



# Artist Boat Annual Report

September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2013

*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 currently offers six programs and is developing an interpretive center to engage learners K–Grey. These programs engage people in developing the tools to understand and express their relationship to coastal and ocean resources.

- ▶ Eco-Art Workshops
- ▶ Eco-Art Adventures
- ▶ Coastal Waters Institute & Professional Development for Teachers
- ▶ Eco-Art Residencies
- ▶ Public Eco-Art Kayak Adventures
- ▶ Habitat Restoration Adventures
- ▶ Coastal Heritage Preserve on West Galveston Island



Artist Boat has served 69,697 participants in our various programs from 2003–2013.

# Eco-Art Workshops – *Hands-on exploration*



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 1,600 participants in 2012-13. Since 2003, we have reached 17,764 students and teachers through our two-hour long Eco-Art Workshops.



## Eco-Art Workshops

(Number of participants)

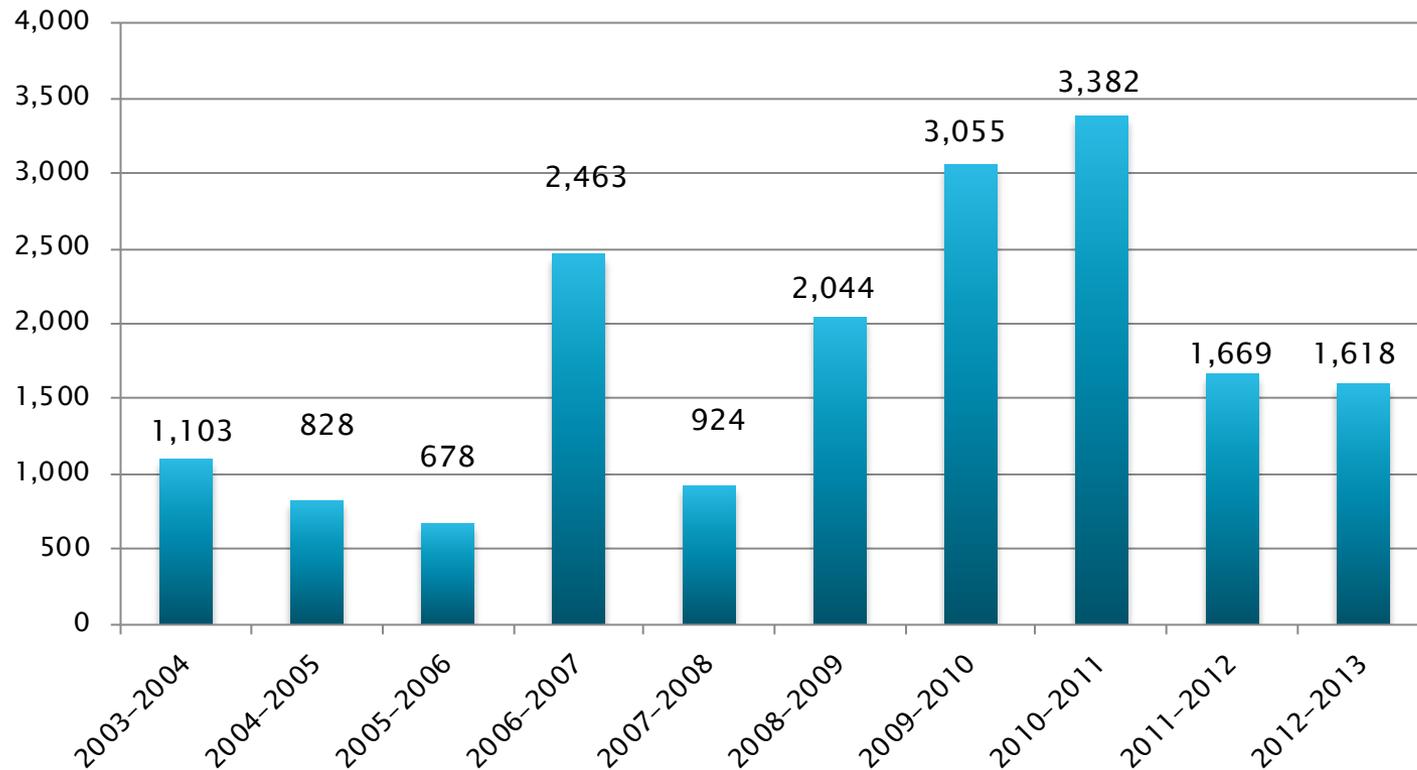


Table 1. Eco-Art Workshops total participants served annually over ten years.

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 – *Feet-in Exploration*



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 – *Exploring the Coastal Heritage Preserve*



Artist Boat received a three-year grant from CIAP (Coastal Impact Assistance Program) to acquire 156 acres of land and begin offering Eco-Art Adventures to middle school students for exploration of the Coastal Heritage Preserve, restored wetlands, natural wetlands, and coastal prairies. During the year one, we served 780 students in 38 classes in Eco-Art workshops.

## Eco-Art Workshops



## Eco-Art Kayak Adventures



# Eco-Art Adventures

Artist Boat served 2,275 participants in 2012-13. Since 2003, we have reached 18,154 students and teachers through our four-hour Eco-Art Kayak Adventures.



## Eco-Art Adventures

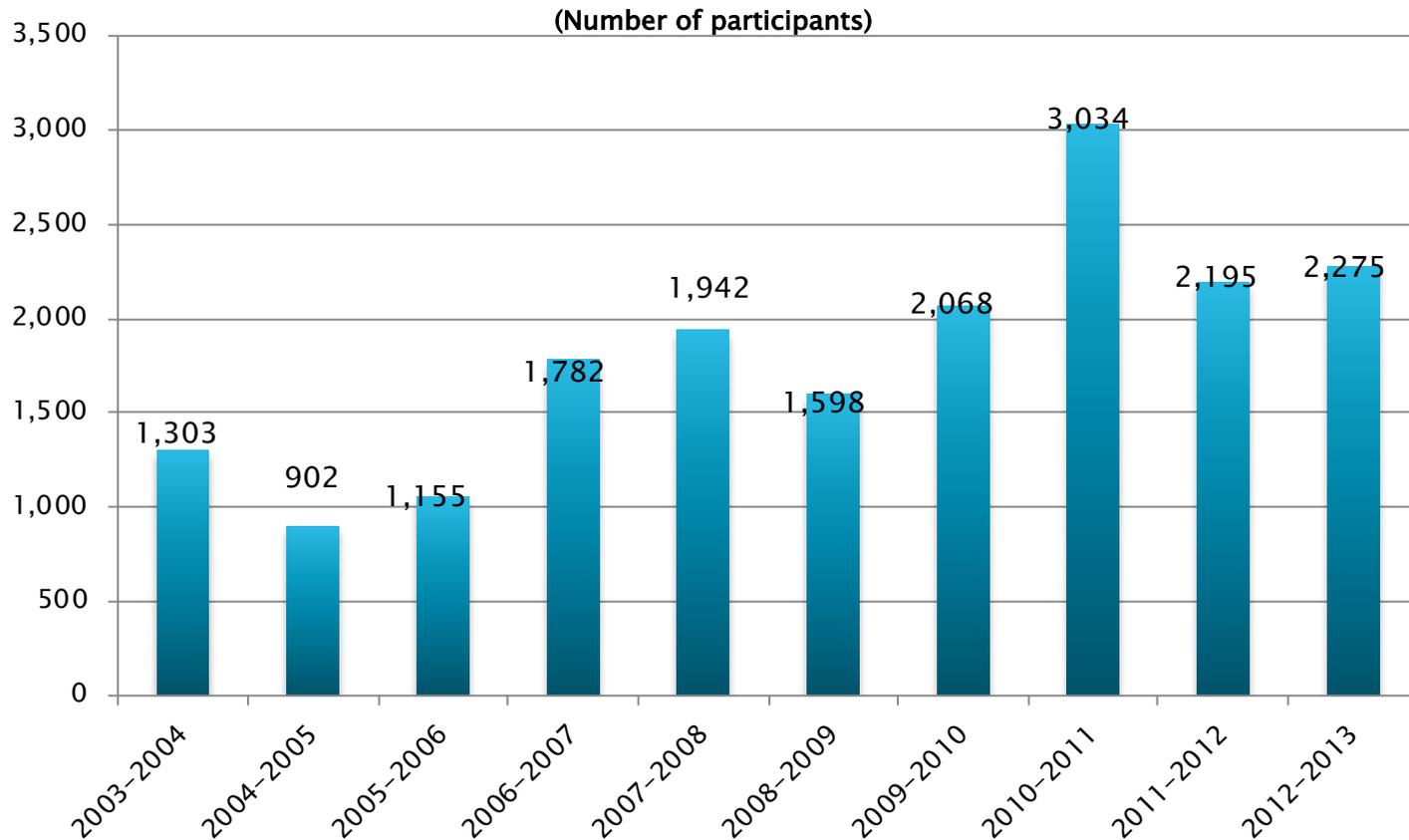


Table 2. Eco-Art Adventures total participants served annually over ten years.

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

# Professional Development – *Adults learning how to teach coastal issues*



Artist Boat has developed several two- to five-day curricula to present to classroom teachers, local tourism leaders, and other life long learners engaged in outreach: 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.



# 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 2012-13, we served 85 teachers through our professional development workshops – with a total of 1,415 since 2003.

## Professional Development Workshops

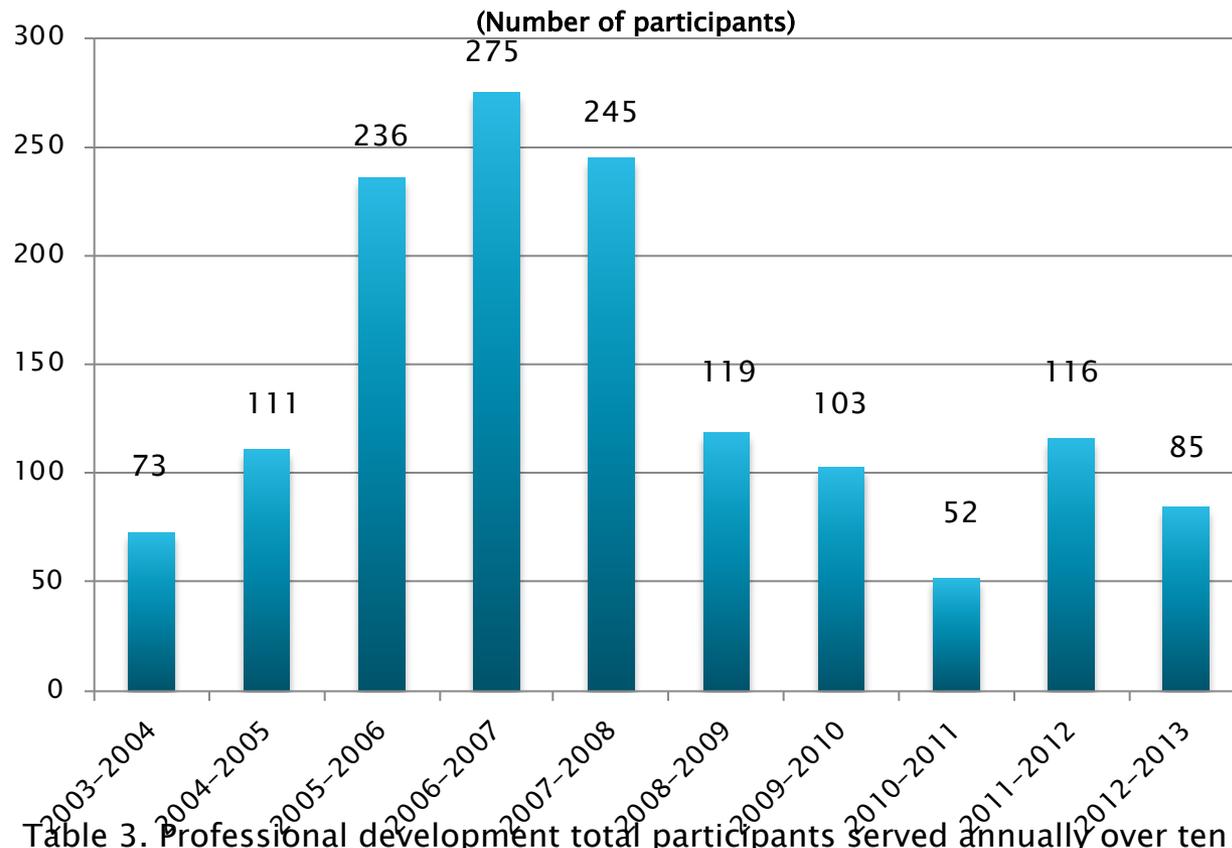


Table 3. Professional development total participants served annually over ten years.

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, Toyota Together Green and University of Houston

# Davila Elementary – *Minds-on beautification of campuses*



Artist Boat delivered an ancillary Eco-Art Residency to Davila Elementary School in Houston Independent School District to K–5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The Eco-Art Residency culminated in a 45–square foot interior mosaic made by 5<sup>th</sup> grade students interpreting the Galveston Bay ecosystem, the bay’s relationship to regional commerce, and the bays multiple uses and services. During the school year, students engaged in hands–on science and arts education activities. Approximately 550 students participated in the program.



Harris County Department of Education supported three Eco-Art Residencies with a \$30,000 grant to serve three campuses. Each campus contributed \$10,000. The goal was to create nativescapes to filter storm water runoff and to create murals to beautify the campuses interiors.



Artist Boat partnered with three campuses to deliver the Eco-Art Residency Program titled, “Inside/Outside – Beautifying Campus Minds, Landscapes, and Walls”. During the school year, our Habitat Specialist worked with the students one day a week for 26 weeks to create a Nativescape. The students also spent one day each week with our Eco-Art Educator creating ten murals to beautify their campus.



*Davila Elementary  
Houston Independent  
School District*



# Harris County Department of Education

## *Morales Elementary – Pasadena Independent School District*



This program was funded by Harris County Department of Education (HCDE), CASE, and the Pasadena ISD ACE Program.

# Harris County Department of Education

## *Richey Elementary – Pasadena Independent School District*



Throughout the school year, students received instruction integrating arts and science. Parents were also involved as each campus conducted six workdays to work on the native garden.



This program was funded by Harris County Department of Education (HCDE), CASE, and the Pasadena ISD ACE Program.

# Harris County Department of Education – Summer 2013 *Cooperative for Afterschool Initiatives Grant* *Golden Acres Elementary–Pasadena Independent School District*



“Gulf Coast Ecosystems” was the theme for the four hand-painted murals created by 44 students during their summer program at Golden Acres. Each grade was responsible for a different theme: 1<sup>st</sup> grade – seagrass beds, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – coral reefs; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – open ocean, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade – salt marsh.

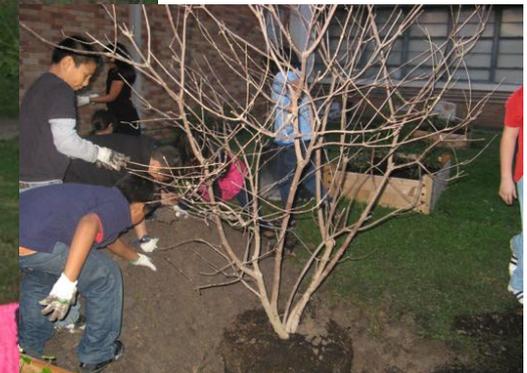


This program was funded by Harris County Department of Education (HCDE), CASE, and the Pasadena ISD ACE Program.

# Parks Elementary–Pasadena Independent School District



Students at Parks Elementary installed raised beds to create a square-foot vegetable garden and butterfly garden on their campus. During their habitat residency, third and fourth graders learned to prepare the beds with soil, compost, and mulch for plants, how to plant native species and space them out appropriately, and how to install the watering devices.



# Pomeroy Elementary – Pasadena Independent School District



First through fourth grade students explored ecology and nature through hands-on science and art lesson with the “Backyard, Beach and Beyond”. The students created take home objects to attract wildlife to their backyards (birds and butterflies) and had an opportunity to dissect organisms and view organisms under microscopes.



This program was funded by Pasadena ISD ACE Program

# Eco-Art Residencies



Artist Boat served 1,175 students in 2012-13. Since 2003, we have reached 9,372 through our Eco-Art Residency program.

## Eco-Art Residencies

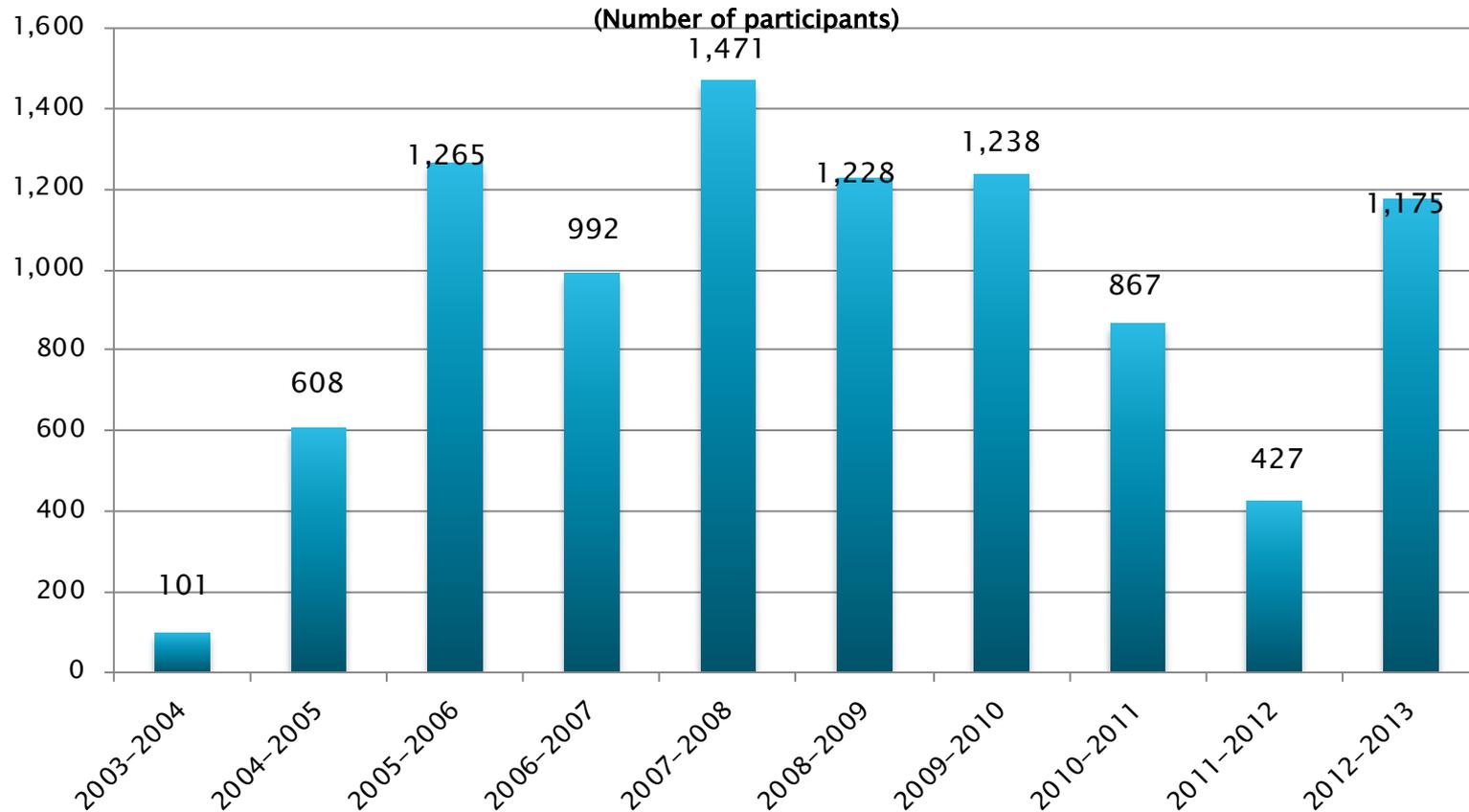


Table 4. Eco-Art Residency total participants served annually over ten years.

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

# Public Eco-Art Adventures – *Grown ups being kids*



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 1,840 participants in 2012-13. Since 2003, we have reached 10,612 guests on our public and private kayak trips.



## Public Eco-Art Adventures

(Number of participants)

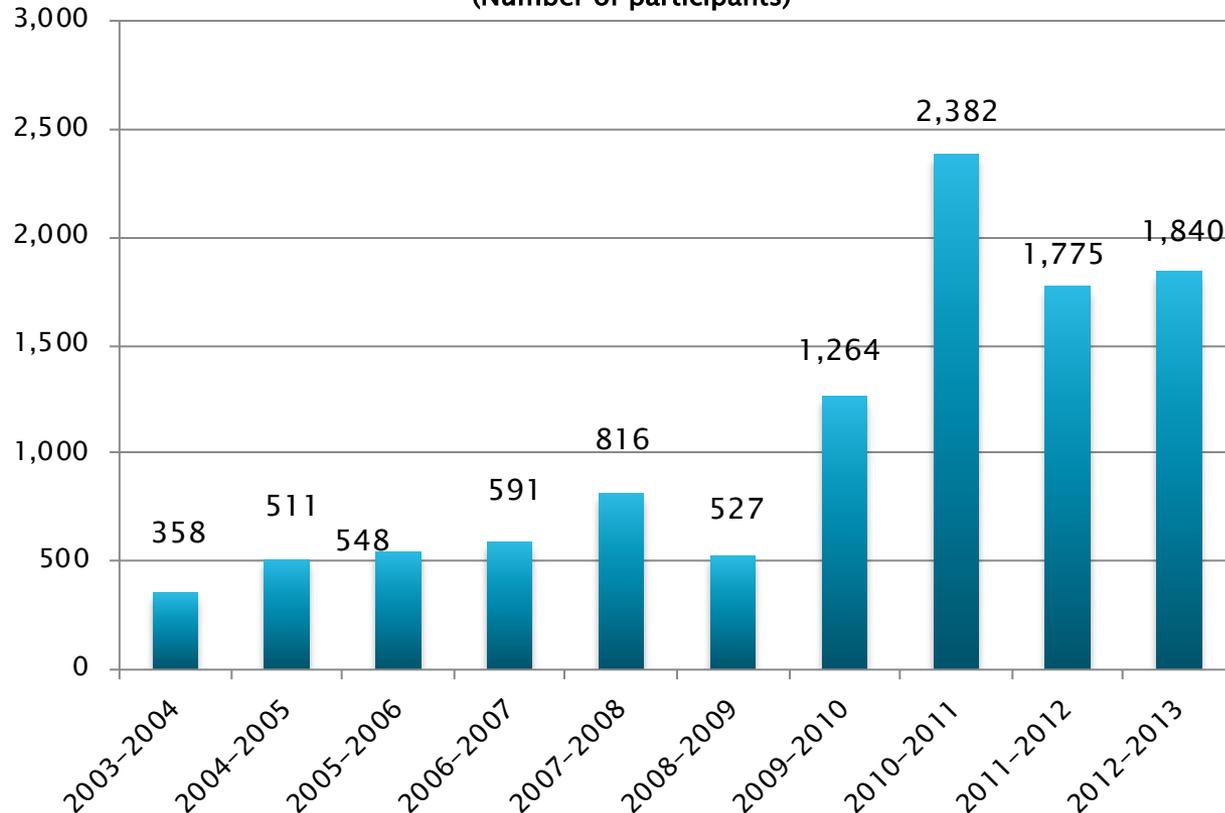


Table 5. Public & private kayak adventures total participants served annually over ten years.

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 - *Stewardship Training and Actions*



The Habitat Restoration Adventure program began in 2007. This program offers an opportunity to people from K-grey 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 as shelter for animals. *50 acres have been restored.*

## Partners

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- US Fish and Wildlife Program - Coastal Program
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Brazoria County
- Galveston Island State Park
- West Galveston Island Property Owners Association
- Coastal Beach and Bay Foundation
- Many Property Owner Associations
- Galveston Park Board of Trustees
- Local Realtors
- Marquette Development Corp
- Many Independent School Districts
- Toyota Together Green



# Habitat Restoration Adventures



Artist Boat served 934 people in our habitat restoration program in 2012–13. Since 2003, 6,876 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 36.85 acres of dune habitat. This year we planted 1.6 acres on Galveston Island Sewall, and on Galveston Island’s west end, we planted 2.48 acres of dune habitat.

## Habitat Restoration Program (2007–13) & SEAC (2003–07)

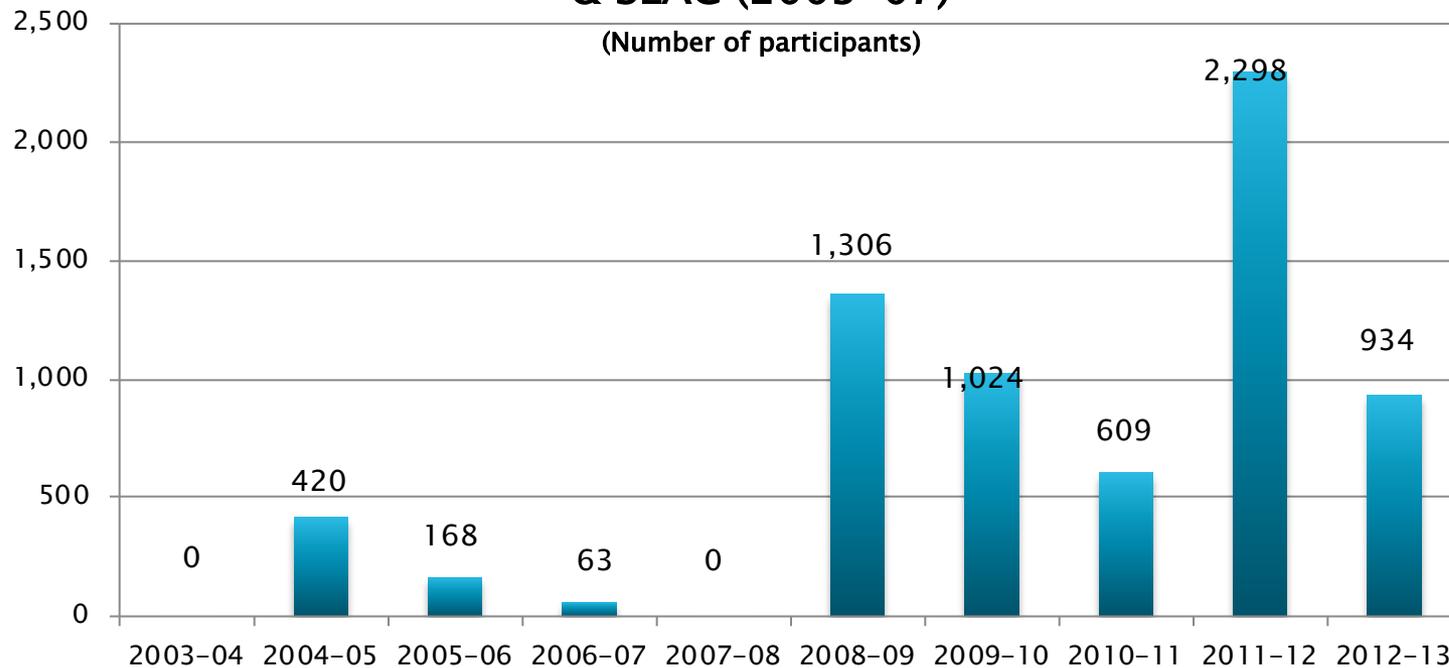


Table 6. Habitat restoration adventures total participants served annually over ten years.

This program was 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 – *Supporting community environmental education events*



Artist Boat attended several outreach events including Arts in the Garden, Kids Day at Buffalo Bayou, Educators Open House, HCDE Partnership Fair, KPRC Parenting Expo, Bay Day, Park Board Seaweed Art Contest, and the UTMB Welcome Community Fair. We talked to hundreds of people, handed out information, and even taught children how to do a watercolor painting.



# Outreach

Artist Boat attended nine outreach events 2012-13, and we talked to 1,500 people this past year.



## Public Outreach

(Number of participants)

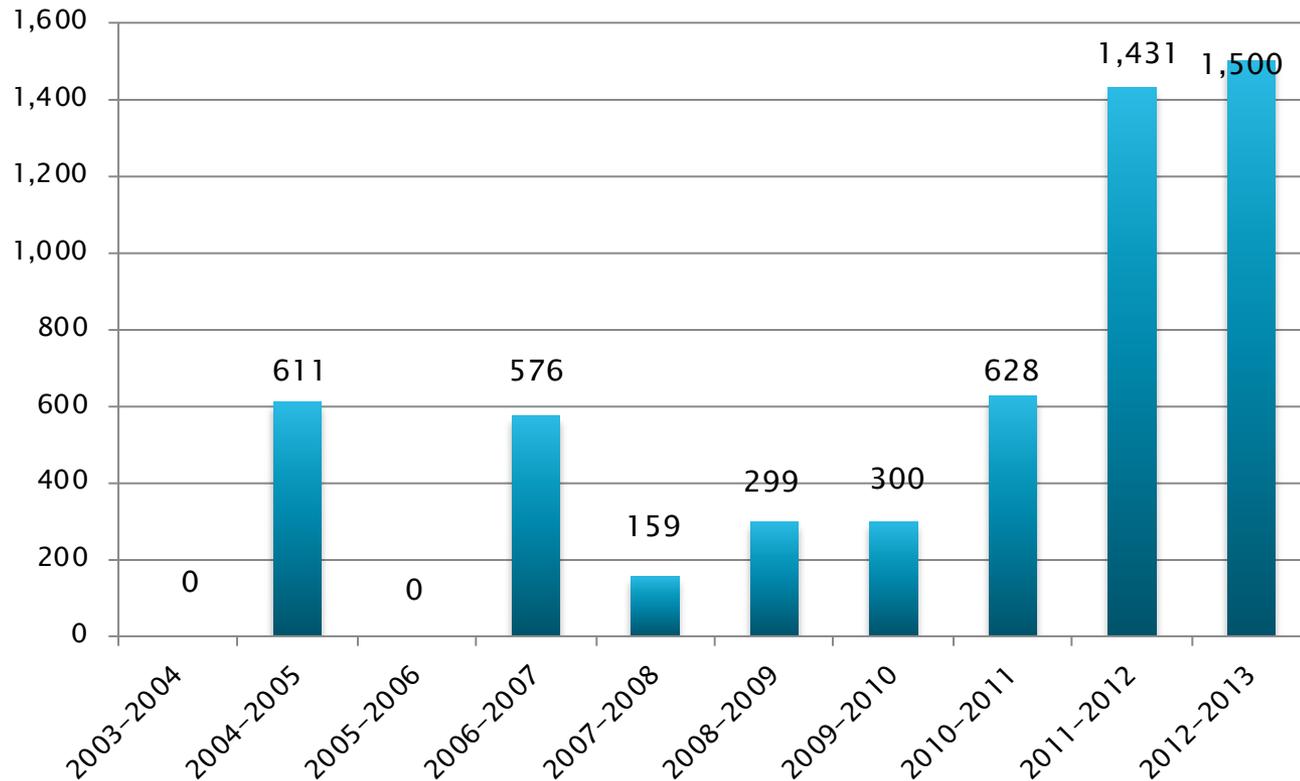


Table 7. Outreach total participants served annually over ten years.

# 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 367 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.

Artist Boat will close on 156 acres on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and on 55 acres by December 30, 2013.

## Partners Include:

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, The Texas General Land Office, Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund, McGovern Foundation, Galveston Bay Foundation, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Edward and Helen Oppenheimer Foundation, Shead Conservation Solutions, and many individuals.

# Galveston Island Chicken Shack Strut – *A partnership with the Kitchen Chick to friend and fundraise for Project SIT*

Imagine all the great green things we can do in Galveston. Sustainable food is a goal of the Kitchen Chick and this certainly is good for the ocean.



Over 400 people toured Chicken Coops on Galveston Island and over 20 people entered the Cracked Egg Cook Off!

# Project SIT — Seawall Interpretive Trail



This is an Artist Boat beautification project approved by Galveston County to transform 63 Galveston Seawall benches into educational works of art that depict the coastal and ocean heritage of Galveston island and the Gulf of Mexico.



# Float the Boat – *Friend and Fundraising*



Artist Boat's big fundraising event was held on November 9, 2013 at the Galveston Art Residency. Amy Neblett chaired the event and Jeff Herman of Ocean Kayak Pro donated a sea kayak for the raffle. The event raised \$30,000. Over 75 volunteers made the event possible and Alligator Handshake played music once again. Every year a lucky person wins a sea kayak.



# *Karla Klay, Executive Director wins two national awards! Completes RICE Leadership Institute for Non Profit Executives!*



## **Receives Third Place Gulf Guardian Award in the Individual Category**

**June 6, 2013 Atlanta , GA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that** Karla has dedicated her life to connecting people to places in the Gulf region through meaningful experiences that integrate the arts and sciences to instill a stewardship ethic and ultimately improve environmental outcomes in communities throughout the region.

Karla's vision for an interdisciplinary approach to environmental education is realized in programs and projects she designs and implements through Artist Boat, a non-profit organization she founded and leads in Galveston, Texas, which has directly served over ~70,000 program participants and indirectly served many more through public art and habitat stewardship projects since it was established in 2003.



**New York, NY, June 21, 2012 – Toyota and the National Audubon Society today announced that a *TogetherGreen* Fellowship award will be given to a Galveston-based art educator and conservationist. After a competitive nationwide selection process, Karla Klay will receive an award to lead conservation, habitat restoration, and environmental education activities on Galveston Island & Galveston Bay through a series of novel Eco-Art Programs.**

*TogetherGreen*, a conservation initiative of the National Audubon Society and Toyota, selects 40 high-potential local leaders annually to receive a \$10,000 grant. With the funds, Fellows conduct community projects to engage diverse audiences in habitat, water, or energy conservation. In addition to receiving support launching their conservation initiatives, the Fellows also benefit from specialized training and the opportunity to become part of an exciting alumni network of conservation professionals.



# Partners 2013



- ▶ Brazoria County Parks Department
- ▶ Cabeza De Vaca
- ▶ Chambers ISD
- ▶ CHART – Waterborne Education Center
- ▶ City of Galveston Parks Board of Trustees & City of Galveston
- ▶ City of Houston SPARK PARK
- ▶ Coastal Beach and Bay Foundation
- ▶ Edward and Helen Oppenheimer Foundation
- ▶ Ft Bend ISD
- ▶ Galveston Bay Foundation
- ▶ Galveston County
- ▶ Galveston County Master Naturalists
- ▶ Galveston ISD
- ▶ Galveston Island State Park
- ▶ Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund
- ▶ Harris County Department of Education Cooperative for After School Enrichment After School Initiative
- ▶ Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)
- ▶ Houston ISD
- ▶ Jackson Kayak
- ▶ Johnson Ohana Foundation
- ▶ Johnson Outdoors
- ▶ KIPP Coastal Village
- ▶ Kitchen Chick
- ▶ Marquette Development Corporation

# Partners 2013



- ▶ McGovern Foundation
- ▶ NRG
- ▶ National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- ▶ National Audubon Society Toyota TogetherGreen
- ▶ North Face Explore Fund
- ▶ Ocean Kayak Pro Staff
- ▶ Pasadena ISD
- ▶ Pasadena ISD ACE Program for Afterschool
- ▶ Reliant Energy
- ▶ Satori School
- ▶ Sea Base Galveston Boy Scouts of America
- ▶ Shead Conservation Consulting
- ▶ Tabitha Foundation
- ▶ Texas Kayak Fishermen
- ▶ Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Community Outdoor Outreach Program
- ▶ Todd Frazier
- ▶ University of Houston Environmental Institute of Houston
- ▶ University of Texas A&M at Galveston
- ▶ US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ▶ Texas General Land Office Coastal Impact Assistance Program
- ▶ Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Wetlands, Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
- ▶ US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program
- ▶ West End Property Owners Association
- ▶ Young Audiences of Houston

# Board Members



## Current Members:

Betty Massey, President  
Martha Terrill, Vice President  
Kristopher Benson, Treasurer  
Susan Persons, Secretary  
Mort Voller  
Terry Conrad  
J. Alton Alsup  
Pam Rice  
Richard Cron  
Mary Orange

## Former Members:

Jene Adler  
Caleb Crowe  
Peter Davis  
Debbie DeVore  
Patty Edwards  
John Frannea  
Cheryl Henry  
Mary Lou Klay  
Susan Knock  
Bobby Markle  
Shelia Maye  
Tom Motley  
Charlie Rogers  
CD Romero  
Jay Rooker  
Brenda Weiser  
Bernd Wursig  
Robert Young

# Staff Members



Karla Klay, Executive Director

Diane Glowacki, Accounting Manger

Holly Fortenberry, Executive Assistant

LuAnne Ashley, Director of Education

Kari Howard, Habitat Specialist

Nick Barbee, Eco–Art Residency Coordinator

Kelly Cloughly, Eco–Art Adventure Program Coordinator

Linda Arnold, Eco–Art Educator

Tim Berk, Habitat Specialist

Lezlie Silverstein, Eco–Art Educator

Chirin Limbaugh, Eco–Art Educator

# Total Served by Program 2003–2013



	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	9,911
2012-2013	1,618	2,275	1,175	934	85	1,840	1,500	9,409
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,764</b>	<b>18,154</b>	<b>9,372</b>	<b>6,876</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>10,612</b>	<b>5,504</b>	<b>69,697</b>

# Total Served by Program 2003–2013

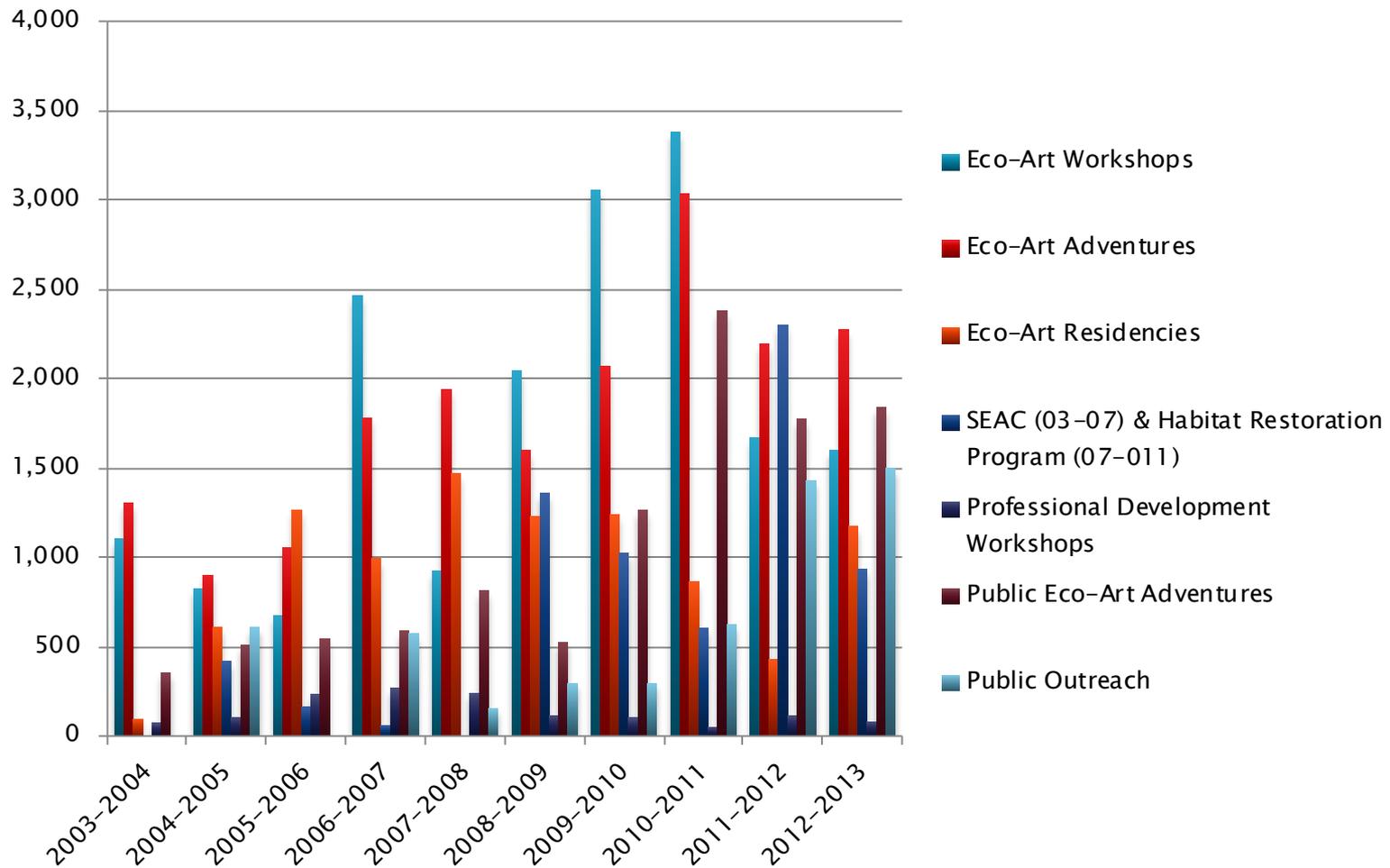


Table 8. Total participants served annually over ten years.

# A note from the executive director!

Cast netting is a great metaphor for the endeavor of environmental education, land conservation, arts and beautification, and habitat restoration work. Casting a net is an act full of hope. Hope that the net will be full, wonder at the actual variety of species in the net, and joy at the prospect of earning a living or sharing a feast. Sometimes the net is full and sometimes it is empty. Both results don't thwart the fisher as it is certain the fisher will toss the cast net again. And Artist Boat's work is the same.

Everyday we toss out experiences for people hoping they will catch the desire to make themselves and our oceans healthier. Healthier is really not the goal though. The real goal is to preserve the joy people experience in the wonder and beauty of our shores and seas, the dependable receipt of subsistence and flavors that taste so good from our oceans and estuaries, the cultural exchanges from trading of goods and delights across seas with other cultures, the integrity and health of biodiversity damaged by human impacts and pursuits of wealth, and the enjoyment of a rich heritage of all coastal peoples that visitors world wide crave to have on their vacations or at retirement.

Our actions and work may seem small and to occur one person at a time through art and science. These actions are not small for the individuals. As each individual that has an experience with Artist Boat leaves with something to share. They take their experience (a bit of a net to cast), art, and knowledge. These are tools that help them everyday to make new decisions and change actions that improve the environmental quality of their local bay, rivers, oceans, and the Gulf of Mexico.

