# Oceanographic Teaching Stations Roundhouse Aquarium Annual Report 2012-2013

Roundhouse Aquarium
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Located at the end of the Manhattan Beach Pier.





Mission:
The specific and primary
purposes are to foster and
promote the public study of,
and interest in, the oceans,
tidelands and beaches of
Southern California, the
marine life therein, and the
impact of human populations
on that environment.

A big thank you to all of our donors and supporters this past year! With your help, we were able to continue and improve our three primary programs: Student Education Program, Volunteer Program, and Public Education Program.

This year, we were able to continue to spread oceanic and environmental awareness to over 125,000 people of all ages.

Please look inside to learn more about our accomplishments for the 2012-2013 year and goals for the year ahead.

## STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## On-site education program:

Students from pre-k through high school travel to the Roundhouse for a hands-on educational experience focused on marine science and environmental education.

- 15,518 students participated in our student education programs last year.
- Over 80% of our on-site field trip classes were free to the schools, funded though foundation grants the Roundhouse received.
- Of the 4,223 students surveyed who attended grant funded field trips, 19% had never been to the beach before their field trip.



• Before their field trip, 55% of students surveyed reported having thrown trash on the ground. After the field trip 60% of students surveyed reported picking up trash.

The Roundhouse is also a part of the Key to Sea Program. This partnership through Heal the Bay collaborates with other local aquariums, such as Cabrillo Aquarium, Redondo Beach Sea Lab, and The Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, provides free field trips to participating teachers and students. We also provide curriculum and training to teachers to ensure that ocean and environmental education do not end with their field trip.



#### Summer camp:

Our marine science summer camp program has expanded this year!

167 local and traveling kids participated in our summer camp in 2013. They loved to learn about and touch live ocean animals, participate in fun science experiments and play in the ocean and on the beach!

# ROUNDHOUSE PROGRAMS Cont.

### **Outreach Education Program:**

Some schools are not able to attend field trips to the Roundhouse, so we bring the Roundhouse to them! Thanks to the generous donation from the Manhattan Beach Property Owners Association, we are outfitted with an outreach van and have been able to travel to schools far and wide. Outreaches allow us to bring marine science and environmental education to the classrooms. Students can participate in hands-on activities, dissections, touch live animals, learn about marine mammals, water, pollution, and climate change. Through a partnership with the Central Basin Water District, we brought our program to high school students in

their district at no charge to the schools.

 We taught 67 outreach programs during the 2012-2013 school year.

- We taught 34 programs at 8 different high schools.
- We participated in community events such as the West Basin Water harvest Festival and Manhattan Beach's earth Day event to spread oceanic awareness.
- We visited schools near and far, including schools in La Crescenta, La Canada, Torrance, and Inglewood.



# **FUNDRAISERS**



This year, we had our first annual Fun Run for the Roundhouse. Over 75 people participated in this family friendly event. It was lots of fun and a great opportunity to bond with the community.

This year, we also had our Sea Starry Night Fundraiser at the Strand House. This elegant event allowed us to raise over \$8,000 for our educational programs.

# **PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Roundhouse is open to the public 7 days a week for free. Each year, over 125,000 visitors from around the world come to the Roundhouse to interact with the animals, displays, staff, and volunteers to learn about the ocean and environment.

- We designed and constructed a new display to feature a real Humboldt squid sponsored by Bank of Manhattan.
- Due to frequent Great White Shark sightings off our pier, we have become a data collection site for the CSULB-MBA shark listener project as a part of the Monterey Bay Aquarium's White Shark Research Program.



## **ANIMAL & TANK UPDATES**

The beautiful animals and fantastic displays are what draw people to the aquarium. We have expanded our tanks to house more than just native species. Our porthole tanks feature sea jellies, sand crabs, sea pansies and small fish. Our Amazon tank features a freshwater moray eel. We also now have a small beta fish with information on how to care for a fish tank at home.



- This year, we created a new tank display to feature the rare and beautiful mantis shrimp.
- We constructed baby octopus nurseries to house 3 two-spotted octopi that hatched at the Roundhouse.
- We obtained 20 new seahorses of 3 different species. These include native and non-native species.

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

Our small staff relies heavily on volunteers to assist with tank maintenance, facility care, animal care, and public education.



Volunteers are not only a huge asset to the Roundhouse, but also gain from the experience, including:

- Public speaking skills
- Animal husbandry skills
- Marine biology knowledge
- Environmental awareness
- Leadership experience
- · Time management skills
- Communication skills
- Social skills

#### A Volunteer's Perspective:

"I am currently a junior at Mira Costa High School and the Roundhouse Aquarium has completely and forever changed my life. Marine organisms have always fascinated me but before volunteering at the Roundhouse I had no tangible experiences with them. At first, I was really hesitant to join the Roundhouse team, but almost immediately I felt completely welcomed and challenged to learn more about the field of study I love so much. I think educating the public can be one of the most important things to do while at the Roundhouse. People from all walks of life, education and background, step into the aquarium and if I can just tell them one thing they didn't know or get them to say 'oh that's cool' or 'thank you,' my day is made." - Stephanie, high school volunteer.

- The Volunteer program has grown to include 150 volunteers regularly.
- Volunteers can sign up with GoVoluntr, a volunteer rewards and incentive program to help retain volunteers for the long term.
- At Coastal Cleanup Day 2013, almost 300 volunteers collected over 130 pounds of trash from Manhattan Beach alone!
- The Roundhouse is a certifying organization for the Presidential Service Award which recognizes US citizens who have achieved 100 hours or more of volunteer service.



#### **FUTURE GOALS**

Our goals for this upcoming year include:

- Update the shark tank with new lights, kelp, and protein skimmer
- Paint and refurbish the upstairs of the facility
- Partner with more local organizations to increase our educational reach.
- Obtain funding to provide transportation funding to schools with limited resources so they can participate in field trips to the Roundhouse.

#### **ROUNDHOUSE STAFF**

Eric Martin - Facilities Director and Educational Co-Director

Valerie Hill - Administrative Director and Educational Co-Director (on maternity leave)

Lauren Holman- Acting Administrative Director and Educational Co-Director

Laura Gill - Volunteer Coordinator, Educator, and Directors' Assistant

Dawn Martin - Administrator

Brittney Olaes - Operations Assistant, Educator, and Aquarist Assistant

Stacy Hammond - Operations Assistant

Cody Martin - Aquarist Assistant and On-Call Operations Assistant

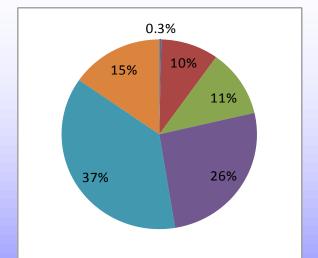
#### O.T.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matt Friedman - President Dick Fruin - Secretary Chuck Milam - Treasurer Lynne Gross Hal Cohn John Corrales Richard Joel

Janet Soliman-Suard

#### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY:SEPTEMBER 1, 2012-AUGUST 30, 2013

Revenue - \$242,068

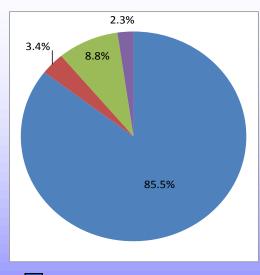




Foundation Grants - \$23,200

Interest - \$835

Expenses - \$249,612





Administrative - \$21,886

Fundraising - \$8,599

Capital Improvements - \$5,709