

About Artist Boat



Our Mission

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

Connect people to Gulf Coast environments through mind-opening experiences.



Educate and inspire people to action to preserve and protect coastal and marine habitats.

Our 5 Goals Expand engagement in existing programming to inform and inspire people of all ages.

Preserve and restore 1,400 contiguous acres from beach to bay on West Galveston Island.



Establish the first nationally significant environmental education center on the Gulf Coast.



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Our 2024 impact by the numbers





NIA Cultural Center Eco-Art Residency Mural Depicting Zones of the Ocean

\$250,000 INVESTED

in local schools and teachers

16,000 SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

180 YOUTH WORKSHOPS & ADVENTURES

connected 2,136 kids to the native environment over multiple days.

114 BUCKET BRIGADE TOURS

informed 841 beachgoers about the important qualities of Galveston beaches

48 PUBLIC KAYAKTRIPS

brought 943 people into critical wetland areas

1,039_{ACRES}

of coastal prairie and wetlands preserved forever; 141 acres of coastal prairies and wetlands conserved in August 2024.

Our 2024 impact by the numbers

89TRASH BARRELS
painted for beautification of our beaches.

4 ECO-ART RESIDENCIES

educated **277** students about marine environments and the animals which inhabit them.

WATERSMART LANDSCAPES
designed by Artist Boat and installed at the Galveston
Housing Authority Cedars Community Area.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

delivered to 23 teachers in the Houston-Galveston area.

23 CAMPS

educated **153** students about coastal and marine environments.

Remote Operating Vehicles

educated **484** students about coastal and marine environments through advanced exploration technology.

Total Participants in 2024, by Program



participants in programs in 2024!



Volunteers 344

Youth 3,986

Outreach 4,776

Public 3,993

Connect people to Gulf Coast environments through mind-opening experiences.



Eco-Art Workshops + Adventures

For 20+ years Artist Boat has provided its flagship Eco-Art Workshops and Adventures to students of all ages and grade levels. The hands-on Eco-Art Workshops integrate science and art for students to learn about the Galveston Bay watershed and the relationship between the bay, wetlands & prairies, and humans. Each student creates a portrait of a native species. These outdoor Eco-Art Adventures bring the students to the bay to explore the environments they learned about in the classroom by foot, vessel, or kayak on an Eco-Art Adventure. Students learn to paddle with a partner, understand the functions of wetlands, and make a pleinair watercolor.

Over 87,000 youth have experienced this program. It is this foundational knowledge and experience with our coast that lasts a lifetime.





In 2024, we served a total of 1,176 youth through this programs!



These programs were supported by grants from NOAA B-WET, The Children's Center, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation



"This experience really changed how I see my time in the environment"

- Teacher in Professional Development, Austin MS



Big Driving Question: "How does the Gulf of Mexico, Galveston Bay, and Galveston Island add value to the quality of life for people?"

nd other career professionals were invited and honored by the groups they worked with.

Island Style

Systemic Training for Youth Leadership in the Environment for Galveston ISD 6th grade campus

GRANT PROVIDER:

NOAA BWET (Bay and Watershed Education Training

PROJECT TITLE: Island STYLE

Systemic Training for Youth Leadership in the Environment

NOAA SPECIAL INTEREST AREA ADDRESSED: Climate Education and the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries PROJECT DURATION: 2 years (2022 - 2024)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

To engage 450+ students and 23+ teachers from the Austin 6th grade campus in a MWEE-based curriculum that will integrate NOAA Climate and Ocean Literacy Principles into the permanent curriculum of this campus resulting in student driven Environmental Action Projects.





Connect people to Gulf Coast environments through mind-opening experiences.



Ocean Odyssey

SEAing our Future: a Science Exploration Adventure Building Career Skills

SEAing the future engaged Ball High School students and faculty in the Aquatic Science program exploration of the sea floor with remote operating vehicles and how this skill is related to workforce preparedness on the Gulf. The program included:

- Classroom mapping lessons
- How to operate the "ROV's"
- Use of mapping techniques
- A telepresence with the NOAA Vessel the Nancy Foster
- How to use data and maps to translate knowledge through conceptual art
- A SEAing our Future exhibition at the Galveston Art Center of student work









External Evaluation

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Bay and Watershed Education Training
Island STYLE

Conducted by Dr. Michelle Peters MNA Evaluation & Assessment, LLC

- Teacher knowledge scores increased
- 90% of teachers in the professional development reported having moderate / high level of comfort teaching environmental topics
- Student knowledge test scores increased 14%
- Student stewardship practices positively shifted to most of the time
- 70% of students agreed after the program they would take better care of the island, make a positive difference in their community, and protect Galveston Bay and the Gulf
- Due to participation in the action project, 61.5% of the students claimed that, in the future, they will change their stewardship behaviors based on what they learned during the environmental action project.
- 79% of the students stated they might be willing to donate their time or skills to this type of project again.







"I tried kayaking for the first or second time and I was all wet, but me and my partner learned to coordinate and even with no experience, we did great on our way back and it was so fun! I also learned that nature is pretty, so we should keep it safe so we can enjoy the view and the sounds all the time" - 6th grade student, Austin Middle School, NOAA BWET Island STYLE





Professional Development American Canoe Association

Taught by the highly skilled American Canoe Association Instructor, Jeff Atkins, Artist Boat staff members and other participants from the public receive their Level 1 or 2 certifications annually. During the professional training, participants hone their skills at:

- Safety and rescue ability
- Paddling skills with demonstration quality
- Effective teaching/group management skills
- Technical knowledge of paddle sports





Connect people to Gulf
Coast environments
through mind-opening
experiences.



Private + Public Kayak Adventures

Individuals and private groups can join us for fun, educational kayak adventures, too!

Adult engagement connects more people to the Gulf Coast and creates and grows the regional stewardship ethic.

This year, 1,486 members of the public were brought on a kayak adventure and learned about our critically important ecosystem and the animals that inhabit it.





The NIA Cultural Center

Artist Boat hosted an Eco-Art Residency program at the NIA Cultural Center at Alamo Elementary. Students created an 8 by 4 foot mural of the zones of the ocean in the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, all students went on field adventures over a six-week period to sites of natural significance on Galveston Bay via foot, vessel, walking, and kayak. In total, 149 youth participated in the program. The art and science program provided students knowledge about important marine organisms in the Galveston Bay and Gulf of Mexico. The mural is hung permanently at the NIA Cultural Center Gallery on the Strand.

Eco-Art Residencies

Eco-Art Residencies bring artists and scientists into the afterschool and summer program spaces of schools, community centers, and more! The program offers a series of classes to the same students who experience science lab, art studio, and field research practices. Most result in public art for their community spaces or nativescapes. This year 394 students in the Houston / Galveston Region participated and create amazing legacies of learning at The Cedars with Urban Strategies, NESTEM Academy with Harris County Department of Education, and The NIA Cultural Center with private funding from donors.



Connect people to Gulf Coast environments through mind-opening experiences.

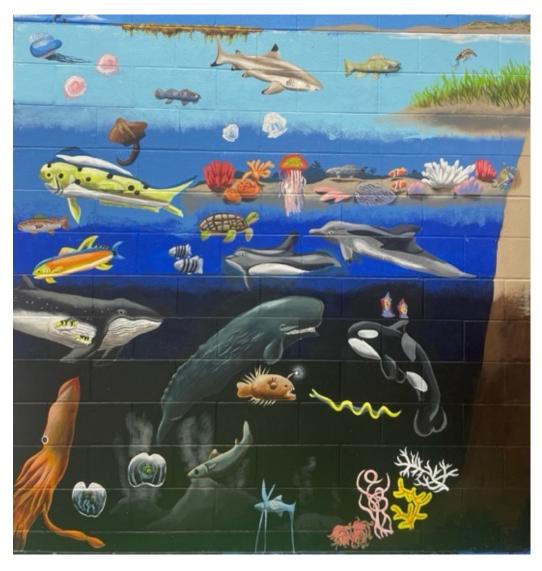


Eco-Art Residencies Urban Strategies

Over a 12-month period Artist Boat provided an Eco-Art Residency with Urban Strategies for the children living in the community on the northside of Broadway. Throughout 6 weeks of Summer Camp, 118 children ages 5-13 connected with leading experts in the fields of science and art through experiential learning in the field and labs through the **Urban Strategies Eco-Art** Residency funded by the Moody Foundation. Children created a large nativescape at the Cedars community area with a large installation of a hand painted ceramic mural on the permanent seating area.







North East Science Technology Engineering and Math Charter School, Eco-Art Residency with Harris County Department of Education

NESTEM Academy is a charter school in Houston. The Eco-Art Residency in the summer of 2024 served 153 participants. The collaboration provided a four weeklong program titled "Ocean STEAM" to middle school students. This provided curriculum, instruction, field adventures, and hands-on public art creation based on exploration and discovery methods in marine science and biology. Students created an 8.5 feet wide by 9.3 feet tall mural titled "Ocean Zones of the Gulf of Mexico" depicting zones that form the photic zone to the abyssal zone.







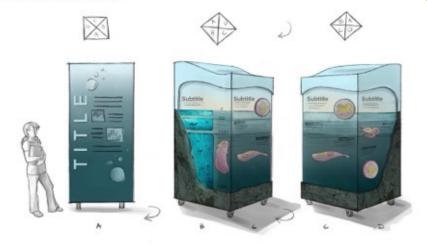
Educate and inspire people to action to preserve and protect coastal and marine habitats.



Habitat Restoration

Artist Boat partnered The Children's Center Community Youth Development Program to provide Habitat Restoration Adventures to Ball High School students to restore coastal prairies at the Coastal Heritage Preserve. 741 students participated in Eco-Art Workshops and a Habitat Restoration Adventure. Students bumped up seedlings, planted young plants, and created pastel plein air drawings. They with many others, helped restore over 7+ acres of coastal prairies.

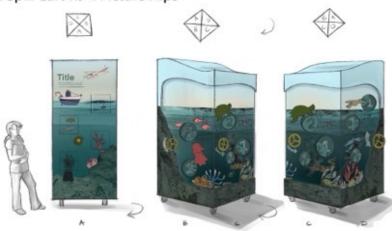
Ocean Zone's Cart



National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Deployed Education and Engagement Program (DEEP Coral)

This program is to provide educational carts at Moody Gardens for K-Grey Learners to understand mesophotic and deep benthic communities and the human relationship to restoration and protection of these communities in the Gulf of Mexico. This work is part of the restoration required for restoration of the Gulf from the DeepWater Horizon Oil Spill.

Oil Spill Cart w/ 4 Picture Flips





Educate and inspire people to action to preserve and protect coastal and marine habitats.



Washed Ashore

From April through
September 2024, Artist Boat
hosted Sylvia, the Silvertip
Shark, from the traveling trash
sculptures in the Washed
Ashore art show! This was her
second "working" vacation
with Artist Boat!

Sylvia was part of 21 sculptures visiting 19 different locations all throughout Galveston.

Located at our Edward and Helen Oppenheimer Bird Observatory, Sylvia attracted people of all ages to view her larger-than-life spectacle of marine debris and to further emphasize the need for keeping our oceans plastic free!





Beautify the Bucket Contest

Out of 130 online registrations, 89 barrels were beautified and returned for the contest.

Educate and inspire people to action to preserve and protect coastal and marine habitats.



Competitors beautified 89 trash barrels this year. These barrels were judged & displayed by age category at the Artist Boat World Ocean Day Festival. Prizes were awarded to 1st-3rd place winners in the following age categories:

- Business/Organization
- Family
- Group Adult

- Youth Group <11
- Youth Group 12-17
- Individual Youth
- Individual Adult

Beautify the Bucket

This fun art competition helps beautify the Galveston Beaches and encourages beachgoers to throw their trash in the can, not the sand, by helping catch the eye of visitors. Competitors painted trash barrels based on marine themes:

- Ocean & Bay Organisms
- Marine & Aquatic Debris
- Coastal & Marine Ecosystems
- Galveston Beach & Bay Recreational Activities
- Houston Ship Channel









Native plant and animal species were studied through wildlife talks, bug hunts, and dissections. Every camper walked away with a clay sculpture, canvas painting and nature journal.

ECO Camps (Explore, Create, Observe)

These camps serve kids age 11-15 years old. Each week of camp has a different theme that most of the activities revolve around. Over the course of these weeklong camps, campers had the opportunity to learn how to sketch, create clay models, watercolor paint, acrylic paint, craft with natural objects found on the Coastal Heritage Preserve and much more! In addition to art, campers learned how to plan and execute a safe kayak trip, multiple fishing methods (seining, cast netting, etc.) and different birding techniques.













Eco-Art Camps

Artist Boat offered week-long and day-camp sessions of Eco-Art Camp for ages 5-10 years old. In 2024, we had 148 happy Eco-Art Campers enjoy the Coastal Heritage Preserve!

The themes of each week of camp allowed campers to dive deep into their special interests! Some weeks focused on fish, marine mammals, turtles, birds, or microorganisms, while other weeks focused on native plants, prairie flowers, and eco-friendly practices.

Programs taught skills in clay modeling, sculptural building, and water coloring.









Meet Artist Boat's Summer intern! Noah Jansen

Noah was our 2024 summer intern delivering the Bucket Brigade program on our beaches to 841 participants during 108 tours. Noah is a TAMUG undergraduate student majoring in Marine Science and will graduate in the class of 2025.

He brings a lot of energy and joy to everything he does and enthusiastically chipped in to help with Eco-Art Kayak Adventures, Residency Programs, Camp, and Habitat Management. From helping create murals to repairing fencing and removing invasive species Noah was excited to learn and get al lot done this summer!







Outreach

Artist Boat is regularly featured in local magazines and news outlets. In addition, brochures are distributed about all programs through Certified Folder. After a long break from outreach events, we were finally able to begin hosting booths and attending outreach events again.

In total we held or participated in **42** outreach events in 2023-24. We were able to reach out to a total **4,776** people at these events!











Bucket Brigade

The Bucket Brigade program dispels misconceptions about Galveston Beaches through free interpretive tours and animal encounters. This year, we served 731 people over 104 tours. There are many creatures and features that make these beaches unique, but the main tour topics include:

- Water quality
- Marine animal adaptations
- Functions of the sand dunes
- Marine debris
- Sargassum

Bucket Brigade serves a range of K-Gray learners. This program helps engage people who are already at the beach to help educate them about the environment while encouraging the reduction of litter.







World Ocean Day

We had the privilege of hosting the annual Artist Boat World Ocean Day Festival on June 8, 2024, at R.A. Apffel East Beach Park this year. The festival attracted people to East Beach with interactive activities, live entertainment, Eco-Art Workshops, Bucket Brigade Beach Tours, and included a life-size blowup model of a Rice's Whale.

We were excited to host 1,104 visitors, 22 exhibitors, 5 performers, and had over 449 contributing artists participating in the Beautify the Bucket art competition!







Artist Boat hosted the film screening of the award-winning documentary, **The Arc of Oblivion**, a film by lan Cheney. The screening was held at Moody Gardens 3D Theater in partnership with the Moody Gardens Hotel & Spa.

Artist Boat welcomed award winning children's author, **Kimberly Ridley**, to teach Nature Journaling workshops in partnership with the UTMB Health.











World Ocean Day

This year, five tents were used to comfortably fit all of our partners and performers, including our 100'x40' main event tent, three 20'x20' workshop tents, and one 10'x20' climate-controlled tent. Artist Boat hosted 4 different workshops:

- Nature Journaling with Kimberly Ridley
- Beach Drum Circle with Ilya Janos Kolozs
- Watercolor Whale Painting with Lauryn Fly
- Bucket Brigade Tours with Noah Jansen



Citgo

Citgo helped provide the funding for our Habitat and Stewardship Department to maintain our 1,039 acres of coastal prairie. In addition, 1,011 volunteers of all ages participated in habitat restoration, spending over 3,376 hours at on the Preserve.

- 22 Open Work Days
- 24 Black Rail surveys
- 290 bird species identified
- 1 BIG SIT
- 1 BIG DAY
- 272 hours spent treating invasives
- 11 acres of land mowed for Sandhill Cranes
- 14 acres of restored coastal prairie
- 7,000 plants grown / planted on the prairie
- 8,130 lbs of debris removed from land



iNaturalist

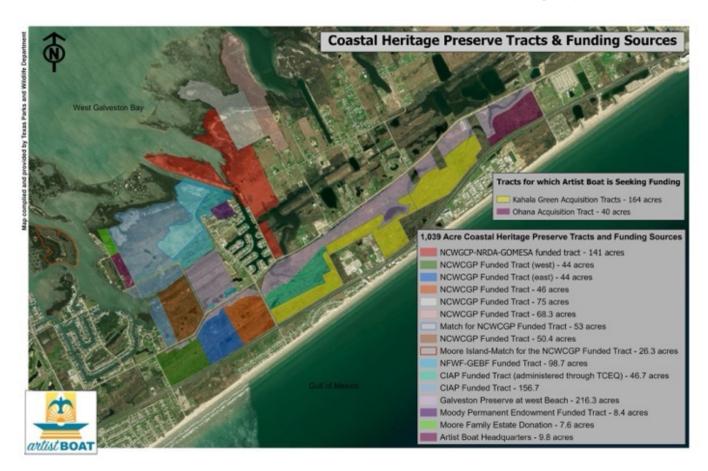
The Preserve has 372 species listed, in addition to the birds including:

- 12 reptiles
- 6 mammals
- 6 mushrooms
- 124 plants
- 224 invertebrates





Be One in a Million Campaign



The campaign, Be One In A Million, to get one million people to donate \$10 to save land on West Galveston Island began in March of 2021. This campaign is critical to bringing the full vision of the Preserve existing from bay-tobeach at 1,400 acres. Since the inception of the program 2,513 people/donors have donated \$1,962,205 to acquire land. The goal is to raise \$10,000,000 from donors to leverage the state and federal dollars awarded by grants to secure the remaining 204+ acres to be saved. This program has leveraged \$9,500,000 in federal and state awards for conservation and helped close on 349 acres of land since 2020 through five transactions requiring \$333,000 in match each.







Coastal Heritage Preserve - Land Acquisition

Artist Boat grew from 898 acres to 1,039 acres in the past 12 months. Artist Boat closed on 140 acres of land at Anchor Bay for \$6.5 Million on August 21, 2024. This completed the 15th transaction bringing the total acquisition investment to \$24.5 Million dollars.

This \$6.5+ Million dollar transaction received conservation grant funds from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas General Land Office, Texas Trustee Implementation Group (BP DeepWater Horizon Oil Spill Funds), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Partnership for Gulf Coast Land Conservation, The Brown Foundation, Malcom C. Damuth Foundation, CenterPoint Energy Foundation, Harry L. Willet Foundation, Dr. Leon Bromberg Charitable Trust, Edward Joseph Hudson Foundation, Galveston Bay Foundation, and hundreds of individual donors from the "Be One In A Million" Campaign for land conservation.





We raised a total of \$139,425 from 52 sponsors & 6 donors, \$46,040 from the online auction, \$3,100 from the live-painting auction, \$1,925 from raffle tickets, \$11,100 in ticket sales, \$2,829 in merchandise sales, and \$128,082 from Be a Whale land donations. This brings us to a grand total of \$332,058.00. We are so thrilled to be able to bring so many people out for a magical evening on the preserve.

Float the Boat

Float the Boat is Artist Boat's annual signature fundraiser under the stars at the Coastal Heritage Preserve. The three dinner events were held between November 11th, 17th &18th, 2023, in conjunction with our online auction and live auction. The dinner series hosted a total of 379 quests. Our annual auction is one of the largest in Galveston, and this year we received 230 items from donations by local businesses.







Highlights of our accomplishments - 21 years!

1,039 ACRES

of coastal prairie saved from development & 200 acres in progress

626 TRASH BARRELS

painted and installed on Galveston beaches

1,636 PUBLIC ARTWORKS

including 70 benches on the Seawall Interpretive Trail

EDUCATION ACCESS STRUCTURES

1 outdoor classroom built on the Crenshaw campus, 3 built on our Coastal Heritage Preserve, and our Eco-Art Barn & Treehouse

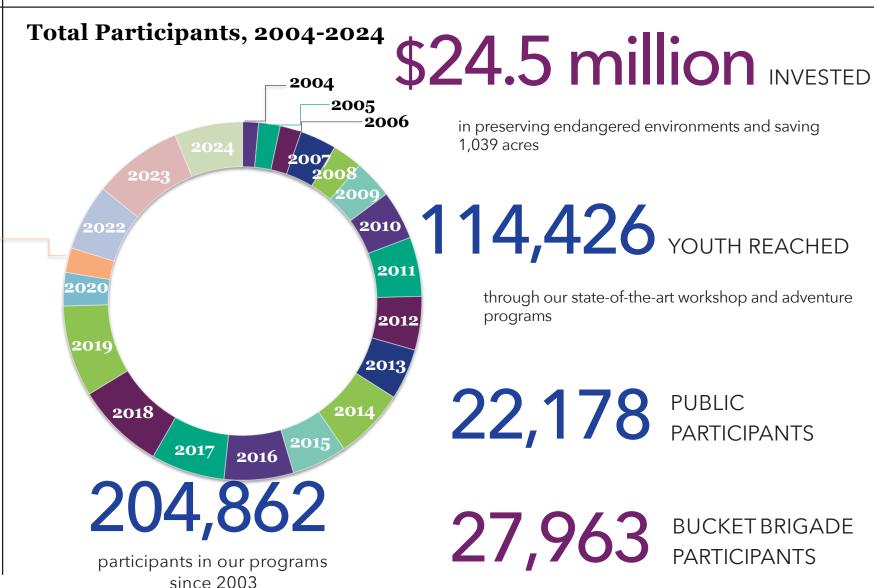
PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS





21 YEARS OF ACHIEVING GREAT THINGS FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE!

Highlights of our accomplishments - 21 years!



2021

Numbers served from 2014 - 2024

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL SERVED TO DATE	% compared to 2023
Eco-art Workshops	3,225	3,599	1,752	2,395	2,340	3,720	2,516	261	3,113	2,396	1,533	44,614	36%
Eco-art Adventures	4,069	3,841	2,174	1,896	2,591	2,750	1,721	456	2,336	1,286	818	42,092	36%
Residencies	682	630	270	283	95	373	122	760	2,545	730	547	16,409	25%
Professional Development	84	1.5	62	14	61	28	23	90	13	251	23	2,064	91%
Public/Private Adventures	1.457	1,372	932	639	572	503	277	526	607	1,529	3,152	22,178	51%
Bucket Brigade		-	4,820	6,639	6,843	4,222	491	2,340	1,061	706	841	27,963	16%
Habitat Restoration Adventure	200	204	(2)	717		507	198	36	362	1,868	543	11,311	71%
Outreach/Engagement	3 614	558	2,382	627	2,979	3,422	412	33	1,893	6,942	4,776	33,142	31%
Volunteers/Workdays		-	417	411	925	1,359	404	61	311	857	344	5,089	60%
	9%		24%					33%					
Average		10,921	14,279			9,204			13,794				7
TOTAL SERVED	13,131	10,204	12,809	13,621	16,406	16,884	6,164	4,563	12,241	16,565	12,577	204,862	



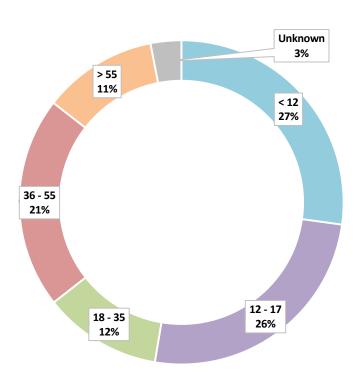
Numbers served from 2004 - 2013

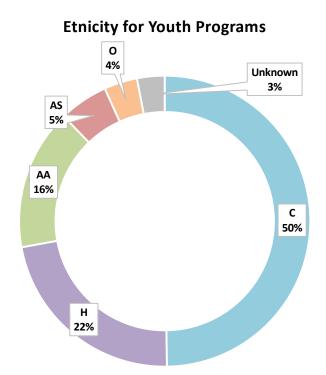
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Eco-art Workshops	1,103	828	678	2,463	924	2,044	3,055	3,382	1,669	1,618
Eco-art Adventures	1,303	902	1,055	1,782	1,942	1,598	2,068	3,034	2,195	2,275
Residencies	101	608	1,265	992	1,471	1,228	1,238	867	427	1,175
Professional Development	73	111	236	275	245	119	103	52	116	85
Public/Private Adventures	358	511	548	591	816	527	1,264	2,382	1,775	1,840
Bucket Brigade	_	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	1
Habitat Restoration Adventure	-	420	168	63	-	1,360	1,024	609	2,298	934
Outreach/Engagement	-	611		576	159	299	300	628	1,431	1,500
Volunteers/Workdays	-	-	-			-	-	-		
				44%			35%			
Average			3,626	8 8		6,491			9,972	
TOTAL SERVED	2,938	3,991	3,950	6,742	5,557	7,175	9,052	10,954	9,911	9,427



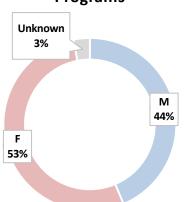
Demographics of youth served

Age for All Programs





Gender for Youth Programs



3,441 youth served in 2024

Sponsors - Thank you to our grantors!





























THE CYNTHIA & GEORGE



















National

Marine Sanctuary





Foundation



















