

# Newport Bay Conservancy 2025 Annual Meeting



## **Board of Directors**

Bryan Tsu, President

Stacey Tutt & Bettina Eastman, Co-Vice President

Julie Powers, Treasurer

Susie Onate, Secretary

Peter Bryant, Mario Cuevas, Diane Daruty, Maureen Flanagan

Lori Meterate, Molly Waldram, McKenna Wegner, Yugina Yun

# Our Mission

Protect and preserve the Upper Newport Bay and its watershed through education, restoration, research and advocacy.



We acknowledge that our work takes place on the ancestral lands of native peoples, original inhabitants and stewards of this territory. We respect their continuing connection to these lands and waters.



# Staff

**Heather Cieslak**, *Operations Director*

**Hilary Cunningham**, *Education Manager*

**Mariah Sabo**, *Education Specialist*

**Thomas Shields**, *Restoration Manager*

*(started August 2025)*

**Matt Marowitz**, *Habitat Restoration Coordinator*

*(started September 2025)*

**David Banuelas**, *Habitat Restoration Technician II*

**Kaysen Pajarillo**, *Habitat Restoration Technician II*

**Alex Sasikumar**, *Outdoor Activity Leader*

**Isabelle Beltran**, *Outdoor Activity Leader*

**Damian Pizano**, *Outdoor Activity Leader*

**Brooke Medina**, *Outdoor Activity Leader*

**Joshua Bravo**, *Restoration Intern*

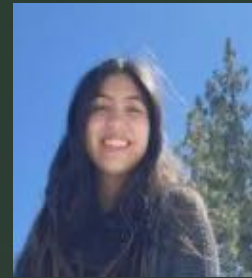
**Suhanee Patel**, *Restoration Intern*

**Chris Fabela**, *Habitat Restoration Coordinator*

*(until August, 2025)*

**Randall English**, *Habitat Restoration Technician II*

*(until October 2025)*



# Board Committees

- Bylaws Committee
- Board Development Committee
- Finance Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Education Committee
- Community Outreach Committee
- Research and Advocacy Committee
- Restoration Committee

# Volunteers

October 2024 to  
September 2025

161 volunteers  
submitted hours

44 voting members

7,400 total  
volunteer hours!





## Thank You!

Don Millar, 631  
Linda Barker, 618  
Arvid Spor, 351  
Gwenn Abrams, 237  
Judy Booth, 232

### Over 100 Hours

Jean Savage  
Ken Yamagata  
Penny Nakashima  
Mary Gartung  
Michael Jiang  
Ruth Moreno  
Teresa Kueny  
Denise Blocher  
John Kueny  
David Griffin  
Diana Grice



# Volunteers



**Penny Nakashima - OC Parks  
Volunteer of the Year for UNB**

## Volunteer and Naturalist Training

NBC/OC Parks Volunteers  
4 trainings onboarding  
60 new Associate Volunteers



2024-25  
12 Naturalists graduated

2025-26  
15 Naturalist Trainees



## College Corps

2024/2025

2 UCI Fellows

2 Vanguard Fellows

2025/2026

2 UCI Fellows

2 Vanguard Fellows



## UCI Social Ecology

Fall 2024: 1 intern

Spring 2025: 2 interns

Fall 2025: 4 interns

# New Naturalists in Action

## Face to Face with Nature Workshop



Nature Scavenger Hunt,  
(cohort 2023-24). Now a  
permanent OC Parks program!



# Kayak Tours - 617 kayakers





## Muth Interpretive Center & Back Bay Science Center

44,596 visitors to the Muth Center  
with \$30,759 in gift shop sales

25 Grade School field trips  
Tuesday mornings, 1,310 students



Community Day at the BBSC  
Sundays 10am-2pm  
nearly 3,000 visitors

## FiiN Program: serving 560 students

Heather Cieslak, Bugs  
Hilary Cunningham, Hurricane  
Mariah Sabo, Mermaid  
Kaysen Pajarillo, Mulefat  
Alex Sasikumar, Bumblebee  
Isabelle Beltran, Raccoon  
Ashlyn Villarreal, Encelia  
Ava Shanklin, Lily  
Chloe Bohrer, Hermit  
Denise Blocher, Baleen  
Diego Fuentes, Cacti  
Dominic Fitzgerald, Otter  
Ellie Gonzales, Coyote  
Finleyrose Wyatt, Poppy  
Gloria Hernandez, Mariposa  
Haley Ryan Fetchik, Starfish  
Jaz Romero, Prickly Pear  
Jenna Beining, Sage  
Jun Sohn, Sandpiper  
Maddy Mcdonald, Sunny

Maricella Barreto-Ray, Go-Go Gopher  
Michael Jiang, Bimac "Octopus"  
Nicolas Paez, Newt  
Rein Htet, Hawk  
Sydney Flanery, Stingray





# FiiN Program Award

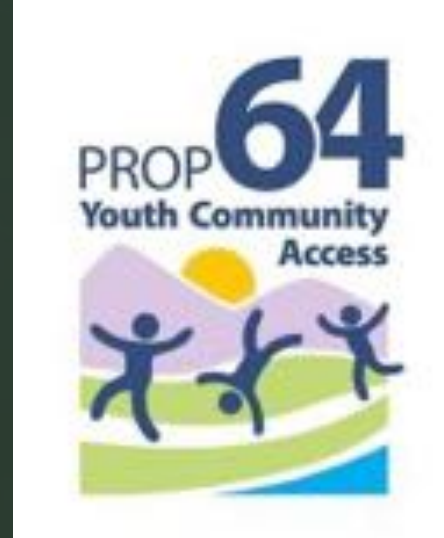




## High School & College Tours

Providing almost 700 field trips for students on the water as part of the Environmental Education Program

This program will be supported in partnership with the State of California, Natural Resources Agency for the next 3 years



# Restoration





# Invasive Species Control Efforts

Thanks to USFWS & Warne Foundation Support

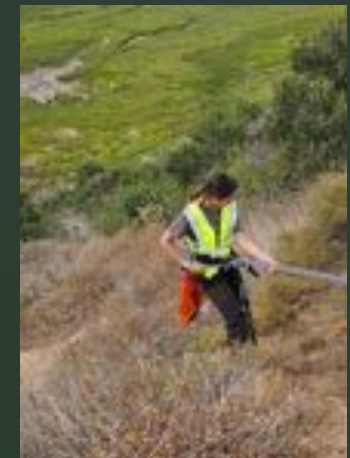
## Invasive Limonium

Algerian Sea Lavender (*Limonium ramosissimum*)

European Sea Lavender (*Limonium duriusculum*)



## Desert Knapweed / Egyptian Knapweed (*Volutaria tubuliflora*)





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## Big Canyon, Phase II



### Corporate Group Attendees

- AAA
- PIMCO
- Xylem

### Highlights

- Removed four, 40-yard of vegetation, weighing 40,000 lbs!
- Over 1,490 hours of volunteer support
- Planted 143 native plants
- Pacific West Environmental onsite for the treatment of invasive plant species



# Restoration





# Restoration



## Big Canyon Phase III

### Funding Sources

- California Coastal Conservancy with USFWS support (\$1.6M)
- Ocean Protection Council (\$2.6M)
- Wildlife Conservation Board (\$3.2M)

### Highlights

- Restore 14.2 acres of coastal wetlands
  - 2.8 acres of tidal salt marsh
  - 7.2 acres of riparian and transitional freshwater
  - 4.2 acres of coastal sage scrub





## Lower Constellation

### Funding Source

- California Coastal Conservancy, Community Wetland Restoration Grants Program

### Highlights

- Restoration of coastal sage scrub and salt marsh habitat
  - CSS: 0.72 acres
  - CSS/ high marsh transition zone: 0.67 acres
  - Salt marsh: 0.35 acres
- Two new interns onboarded to assist with the project
  - Suhanee Patel
  - Joshua Bravo



## Bayview Heights Drainage

### Monitoring & Maintenance

- Mitigation site to address erosion between two residential homes
- NBC contracted by the City to conduct maintenance and monitoring
- Runoff drainage and erosion into Basin from backyard of residential home





## Other Restoration Events

- Sow & Grow
- Monthly bird surveys in Big Canyon
- Adopt-A-Plot
- Habitat Stewards with OC Parks
- Restoration field trips with UCI Earth System Science Club, Sage Hill Service Learning, West LA College, and others!



## Restoration Outreach

- World Conference on Ecological Restoration
- OC CNPS Kayak Tour
- ESA Walking Tour
- Kizh Camp with Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians
- Milkweed Giveaway





## Community Outreach

- Newport Beach Film Festival
- Subaru Jazz Festival
- OC Marathon Water Station
- UCI Community Service & Leadership Fair
- 4 SAUSD STEAM Nights/Festivals
- 1 SAUSD Elementary School Career Fair
- 2 College Earth Day Events
- 2 kids summer camps
- Outrigger tours for NAC members
- Tidepool education for Kizh tribal members
- And more sustainability & wildlife-related celebrations!



# Earth Day at the Bay 800 people (rainy edition)





## Back Bay Plein Air Art Festival



- 1,000+ attendees
- 120 paintings sold from 38 artists
- \$31k supporting local artists
- \$15k supporting NBC programs



## Gourmet By the Bay



*125 people enjoyed  
an evening at the Bay  
raising over \$32,000*





## Coastal Cleanup Day



750 volunteers  
15,000 pounds of  
trash removed  
Most interesting find:  
Abandoned goose egg

# Thank You to our Partners

- City of Newport Beach and Newport City Council
- Orange County Parks and OC Board of Supervisors
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife





# Treasurer's Report



## Maturing our finance capabilities





# Treasurer's Report

## Fiscal Year 2024 Statement of Activity Summary (Unaudited)

	FY 2024	FY 2023	% Change
<b>Revenue</b>			
Donations			
Corporate	42,528	44,373	-4%
General	58,911	36,523	62%
Foundation	50,000	75,000	-33%
Membership and Friends	39,002	30,867	26%
Total Donations	190,440	206,763	-8%
Fundraising Events (Net)	44,773	27,842	61%
Interest/Dividends	90	181	-50%
Merchandise Sales (Net)	823	8,327	-90%
Educational Program Revenue	187,523	347,307	27%
Restoration Programs Revenue	229,649	218,295	10%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>663,296</b>	<b>608,216</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administrative	67,541	68,003	-6%
Fundraising & Development	13,141	2,264	482%
Marketing & Outreach	4,776	10,924	-56%
Educational Programs	94,177	46,745	-27%
Restoration Programs	294,626	243,316	20%
Other Program Expense	15,180	6,405	59%
Payroll	420,642	379,830	11%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>748,034</b>	<b>647,373</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(84,737)</b>	<b>(19,157)</b>	

### Key Revenue Updates:

- Donation revenue dipped slightly; timing of some major donations a factor
- Fundraising events in 2024 were a success - effort to begin to elevate GBTB that began in 2024 and continued in 2025 contributed
- Net gift shop sales also impacted by some timing factors (inventory acquisition, tax payments) vs. a major dip in sales

### Key Expense Updates:

- Higher admin expense driven by artificially low 2023 (correcting a 2022 overpayment)
- Fundraising and development expense related to write-off of legacy inventory
- Payroll increased due to new headcount - a good thing, given our programs have grown

# Treasurer's Report

## Fiscal Year 2024 Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited)

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Bank Accounts	90,240	24,024
Accounts Receivable	167,412	262,859
Inventory	-	12,294
Other	455	455
Total Assets	<u>258,107</u>	<u>299,632</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	116,684	119,980
Accrued Professional Fees	15,816	-
Reserve for Accounting Discrepancies	39,365	-
Payroll Liabilities	-	9,302
Total Liabilities	<u>171,865</u>	<u>129,282</u>
<b>Shareholders' Equity</b>		
Prior year's contribution	296,585	296,585
Retained Earnings	(125,604)	(96,441)
Net Income	(84,737)	(29,164)
Total Shareholders' Equity	<u>86,244</u>	<u>170,980</u>

### Key Updates:

- Receivables - nature of NBC's grant-funded operations is that we have long payment cycles; working to ensure we have the resources to make billing as efficient as possible, but this drives our high receivables
  - However, improved at billing vs. 2023
- Inventory - written off for 2024 - moving to simpler inventory accounting system
- Reserve for accounting discrepancies - as we work to make our financial systems align better to our operations, working on cleaning up the balance sheet accounts - this is part of that process



# In Memoriam - Betsy Flynn



In Memoriam  
A minute for quiet reflection





# THANK YOU to our outgoing Board Member



**Susie Onate**  
Board Member 2021-2025  
Secretary



# Presentation of Board Candidates

## **Proposed Candidates for Board of Directors**

Diane Daruty

Maureen Flanagan

## **Current Directors whose term ends in 2026**

Mario Cuevas

Bettina Eastman

Bryan Tsu

## **Current Directors whose term ends in 2027**

Peter Bryant

Lori Metherate

Julie Powers

McKenna Wegner

Yugina Yun

## **Representative appointed by OC Parks per our MOU**

Molly Waldram

## **Proposed Non-Board Members of the Board Development Committee**

Nancy Gardner

Stacey Tutt





# BREAK

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# Adjourned



**Thank  
you for  
coming!**