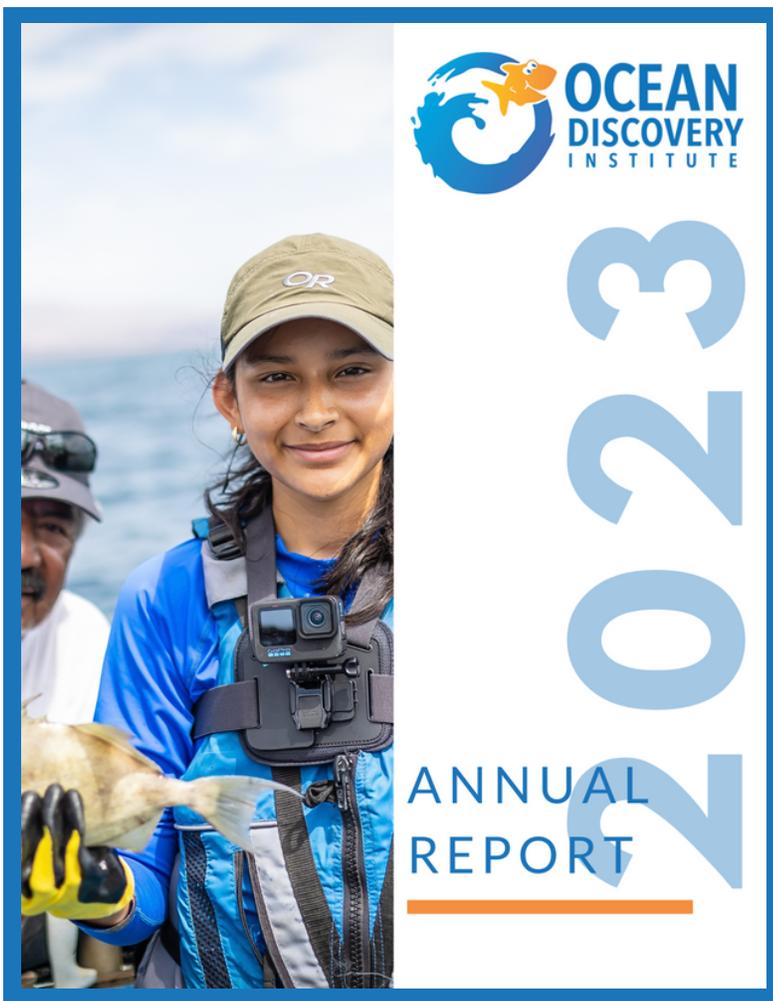




NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter provides an opportunity to catch up on some of our organizational highlights. Here is a four-minute read of this past month's exciting news:

OUR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT IS HERE!



Check out our achievements, milestones, and the impact we've made over the past year.

Some of the highlights include:

- **5,826 students engaged**
- **44,876 hours** of classroom provided by our in-school program
- **18,782 hours** of programming provided by our out-of-school team
- **100% of our Ocean Leaders** enroll in higher education

In addition, the 2023 Annual Report includes spotlights, appreciation, amazing statistics, and many more reasons why you should stay involved with Ocean Discovery Institute!

[Click Here to Read Our Annual Report](#)



OCEAN LEADER TEAM VISITS ANSEP



Program Manager Carolina Barraza and College & Career Specialist Christina Contreras from the Ocean Leader Program traveled to Anchorage, Alaska, to visit our partner, the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP).

They were invited to attend ANSEP's annual celebration event, where 1,500 students, family members, staff, and partners gather to honor student graduates and acknowledge partners and donors. Ocean Discovery Institute was recognized among ANSEP's partners and gifted real Whale baleen, representing Alaskan Native culture.

Last summer, two Ocean Leader alumni, Zayra Meza ('20) and Demian Rodriguez ('18), joined an ANSEP internship in DC. Zayra and Demian represented Ocean Discovery well in the internship program and were invited to the ANSEP celebration.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



ALUMBRA FOUNDATION SUMMIT



Our Manager of Business Development and Ocean Leader alumna, Carla Camacho, was invited to attend the Alumbra Innovation Foundation Summit in La Paz, Mexico. They brought together non-profits from across the globe, including the Bahamas, Mexico, Hawaii, Wyoming, and California!



The purpose of this summit was to foster relationships, community building, and cross-learning among these inspiring organizations, all while experiencing the magic of Place-Based Teaching and Learning! Thank you, Alumbra, for this special invitation!

IN - SCHOOL PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

We are near the middle of the academic school year, and our In-School Program has already impacted over 3,600 students!

Thousands of 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 8th-grade classes in the Hoover Cluster have participated, and currently, our 5th graders are focusing on wetland ecosystems. They are tasked to design and build a model of a remotely operated vehicle to clean up wetlands.



Go Awesome!

ALEXA - RISE FELLOWSHIP



Our Program Coordinator, Alexa Labaun, is a RISE Fellow; below is what she'd like to share with all of us.

“The RISE San Diego – Urban Leadership Fellowship is centered around and grounded in community and aims to enhance the leaders within them. We have been exploring various topics that range between technical and personal, that help us identify the ‘why’ behind our actions and how they apply personally and professionally. Through coaching and mentorship, I have been able to work toward my personal and professional goals and recognize the parallels between them. We are also tasked with creating a Community Action Project that encompasses our lived experiences and leadership practices to be in service for and with our community. Through this fellowship, I have learned to look inward before looking out to better understand my approach in leadership roles.”



CITY HEIGHTS MULTI-CULTURAL FESTIVAL OF LOVE

This year, we had the honor of supporting the City Heights Multi-Cultural Festival of Love! We had a great time meeting with the City Heights families.

The day was full of live entertainment, a delightful variety of food, and plenty of fun! Check out the event pictures on the City Heights Festival of Love Facebook page for a visual recap.



[@CityHeightsFestivalofLove](https://www.facebook.com/CityHeightsFestivalofLove)



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To inspire the next generation of science leaders, Ocean Discovery Institute creates learning experiences for young people traditionally excluded from science due to race, income status, and educational opportunity. Our students will join high-paying fields, break generational poverty, and change the future of science.