

Celebrating our 25 Year Anniversary



**KIDS for
the BAY**

CELEBRATING **25** YEARS

**2016-2017 School Year
ANNUAL REPORT**

25 Year Anniversary Message from Mandi Billinge

Executive Director and Founder of KIDS for the BAY



What has KIDS for the BAY accomplished in the past 25 Years? October 2017 marks the 25 Year Anniversary of KIDS for the BAY delivering cutting edge environmental education programs to thousands of students each year! It is exciting to reflect on our work and the

many people we have impacted.

81,688 elementary school students have become empowered, Inspired Environmentalists. In their KIDS for the BAY programs our students have significantly improved our environment through education and action. They have:

- taught their entire school communities how to practice the Five Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot and Refuse) by leading schoolwide Assemblies;
- grown plants from seedlings and planted them along urban creeks to help restore these vital habitats;
- taught their families how to reduce the intake of toxins when preparing and eating bay fish; and
- cleaned up thousands of gallons of trash from school neighborhoods, creek, bay and ocean habitats.

"I realized I CAN make a difference in the world! I can help animals and stop pollution from spreading across the great, awesome world we share."

—Nick, Third Grade Student,
Fairmont Elementary School, El Cerrito

3,363 partner teachers have increased their confidence in teaching hands-on environmental science both in the classroom and in the outdoors as a result of KIDS for the BAY's professional development programs. Many teachers, like Elaine Newman, a third grade teacher from Wilson Elementary School in Richmond, have also developed a new enthusiasm for teaching hands-on science:

"That was a fantastic lesson! That's exactly how science is supposed to be taught. If we could teach science like that more, there would be more students growing up and becoming involved in science."

Many teachers have also discovered the value

of teaching about the local environment and community to help make learning interesting and accessible for all students.

KIDS for the BAY staff over the years have developed their skills and expertise in environmental education and gone on to develop exciting careers in various fields. Our alumni include:

- Jocelyn Manuel, a school principal;
- Kimberly Aguilar, a Spanish bilingual second grade teacher;
- Francis Mendoza, an East Bay Regional Parks District Naturalist;
- Deborah Zierten, the Education Manager for Save The Redwoods League; and
- many more alumni with high impact positions in the fields of education and the environment.

"It was a very powerful program. It was also a great opportunity for families to participate. It inspired me to work harder to include community resources and find opportunities to make science lessons relevant by tying them to community and environmental issues."

—Kristen Lono,
Third Grade Teacher,
Berkeley Arts Magnet School,
Berkeley

"My experience working at KIDS for the BAY had a tremendous impact on my teaching, my professional development and, most importantly, on my care for our environment!"

—Jocelyn Manuel,
Principal, Saint Bede's School, Hayward

25 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Inspired Environmentalists

81,688
school students



3,363
partner teachers

10,000+
engaged parents



Environmental Impact



28,476
gallons of trash collected



19,103
native plants planted



32,028
invasive plants removed


To celebrate our 25 Year Anniversary, KIDS for the BAY is launching our Stories of Impact video series: personal stories from people significantly impacted by our work. This includes our school students, our partner teachers and school principals, campers from the KftB Summer Camp, parents and past staff. Our work has been made possible by all of these partners and by our generous funders and donors, and we are so thankful for the successes of the past 25 years!

What will KIDS for the BAY achieve in the next 25 Years? We will stay focused on our mission, which continues to be crucial to solving the environmental and educational equity challenges of our time. We will deliver engaging environmental education programs to 80,000 new school students primarily in low-income, urban schools. We will partner with 3,000 new teachers to increase their confidence in teaching hands-on environmental science education. We will help to develop multicultural leaders in the field of environmental education who value diversity, equity and inclusion for all children. We will continue to work towards a cleaner, healthier San Francisco Bay watershed environment for all communities.

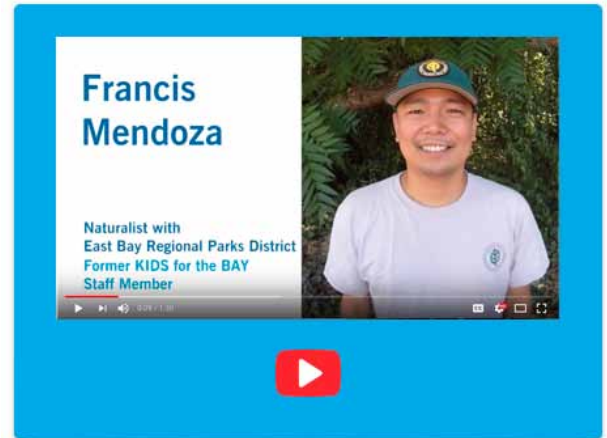
What do you wish for KIDS for the BAY for the next 25 Years? We would love to hear from you – please look out for our online survey!

THANK YOU to the KIDS for the BAY community, for everything you do to help inspire our young environmentalists!

Mandi J. Billinge



Visit our website to view our
Stories of Impact:
www.kidsforthebay.org



KIDS for the BAY Staff

Mandi Billinge
Executive Director/Founder

Cynthia DeLeon
Program Manager

Marianne Keith
Program Staff Team Lead/Program Manager

Valerie Lowe
Program Manager

Sheela Shankar
Development and Communications Director

KIDS for the BAY Advisory Board Members

Leilani Alo, *Advisory Board President*

Kimberly Aguilar

Elaine Miyamori

Jessica Nusbaum

Shefali Shah

Sheela Shankar

A Project of



From left to right: Sheela Shankar, Marianne Keith, Mandi Billinge, Valerie Lowe, Cynthia DeLeon, Shefali Shah

IN THE 2016 – 2017 SCHOOL YEAR, KIDS FOR THE BAY DELIVERED PROGRAMS TO 4,510 SCHOOL STUDENTS AND 143 TEACHERS

Turning Students onto Science

Investigating San Francisco Bay Life

"These fish are so amazing! I think they are really beautiful," said Landry. "Are we going to get to hold the fish?" asked Yarelli. Greenleaf Elementary School third grade students in Oakland were excited to investigate Dungeness crabs and striped bass fish in their classroom. They were thrilled to be real marine biologists and curious, investigative scientists. "I wonder how they move through the water? They must use their caudal fins to swim," Sebastian shared, as he moved the fish's tail side to side. "I think the pattern on the crab shell is

"The shell is really hard, and the space between the joints is soft. The abdomen is squishy and some parts of the crab are furry."

—Carlos, Third Grade Student,
Greenleaf Elementary School, Oakland

really interesting!" Jasmine shared. "I wonder how the colors help the crab survive?" she asked. The students

used all their senses to investigate the anatomy and adaptations of the organisms. They were focused and engaged. "You can see the gills and the red blood inside the fish," said Alexa. "Wow! The tongue is really sharp and the teeth are so spikey!" Jordan exclaimed. "Probably so it can break up its prey." **Studying real organisms from the San Francisco Bay develops scientific observation and analysis and helps students connect with life in their watershed. This inspires them to help protect and care for this special environment.**



Connecting Students with Nature

In the 2016-17 school year, KIDS for the BAY students went on Field Trips to local creek, San Francisco Bay/Delta, and ocean habitats:

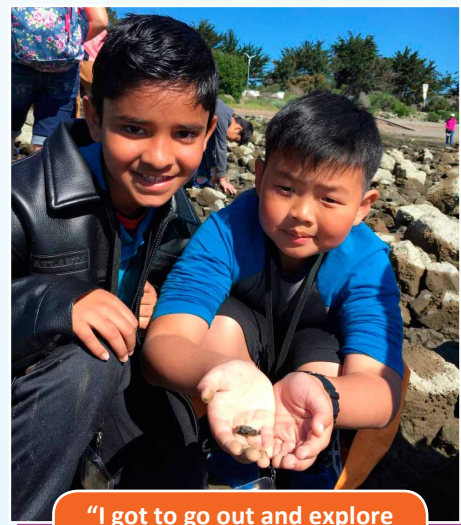
- Berkeley Marina
- Brannan Island, Antioch
- Crab Cove, Oakland
- Martinez Marina
- Richmond Shoreline
- Rodeo Beach, Marin
- Strawberry Creek, Berkeley
- Sausal Creek, Oakland
- Wildcat Creek, Richmond

Exploring the Bay Shoreline

Student scientists from Fairmont Elementary School in El Cerrito were thrilled to find 33 crabs during their low-tide investigation of the rocky shore habitat at Berkeley Marina! An exciting highlight of the KIDS for the BAY Watershed Action Program for this third grade class was their Field Trip to study a special San Francisco Bay habitat that they had learned about in the classroom. The morning began with the rocky shore exploration to find crabs, mussels, barnacles, sea anemones, limpets and more! Students also discussed the adaptations of the creatures they found, including animals that are camouflaged when the tide is out to avoid being eaten by predators, and how crabs use their strong claws to defend themselves and tear seaweed off the rocks to eat.

Arshdeep shared, "I really liked that I got to hold a little crab. I've never done that before." Shayla agreed, "I'll never forget when I found my very own crab." Mira shared, "I liked seeing the animals and the beautiful view of the San Francisco Bay!"

"Are we going to do another clean-up here at the shoreline?!" Benjamin asked excitedly when he saw KIDS for the BAY Instructor Cayla Naranjo pull out the clean-up tongs. Haznat answered, "We are going to clean up trash so that the animals that live in the bay don't eat it." During the clean-up, students filled a five gallon garbage bag full of litter. They were surprised by how much trash they found on the shoreline. Tenzin shared, "I'm happy we got to help nature and help the animals we saw!"



"I got to go out and explore the beach, which I don't normally get to do!"

—Ian, Third Grade Student,
Fairmont Elementary School,
El Cerrito

Inspiring Environmental Action

In the 2016-17 school year, KIDS for the BAY students:

- Cleaned up 102,165 pieces (1,856 gallons) of trash from school neighborhoods and creek, bay, and ocean habitats;
- Led Schoolwide Assemblies educating 3,000 additional students about storm drain pollution, marine debris, the importance of reducing waste, and the Five Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot, and Refuse);

Young Environmentalists Return to the Creek They Helped Restore

Strawberry Creek meanders west from the Berkeley Hills through the UC Berkeley Campus and down to the San Francisco Bay. During the 2015-16 school year, fourth grade students from Rosa Parks Elementary School in Berkeley studied the Strawberry Creek ecosystem, and helped to restore a special creek habitat on UC Berkeley Campus. Students planted 60 red flowering currant plants, pulled out 10 wheelbarrows of invasive English ivy, and removed 154 gallons of trash from the riparian habitat. They also monitored the health of the creek, and taught college students about the importance and history of Strawberry Creek.

This spring, as fifth graders, the same students returned to investigate the question, "How did our restoration work affect Strawberry Creek?" When she saw her flowering currant plant, Louisa exclaimed, "I can't believe how much my plant grew! I really did not expect that at all! It's bigger than I am!" The students looked at pictures from when they transplanted the red flowering currents in October of 2015. Ben compared leaf counts.



- Made "green" pesticides and distributed them to family members and neighbors;
- Planted native plants and removed invasive ivy to help restore Strawberry Creek in Berkeley and Wildcat Creek in Richmond; and,
- Educated their families about health precautions to use when fishing and consuming fish from the San Francisco Bay.

"Back then, there were only five leaves on my plant. Now there are 98! Now this plant is a whole ecosystem and home to lots of invertebrates."

"I can see that our restoration work paid off," said Megan. There are worms, beetles, rollie pollies and more animals living in this habitat today. Last year I hardly saw any invertebrates. That means that this habitat is growing because of our work!" Students also considered the impact restoration had on erosion. Matilda shared, "Because we planted red flowering currents, which are good at holding onto soil with their deep roots, we decreased erosion." "This helps the fish and other animals in the creek because if there is too much soil they can't breathe or find food," added Grace.

Rosa Parks Elementary School teacher Suzanne Ingley was very proud of her students. **"It's so great that we have returned to see our plants. The students are really engaged and curious about them. They are excited about their restoration project and they are making connections back to last year and to other science lessons we have done this year. I hope this will continue to deepen their connection with their local creek. Think of how proud they will be when they attend college here!"**

Growing Leadership in UC Berkeley Students

Our University of California, Berkeley undergraduate Interns helped make our Strawberry Creek Watershed Action Program a success for two years in a row! In the 2016-17 school year, UC Berkeley sophomores Rachel Hokanson and Chloe Koslo partnered with KIDS for the BAY and Berkeley Arts Magnet Elementary

"It was a really amazing experience to connect Berkeley elementary school students to the UC Berkeley campus. I loved being a part of this connection, and loved that the curriculum was all about local waterways. This program connects community to science, applying science to everyday life!"

—Chloe Koslo, UC Berkeley Student Intern

School third grade teachers, students and families. In the beginning of the school year the Interns observed and assisted KIDS for the BAY Instructors teaching in elementary school classrooms. By the spring they emerged as lead instructors during restoration Field Trips on the university's campus!



KIDS for the BAY Guardian Awards 2017

KIDS for the BAY Guardian Awards are presented to teachers and principals who show their commitment to one or more of our programs and continue to teach our programs year after year as part of their science curriculum.



From left to right: Jean Dias, Mike Spence, Aradhana Sooch

Jean Dias, Aradhana Sooch, Mike Spence Belshaw Elementary School, Antioch

Three inspiring third grade teachers from Belshaw Elementary School in Antioch have delivered the KIDS for the BAY Watershed Action Program to a total of 15 classes of students over the past seven years! Through their efforts, over 400 students have become active environmentalists committed to taking care of their local watershed. Mike Spence, Aradhana Sooch, and Jean Deas are excited to continue to teach the program every year and to support one another so that the Watershed Action Program is a 'right of passage' for third graders at their school for years to come!



"Mr. Spence should teach this [KIDS for the BAY program] again next year! Over time maybe he might teach 1,000 people!"

—Natalie, student in Mike Spence's class

"I like this program because it is very hands on. I integrate the Watershed Action Program into my science curriculum.

Because of this program my students have started thinking more positively about their environment."

—Aradhana Sooch

KIDS for the BAY Past Staff Highlights



Kimberly Aguilar

Kimberly, a Program Coordinator and Program Manager for three years at KIDS for the BAY, received her Teaching Credential in 2017 and completed her first two years as a third grade Spanish-bilingual teacher at New Highland Academy in East Oakland. Kimberly

continues to stay connected with KIDS for the BAY, and recently joined our Advisory Board. She is also featured in our 25 Year Anniversary Stories of Impact!

"KIDS for the BAY has been a life changer for me as I'm sure it has been for many inspired school students. The experiences offered by KIDS for the BAY are so valuable, not only for the children, but for the adults involved in the programs as well. It takes a community to make change and I'm glad to be part of an organization that plays a pivotal role in a better tomorrow for all."

—Kimberly Aguilar



Andrew Patel

Andrew, a Program Coordinator with KIDS for the BAY for two years, started a Teaching Credential program at Stanford University in Fall 2017. His goal is to become a fourth or fifth grade teacher in a public elementary school.

"I deeply value my experience at KIDS for the BAY and I am thankful to have learned from the wonderful team here. I feel well prepared for a career as an elementary school teacher thanks to my work at KIDS for the BAY."

—Andrew Patel



Summer Camp

Hands-on science and nature exploration



KIDS for the BAY campers had a blast this summer! Campers explored creek, bay, and ocean habitats, and discovered the many animals and plants that live in these special places. Favorite experiences included:

- Taking the ferry to Angel Island, and spotting a porpoise and seal on the way;
- Exploring an ancient redwood forest in Samuel P. Taylor Park, and climbing inside one of the giant trees;
- Kayaking on the San Francisco Bay;
- Making beautiful nature art sculptures at Blake Gardens;
- Gently touching blue mussels, acorn barnacles, and green sea anemones at the ocean shoreline; and
- Removing invasive English Ivy to help restore Strawberry Creek.



"A healthy creek should sound bubbly, like giggles."

—Greta, 2017 Camper

"Things in nature are way more interesting than I expected!"

—Max, 2017 Camper

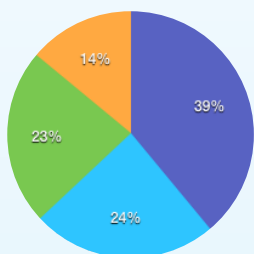


"I didn't know you could find so many invertebrates on the bottom of creek rocks!"

—Anna, 2017 Camper

Statement of Financials

July 2016 – June 2017



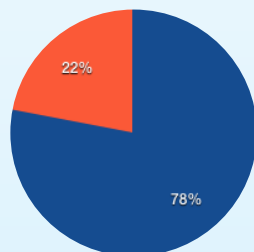
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Total Support and Revenue..... \$464,690

- Government Contracts \$182,206 (39%)
- Foundation and Corporate Grants ... \$112,709 (24%)
- Service Revenue \$106,083 (23%)
- Donations \$63,692 (14%)

Financial Position as of June 2017

Assets \$520,364
Liabilities \$86,168
Net Assets \$434,196



EXPENSES

Total Expenses: \$486,295

- Program \$379,310 (78%)
- Administration, Development and Fundraising \$106,985 (22%)

Thank you to our generous funders and donors in the 2016 – 2017 School Year

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