

# PUGET SOUND ESTUARIUM 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After the last two years of adapting to the circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic with hybrid and virtual programs, we returned to primarily in person programming in 2022. We made some amazing accommodations and adaptations during the pandemic which allowed us to continue to serve our community, but there is really no substitute for hands-on experiential environmental education. It was such a pleasure for our educators and volunteers to be engaging again, directly with the public at our programs. Busing was still an issue for schools in 2022, so for several K-12 field trips, we brought the estuaries into the classrooms with our estuary curriculum kits. We also returned in person, in the field for many of our K-12 field trips including Estuary Life and Landforms and On the Water which both served 100% more students than in any previous year. In total, we served over 4,500 K-12 youth in 2022.

As a compliment to the success of our K-12 programs in 2022, our all-ages programs flourished as well. Nearly every Pier Peer event sold out! This prompted us to plan for even more monthly Pier Peer events in 2023 to accommodate the demand for the program. Additionally, we experienced the highest levels of community participation yet, at our walking tours and Tiny Tides Story Time programs. We had more Estuarium visitors than we have experienced in any previous year and we interacted with over 7,000 community members, tabling at local and regional events! Our ever-growing volunteer team helped us reach these milestones, as 100 new volunteers joined in 2022, and our volunteers put in over 2,800 hours to provide estuary education to our community through outreach, programs, Estuarium visits, and assistance with planning K-12 field trips. While we relished our ability to engage with the public in person, we also continued to grow our online presence, providing online education experiences like our virtual Discovery Speaker Series. **In 2022 we reached a total of 19,486 people through in person education programs and events and an additional 59,877 people through online programming, for a total combined community reach of 79,363.**

In summary, through collaboration with our community partners, the tireless work of our amazing staff, our volunteer Board and the 140 Estuarium volunteers who clocked hours in 2022, we were able to expand our community reach by over 100% in 2022. In 2021 we reached 37,627 which was a milestone for the Estuarium. In 2022 we reached 79,363 people in the south Sound and beyond with our mission of providing educational experiences and encouraging stewardship of the estuaries of the south Sound and the greater Salish Sea. 2022 was such a banner year at the Estuarium and it would never have been possible without the generous support of our community of individual donors, foundation grantors, government grantors and corporate donors. Thanks to all of you for your support!

- Paris McClusky  
Executive Director

# EXPLORE CONNECT INSPIRE!



@PUGETSOUNDESTUARIUM

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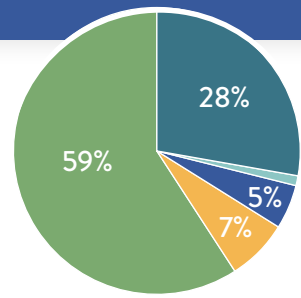


The Puget Sound Estuarium encourages community members to EXPLORE animals and plants in their local estuaries, where freshwater and saltwater meet. We CONNECT people of all ages to what is unique about this delicate, vibrant ecosystem. Our educational opportunities INSPIRE individuals to take better care of our shared natural resources.

Our vision is to have an educated community that is engaged and inspired to promote the ongoing health, conservation, and restoration of the Puget Sound.

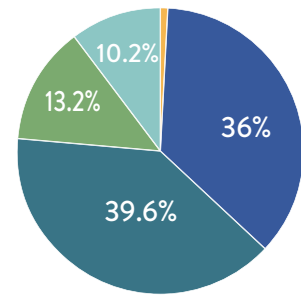
# GROWTH

The pie charts below show revenue and expenses for the 2022 year. The below figures help visualize the growth we experienced that allowed us to significantly increase the scope of our educational and public programs in 2023.



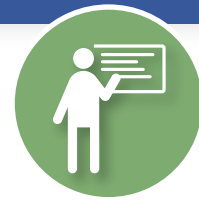
2022 Expenses = \$278,845

- Salaries & Wages
- Connecting the Community
- Education
- General Admin
- Estuarium



2022 Revenue = \$328,845

- Corporate Contributors
- Individual Contributions
- Service Fee/Income
- Foundation Grants
- Government Grants



19,486  
Community Education Reach



59,363  
Online Program Reach



79,363  
Total Reach for 2022



## PROGRAM CHANGES

We appreciate everyone who joined us and provided valuable feedback on our programs last year. We are excited to announce that we have expanded our program offerings for 2023! Walking Tours and Tiny Tides continue, and we have added more Meet the Beach and Pier Peer dates to meet demand. Additionally, similar to our education program, we will be launching a Community Robotics at Budd Bay (CRABB) program for the public, offering guests of all ages the chance to design and test drive their own underwater ROVs, as well as get up close and personal with marine life.

### 2023 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Visit [pugetsoundestuarium.org/events](https://pugetsoundestuarium.org/events)

## EDUCATION



Our education team has an exciting year planned for 2023, as we build on the success of our unique estuary learning programs. We can't wait to offer hands-on educational experiences like Classroom Robotics at Bud Bay (CRABB), Estuary Life and Landforms, On the Water, and Tiny Tides. We're thrilled to be able to offer this type of experiential learning fully in-person again, and we're grateful for the wonderful feedback we received in 2022 and as our K-12 Education team grows we look forward to extending our reach to more students within and beyond Thurston county.

## SUMMER CAMP



Save the date for Estuarium Summer Camps! Our Estuary Explorers summer camp is a week long estuary exploration experience for K-8th grade youth. We are also excited to offer reduced low income scholarships. Visit [pugetsoundestuarium.org/summer-camp](https://pugetsoundestuarium.org/summer-camp) or scan the QR code below to learn more and register today.

### 2023 Summer Camp Schedule

- Sea Stars: K – 2nd Grade, 6/26 - 6/30
- Salmon: 3rd – 5th Grade, 7/17 - 7/21
- Orcas: 6th – 8th Grade, 8/14 - 8/18



Last year, we had the privilege of hosting the We Are Puget Sound exhibit at the Olympia and Lacey Timberland Libraries. This inspiring showcase told a striking visual story of the beauty and diversity of the Salish Sea marine wildlife and the people working to protect the place they call home. Stunning photographs and immersive installations transported visitors into the heart of this incredible ecosystem, where cold streams meet the sea, and highlighted the urgent need to take action to protect our oceans and communities in the face of growing threats. This remarkable exhibit was produced by Braided River and the Washington Environmental Council.



### MEET THE BEACH - ALL SUMMER

Our dedicated team of volunteers help connect beach goers with our unique estuarine ecosystem by identifying intertidal life during summer low tides.

### PIER PEER - YEAR ROUND

Discover what lurks under the piers after dark! Using underwater lights our trained staff lure elusive estuary creatures for you to scoop up and observe.

### TINY TIDES - FIRST SATURDAYS OF EVERY MONTH

Early learners are invited to estuary themed book readings and touch tank time with our animal ambassadors.

### SEA STROLL - SECOND SUNDAYS OF EVERY OTHER MONTH, FEB - OCT

Take a tour along Olympia's historic shoreline to learn the cultural and ecological changes made to our shore throughout history.

### BIRD WALKS - FOURTH SUNDAYS OF EVERY OTHER MONTH, FEB - OCT

Eye the sky for the birds of Sound South during rotating walking tours around downtown Olympia.

### DISCOVERY SPEAKER SERIES - FIRST THURSDAYS OF EVERY MONTH, OCT - FEB

Tune in to our Facebook live every 1st Thursday of the month for new talks with artists, educators, scientists and Earth advocates October- February.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

VISIT DONATION PAGE



Thank you to the following, returning donors who have contributed over \$1,000 each to the Estuarium over the past year. We owe our continued success to incredible donors such as these. Thank you for your support!

DIANA LARSEN-MILLS  
KEN GUZA  
JUNO WHITTAKER

BOB IYALL  
MARY ANN FIRMIN  
MARIA RUTH

LYNN SCHNEIDER  
CONNIE GRADOVILLE  
JACK & SUSAN HAVENS

DOUG TAYLOR  
VIVIAN HENDERSON

KELLY WARD  
NANCY LAPOINTE