



Artist Boat Annual Report

September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012

Artist Boat is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting awareness and preservation of coastal margins and the marine environment through the disciplines of the sciences and the arts.

Since starting in August, 2003 Artist Boat has expanded and offers the following programs.

- ▶ Eco-Art Workshops
- ▶ Eco-Art Adventures
- ▶ Coastal Waters Institute & Professional Development for Teachers
- ▶ Eco-Art Residencies
- ▶ Public & Private Eco-Art Kayak Adventures
- ▶ Habitat Restoration Adventures
- ▶ Outreach Events
- ▶ Float the Boat
- ▶ Coastal Heritage Preserve on west Galveston Island
- ▶ Placed-based curriculum



Since our inception in 2003 Artist Boat has served 60,270 participants in our various programs.



Eco-Art Workshops

These in-class Eco-Art Workshops provide educational, hand-on activities on the benefits, multiple uses, non-point source pollution, flora/fauna, and historical perspectives of the estuarine systems, barrier islands, and the Gulf of Mexico. Our staff demonstrate watercolor materials to interpret nature and the students produce a watercolor painting. We discuss the formation of barrier islands and river deltas by deposition of sediments by rivers and oceans. The workshop illustrates climatic processes, sea level rise, and introduces students to the Eco-Art Adventure interpreted tours of estuarine habitats.



Eco-Art Workshops

Artist Boat served 1,669 participants in 2012. Since 2003, we have reached 16,146 students and teachers through our two-hour long Eco-Art Workshops.

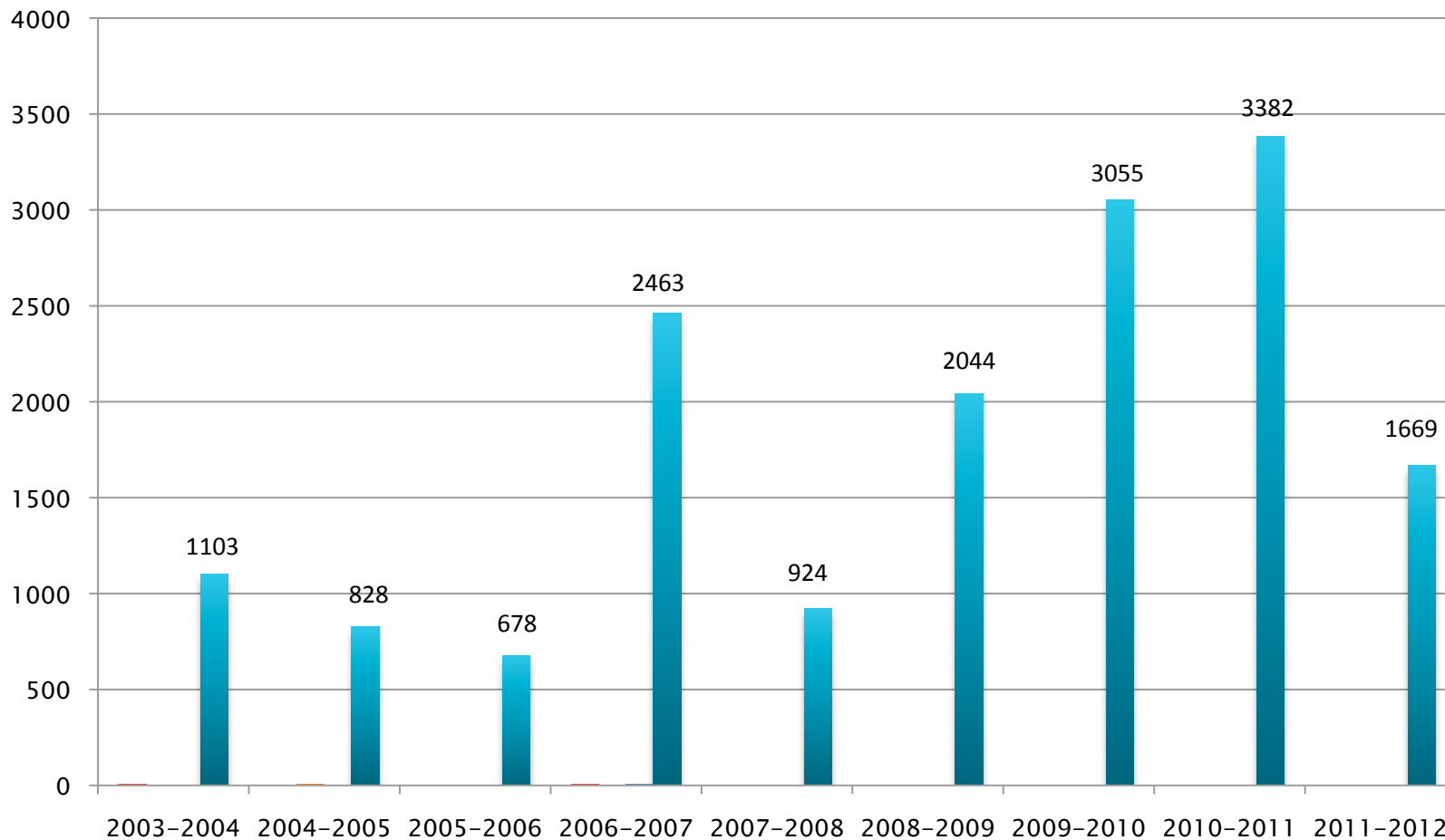


Table 1. Eco-Art Workshops total participants served annually over nine years.

This program has been funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Texas Education Agency, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, and WaterBorne Education Center

Eco-Art Adventures

These field experiences provide hands-on, real-world interactions that combine art and science in interpreting the uses of estuaries, barrier islands, and the Gulf of Mexico. Students interact with marine scientists and artists who guide them through the wetland ecosystem. Our staff discuss the major functions of wetlands, multiple uses of estuaries, economic benefits to humans provided by estuaries, and the flora and fauna of the local ecosystem. In addition to their scientific knowledge gained, many of these students have a profound experience while learning outdoors.



Eco-Art Adventures



Artist Boat served 2,195 participants in 2012. Since 2003, we have reached 15,879 students and teachers through our four-hour Eco-Art Kayak Adventures.

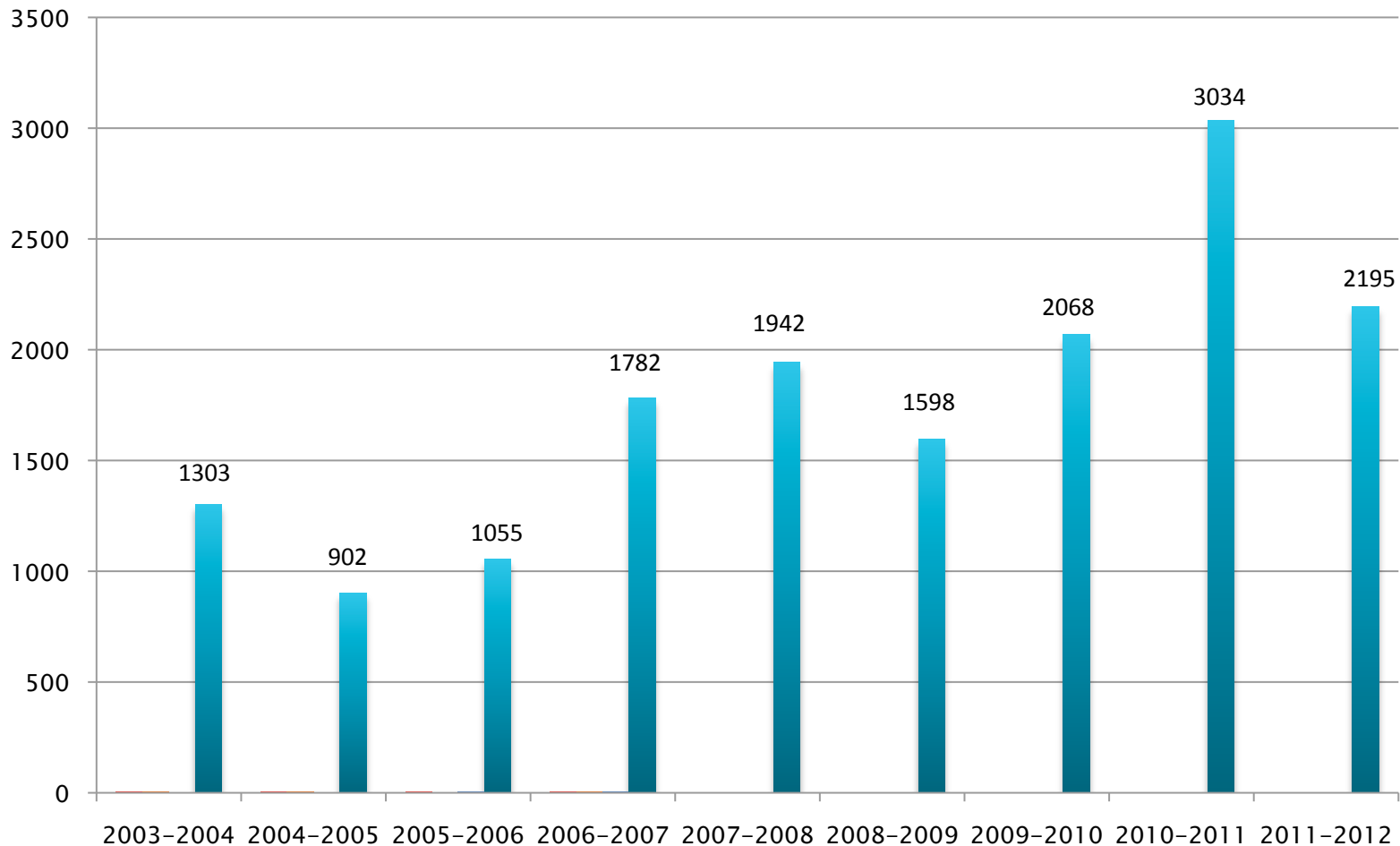


Table 2. Eco-Art Adventures total participants served annually over nine years.

This program has been funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Texas Education Agency, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, and WaterBorne Education Center

NOAA B-WET

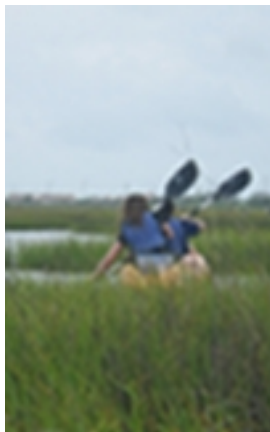


Artist Boat completed the final year of the three-year grant from NOAA. The grant funds included Eco-Art Workshops, Eco-Art Kayak Adventures, Coastal Waters Institute (40-hour professional development for teachers), and low-frequency radio stations. During the three-year period, we served 10,114 students in the Eco-Art Workshops and 6,567 in the Kayak Adventures and conducted 13 professional development programs for 101 teachers.

Eco-Art Workshops



Eco-Art Kayak Adventures



Funded by NOAA Bay Watershed Education Training Program for \$300,000 over three years.

NOAA B-WET



Coastal Waters Institute is a week-long, summer professional development that provides pre-service and in-service credit for teachers in Art, Math, Science, Social Studies, and English. Artist Boat has developed, implemented, and provided training to middle school teachers to utilize experiential learning cycles, NOAA data tools, Eco-Art Pre/Post Activities and Environmental Literacy Test in the classroom to promote science/ocean literacy. Teachers were given the tools necessary to deliver all lessons, create a culminating display for the entire student body to experience on their campus, and seven teachers were trained to use a low frequency AM station to provide ocean messages to their local community delivered by students. Three companion curriculum were developed and delivered in three watersheds: the Galveston Bay Watershed, Mission Aransas National Marine Estuarine Reserve, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary.

Coastal Waters Institute



NOAA B-WET



The Low Frequency Radio Broadcast System offers a student-driven media outlet to provide ocean messages to the school's local community of parents, neighbors, and local business owners and provides a stewardship component that is student and teacher driven. Seven schools received training and technology to launch and maintain a radio station to broadcast ocean literacy.

Ambassadors Prep takes to the airwaves

From staff reports

The Daily News – Published April 23, 2012

GALVESTON — If you live within a mile of Ambassadors Preparatory Academy in Galveston, you can hear students broadcasting messages about the coastal environment on KAPA-AM 1640, "The Reef." The radio station at Ambassadors Prep is one of three in Galveston County operated through a program managed by the Artist Boat, a nonprofit organization that promotes education about the coastal environment.



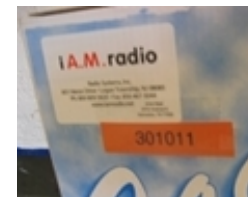
Odyssey Academy in Galveston and Crenshaw school on Bolivar Peninsula also operate the low-power stations, which are provided through Science + Action = Gulf Coast Literacy, funded by the NOAA Bay and Watershed Education Training about the ocean environment. The stations are similar to those at parks and airports. They broadcast recorded messages in a loop to people in a limited area.

Dr. Patricia Williams, superintendent at Ambassadors, said the school's radio station had all the students excited. Children learn a variety of skills by doing, she said. The students will learn science as they research their scripts. But they'll also learn about writing and speech as they work on the scripts and the broadcasts. Also, to get repeated broadcasts into production, they'll have to learn some real-world skills: how to do research, how to solve problems, how to overcome technical difficulties, how to work with others.

Ambassadors has set up its own broadcast booth, where eighth graders Carlos Dominguez, Christen Momie, Bileah Brown, Jerusha Robinson, Kayla DeJesus and Quinshawn Allen were discussing ideas for programs. "It's a good way to help others understand about the ocean," DeJesus said. Momie said: "This is a good way to help our community."

The class has two teachers: Lowie Paz, who teaches language arts, and Jay Tiangco, who teaches technology. Paz said while the eighth-grade class is producing the messages, they're recruiting younger students as readers and actors. The whole school is involved, he said. Everyone wants to be on the air.

Karla Klay, executive director of The Artist Boat, said the program encourages students to learn about the ocean environment and then to teach others through the broadcasts.



NOAA B-WET



Teacher comments:

One teacher said that the program impacted her understanding of the estuary, wetlands, and coastal regions: "I lived here all my life, go to the beach every year, but never spent any time in the wetlands. It ... gave me a better sense of understanding and appreciation, so I know that I can carry that information back into the classroom and the lessons that we are doing. It's being there that makes a difference... One of my student said 'I couldn't imagine what sea grass was, and then there it was; it was grass that was growing in the sea!'"

Another teacher observed that his students "learned a new awareness of actually being out in nature, experiencing it firsthand without the bells and whistles of technology and the trappings of society all around them... Hopefully they found something about themselves that they liked being out there learning to work as a team, we don't really do that because everything is all cliquish in school."

Another teacher observed about the curriculum, "It's too valuable not to include it - this is where we live, and the students need to know about it. I don't think I've ever used a curriculum on Galveston Bay that was so comprehensive."



NOAA B-WET

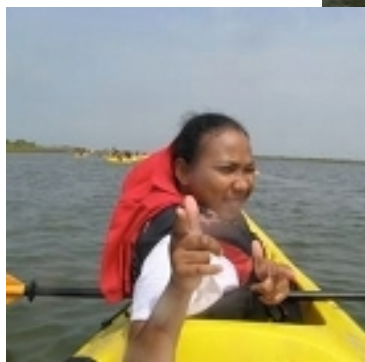


Student comments:

When asked to recount what they learned about watercolor painting, one student said that before he saw himself as "not very good at all. I would draw occasionally just for fun, but it wasn't my main hobby or anything. Before when I would watercolor it would take me a long time, but when we did a painting in five minutes it looked pretty good - I never thought I could do something like that!"

Another student said she would go kayaking again because, "It's fun and the more you try, you get everything out of your head and you are not worried about anything else; all you're worried about is going right, left, straight, back..."

Another student articulated a positive experience of his adventure: "I think it's an enjoyable experience to get out in nature and a peaceful environment and it's fun kayaking to be out and it's pretty peaceful and you can go wherever you want - no paved paths, just - I would do it again. Because it's fun and peaceful and there are not that many places like it here in the city - there's all this hustle and bustle and then you get out there and see the birds and wildlife."



Professional Development for Teachers

Artist Boat has developed several two- to five-day curricula to present to teachers: Habitat Hopping an Interpretive Trail with Children through the Coastal Margins of Texas, FotoFest Literacy Through Photography, Just a Drop – Water Curriculum, Bolivar Habitat Preserve Field and Curriculum Guide for Educators, and the Coastal Waters Institute. Additionally, our staff presents three-hour training sessions on: I Smell Something Fishy, Monarch Migration and Life Cycle. In 2012, we served 116 teachers through our professional development workshops.



Professional Development for Teachers



Artist Boat has developed several workshops to present to teachers: Coastal Waters Institute, I Smell Something Fishy, Monarch Migration and Life Cycle. In 2012, we served 116 teachers through our professional development workshops.

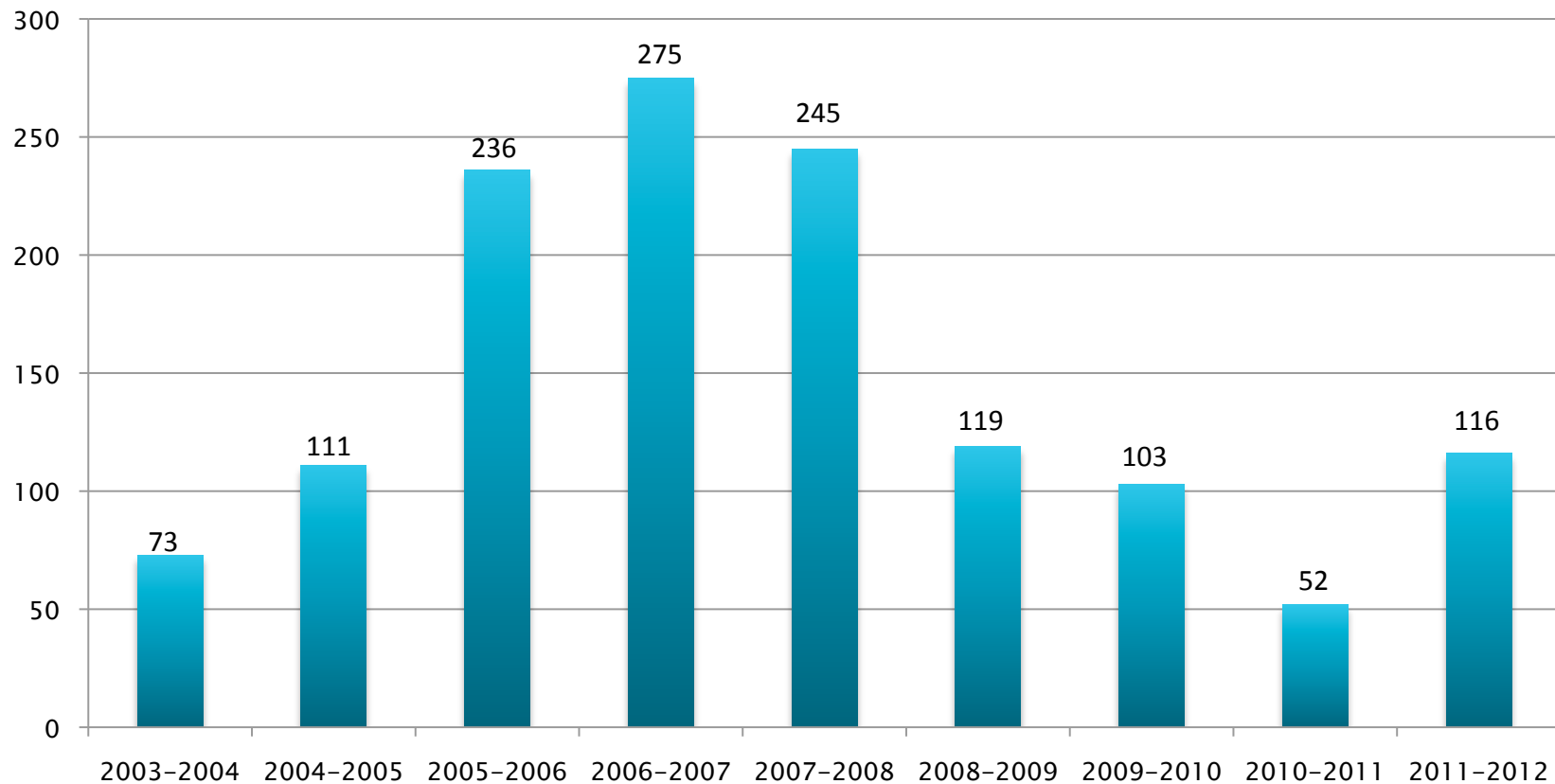


Table 3. Professional development total participants served annually over nine years.

This program has been funded by The Texas Education Agency, NOAA, Young Audiences of Houston, FotoFest International, University of Texas Medical Branch, Harris County Department of Education, and University of Houston

Pomeroy Elementary

The 1st–4th grade students in the after school program created a 20 X 6 foot mural depicting “Ocean Literacy: Ocean Zones”. During this project-based learning experience, 206 students built technical skills as scientists and artists. Specifically, they studied invertebrate and vertebrate morphology of species found in the Gulf of Mexico and the defined zones of the ocean (intertidal, pelagic, neritic, abyssal, benthic, photic, aphotic).



Parks Elementary

After-school students developed a garden area to increase the presence of butterflies and birds at their campus garden. Additionally, the 20 students participating in the program learned about lifecycles of insects and birds and the native plant species that would thrive in their garden. This program fostered a stewardship ethic and increased wildlife on campus.



Miller Intermediate

A scientist and an artist from Artist Boat guided 23 students through the Galveston Bay curriculum to produce a 65 square foot mosaic of the Galveston Bay estuary system and its wildlife. The students participated in three field experiences: walking, kayak, and vessel trips -- which provided place-based experiential learning to increase the students' level of science literacy. The mosaic mural will beautify their campus for years to come.



Project SIT

Students at KIPP Coastal Village and The Satori School created 12 bench tops that were installed this year. The themes included ocean literacy and the Gulf of Mexico ecosystems. The ribbon-cutting event held in early May celebrated with city and county officials and included participation of KIPP and Satori students. This program beautifies the Seawall and serves as an interpretive tool for Galveston visitors.



These programs were funded by Pasadena ISD, Reliant Energy, NRG, KIPP Coastal Village, and Satori School 15

Morales Elementary

"Exploration of Estuarine Life" was the theme of the eight 3 x 5 ft. murals created by 16 students in the after school program at Morales. Through art and science lessons, these students learned to design a mural to beautify they campus, and they had a chance to explore and understand the ecology of the Galveston Bay Estuarine system and the coastal margins of Houston.



Eco-Art Residencies



Artist Boat served 427 students in 2012. Since 2003, we have reached 8,197 through our Eco-Art Residency program.

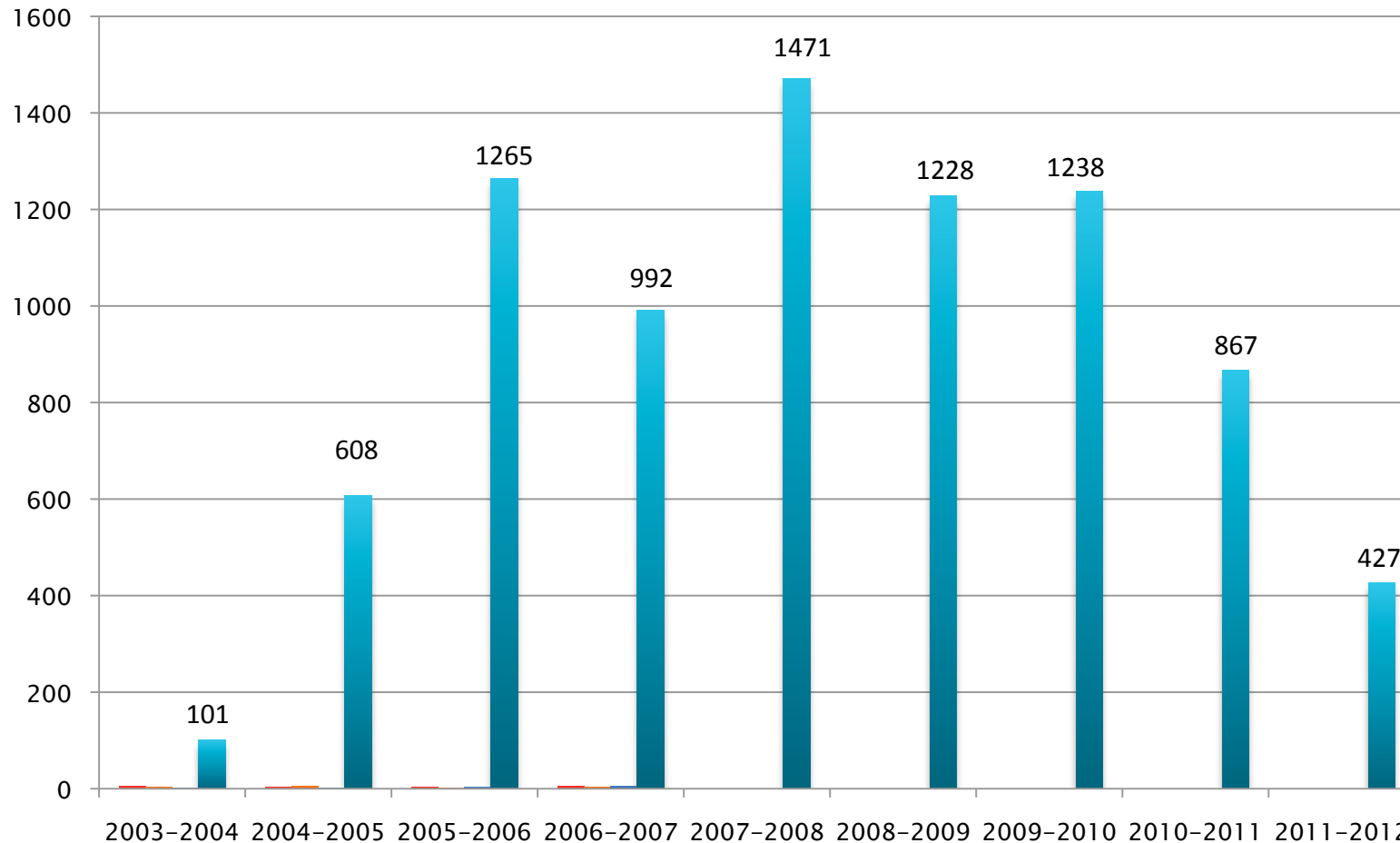


Table 4. Eco-Art Residency total participants served annually over nine years.

Major Funding for the Eco-Art Residency Program has come from annual support from the Harris County Department of Education

Public Eco-Art Adventures

This program provides the general public the chance to be kids again and gives them with experiential learning in the wetlands, learning how to bird, riding on vessels, and teaching them how to kayak. Participants leave with a sense of place and knowledge to change their behaviors and attitudes in order to take part in improving the environmental quality of the bay. Many people come with children, spouses, and friends creating memories founded in their connection to nature.



Public & Private Kayak Adventures



Artist Boat served 1,775 participants in 2012. Since 2003, we have reached 8,772 guests on our public and private kayak trips.

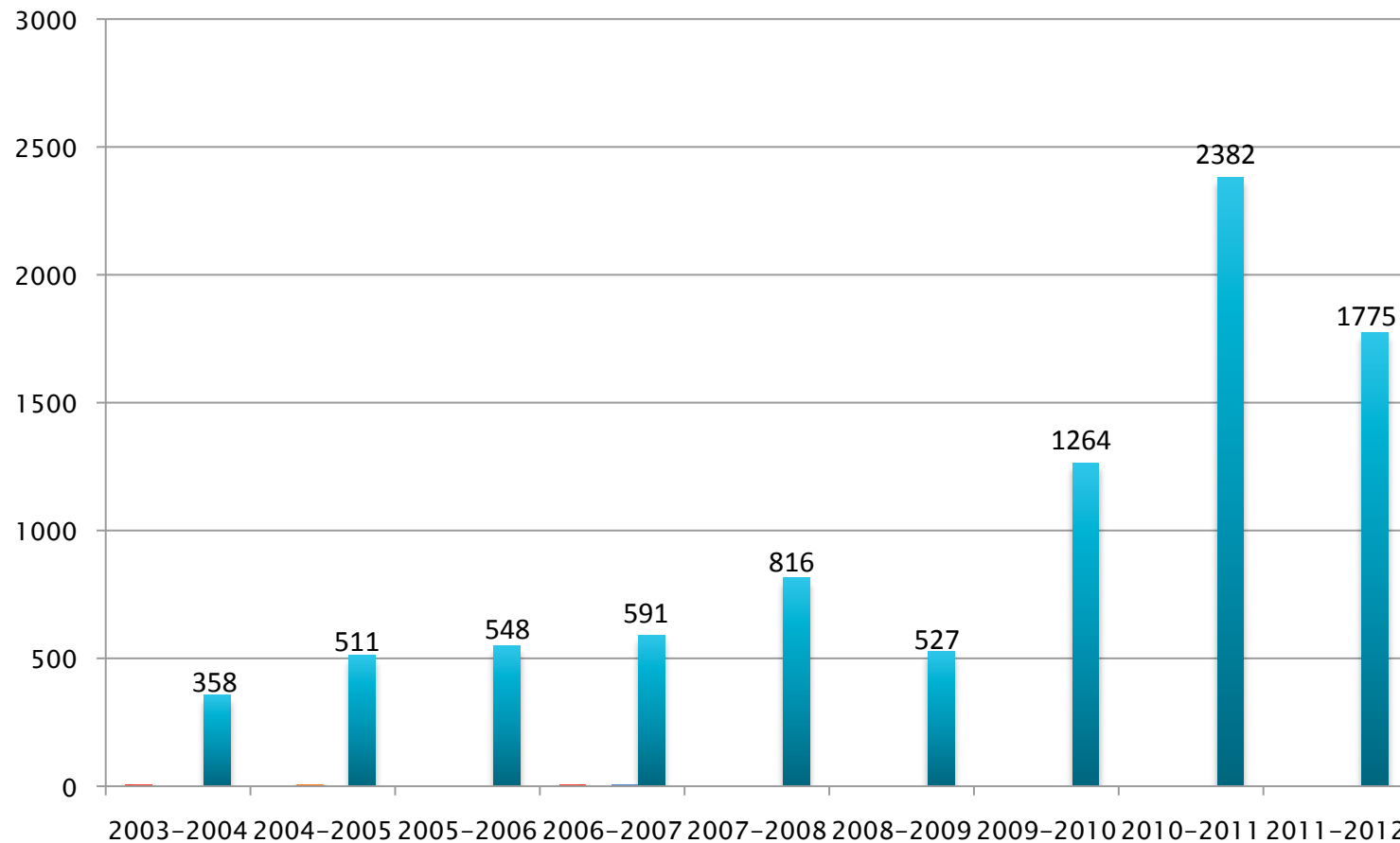


Table 5. Public & private kayak adventures total participants served annually over nine years.

This program is supported by the Parks Board of the City of Galveston Hotel Motel Tax Fund and has been supported by the US Fish and Wildlife Coastal Program and the Galveston Bay Estuary Program

Habitat Restoration Adventures



The Habitat Restoration Adventure program began in 2007. This program offers an opportunity to people from K–gray to participate in a service–learning activity. Participants learn small actions add up to functioning ecosystems, restored habitats, and community investment in nature. For example, Galveston ISD students have grown over 15,000 dune and prairie grasses that now grow in the wild and serve has shelter for animals.



Habitat Restoration Adventures



Artist Boat served 2,298 people in our habitat restoration program in 2012. Since 2003, 5,942 people have helped restore dunes, wetlands, and prairies in our area. We have restored 2.8 acres of wetlands, 10 acres of coast prairies, and a total of 25.3 acres of dune habitat. This year we planted 10.4 acres on Folletts Island and on Galveston Island we planted 11.2 acres of dune habitat.

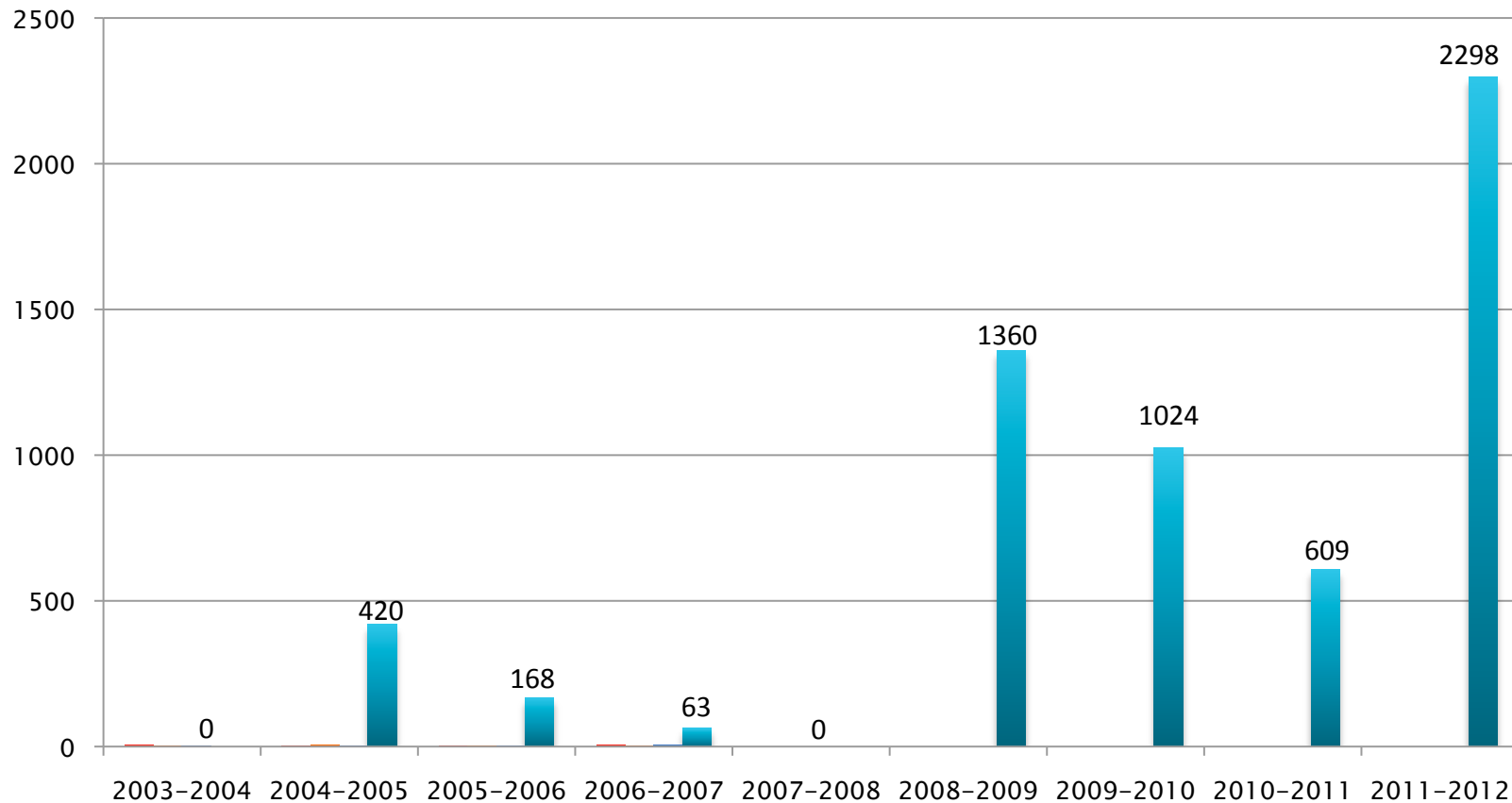
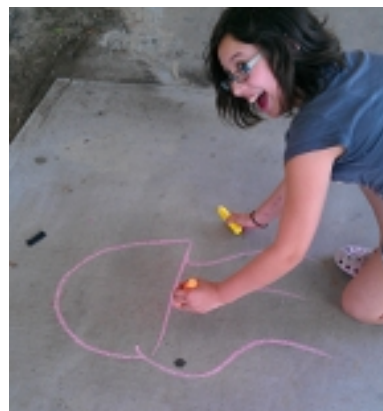


Table 6. Habitat restoration adventures total participants served annually over nine years.

This program is funded by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Community Outdoor Outreach Program, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Coastal Program, Tabitha Foundation, Brazoria County Parks Department, and many Property Owners Associations

Outreach

Artist Boat attended nine outreach events including Texas Art Educators Association, Plug into the Outdoors, HCDE Partnership Fair, Earth Day 2012, ARTSPLOration, Bay Day, and the Texas Coastal Expo. We talked to hundreds of people, handed out information, passed out 1,000 neotropical bird posters created by Ted Eubanks, and even taught children how to do a watercolor painting.



Outreach



Artist Boat attended nine outreach events and talked to 1,441 people this past year.

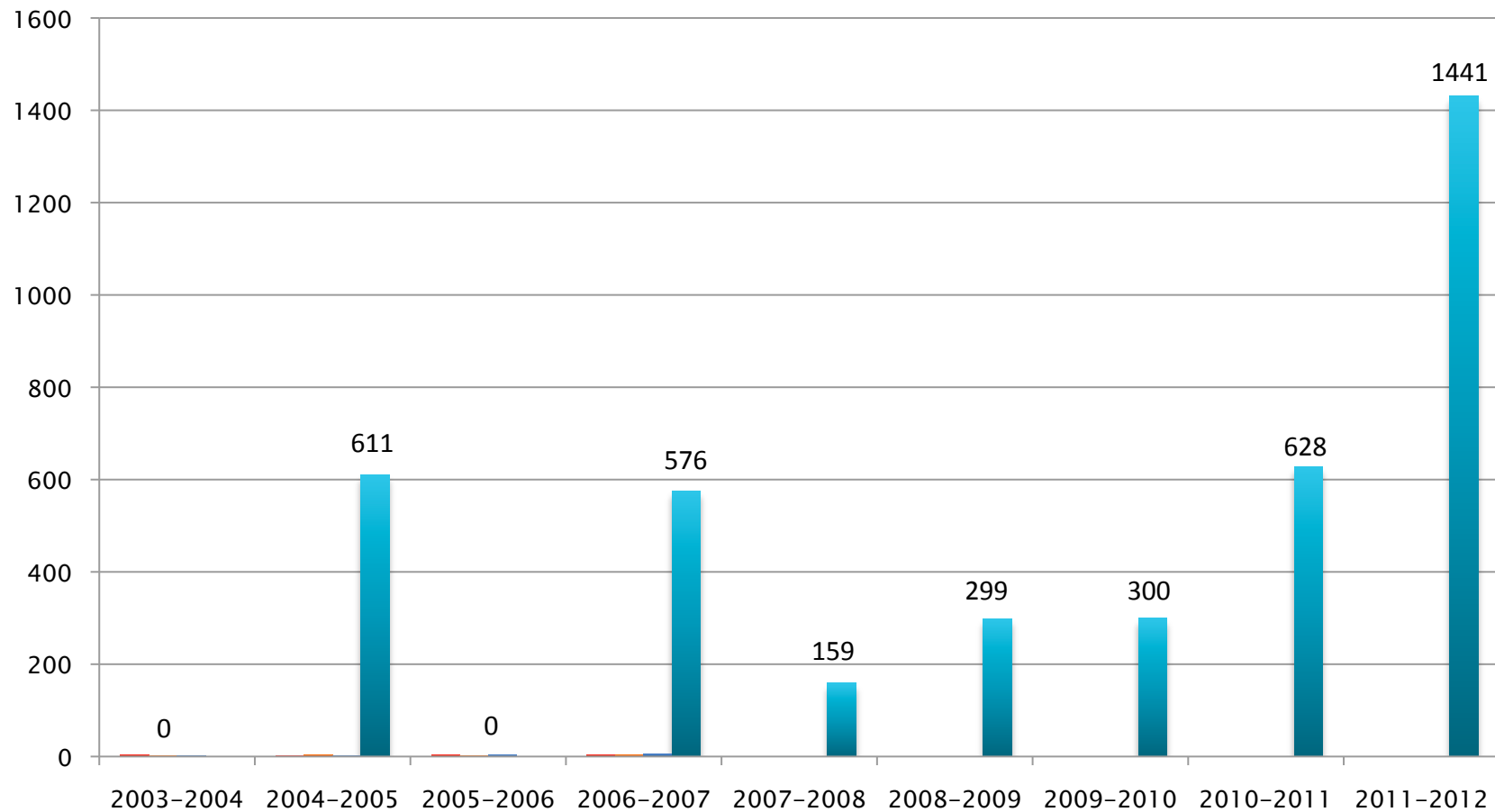


Table 7. Outreach total participants served annually over nine years.

Help Float the Boat

Artist Boat's big fundraising event was held on October 8, 2012 at Eibands during the Art Walk. John and Beverly Frannea chaired the event and Jeff Herman of Ocean Kayak Pro donated a sea kayak for the raffle. The event raised \$18,312. Over 45 volunteers made the event possible and Alligator Handshake played music once again. Every year a lucky person wins a sea kayak.



Coastal Heritage Preserve on Settegast Road



The vision for the Coastal Heritage Preserve is rapidly becoming a reality. The vision for this project is to develop a conservation area of approximately 364 acres of land on Galveston Island. The Coastal Heritage Preserve is part of the Galveston Bay system, an estuary of national significance. The project area is one of the largest un-fragmented, single-owner, undeveloped properties of its kind on Galveston Island.

Located roughly midway along the length of Galveston Island, a 32-mile barrier island about three miles off the Texas mainland, the Coastal Heritage Preserve project is a critical piece in the West Bay Corridor Initiative, a multi-agency program to protect and restore critical habitats around West Bay. In addition, the project area has been identified as a high priority for conservation in the West Galveston Island GreenPrint.

The Coastal Heritage Preserve project involves multiple partners for both funding and implementation. This is a long-term process and currently funding is estimated to acquire 2/3 of the land.



Funding for land acquisition is from the US Fish and Wildlife Coastal Impact Assistance Program through the General Land Office of Texas \$3,460,39; US Fish and Wildlife Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act \$1,050,000; and Galveston Bay Estuary Program \$90,000

Coastal Heritage Preserve on Settegast Road



Preservation of the lands for the Coastal Heritage Preserve is envisioned as a multi-phased project, with the first phase encompassing completion of the acquisition and protection of the property. Once secured, project implementation would initially involve a combination of habitat preservation and a launching platform for public involvement – for kayak adventures, for walking tours, and for volunteer conservation initiatives. An intermediary phase could involve restoration, plus development of trails, boardwalks, viewing platforms, improved kayak access, parking, and interpretative signage. Eventually, the preserve would provide a site for a building that could house facilities for Artist Boat and the community, including laboratory facilities, classrooms, meeting space, environmental arts gallery, dormitories for overnight stays, administrative offices. Additionally, the facility could demonstrate green building techniques that would be a model for coastal development.



Partners 2011 – 2012



- ▶ NOAA Bay and Watershed Education Training
- ▶ National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- ▶ US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program
- ▶ US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Impact Assistance Program through the Texas General Land Office
- ▶ US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Wetlands, Planning, Protection and Restoration Act through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- ▶ Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Community Outdoor Outreach Program
- ▶ Harris County Department of Education Cooperative for After School Enrichment After School Initiative
- ▶ Pasadena ISD ACE Program for Afterschool
- ▶ Young Audiences of Houston
- ▶ University of Houston Environmental Institute of Houston
- ▶ University of Texas A&M at Galveston
- ▶ Galveston County Master Naturalists
- ▶ NRG
- ▶ Reliant Energy
- ▶ Tabitha Foundation
- ▶ City of Galveston Parks Board of Trustees & City of Galveston
- ▶ Cabeza De Vaca
- ▶ Galveston Bay Foundation

Partners 2011 – 2012



- Galveston ISD
- Houston ISD
- Pasadena ISD
- KIPP Coastal Village
- Satori School
- Ft Bend ISD
- Chambers ISD
- Shead Conservation Consulting
- Waterborne Education Center
- City of Houston SPARK PARK
- McGovern Foundation
- Johnson Ohana Foundation
- Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund
- North Face Explore Fund
- Texas Kayak Fishermen
- Johnson Outdoors
- Ocean Kayak Pro Staff
- Marquette Development Corporation
- West End Property Owners Association
- Coastal Beach and Bay Foundation
- Sea Base Galveston Boy Scouts of America

Board Members



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Susan Persons, Secretary
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Bernd Wursig
Peter Davis
Charlie Rogers
Patty Edwards
CD Romero
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Robert Young
Shelia Maye

Staff Members



Karla Klay, Executive Director

Holly Fortenberry, Administrative Coordinator

LuAnne Ashley, Education Director

Kari Howard, Habitat Restoration Adventure Program Coordinator

Kelly Cloughly, Program Coordinator

Linda Arnold, Eco-Art Educator

Tim Berk, Habitat Specialist

Lezlie Silverstein, Eco-Art Educator

Victoria Bissonnet, Eco-Art Educator

Chirin Limbaugh, Eco-Art Educator

Melissa Peterman, Eco-Art Educator

Total Served by Program 2003–2012



	Eco-Art Workshops	Eco-Art Adventures	Eco-Art Residencies	SEAC (03-07) & Habitat Restoration Program (07-011)	Professional Development Workshops	Public Eco-Art Adventures	Public Outreach	TOTAL People Served by Year
2003-2004	1,103	1,303	101	0	73	358	0	2,938
2004-2005	828	902	608	420	111	511	611	3,991
2005-2006	678	1,055	1,265	168	236	548	0	3,950
2006-2007	2,463	1,782	992	63	275	591	576	6,742
2007-2008	924	1,942	1,471	0	245	816	159	5,557
2008-2009	2,044	1,598	1,228	1,360	119	527	299	7,175
2009-2010	3,055	2,068	1,238	1,024	103	1,264	300	9,052
2010-2011	3,382	3,034	867	609	52	2,382	628	10,954
2011-2012	1,669	2,195	427	2,298	116	1,775	1,431	9,829
TOTAL	16,146	15,879	8,197	5,942	1,330	8,772	4,004	60,270

Total Served by Program 2003–2012

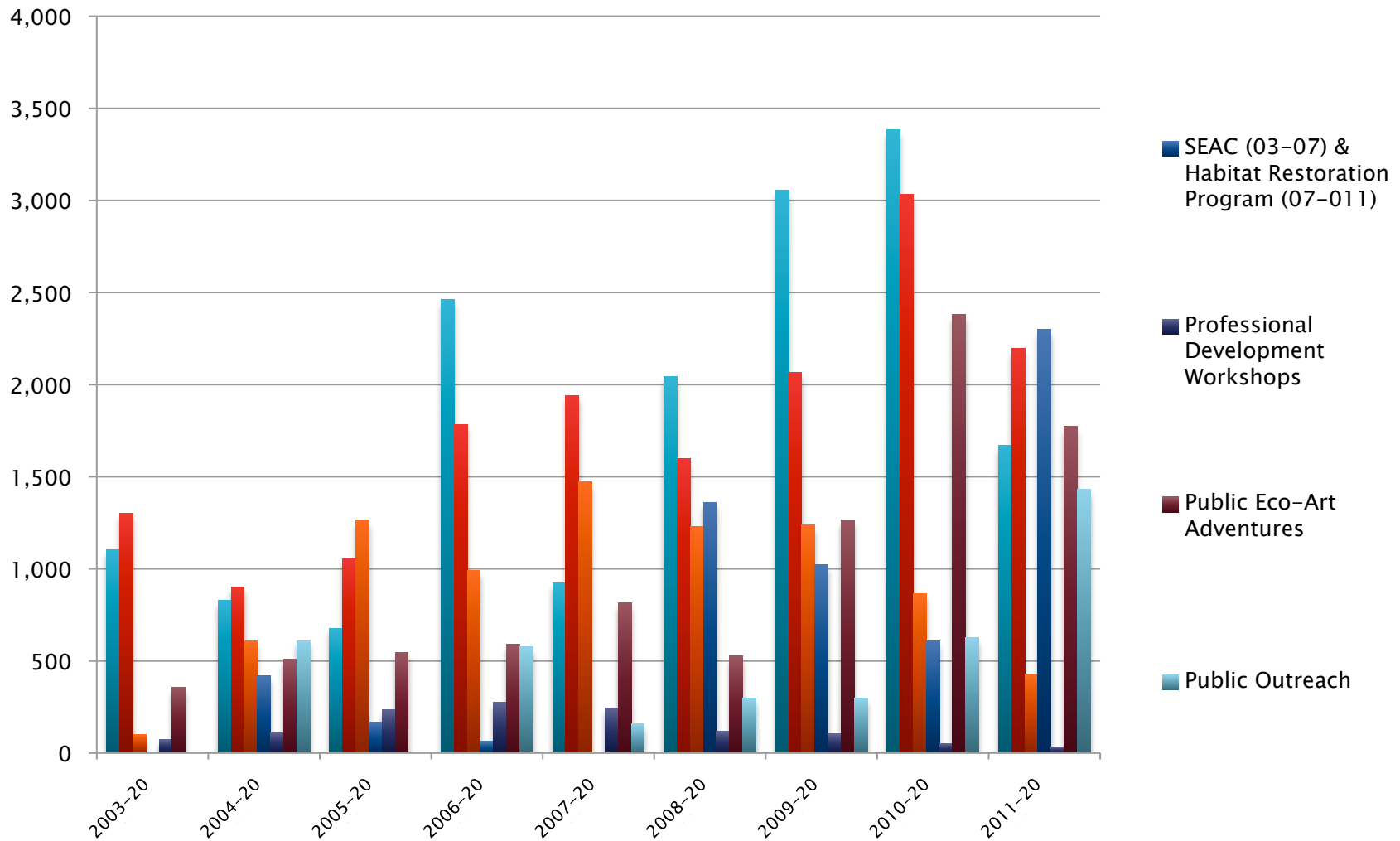


Table 8. Total participants served annually over nine years.