we face serious global challenges.

# INSPIRING EXHIBITS

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

This year, our exhibitions team continued to push the boundaries of hands-on learning through cross-departmental collaboration and innovative design. By blending science, nature, and sensory discovery, we created experiences that invite visitors of all ages to engage more deeply with the world around them.

A major highlight was the collaborative work with the Conservation Department, which led to two innovative installations. The "Root Viewer" exhibit allows visitors to closely examine the complex root structures of living plants, offering a unique perspective on subterranean biology. Another notable creation is "Sound of Wood," an auditory experience that lets visitors explore and compare the different tones and acoustics produced by various species of native California trees.

Additionally, we continued to enhance our winter lights science exhibition, IlluminOdyssey, by introducing new exhibits, including a mesmerizing example where visitors can create a kaleidoscope of color using polarized light.

In addition to our new exhibits, we also rebuilt or refurbished 4 of our existing classic exhibits. Each of our exhibits is custom-made here at CuriOdyssey. Our collection reflects our commitment to transforming observation into discovery and sparking wonder long after visitors leave.

# 11

new exhibits created by our talented staff for visitors to experience

Fall into Science was launched for its second year as a seasonal exhibition, highlighting Halloween illusion science and the return of other offerings, such as the Bone Zone, carnivorous plants, and autumn decor.



# IlluminOdysey

Celebrating the eighth year of our extraordinary "Science of Light" exhibit



# 37,808

visitors explored  
IlluminOdysey  
contributing to a record  
17 days of 1,000+ visitor  
attendance

Many thanks to the generous sponsors who made  
this season of IlluminOdysey possible:



# NEW EXPERIENCES

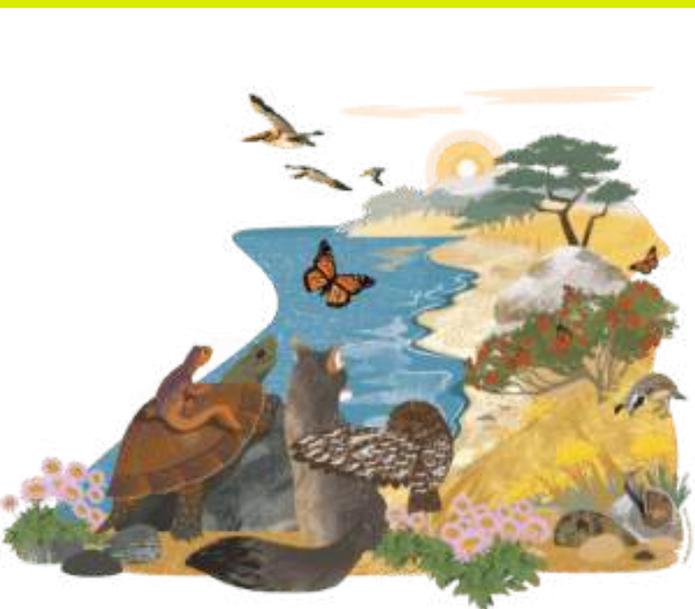
Launching innovative ways for visitors of all ages to explore

We were thrilled to launch two new experiences this year: the Nature Story Loop and Nature Play Garden, additions that invite families and visitors of all ages to share their connections with the natural world, as well as hear the sounds and voices of others doing the same.

The Nature Story Loop is a self-guided storybook trail and each stop along the loop highlights a unique environmental theme. The trail teaches about climate justice, biodiversity, and even the mental health benefits of time outdoors.

As families journey through the trail, you might spot a familiar plant, hear birdsong, or learn something new from a red-legged frog. Available in English and Spanish, this storytelling experience is part of our growing Conservation Trail—an evolving journey through our campus that links science, sensory experiences, and the real animals that are in our care. Along the trail, we invite guests to share images and stories that capture their own personal nature experiences. These visitor reflections will become part of a shared, community-powered archive that celebrates our relationships with the environment.

The Nature Play Garden focuses on biodiversity, environmental justice, soil health, and climate resilience, while offering a great opportunity for children and caretakers to indulge their green thumbs and cultivate a love of native plants and pollinators. Volunteers are onsite help identify plants and encourage kids to use all their senses to explore the space.



# SENSORY SUNDAYS

Creating welcoming experiences for every young explorer

Sensory Sundays are for visitors who are neurodivergent or have sensory access needs, and provide a free afternoon of museum and zoo exploration, science activities, storytime, pop-up exhibits, and animal encounters.

**1,042**  
visitors over  
4 events



Many thanks to the generous sponsors who made Sensory Sundays possible this year:





**11**

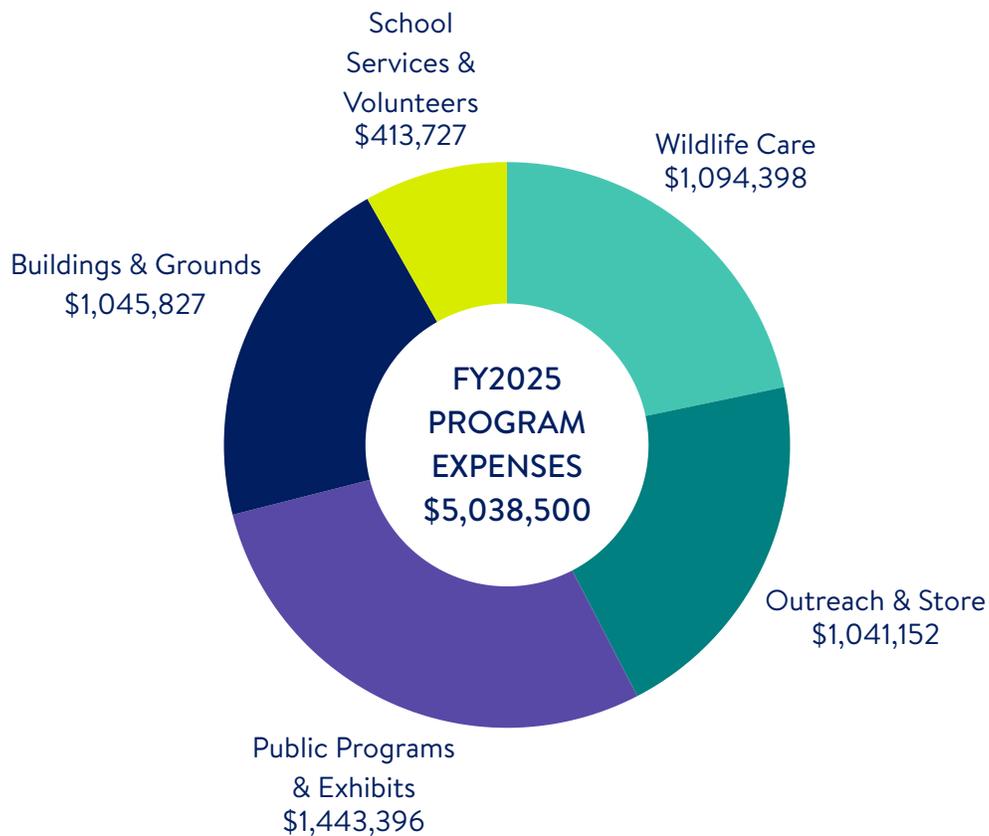
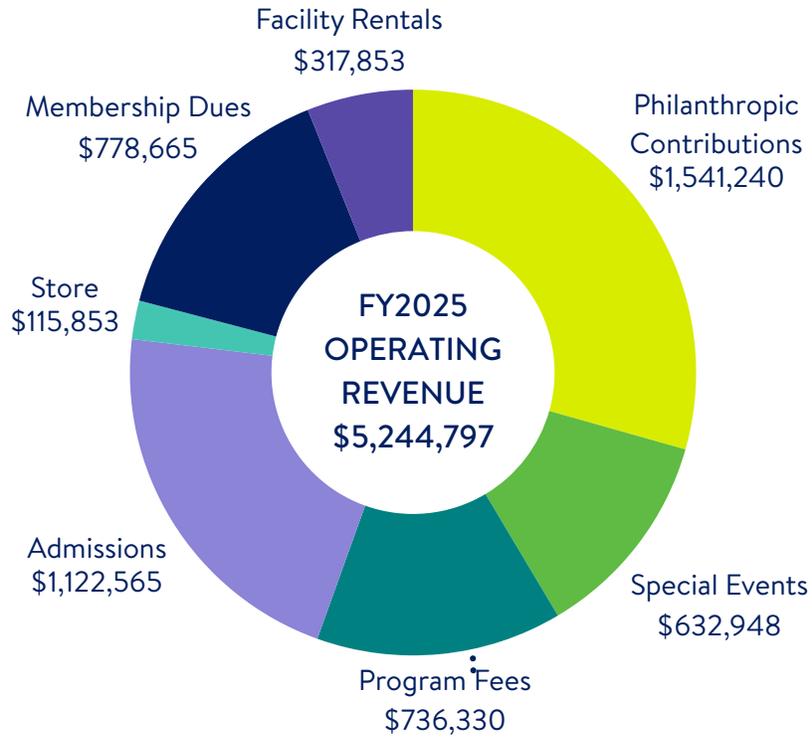
First Friday  
Nights

**5,037**

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

# FINANCIAL REVIEW

FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2024 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2025



# WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Recognizing contributions received between 10/1/2024–9/30/2025

## **\$100,000+**

The Eric Lillybeck Living Trust  
Laurel and Steven Miranda  
Ashish Motivala and  
Nilofer Motiwala  
The David and  
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## **\$50,000-\$99,999**

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## **\$25,000-\$49,999**

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Katherine Hagey  
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## **\$5,000-\$9,999**

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Nilu Motiwala  
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Bessie and Billy Seybold  
Scott M. Shambarger  
David and Jayne Sungail  
Harrison and Marilyn Tempest

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

## \$2,500-\$4,999

Nisha Ahluwalia and Amit Vyas  
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Pria and Annamma Zachariah

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Laurel Brinkman

Thomas and Joan Brown

Susan and John Carver

Sharon and Joel Friedman

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