



Living
Coast
Discovery
Center

1987-2017

www.TheLivingCoast.org

Annual Report

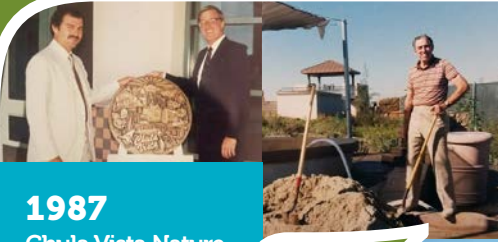
Fiscal Year 2017-2018



Thank You for 30 Years!

1987

Chula Vista Nature Center opened its doors to the public



2003

David A. Wergeland Shark & Ray Experience and Eagle Mesa constructed



2006

Opening of Wergeland Family Discovery Center



2010

The Nature Center attained independence from the City of Chula Vista to form an autonomous nonprofit organization



2012

Chula Vista Nature Center is rebranded to Living Coast Discovery Center



2016

Turtle Lagoon is renovated



2017

Pollinator Garden is constructed.





30th Anniversary Celebration!



In Memory



Colonel Floyd L. "Larry" Wergeland Jr., M.D.
1932-2018

Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and laughter. The impact of your leadership will live on for generations to come.



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your support of the Living Coast Discovery Center. I am proud to share with you the highlights from fiscal year 2017-18 starting with the 30th Anniversary celebration which included reconnecting with many of you who were part of the nature center history that led us to where we are today.

It has been an honor and privilege to be part of an organization that has inspired so many students and families to become better stewards of the environment. Having been a volunteer in the aquarium department in 1990, I know first-hand how the Living Coast can help shape the lives of those who experience the wonder and excitement of this very special place. The Living Coast has made a profound impact on the way I view nature and wildlife, and has shaped who I am today.

This year we lost a dear friend of the Living Coast Discovery Center – Floyd L. “Larry” Wergeland Jr., M.D. As you may know, Dr. Larry was a volunteer docent, benefactor, and executive member of the Board of Directors. I was fortunate to know Dr. Larry and will always be grateful for the mentorship and guidance he provided to me over the years. He will be missed.

I would like to acknowledge the generous support of the City of Chula Vista for providing the Living Coast with a site in which to provide educational programs and a place for visitors to enjoy the outdoors and the natural surroundings of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Sweetwater Marsh Unit. I also want to thank the Unified Port of San Diego and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their support and commitment to environmental education for underserved students and youth in San Diego County.

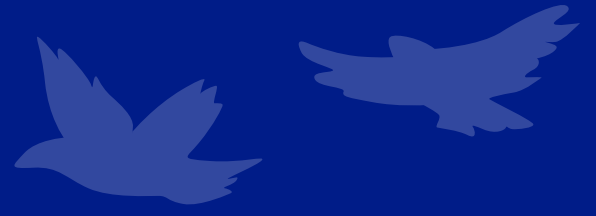
For the fifth consecutive year, audited financial reports reflected a net positive result. Through general admissions, special events, and our many educational programs, over 85,000 guests visited the Living Coast this year to learn about our native wildlife in San Diego and the importance of their habitats in our ecosystem. I am grateful to have the support of our local community and know that, together, we will make an event greater impact over the next thirty years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Vallejos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Vallejos
Executive Director

The Living Coast Experience



Naturally Wild was a series of special events that featured exciting presentations, animal encounters and hands-on activities where guests learned how animals thrive and survive in their natural habitats. *Naturally Wild* included daily activities, new animals, and over 24 family-friendly events.

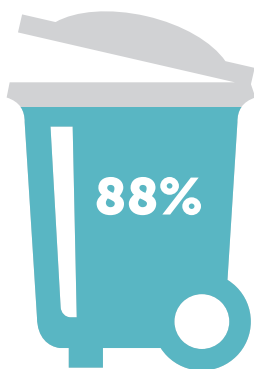
The Living Coast Experience



The **8th Annual Farm to Bay Celebration** raised \$84,000 in net proceeds in support of coastal wildlife, conservation, and education programs at the Living

ZERO WASTE GOAL

88% of event waste was diverted from landfills, our highest diversion ever!



Animals on the Bay Day, sponsored by the California State Coastal Conservancy and the Port of San Diego, was a fun-filled, free community day on San Diego Bay. Over 2,500 adults and children received free admission and learned about local wildlife and conservation through animal encounters and interactive activities.

The Living Coast Experience



The **7th Annual Wine on the Waterfront** maritime industry benefit generated more than \$35,000 in net proceeds in support of the Living Coast. Special thanks to hosts Bob Kilpatrick, along with, BAE Systems, Continental Maritime, Marine Group Boat Works, and General Dynamics NASSCO.

Thanks to our sponsors:

TOP SHELF: Curtiss Wright, HII Technical Solutions Fleet Support Group, Miller Marine, NSC Technologies, PCE, Southcoast Welding, and Tecnico.

PREMIUM: Alaskan Copper & Brass Company, Athenx, BAE Systems, Epsilon Systems Solutions, Hawthorne Power Systems, JAG Yacht Coatings, Marine Group Boat Works, PYR, San Diego Marine Exchange, Turn Key Scaffold, and YYK Ship Repair.

IN-KIND SUPPORT: Cotton Cause and Tradesman International.

The Living Coast Educational Programs



29,252
preK-12th grade
students

experienced field
trips to the
Living Coast

Of these, **6,281** students received free field trips thanks to the generous support of our community sponsors.

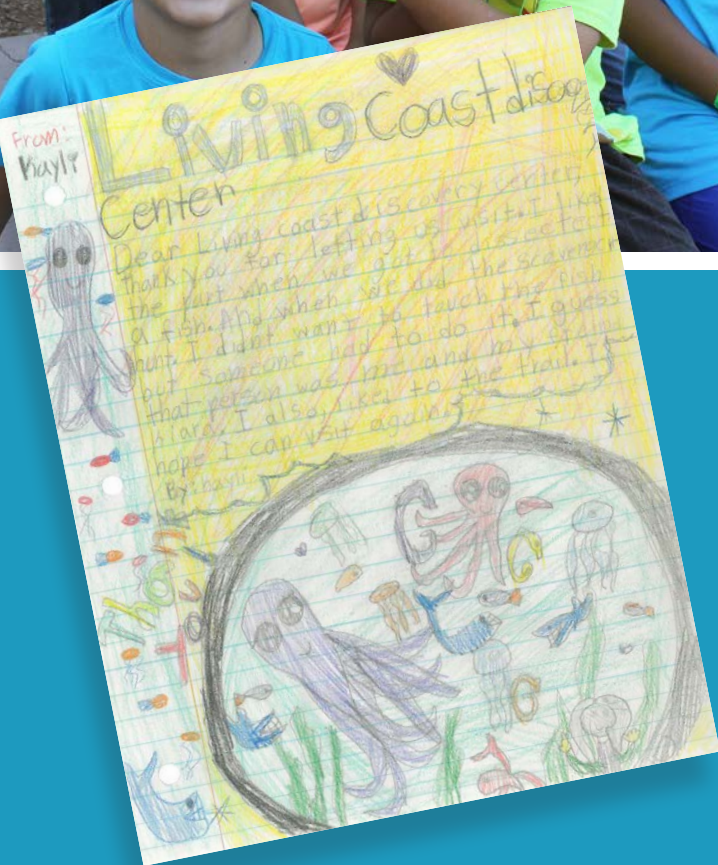
Special thanks to all educators throughout San Diego County – **1,757 teachers** brought their classes to get up-close with nature.

The Living Coast Educational Programs



3,417 campers

(preK-teen) enjoyed
Wildlife Camps at
the Living Coast



**11,507
students**

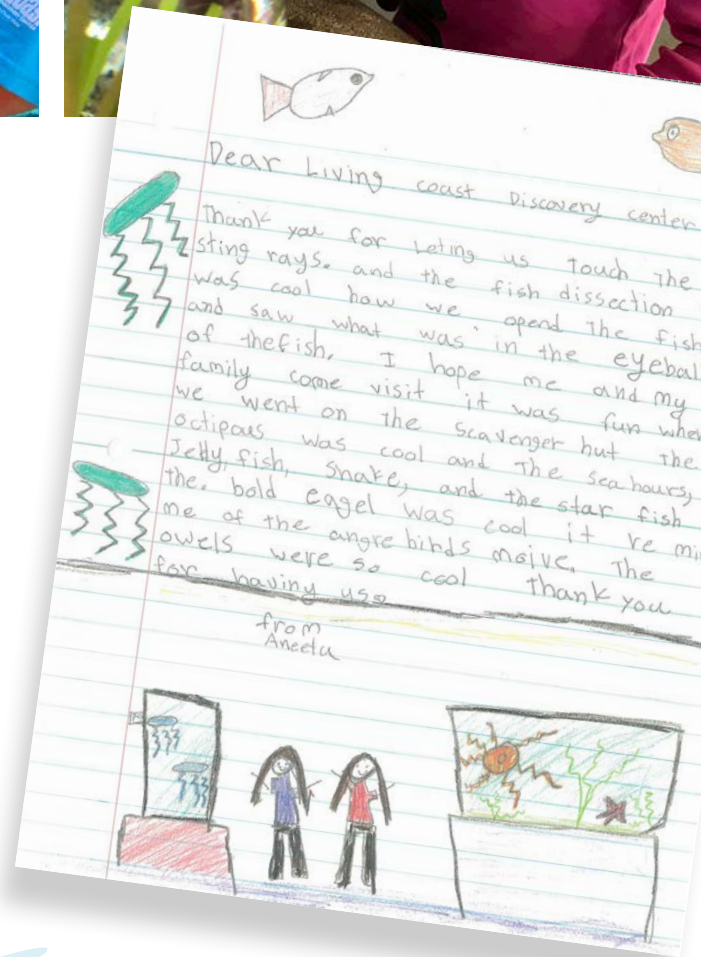
participated in Our Wild
San Diego outreach program
where we take education
into local classrooms,
libraries, and community
centers.

The Living Coast Educational Programs



Thanks to the generous support of SDG&E, the Living Coast Discovery Center teamed up with Climate Science Alliance to provide climate science training to informal educators from local organizations.

As a result, the Living Coast now offers 4 new Climate Science Living Lab programs for K-12 grade students.



The Living Coast Educational Programs



Compost Workshops

43 introduction to composting workshops were held on Sundays for **228** attendees.



Compost in Schools

9 compost workshops were hosted at local schools.



Master Composter Program

44 Master Composter graduates are can now become certified to teach others about composting.



Zero Waste

The Living Coast has adopted a zero waste initiative for all onsite rentals and events with an average of 83% diversion of waste from the landfill.

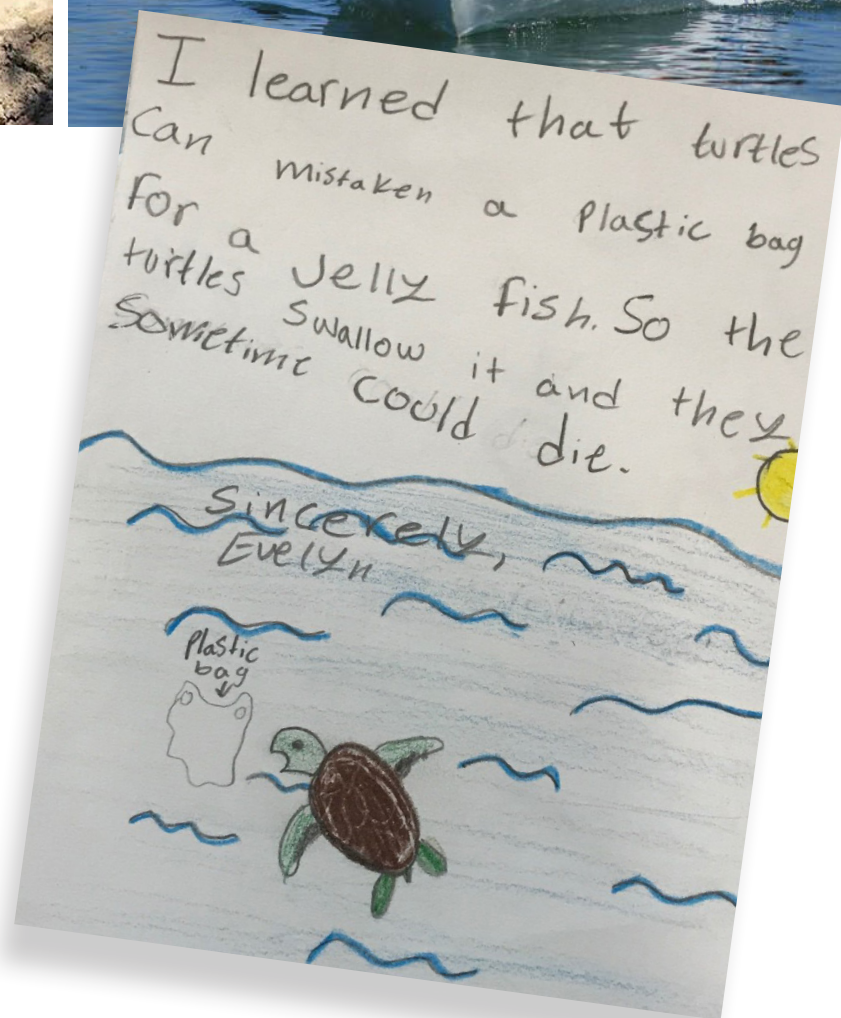
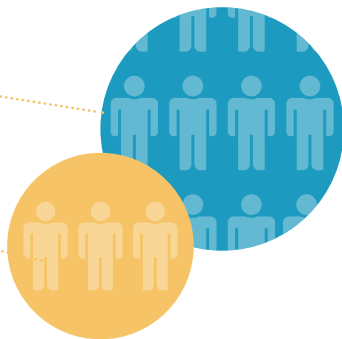
The Living Coast Educational Programs



In partnership with Chula Vista Elementary School District, TK-8th grade students are encouraged to attend a coastal education program once per year at the Living Coast. All programs are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core State Standards and provide students an enriching and unique science program.

7,329
students

439
teachers



The Living Coast Research Collaboration



Light-footed Ridgway's Rail Propagation and Reintroduction Program

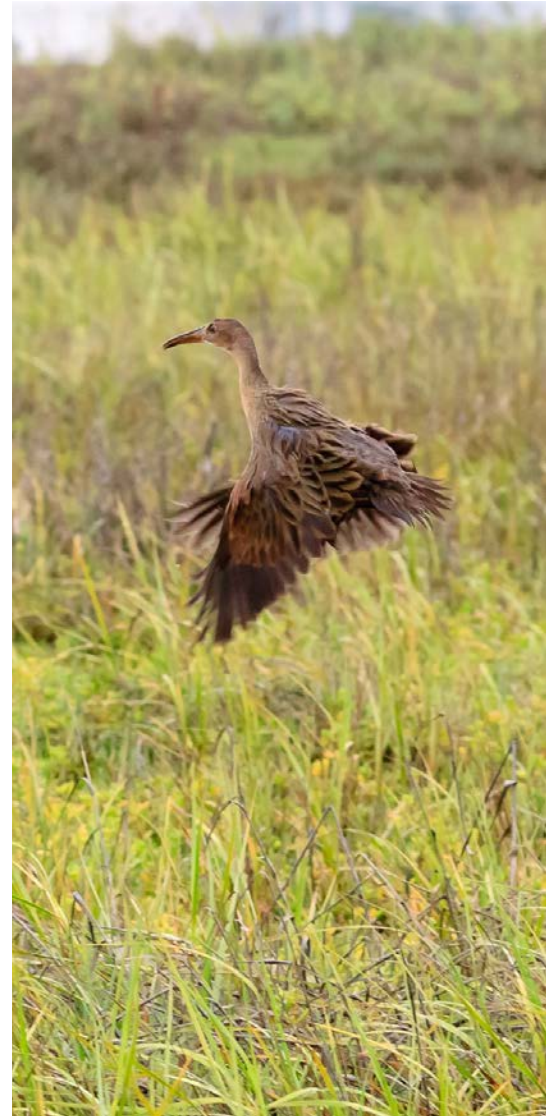
The Living Coast is proud to be part of Team Clapper Rail, composed of organizations dedicated to the study, restoration, and reintroduction of rails in southern California.

Currently, we are the only zoological institution in the world where the endangered light-footed Ridgway's rail species can be viewed by the public.

In the 2018 season, the Living Coast had the greatest productivity of rails bred in captivity.



The Living Coast
Research
Collaboration



22

of the 50 rails bred and released were raised at the Living Coast.

2018

is the first year since 2013 that the Living Coast has had two potential breeding pairs in the program.

509

rails have been zoological bred and released into the wild since 2001.

The Living Coast Research Collaboration



Bat Monitoring

The Living Coast Discovery Center, in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cabrillo National Monument, and San Diego Natural History Museum conducted surveys to determine bat species composition on and around the Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge.



Data analyses confirmed the presence of several bats designated as species of special concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife including:



**Pocketed
Free-Tailed
Bat**



**Western
Yellow
Bat**



**Western
Mastiff
Bat**



**Western
Red
Bat**

Other bat species detected:

**Mexican
Free-Tailed
Bat**

**Hoary
Bat**

**Yuma
Myotis**

**Big
Brown
Bat**

**Canyon
Bat**

The Living Coast Volunteers



28,836

volunteer hours equating
to **\$838,839** in value of
donated volunteer time



300

active volunteers
(ages 16-80's)



42

community outreach
events throughout
San Diego County

The Living Coast Volunteers



TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP

Thank you to the 685 volunteers that helped us clean up local parks, bays, rivers, and nature trails.



21,730
lbs of trash removed



200
new plantings



14
location sites

The Living Coast Volunteers

Thank you to our local partners for helping
to keep our community clean!

Chula Vista Kayak | Republic Services | Port of San Diego | Wells Fargo
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Sprouts Farmer's Market – Chula Vista and Eastlake



Honor Roll

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Thank you to all of our generous donors for their loyal support of the Living Coast Discovery Center.

\$100,000 and Above

Unified Port of San Diego
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

\$50,000-\$99,999

Anonymous
J.W. Sefton Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

Price Philanthropies
Foundation
San Diego Gas and Electric®

\$10,000-\$24,999

California State Coastal
Conservancy
Charles and Ruth Billingsley
Foundation
DMG Corporation
Hind Foundation
Marine Group Boat Works
Mission Federal Credit Union
The Parker Foundation
Seven Mile Casino
Susan Fuller
UTC Aerospace Systems -
Aerostructures
Walter J. and Betty C. Zable
Foundation
Wells Fargo

\$5,000-\$9,999

Baldwin & Sons
Bayer Feed a Bee
Boys & Girls Foundation
Chula Vista Kayak
Daphne Seybolt Culpeper
Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Hans and Margaret Doe
Charitable Trust
The Hattie Ettinger
Conservation Fund at The
San Diego Foundation
The James M. Cox
Foundation
J.F. Beyster Fund at The San
Diego Foundation
MA Engineers
Sprouts Farmers Market -
Chula Vista and Eastlake

Sun Communities
Sweetwater Authority
The William Hall and Ruth
Rathell Tippet Foundation
Ellen G. & Edward G. Wong
Family Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999

Alaskan Copper & Brass
Company
BAE Systems San Diego Ship
Repair
Balboa Thrift and Loan
Bank of America Charitable
Foundation
Dan Beintema
Jim Biddle
Kimberly Chang-Haines
Lori and Phil Coons
Cortez Racing Association
Cheryl and Greg Cox
Cox Communications, Inc.
Employees Community Fund
of Boeing California
Epsilon Systems Solutions
Sara Giobbi and David
Claypool
Hawthorne Power Systems
Susan Hein
Kendall and Matthew Helm
HII Technical Solutions Fleet
Support Group (San Diego
Shipyard)
Hoffman, Hanono Insurance
Services
HomeAdvisor
Patricia Huffman
JAG Yacht Coatings, Inc.
Elena and Bob Koerber
Las Primeras
Jean and Chris Lewis
Loews Coronado Bay Resort
Michele Mangan and Robert
Kilpatrick
Marker Investments
The Miller Hull Partnership,
LLP
Miller Marine
Patrice Milkovich

Karen and Stephen
Neudecker, Ph.D.
NASSCO Ship Building
Company
Nelson Family
New Belgium Brewing
Company
Nordson Corporation
NRG Energy Center San
Diego
NSC Technologies Worldwide
Bridget and Jeff Palitz
PCE San Diego
Pratt Memorial Fund
PYR
Gail and Rene Quinones
Republic Services
RIDA Development
Corporation
Andrea and Todd Roberts
Joan and Frank Roseman
San Diego Association of
Governments
San Diego County
Employees' Charitable
Organization
San Diego County Regional
Airport Authority
San Diego Marine Exchange,
Inc.
Mary Ann and David
Saponara
Mariel and Jayson Schmidt
April and Gregory Sobotka
Southcoast Welding & Mfg,
LLC
Stanley/Stearns Fund
Tecnico Corporation
Shanon Thiel
The Thursday Club
Turn Key Scaffold
Kathleen and Ben Vallejos
Walmart
Dina and Ken Weimer
YYK Ship Repair

\$500-\$999

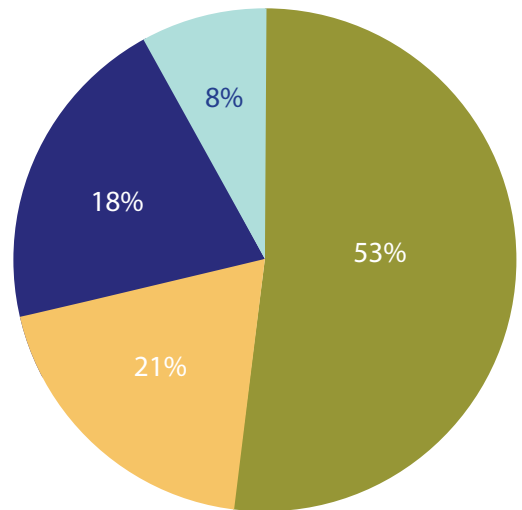
Theresa Acerro
Dr. Janis Frageman and Peter
Andersen

Taryl Anderson
Joan Bailey
Connie and William Beckman
Jeanne and James Bonk
Gary Bryant
Chula Vista Womans Club
City Link Foundation
California Native Plant
Society
Judy Cave
Denise and Gary David
Janie DeCelles
Kathy and David Didonato
Cory Downs
Jose Esparza
David Evans
Connie Fey
Fiddler's Green Restaurant
Fischbeck & Oberndorfer,
APC
Suzan and Steve Fuller
Sylvia and Jefferey Gaffney
Patricia Gates
Santiago Hernandez
IMTRA Corporation
Charlene Krusas
Denise Lago and Paul Viani
Diane and Christopher Lever
Lisa Lovern
Elisa E. Merino
Metropolitan Solutions
Kathleen L. Morgan
Tami Nakahara and Scott
Delman
John Rendine
Ruben Rigney
Jared Rose
Russell Interior Systems
San Diego Fly Fishers
Abby Snyder
Societe Brewing Company
Sweetwater Woman's Club
Sara and John Thomas
Tradesman International
Viasat Inc.
Darlene Whorley

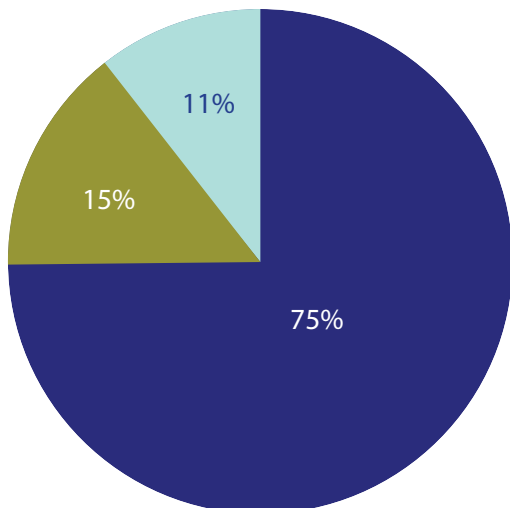


Revenue and Support

■ Fundraising and Special Events	\$1,157,920
■ Educational Program Services	\$402,842
■ Admissions and Membership	\$452,632
■ Gift Shop and Rentals	\$175,239
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,188,633



*due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100%



Expenses

■ Program Services	\$1,507,907
■ Fundraising	\$294,391
■ Management, Administration, and General Operations	\$216,054
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,018,352

Board of Directors and Leadership Staff



Executive Committee

Susan Fuller, Chairperson
Retired, Fuller's Plumbing

Bob Kilpatrick, Vice Chair
Vice President, Athenx

Ken Weimer, Treasurer
Retired, Insurance Broker

Floyd L. "Larry" Wergeland, Jr., M.D.
Secretary
Colonel of the U.S. Army Medical Corps, Retired; Ophthalmologist, Retired (1932-2018)

Andrew Yuen, Executive Committee
Project Leader, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Directors

Sam Cardoso, Assistant Vice President,
Branch Manager, Mission Federal Credit Union

Herb Engel, President and CEO,
Marine Group Boat Works

Sara Giobbi, Environmental Engineering Specialist, General Dynamics NASSCO

Kendall Helm, Ph.D., Vice President of Energy Supply, SDG&E

Bob Koerber, Vice President/General Manager, BAE Systems San Diego Ship Repair, Retired

Christopher Lewis, President, The Lewis Group

Michelle Ramler, Marketing Director, Cox Communications

Kyle Strong, Associate General Counsel, UTC Aerospace Systems - Aerostructures

Frank Roseman*, Retired Rohr Aircraft Corporation

**Honorary Member*

Leadership Staff

Ben Vallejos, Executive Director

Lori Coons, Director of Community Engagement and Development

Amanda Grant-Stout, Director of Education

Tina Matthias, Volunteer and Programs Manager

Lindsay Bradshaw, Animal Care Manager

Jessica LaFave, Development Manager

Aaron Hennessey, Facilities Manager

Elizabeth Argyle, Education and Guest Experience Manager

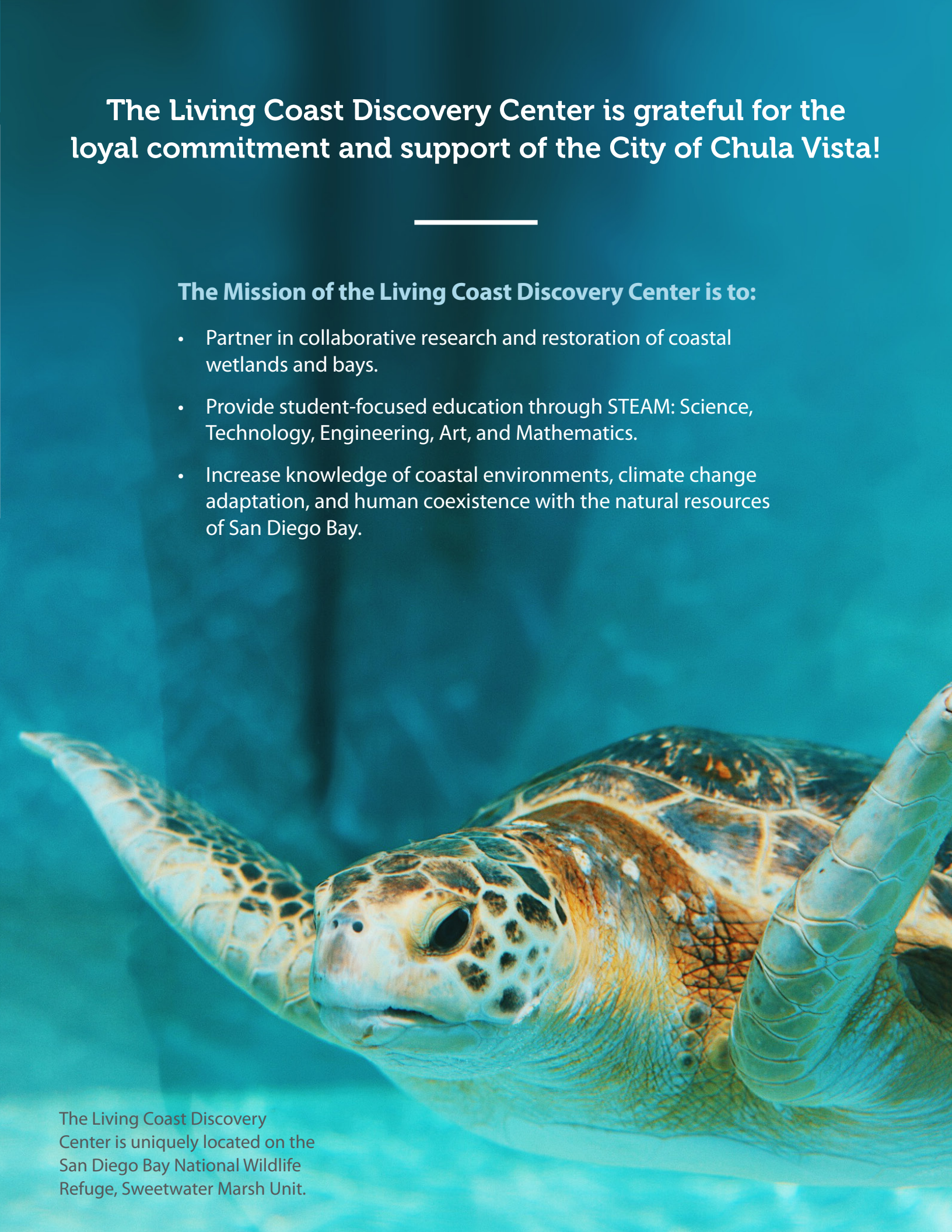
Grecia Figueroa, Marketing and Communications Manager

The Living Coast Discovery Center is grateful for the loyal commitment and support of the City of Chula Vista!

The Mission of the Living Coast Discovery Center is to:

- Partner in collaborative research and restoration of coastal wetlands and bays.
- Provide student-focused education through STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics.
- Increase knowledge of coastal environments, climate change adaptation, and human coexistence with the natural resources of San Diego Bay.

The Living Coast Discovery Center is uniquely located on the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Sweetwater Marsh Unit.





To learn more about ways to support the Living Coast, please visit:
www.TheLivingCoast.org/donate

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Thank you for supporting our vision to inspire care and exploration of the living Earth by connecting people with coastal animals, plants, and habitats.

Living Coast Discovery Center
1000 Gunpowder Point Drive
Chula Vista, CA 91910

(619) 409-5900
www.TheLivingCoast.org