

**Believe.
Achieve.
Lead.**



OceanDiscoveryInstitute.org

Transforming lives, communities, & the world.



Shara Fisler
Founder & Executive Director

Dear Supporters,

In this unique and challenging landscape, we have leaned on one another more than ever before. I am grateful that you have been there for us. Our donors acted quickly to contribute flexible funding, our partners were immediately ready for increased efforts to meet escalating needs, our parent volunteers shifted to provide input virtually (often using technology for the first time), and our students are continuing to persevere amidst the chaos.

This moment will pass and while we are responding to the needs of students and families during a global pandemic, we remain committed to our mission of transforming young lives through science.

While the bulk of this annual report is focused on 2019,

our minds are in the present moment. As I take this opportunity to reflect upon last year, I recognize that we celebrated organizational and student accomplishments, and laid the groundwork for our ability to respond to this and future crises.

And because of your commitment, we are now poised to do more. Our partner teachers have shared that they need support in providing science activities to spark their students desire to learn more in all subjects. Our families have shared that their kids desperately need academic help, hands-on learning, and the supportive community of friends and mentors they have developed at Ocean Discovery.

Today we are preparing robust programming for the future so that when the pandemic is over

we can do more than “return to normal”. Even before COVID-19 took hold, our students were being excluded from opportunities to gain entry into the high-paying fields of science and conservation. That lack of opportunity is now greater than ever. We have to do more – serve more young people and create greater impact.

This is a challenging time for everyone – emotionally and financially. We know that giving this year may be more difficult. But we are confident that with your continued support, our students will be able to count on Ocean Discovery.

Gratefully,

Shara Fisler
Founder & Executive Director

The Mission

Ocean Discovery Institute uses ocean science to empower young people from underserved urban communities of color to transform their lives, their community, and our world as science and conservation leaders.

Students like Melody and Xiomarra participate in tuition-free summer camps. They have become close friends and love getting help with their homework at the Living Lab. Because of this, they are achieving in school.



The Problem

Today, due to societal inequities many young people of color in our country live in poverty and lack opportunities to succeed. One of these glaringly absent opportunities is access to rigorous science education.

Because of this, young people who grow up in under-served communities don't believe science is something they can do or that a scientist is someone they can be. This keeps individuals of color out of high earning careers in science and conservation, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and significantly diminishing the chance for great scientific discoveries.



Ocean Discovery exclusively reaches young people with the greatest needs. In fact, 94% of participants receive Food Aid. Pictured here, two 2nd graders get to use scientific tools they otherwise wouldn't have access to.



Students like Ahiram grow up and defy the odds. Ahiram began his participation in middle school and is now an Associate Scientist. Today, Ahiram is researching cures for cancer.

Our Solution

Ocean Discovery Institute provides continuous science opportunities, paired with mentoring and the tools to overcome barriers so that young people unlock their potential.

All programming is 100% tuition-free and provided along a young person's entire development from kindergarten to career. This focus on one community, City Heights, is what is required to empower young people to transform their lives through science.

Our Outcomes

Our students break the cycle of poverty and make our world a better place.

These young people believe a scientist is someone they can be. They achieve and become leaders who commit to science and encourage others. Their achievements have resulted in Ocean Discovery's receipt of The White House's *Presidential Award for Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring*.



6,612 Students, out of 10,000 students in our community, participated in ocean science programs.



14 schools received rigorous science that they otherwise would not have access to.



100% received tuition-free but not commitment-free programs.



52,936 hours of program services were provided.

The Impact



INCREASED KNOWLEDGE

Students who participate in intensive out-of-school programs have an **average GPA of 3.6** as compared to the average 2.5GPA at the local high school.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

These students are **6 times more likely to graduate college** than their peers.

LEADING IN STEM

And **29%** of them have entered careers in **STEM**, where only **1%** of their peers nationwide achieve the same success.

Our Work

Our students, like seeds who grow into tall trees, begin full of potential but with limited opportunity.

Over time, we provide science experiences, mentoring, and tools to overcome barriers that allow students to grow into science and conservation leaders like tall trees given the space and resources to thrive.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL



COLLEGE



CAREER

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

3 hands-on experiences per year (in their classroom, in a coastal watershed habitat, and at the Living Lab) that culminate in an 8th grade capstone project.

Experiences include: exploring tide pools, observing plankton under a microscope, conducting water quality experiments, analyzing climate change data, advocating for environmental justice.

Dialogues with scientists and alumni about pursuing science in the face of barriers.

Experiences include: Discussing impostor experience with renowned physicist, participating in a panel of alumni sharing the power of community.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Homework help and academic skill building.

Ocean habitat-based after-school and summer camps

Experiences include: conducting kelp forest predation experiments, collecting wetlands data alongside environmental scientists.

Project-based after-school and summer camps

Experiences include: conducting a marine debris study, programming a remotely operated vehicle.

Math and science tutoring, mentoring, and college and career readiness.

Intensive research-based leadership programs

Experiences include: monitoring sea turtle populations in Baja California, using environmental and economic data to understand fisheries management.

Internships and Fellowships

Experiences include: conducting lab research at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, teaching marine science at Ocean Discovery Institute.

Science and conservation leaders who mentor, volunteer, give financially, and make a difference in our world.

FY 2019 Financials

By developing a highly diversified donor base, made up of national and local foundations, government agencies, corporations, and deeply committed individual donors, Ocean Discovery Institute is able to ensure the continued sustainability and future expansion of programming.

To see the full list of Ocean Discovery Institute supporters, please visit OceanDiscoveryInstitute.org/supporters



OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE FINANCIAL STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Revenues, gains, and other support

Corporate Contributions	\$ 122,594
Foundation Contributions	\$ 862,187
Government Contributions	\$ 708,615
Individual Contributions	\$ 252,219
Fundraising Events	\$ 415,710
Other	\$ 316,672

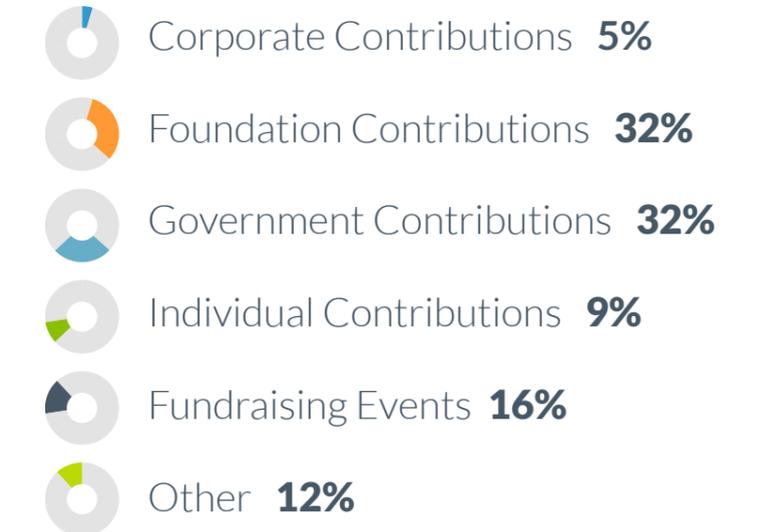
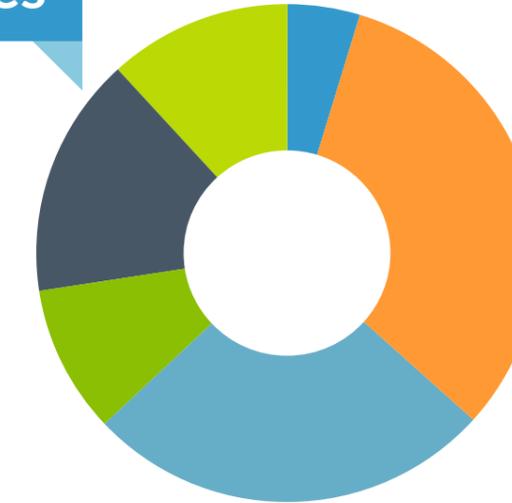
Total Revenues, gains, and other support \$ 2,677,997

Expenses

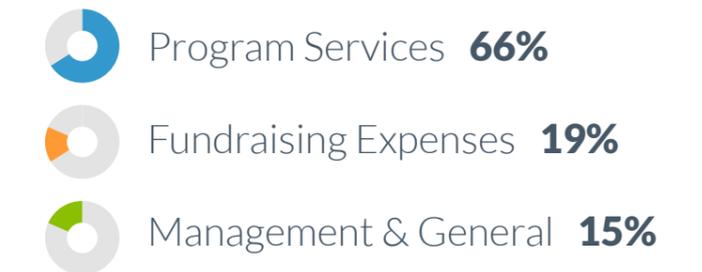
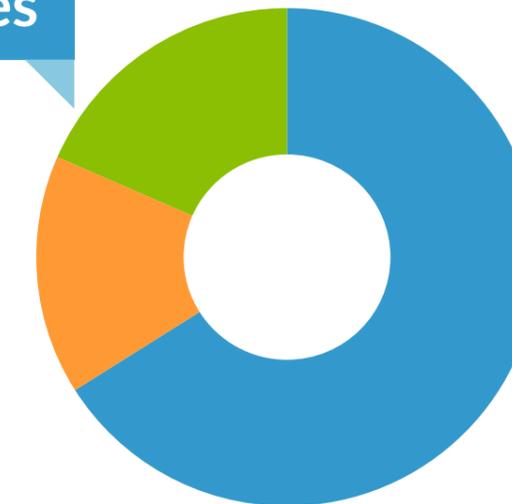
Program Services	\$ 1,549,218
Management and General	\$ 365,257
Fundraising	\$ 437,557

Total Expenses \$ 2,352,032

Revenue Categories



Expense Categories



Our Response to COVID-19

COVID-19 has undoubtedly refocused our day-to-day operations, but not our long-term goals and mission.

As we continue to provide immediate services to our community, we are simultaneously preparing our systems and curriculum for our return to full operations. At that time, we will be able to maximize the number of students we reach, as well as the quality of programming they will receive.



Denise, a Discovery Fellow, grew up in City Heights and she is committed to giving back during this time.

Stage 1

Rapid crisis response to address critical needs of student and families including provision of STEM-to-go supplies, one-on-one mentoring through virtual platforms, and technology training for students to get online and learning.

Stage 2

Launch programs to accommodate online learning and/or physical distancing. Our partner teachers and families have expressed that their children desperately need science activities to spark their desire to learn and academic help provided by their Ocean Discovery mentors.

Stage 3

Do more than just “return to normal”. Our students are being excluded from opportunities to gain entry into the high-paying fields of science and conservation. That lack of opportunity is now greater than ever. We are preparing a suite of robust programming to double the number of students served and increase program impacts.

Community Action



Thank you to our Family Advisory Committee for continuing their meetings online and discussing important learning opportunity for our kids.

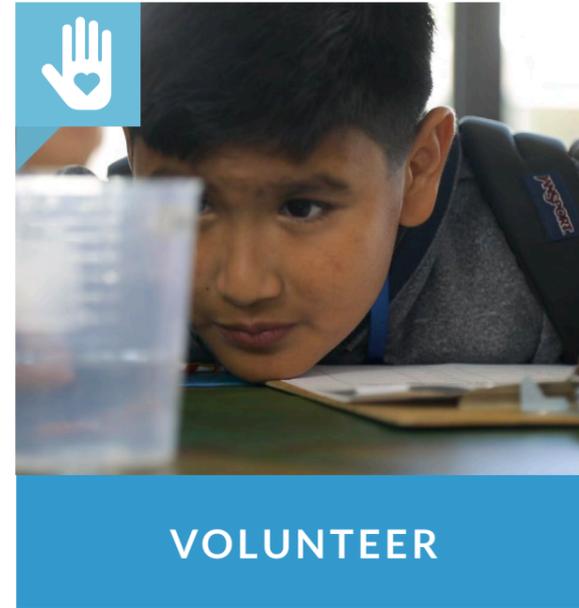


Thank you to Price Philanthropies for donating 80 Google Chromebooks to our students.



Thank you to Feeding San Diego for providing thousands of meals to feed families in our community.





To learn more about how to get involved, visit us at
www.OceanDiscoveryInstitute.org



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