

SAMUEL LAWRENCE FOUNDATION



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

We strive to promote human interaction and encourage broader community access to science, education, and the arts.



SAMUEL
LAWRENCE
FOUNDATION

Letter from the President of the Board

Samuel Lawrence Foundation grew even closer to our volunteers, our donors, and our community in 2020. Our programs are thriving thanks to 72 generous donations and 3,561 volunteer hours from our committed network of volunteers and partners. We celebrate these wins with you.

With effort, we smoothly transitioned to virtual work and expanded our program services. We held more events than previous years, with hundreds of audience members from around the world.

This year we collaborated with twelve regional environmental groups to launch the Coalition for Nuclear Safety, held eight engaging Zoom events, and launched 11 successful advocacy campaigns. We were able to host the second annual Songs for SONGS event at The Belly Up, just before the Coronavirus struck.

Our community impact grew through virtual engagement. Over 2,655 people took action to voice their concerns about radioactive pollution. Those actions included writing formal letters, sending frequent emails to leaders, and voicing concerns on postcards. The content on our website is growing, and serves as a reference for more and more people about the emerging issues we face. We even published our first-ever radioactive waste explainer video to YouTube.

Our four chickens survived squirrel invasions, a skunk attack, and the pandemic. Their coop is now more rodent-proof than most San Diego homes, and they are happier than ever.

The seven fiscal sponsorees we support adjusted to virtual work and continued to serve their communities throughout the health crisis. Barrio Botany navigated the shift to virtual classes for garden and nutrition education, STEAM Leadership Series provided engaging Zoom content for students, and the Floating Schools of Bangladesh used their boats to deliver healthcare supplies to remote villages.

Our leadership in the community is expanding. The SLF Board of Directors grew to include more perspectives and identities. We engaged in thoughtful discussions to articulate and deepen our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We co-authored and published Congressman Levin's San Onofre Task Force Report in June 2020. In our commitment to elevate Indigenous voices, we invited leaders from two Tribes to participate in the next iteration of the Task Force. We are always looking for ways to create more opportunity for minoritized peoples, and welcome feedback in these areas.

We do this work to protect our vibrant communities. Our core value of shared learning guides us, and together we accomplish so much. Thank you for your investment of money, time, and ideas. We look forward to pursuing our mission with you in 2021, and beyond.

In Gratitude With Good Health to All,



Bart Ziegler, PhD Community and Environmental Medicine
President and Co-Founder, Samuel Lawrence Foundation

OUR STORY

The Samuel Lawrence Foundation is on a mission to strengthen community connections to science and the arts. Launched in 2010, SLF fosters engagement in creative endeavors and participation in matters of scientific concern. We are leading opponents of the nuclear waste storage near San Onofre State Beach.

We deliver programing and support partner organizations to better serve the community. Today, we are the fiscal sponsor to seven organizations. We are proud to assist our sponsorees with coaching to strengthen their operations and increase their presence in the community.

Together with our partners, SLF pushes for positive change across the pillars of science, education, and the arts. Our work directs basic principles of justice, equity, and inclusion toward goals of peace and environmental sustainability. We identify and engage inspirational, likeminded individuals and groups. Together, we have great impact.

SLF dedicates significant resources toward addressing the radioactive waste stranded at the closed San Onofre nuclear power plant. We continue to lead the scientific inquiry, vigilance, and community education that are so critical when challenging an investor-owned utility. To that end, we sponsor international

conferences that bring together public officials, academics, and industry experts. Under the Samuel Lawrence Foundation banner, we have published numerous opinion pieces to draw attention to this important topic. Our steady stream of digital communications informs the public and shows what they can do to help.

Across our initiatives, we spotlight issues that directly impact wellbeing in our increasingly interdependent world. We provide an open forum for artists, academics, business, and community leaders to debate solutions to shared concerns. Together, we can tackle generational problems to build equitable, inclusive communities.

The Samuel Lawrence Foundation is named after the co-founder's father, whose lifelong enthusiasm for science, education, and the arts inspired his family to strengthen communities.

SLF BOARD AND STAFF MEMBERS

[more information](#)

Bart Ziegler, PhD



Farley Ziegler



Cathy Iwane



Alexis Dixon



Chuck Ziegler



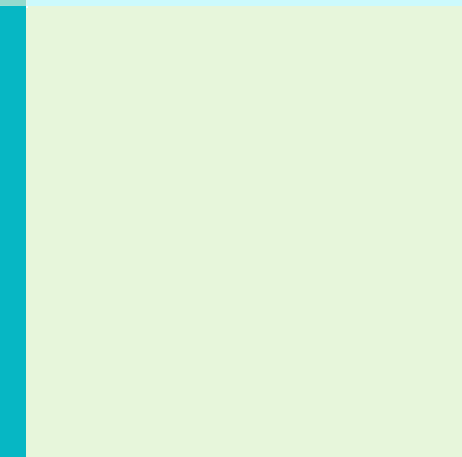
Holly Pickerel



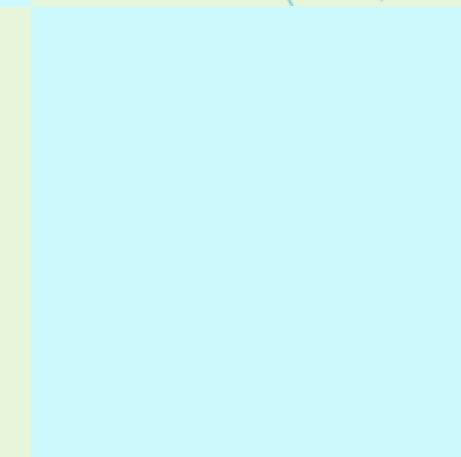
Christopher Hoover



Elliot Rosenberger



Chelsi Sparti



Amanda Palucki

We'd also like to recognize SLF key consultants who ensure SLF programs have the greatest reach: Liz Shear, M.A. and David Jewell (Governance and Organizational Development); Adam Kaye (Communications); Nancy Smith (Resource Development); and Lucia Palm (Accounting).

THE SLF MODEL

Behind every successful SLF project are creative ideas, persistent hope, and clear communication, which invites others to be inspired and contribute their talent. We achieve this work by connecting with our community's knowledge and collaborating on solutions. Our collective impact among direct programs and fiscal sponsors is a testament to the power of collaboration and encouragement.

We are a small and agile team that creates space for people to volunteer their expertise and explore issues, without constraints. This type of unstructured working group allows people to get into an imaginative headspace where they can feel comfortable to dream big and solve generational problems.

Our nonconventional and flexible approach is attractive to a variety of people. SLF serves as an outlet for people in academia, industry, military, and community who seek ways to apply their knowledge in innovative and rapidly-deployed solutions. Together we create a patchwork of visionaries who otherwise would not have met or worked together. We operate as an open-source and inter-generational group that lacks any sense of hierarchy. Students, artists, retired CEOs, scientists, and fashion models join around the table to discuss solutions to pressing issues. The benefit of our partnerships is a cross-pollination of ideas that goes farther than most nonprofits.

SLF Provides Value to our Community by:

- amplifying and elevating community voices first
- investing in the one unique gap that makes programs and research operational
- consolidating the big picture and translating technical information into accessible materials
- developing programs with precision to best meet needs
- researching, connecting to experts, and sorting information to find leverage points
- moving fast to respond to pressing issues



Photo by Colin Leibold



Photo by SLF

DIRECT PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Samuel Lawrence Foundation believes breakthrough change happens when programs work at the intersection of science, education, and the arts.

Samuel Lawrence Foundation acts as a “community engagement bridge.” We connect local, national, and international groups to move forward with bold vision and actions to address vital issues facing our world. Each program we support weaves together aspects of rigorous science, engaging education, and inspiring art, because we need all three aspects to advance learning and make better decisions.

Community expertise guides our program development. Each of our programs was developed by community leaders who identified key objectives to achieve positive change. Our programs tackle topics that are often ignored or sidelined: radioactive waste, disaster recovery, arts instruction, and recognition of social justice advocates. We are committed to identifying solutions to these needs and uplifting community leaders.

We believe that improved solutions require diverse voices and novel ways of partnering across sectors. SLF’s creativity, risk-taking, and can-do spirit are what fuel the work.

SAN ONOFRE AND BEYOND

San Onofre and Beyond supports multi-faceted collaborations to advance the best available radioactive waste storage, across the nation. Our aim is to ensure safety at San Onofre and all nuclear power plants, today and for future generations.

2,655 Individual virtual actions taken by residents.

12 Regional groups launched the Coalition for Nuclear Safety.

2 Public interest lawsuits filed to protect the spent fuel pools.

1 Congressional San Onofre Task Force Report released.

2nd annual Songs for SONGS event at the Belly Up, reached 1,500+ people.

112 Formal letters sent to California Governor Gavin Newsom and California Senate President Toni Atkins.

316 Oceanside High School students learned about nuclear waste in class.

31 News outlets covering San Onofre.

9 Video presentations.

92 Oceanside High teachers educated by their colleagues on San Onofre radioactive waste.

SAN ONOFRE AND BEYOND

Why Are We Concerned?

Dangerous material:

Radioactive waste remains deadly for over 200,000 years, and all current storage plans are for less than 100 years. There are no approved or constructed facilities to dispose of the waste in the United States.

Poor quality storage:

The thin-walled canisters in use are prone to corrosion cracking, which is sped up by the salty coastal air. This low quality storage canister is only designed to be used for 60 years, under optimal conditions. San Onofre does not fit any definition of “optimal conditions.”

Climate crisis risks:

The threats of the climate crisis amplify risks at nuclear power plants during operation and radioactive waste storage. Natural disasters such as wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, landslides, sea level rise, and floods could be magnified if they occur near radioactive waste sites. Currently, there is no procedure to clean up radioactive material from the environment.

SOLUTIONS

This year people and organizations throughout Southern California formed the Coalition for Nuclear Safety which unanimously supports a set of solutions and works together to bring positive change. Together we launched an educational video series and five successful organizing campaigns which resulted in thousands of emails to elected officials, several articles in the press, and a more engaged community.

We are a proud member of the Coalition for Nuclear Safety. The Coalition’s unanimous radioactive waste solutions include:

- 1. Installing the most sensitive air monitoring technology for radiation leak detection**
- 2. Conserving the existing spent fuel pools**
- 3. Constructing an on-site handling facility to repair and replace canisters**
- 4. Replacing all existing thin-walled canisters with safer 10-to-19-inch thick-walled transportable casks**

These solutions ensure that the material would be secure and ready for eventual off-site disposal, when available.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

San Onofre Calls to Action

- 1. Act by sending an email in support of SLF’s public interest lawsuit.**

[TAKE ACTION](#)

- 2. Our legal challenge calls for increased environmental oversight by the California Coastal Commission at San Onofre.**

[LEARN MORE](#)

- 3. Follow our progress and join the discussion.**

[JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER](#)

DANCE CONNECTION FOR KIDS

Dance Connection for Kids, seeks to enrich the education and development of children enrolled in Head Start by teaching dance movement. The program teaches choreography, rhythm, and music appreciation during 50 of the 52 weeks of the year at three Head Start Centers in North County San Diego. Our program democratizes dance and leads to more diverse representation in dancers and instruction.

135 Students trained

6 Professional dancers modeling their shared culture through dance

3 Locations: Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Leucadia

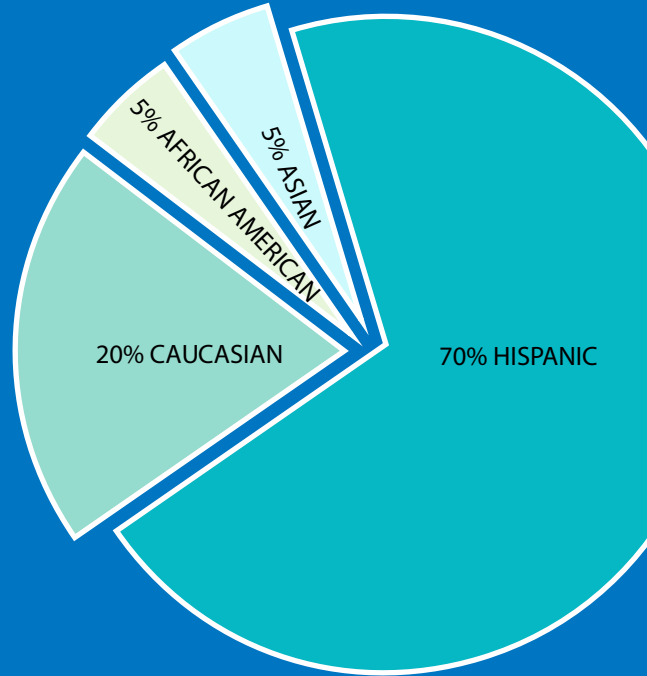


Photo by SLF

CLIMATE RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

In 2020 we focused on the Puerto Rico electricity recovery effort. We collaborated with frontline environmental groups on the island to provide assistance in Congressional outreach and education. Our conversations with top leaders aim to advance electricity infrastructure improvements, and promote the use of FEMA funding towards rooftop solar and storage and other distributed renewable energy.

13 Congressional offices engaged.

4 National press releases.

5 Federal agencies/committees engaged.

6 Months building capacity of advocates.

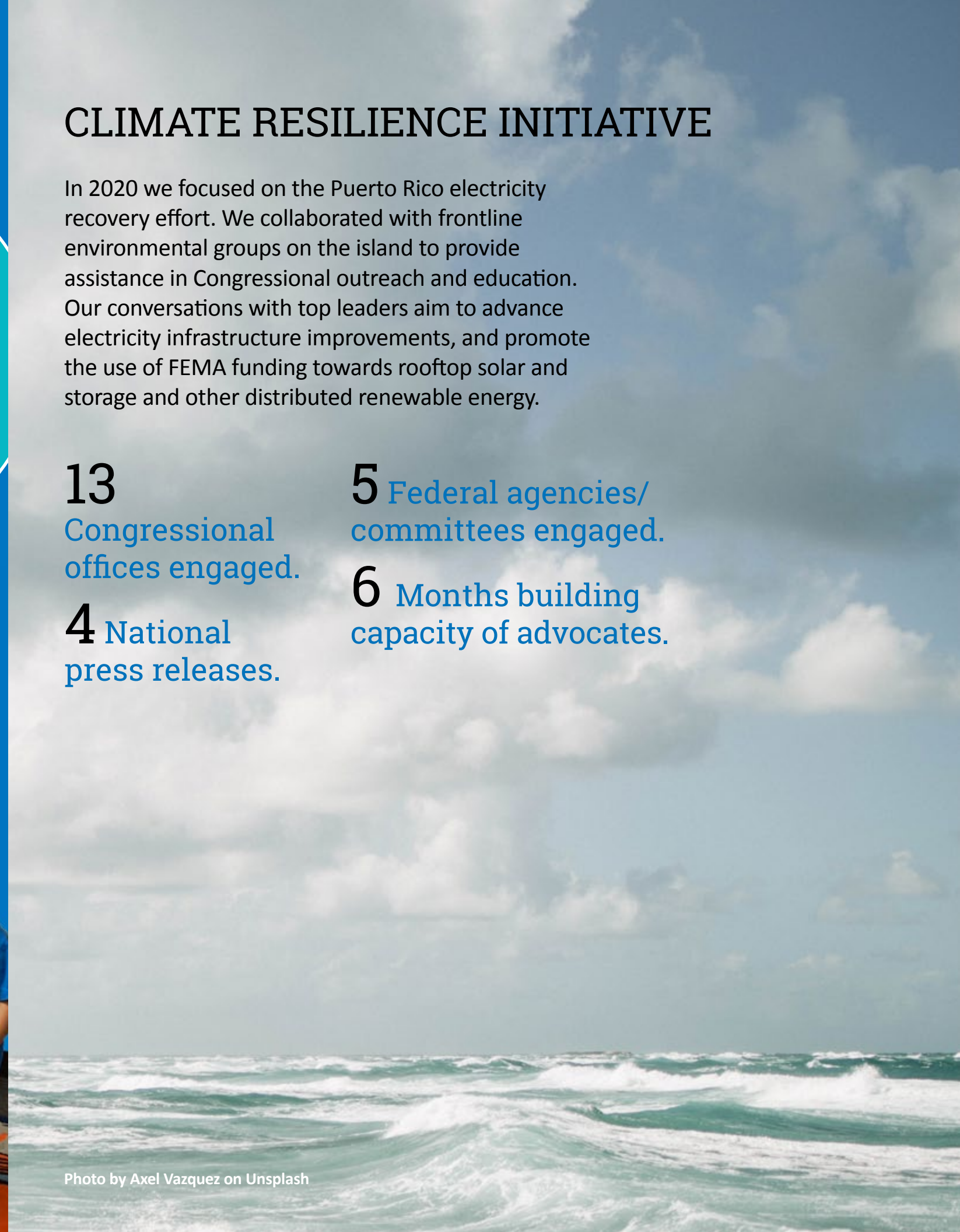


Photo by Axel Vazquez on Unsplash

SLF AWARDS RECOGNIZING UNSUNG HERO-INES

Several times per year SLF recognizes inspiring individuals and groups that demonstrate leadership and enhance our communities. The Unsung Hero-ines program was launched to encourage bright minds and inspire collaboration. We believe that encouragement helps to strengthen community bonds and enhances work.

11 Social Justice SLF Hero-ines

The Center for Investigative Reporting

Reporters Without Borders

Voice of San Diego

Legal Defense of Steven Donziger

Playing for Change

Michele Grier

Eric Epstein

Harvey Wasserman

WILDCOAST

Virginia Organizing

National Independent Venue Association



FISCAL SPONSOREE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Samuel Lawrence Foundation is proud to offer our no-cost coaching and assistance to help fiscal sponsorees grow to meet community needs.

SLF knows that we get farther when we work together. That is why we incubate seven organizations that have yet to receive their nonprofit status. The leaders of these groups are members of the communities they serve, making them the best suited to deliver services. Their community relationships and cultural understanding place these organizations on a path to success.

The relationships are long-term and ensure continuity of program impact and professional development of the program directors. Our engagement with their programs helps us to better understand the region. We provide meaningful coaching and structure that helps them focus on program delivery. Serving as a resource in this capacity helps us to better achieve our mission and amplify community leaders.

STEAM Leadership Series Program Director: Steve Chapple

STEAM Leadership Series brings high-tech science to San Diego Unified high school students through engaging events. The program connects students with leading science professionals who deliver a lecture and career advice from the podium at top research institutions. Students hear from diverse speakers that inspire them to pursue their dreams and provide them with the knowledge on where to start.

1st “Biodiversity and You at the San Diego Zoo.”

Successfully launched STEAM ZOOM virtual series.

2,000 SDUSD students reached virtually.

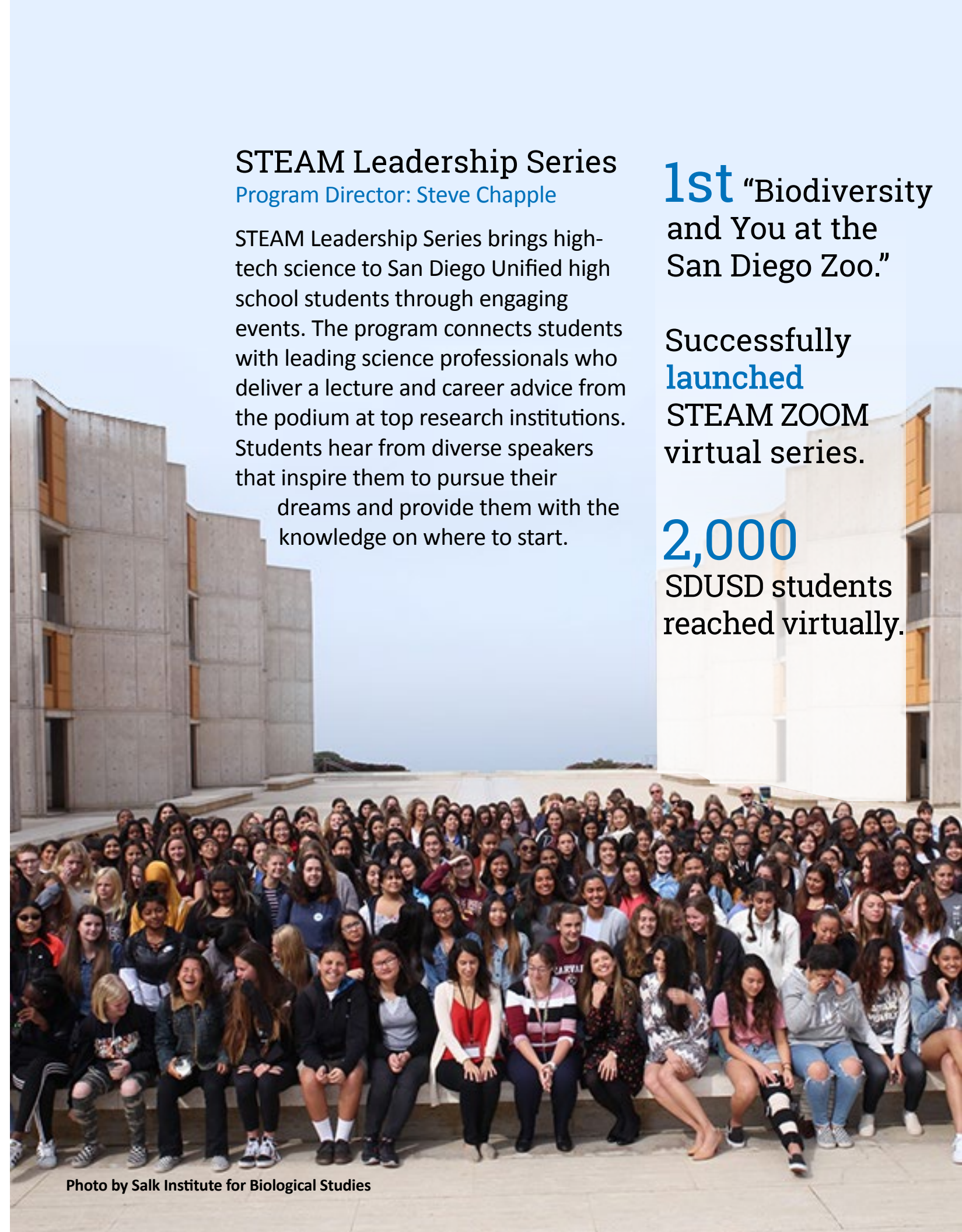


Photo by Salk Institute for Biological Studies



Photo by Christina Abuelo

Barrio Botany

Program Director:
Christina Abuelo

Barrio Botany provides urban San Diego school students with garden-based experiential learning opportunities that improve academic achievement, enhance environmental literacy, and inspire lifelong health and wellness. Our vision is of empowered, capable students taking the lead in transforming polluted, economically depressed neighborhoods into vibrant communities that nurture thriving families.

1,000 Students benefited from our virtual learning strategy.

\$100,000 of funding secured for garden education.

1,000 Volunteer hours worked.

1 School garden built and 1 upgraded.



Photo by Rebecca Matayoshi

Dually Noted

Program Director:
Rebecca Matayoshi

Dually Noted connects people to classical music by sharing a meaningful meal during home concerts. Our aim is to support local chefs and talented musicians, and attract more people to the beauty of classical music. Our name stems from the phrase “duly noted,” meaning “appropriately acknowledged.” The dual components of the series, music and food, are intrinsically linked.

8 Additional spaces for free tickets.

2 New featured artists to the series.

1st Jazz ensemble chamber program.

Expanded host venues.

Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha

Program Director:
Mohammed Rezwan

Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha, also known as the ***Floating Schools of Bangladesh***, operates solar-powered school boats which serve as both a school bus and classroom in flood-prone Bangladesh. The program serves students year-round and prevents interruption in education from the monsoon season in the Pabna and Natore districts in Bangladesh.

18
Villages served.

180
Students educated.

1 Hub for community education.



Playground Boat. Photo by Students Rebuild, Bezos Family Foundation

Social Justice in Uniontown, Alabama

Program Directors:
Esther Calhoun and
Portia Shepherd

The social justice program in Uniontown, Alabama explores holistic, culturally relevant solutions to environmental problems the community faces. With research and support from air pollution scientists and legal experts, the residents of Uniontown fight for justice and their community vision. Our partnership with community leaders and students catalyzes advocacy efforts and broadens community impact.

3 Computers granted to deserving students.

Convened student group, "Future Leaders of the Black Belt."

2 Educational videos created by students.

Partnered with BlackBelt Women Rising, an Alabama nonprofit.



Photo by Google



Photo by TOPtoTOP

TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition

Program Directors:
Dario and Sabine Schwoerer

TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition is the first expedition to traverse the seven seas and reach the highest peaks on each of the seven continents. We inspire youth to save our planet by sharing innovative solutions to protect our planet when we speak with local communities in remote regions.

5,000
People attended educational sessions.

3,000
Kilograms plastic collected.

5,000
Nautical miles sailed.

100,000
Altimeters climbed.



Photo by Google

Indian Point Nuclear Advocacy

Program Director:
Steve Kent

Steve Kent's advocacy on Indian Point educates and addresses the vulnerability of the nuclear reactors outside of New York City. Steve works with environmental, health, and public policy experts who aim to plan for safe closure and decommissioning of nuclear power plants.

300 People attended a Congressional briefing we organized on pending nuclear waste legislation.

1st
Decommissioning Oversight Board created in New York.

185 Officials, journalists, and activists attended a [northeast regional forum](#) on nuclear decommissioning.

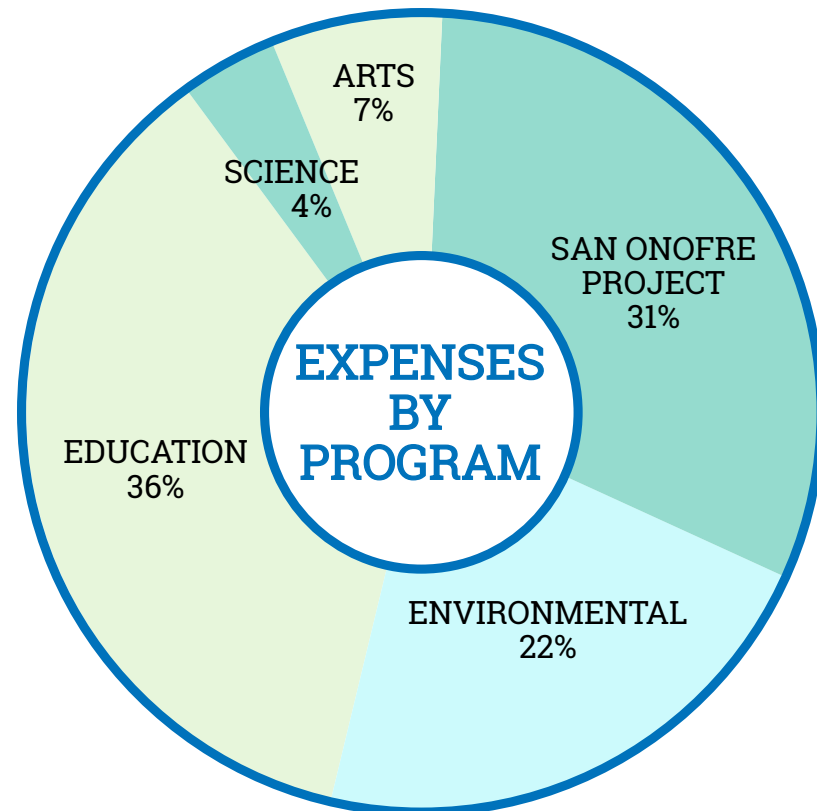
2020 FINANCIALS

The SLF board and staff stayed the course in 2020, and the community responded in-kind. Thank you to everyone who generously gifted time and money to keep programs running. Your contributions made all the difference this year.

In our year-end campaign we raised \$84,071 from 72 individual donations. An incredible 57% of these donors were new to the Samuel Lawrence Foundation. The message of connecting the community through science, education, and the arts is catching on. Thank you for joining the movement.

Your generosity allowed us to lead the organization through San Onofre programming without missing a beat. Thanks to your help, we exceeded our year-end fundraising goal and we're strengthening our grassroots advocacy. The dollars stretched far in 2020 as we transitioned programs virtually and were even more efficient with our use of resources. Our cash balance is allocated to program deliverables, and we have worked to grow our reserves.

INCOME	
General Operating	\$45,314.91
ENVIRONMENT	
Indian Point Nuclear Advocacy	\$16,000.00
San Onofre Project	\$121,737.14
Top to Top	\$2,500.00
EDUCATION	
Floating Schools of Bangladesh	\$17,494.63
Barrio Botany	\$10,006.00
STEAM Leadership Series	\$10,000.00
Journalism	\$1,000.00
Social Justice	\$759.80
ARTS	
Alexis Dixon Exhibitions	\$4,000.00
Arts Grants	\$1,251.63
Dually Noted	\$2,379.04
TOTAL INCOME	\$232,443.15



EXPENSES	
ENVIRONMENT	
San Onofre Project	\$36,234.04
Indian Point Nuclear Advocacy	\$16,000.00
Top to Top	\$5,500.00
Climate Change Resilience	\$2,719.55
Uniontown	\$1,860.67
EDUCATION	
Floating Schools of Bangladesh	\$17,494.63
Barrio Botany	\$10,006.00
STEAM Leadership Series	\$10,000.00
Education Grants	\$2,500.00
Social Justice	\$1,358.05
Journalism	\$1,300.00
SCIENCE	
Research Fellowships	\$5,000.00
ARTS	
Arts Grants	\$3,500.00
Dually Noted	\$3,001.75
Dance Connection for Kids	\$1,983.33
SLF Awards	
SLF Awards	\$1,323.52
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION	
Outside Services	\$9,000.00
Legal Fees	\$1,280.25
Professional Fees	\$1,390.50
Fundraising	\$6,120.00
Office Expenses	\$4,769.50
Dues and Subscriptions	\$873.68
Website Fees	\$152.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$143,367.47
SLF In-Kind Support (salaries)	\$112,846.00

GRATITUDE FOR DONORS AND PARTNERS

Thank you, donors. Your contributions of time, money, and ideas inspire our work. With your gift in 2020, you helped us weather a challenging year in service to our community.

Donors

Organizations:

Autodesk Foundation
Actions@EBMF
The Blynn DA Fund
Climate Action Campaign
Family Unity Fund
Farrell Family Foundation
Futures Unbound
(formerly Moxie Foundation)
Fyfe Family
Charitable Fund
Hotto Charitable Fund
Jewish Community
Foundation
Opper Sports Inc
Patagonia
Pross Family Revocable
Trust
San Diego 350
The San Diego Foundation
Sherry and David Winkler
Fund
Smart & Final
Charitable Fund

Szekely Family Foundation
University Professional &
Technical Employees
The Westreich Foundation

Individuals:

Adam Schneider
Alexis Dixon
Alice Liu
Alice McNally
Allie Duchnak
Amanda Palucki
Anonymous (36 gifts)
Ariana Criste
Bart Ziegler
Bill and Rosemarie Alley
Bruce Tyson
Carol Pencke and
Mary Laumer
Carol Schwartz
Cathe Burnham
Cathy Iwane
Chelsi Sparti
Chris Hoover
Christy Hendrickson

Chuck Ziegler
Corey Kuehn
Cynthia Weber
Darian Shaw
David and Cindi Clemons
David Gill
David Jewell
David Winkler
Davida Hagan
Dawn Douglas
Deborah Hornstra
Dionisio Garcia
Donald Mosier
Doug Emery and
Molly Eckler
Doug Sheres
Ed Schlegel
Emily Mumper
Eric Pitarresi
Erik Phillips
Eva and Steven Barnes
Farley Ziegler
Frederic Wise
George Phillips
Glenn Simpson

Holly Pickerel
Jabin Khan
Jackie and Jeffery
Workman
James Black
James Nielsen
James Reily and
Patricia Reily
Jamie Carr
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Janet Swerdlow
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Jill MacDonald
Jo Elgar
Jo Welsch
John Leftwich
Joseph "JL" Umphres
Joe Bettinger
Joseph Courtney
Josephine Fernando
Julie Cabou
Kathryn Brinton
Kristi Becker
Lily Dyu
Liz Shear
Loc Dorothy Epsten
Lynda Lennox
Lynne Palucki
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Margo Parmacek
Marie Miller
Marilee McLean
Marilyn Colby
Marirose Charbonneau

Maryland Swensen
Mark Bryce
Mark Geyer
Mark Schulman
Martha Haight
Mary Place
Michael San Filippo
Mimi Monaco
Nancy VanVeen
Nathan G Nichols and
Frances G Salafia
Nicholas Wolken
Nicole Arbusto
Nigel Crawford
Noah Harris
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Susan Italiane Leonard
Susan Shane
Sydnie Moore
Taylor Burks
Terrence Wardell
Tim Evans
Tim Towles
Timothy Forker
Timothy Goldberg
Tyrone Vonberg
Vicki Sylvester
Wendy Wheatcroft
William Wellhouse

Partners

We are grateful to our partners. Each of you generously assist SLF direct programs and fiscal sponsorees in meeting their mission. Together we make up a strong contingent of organizations working on behalf of the common good.

American Indian Movement
Belly Up
Cape Downwinders
Comité Diálogo Ambiental
Corazón de Torta
Diabetes Research Connection
Dr. Bronner's
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
The Farmacy Initiative
Hanford Challenge
How Live
Illumina
Intellectual Capital
J. Craig Venter Institute

Kids Eco Club
Knockout Pizza
Leah's Pantry
Master Gardeners of San Diego County
Mothers for Peace
Naked Viking Surf
Oceanside High School
Old School Shave Ice
Plume Labs
Sage Garden Project
Salk Institute for Biological Studies
San Clemente Green
San Onofre Safety
San Diego Unified School District

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
Save SanO
Scrojo
SDUSD Food & Nutrition Services
Sierra Club
Slow Food Urban San Diego
Strategic Energy Innovations
Twelve Senses Retreat
University of California San Diego
University of Maryland
USS Midway Museum,
Yale University

CONTACT INFORMATION



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Support our work with a gift to future generations. SLF accepts gifts via check, credit card, and gifts of stock.

[DONATE HERE](#)



Photo by Colin Leibold