

2023

Living Classroom

Annual Report



Our Mission:
To inspire children
to value and learn
about the natural
world through
garden-based
education.



Why?
Because environmental
literacy is essential in the
world today. Living
Classroom supports a new
generation of students that
are excited about science,
connected to nature, and are
equipped to build a future
that is environmentally
sustainable.



Director's Letters

From the Executive Director:

Living Classroom is once again proud to share with you the highlights of our accomplishments in 2022-23 - thanks to your support. This year was memorable in a few ways: Living Classroom was able to provide lessons to nearly 4500 students - lessons that included planting, harvesting, preparing and consuming food grown in their school gardens. Most of these lessons were delivered without masking by either staff or students - a welcome change. We saw a few transitions: **Alexis Li**, our Program Director, had a son in December and relocated out of state. Our five year tenure in Campbell Union School District came to an end. We sadly bid goodbye to staff and students that we loved, and to our amazing team of instructors and garden support staff in Campbell: **Maha, Anne and Jody**.

After five incredible years serving as Executive Director and 17 years collectively in the nonprofit sector, I retired (effective June 30). I will miss the engagement with our wonderful donors and supporters. I will sorely miss the staff at Living Classroom - a team of smart, engaged, creative and collaborative individuals who are passionate and incredibly knowledgeable about our mission. The Living Classroom team *delivered*, regardless of challenges and changes thrown their way.

As the Board moves forward with **Vicki Moore** as Acting Executive Director next year, I wish them the best of luck and my ongoing support to continue the important work of providing environmental literacy to students. I am very grateful for the opportunities - and the challenges - of leading this wonderful organization. *Thank you* all for the support and encouragement given me these past years!

Margot Harrigan
Executive Director

From the Board President:

It is with great pride and gratitude that I congratulate Living Classroom's staff for a tremendous year providing impactful, hands-on learning experiences. Most of the students are *repeat customers*, enthusiastically participating in our lessons for three, four, five or more years in a row, *that are* tailored to their grade level and State Standards. The learning from one year is enhanced, broadened, and deepened in the next year and the next. Living Classroom is the only organization in our region with such breadth and depth, offering more than 40 garden-based experiential lessons over the course of their T/K - 6th grade years. The feedback from teachers and students continues to show that we are making a difference in students' understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our relationship and responsibility towards it - a critical element of environmental literacy.

Since founding Living Classroom in 2008, we have taught over 35,000 students over multiple grade levels. Our service model is sound and proven. We look forward to the coming year and our exploration of approaches that provide greater financial certainty for the long-term. We are a small but mighty team, with an incredibly important mission. Together with you we will move forward.

Vicki Moore
Founder, Acting Executive Director (as of 7/1/23), Board President

Our Impact

4,444
Students
Served



711
Lessons



1,325 lbs
Produce



34 School
Gardens



202
Classrooms



18 School
Sites**



93%
Teacher
Participation



*In flagship MVWSD program
**Mountain View Whisman School District, Campbell Union School District, St. Simon School, Oster School, City of Santa Clara Souza Community Garden

Staff

Margot Harrigan, Executive Director
Alexis Li, Program Director
April Ashlock, Educator
Anne Furlong, Instructional Support
Susan Harder, Interim Program Manager/
 Educator/ Instructional Support
Maha Lakshminarayanan, Educator
Kim Reynolds, Educator
Mallory Shiroyama, Educator
Patti Berryhill, Garden Manager
Michelle Bonfilio, Garden Coordinator
Jody McCalmont, Garden Coordinator
Stefani Brandt, Administrative Assistant
Natalie Elefant, Finance Associate

Board of Directors

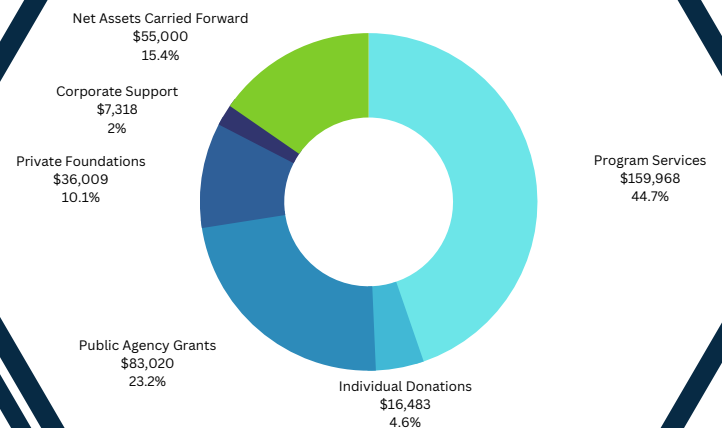
Vicki Moore, President and Treasurer
Don Arnold, Secretary
Pamela Devenney, Member
Mallory Matthews, Member
Margot Harrigan, Member Non-Voting

Advisory Board

Ronit Bryant
Laura Casas
Deepika Gajaria
Kammy Lo
Katrina Morkner
Carol Olson
Jan Pepper
Susan Price-Chang

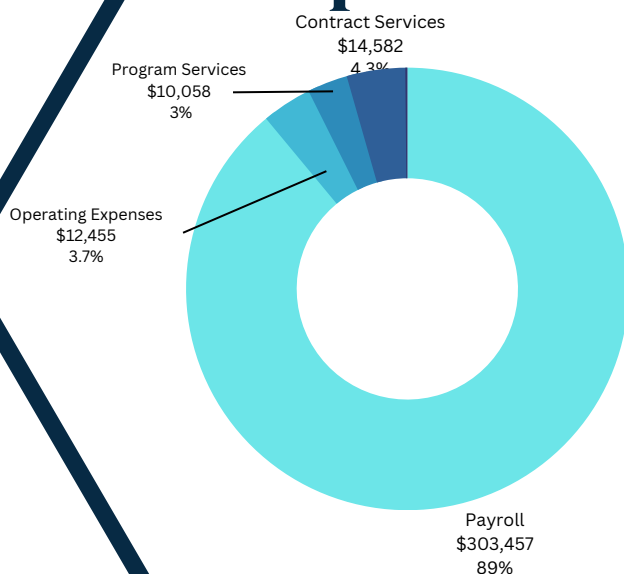
Financials

Revenue



***Living Classroom has maintained a Reserve Account since 2021. As of June 30, 2023, the reserve account was \$33,961.*

Expenses



2022-2023 Donors

Public and Private Foundation Grators and Corporate Donors

Amazon Foundation/Amazon Smile
Anonymous donations made through
American Online Giving
Anonymous donations made through
Blackbaud Giving Fund
El Camino Healthcare District
Facebook
Garden Club of Palo Alto
Google
Leslie Family Foundation
Los Altos Community Foundation
Santa Clara Board of Supervisors -
office of Otto Lee
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Star One Credit Union
Target Circle
Valley Water

Individual Donors

Patricia Alexander and friends of Katrina
Morkner in memory of Julie Kessler
Don and Ann Arnold*
Marie Borin
Stefani Brandt***
Wanda Bryan
Marsha Chan
Pamela Devenney & Don Peppers*
Linda Drey-Nightingale
Joyce Engebretsen & Bruce England
Nancy Eranosian
Pilar Furlong ***
Deepika & Dhruv Gajaria
Tatiana Granoff
Carrielynn Haedtler
Margot Harrigan*
Kevin Hayes
Kirsten Hayes/Hayes Family Donor Fund
Pat and Gary Hedden
Norman Hersch
Lucy Hsu
Laura Iraci
Bryan Johnson*
Henia Kamil*
James and Renate Kempf
Maureen and Alfred Lane***
Barb Larkin*
Peter and Suzanne LaTourrette
Rich Li
Kammy Lo/K2N2 Family Foundation

Pete and Pattie Manoukian
Melanie Merckens
Vicki Moore
Jennifer Mutch***
Barbara Saxton
Lynn Gordon and David Simon
Candice Stark
Alexandra Von Feldt***
Pamela and John Walker
Ellen Wheeler*
Dilafruz Williams
Martha Young***

* indicates monthly donors

*** in honor of Margot Harrigan

Community and Education Partners

Campbell Union School District
Deaf and Hearing Impaired Program
through Santa Clara County Office of Education
Mountain View Whisman School District
Santa Clara City Parks and Recreation Department
St. Simon School

Special Thanks

Baker Creek Heirlooms
Christine Hawkins of Hunter Industries
Frank Niccoli of Foothill College
Gloria Geller of Geller Editorial
Mariana Rivas
Summerwinds Nursery

Feedback

"Living Classroom
was a great
addition to our
curriculum.
Students enjoyed
it!"

"Our instructor
was wonderful!
Professional,
organized,
patient, caring."

"Great lessons
from all the
instructors and we
enjoyed all the
activities and
experiences this
year!"

"All of the Living Classrooms
instructors were knowledgeable,
approachable, and worked great
with the TK students. They kept
any read alouds short and
relevant to the topic, and kept
the activities hands-on and
interactive. They were also
effective with asking age-
appropriate questions,
facilitating small group activities,
and using parent volunteers to
ensure the lesson went
smoothly."

