



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ISLANDWOOD™

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Letter from our CEO

This year, IslandWood celebrated twenty years since opening our doors to our flagship programs, the School Overnight Program and the Graduate Program in Education for Environment and Community (EEC).

Our founders, Debbi and Paul Brainerd, had walked the land that became IslandWood after hearing it was for sale and soon to be divided into parcels for residential development. Shortly after, Debbi had an idea to preserve the land and develop a school in the woods where children could learn about the beauty and magic of the natural world.

And twenty years later, with your support, here we are. A nationally recognized leader in environmental education that has grown from a pilot program on Bainbridge Island, to developing and running programs for children, educators, and community members all over the Puget Sound region, including Seattle, Renton, Woodinville, Tacoma, and Bainbridge Island. We now impact over 30,000 people per year and, with the addition of new programs and locations, are expecting to reach the most children we've ever reached this coming school year!

As Debbi shared at our annual Dinner in the Woods event, "In the beginning, I never imagined IslandWood would offer so much, or become so integrated into the fabric of our region. To hear the stories of children who remember their experience with IslandWood years and years later—of educators who now teach in new ways and with new tools. My vision has been more than fulfilled—it's unbelievable how it continues to find ways to serve more children and teachers every year."

Debbi and Paul, together with the support of some of our earliest and very generous donors, created IslandWood to give children the time and space to explore nature. And I think we can all unequivocally say that the need for time and space in nature, for our children, and really for all of us, has become more important than ever. We need it for our emotional and physical well-being and



we need it to stay committed and passionate about its care and protection.

What we have done together over the last twenty years has been remarkable. It is part of IslandWood's DNA to dream big, to imagine, and to evolve to make our wonders possible. It's thrilling to continue to dream big, with all of you, and to imagine where the next twenty years will take us.

On behalf of all of us at IslandWood, I can't thank you enough for your support in inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, biologists, urban planners, educators, and stewards that our communities and planet need!

With care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Karch". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Megan Karch
CEO
ceo@islandwood.org

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FOUNDER

Debbi Brainerd

A Summary of Fiscal Year 2023 Programs

Throughout the Region



Advocacy: IslandWood continued to be highly involved in legislative efforts this year, with particular effort on the newly established Outdoor School program to ensure all students in WA experience outdoor learning. Alongside members of the Washington Outdoor School Coalition, we focused this year's advocacy initiatives on funding the new program in the state budget.

Working Towards Racial Equity: In 2021, IslandWood was accepted into the two-year Working Towards Racial Equity workshop series led by the UC Berkeley Lawrence Hall of Science and Justice Outside. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the series was developed to support environmental organizations in building capacity to foster equitable, inclusive, and culturally relevant work environments and organizations. We continued our participation in the series this year with a team of nine IslandWood staff members, learning an incredible amount that we'll work to put into action in the next fiscal year.

Teacher Professional Development: This year we reached over 234 teachers across the region, impacting over 12,000 students, with courses that provide science teaching strategies to increase equity, student engagement, and student understanding needed to address climate change. Courses for the 2023-2024 school year will include Seasonal Change in the Schoolyard and Community-Centered Climate Action.



On Bainbridge



Graduate Program: Our program, in partnership with the University of Washington, included 17 graduate students who taught the School Overnight Program while integrating justice-oriented coursework into their teaching. This spring, we launched a new graduate course called Democracy & Education that explores what democracy means in the context of graduates vocation as educators. We now have 472 alumni, reaching an estimated 4,000 children each year.

School Overnight Program: It was a great joy to have so many children back on our campus for the School Overnight Program, with the largest attendance since pre-COVID! 3,255 students from 81 elementary schools in the region came with their teachers, exploring our 250-acre classroom, building connections to their science curriculum and each other.



Community Camp: Inspired by community input, we launched our first-ever Community Camp. The weekend was a chance for people to “experience IslandWood like the kids do”. It was a great time, full of families, friends, neighbors, and grandparents.

Community Education Programs: We had record-breaking numbers for community events this year, with close to 7,000 guests participating in programs on our campus! Prior to the pandemic, we held an Afternoon on the Trails event once per quarter; now we are hosting the event 11 months out of the year. We started a Conservation Work Party partnership with Bainbridge Island Metro Park and Recreation District this year too!



Dine & Discover: We’ve made our Dine & Discover community dinners a quarterly thing! These evenings include a delicious meal from Chef Jim and his team, complimentary wine pairings, live music, and an optional docent-led hike through our trails.

Dinner in the Woods: At our annual fundraising evening this year, we celebrated 20 years of IslandWood programs and raised the most support in the history of IslandWood! We are already looking forward to May 4th, 2024. Save the date!

In Seattle, Renton, Woodinville, and Tacoma



Duwamish River Program: We piloted this program in 2019 and then during the pandemic, needed to put it on hold. We were able to bring it back, sailing students down the Duwamish River to learn how the river has been impacted by people over decades and how local communities and groups have made improvements to the ecosystem. The program aims to demonstrate to students that they have the power to be changemakers in their communities.



Salmon in the Schools – Seattle: In January of this year, IslandWood was selected to run the already existing Salmon in the Schools – Seattle program, which teaches children how humans impact salmon and our local waterways. In January, classes receive salmon eggs and begin to learn about the salmon lifecycle and in spring, take a field trip to a local creek to release the salmon they've raised during the school year. With the addition of this program, our educators were able to reach an additional 1,700 children this year!



Day Programs at the Brightwater and South Treatment Plants: In partnership with King County Wastewater Treatment Division, we added programming at the South Plant in Renton. Combined with our existing day programs at the Brightwater Education Center in Woodinville, these programs welcomed 5,623 students in fiscal year 2023. Our four-hour, water-related programs in both locations are designed to broaden the idea of “environment” to include urban systems and emphasize human impacts on ecosystems.



Creekosystem Field Study: In spring, we launched a new field study for Seattle 5th-graders. The field study is designed to enhance and localize the Ecosystems Restoration unit taught in Seattle Public Schools. It is a two-part program that includes a park-based field strip and a virtual or in-class post-lesson, with trips taking place at Meadowbrook and Be'er Sheva Parks. Students investigate water quality, soil, plants, and human impact to the creek, and then propose action steps that could improve the health of the creek ecosystem. We anticipate reaching an additional 1,000 students per year with this program.



Community Waters: We rolled out Community Waters, a 4th grade stormwater engineering science curriculum originally developed in partnership with Seattle Public Schools, to all Tacoma Public Schools 4th grade teachers. We supported their teachers with trainings, lead students on walking field trips, and provided direct supports for teachers as needed during the implementation of the new unit.

Community Programs: We held six community events at the Brightwater Education Center in Woodinville, including annual favorites like Festival of Frogs and Forest to Fork. We also piloted a new program, Shoreside Scientists!

Summary of Fiscal Year 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Fiscal Year Ending June 30

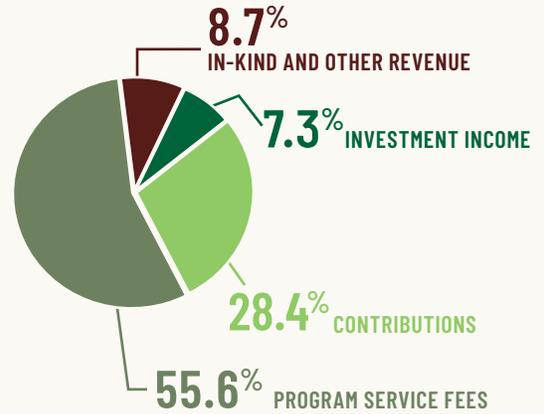
	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash	1,102,950	941,582
Accounts Receivable	458,401	323,452
Pledges Receivable	1,315,634	1,605,153
Investments	18,780,447	17,961,730
Inventory and Prepaid Expenses	307,790	337,773
Property and Equipment (net)	27,349,183	28,204,391
Total Assets	49,349,405	49,374,081
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	324,434	199,908
Accrued Expenses	366,700	468,205
Deferred Revenue	1,508,075	1,231,839
Total Liabilities	2,199,209	1,899,952
Net Assets	47,150,196	47,474,129
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	49,349,405	49,374,081

STATEMENT OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES

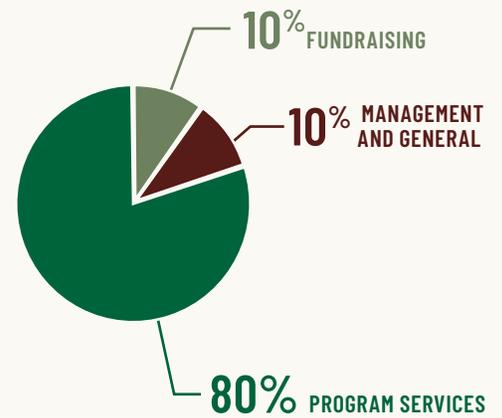
Fiscal Year Ending June 30

	Unrestricted Operating Fund 2023	Unrestricted Operating Fund 2022
SUPPORT & REVENUE		
Contributions	2,736,578	3,174,198
Program Service Fees	5,368,506	3,938,693
Investment Income Transfers	704,257	803,461
In-kind and Other Revenue	839,080	345,623
Total Support and Revenue	9,648,421	8,261,975
EXPENSES		
Program Services	7,667,587	6,308,240
Management and General	1,006,570	784,598
Fundraising	957,816	980,994
Total Expenses	9,631,973	8,073,832
Net Surplus (Deficit)	16,448	188,143

SUPPORT AND REVENUE (FY 2023)



EXPENSES (FY 2023)



ISLANDWOOD REVENUES (In Thousands)



By the Numbers: Our Biggest Year Yet!

12,420

students' science learning impacted by teachers participating in our **Teacher Professional Development Courses**

8,744

students participated in **Day Programs in Seattle, Woodinville, Renton, and Tacoma**

6,138

people joined **Community Education** programs on Bainbridge Island and at the Brightwater Education Center in Woodinville

3,255

students explored our Bainbridge campus in the **School Overnight Program**

822

children discovered new things in **Summer Camps** on Bainbridge Island and the Brightwater Education Center

385

educators engaged in **Teacher Professional Development Courses**

+ 17

students graduated from our **Graduate Program in Education for Environment and Community**

31,781

people – the most we've ever reached in a single year!

Upcoming Events

There are too many great upcoming events to list them all, but here are some favorites you might want to save the date for!

#OptOutside Afternoon on the Trails November 24

Dine & Discover December 2

Hollydays Wreath Making December 3 & 10

Preston Singletary Lecture February 25

Dine & Discover March 16

Dinner in the Woods May 4

Mother's Day Brunch May 12

Visit islandwood.org/events for full calendar

Friends of IslandWood

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we're excited to launch the inaugural Friends of IslandWood member program to show our deep appreciation for this supportive donor community.

Friends of IslandWood members, along with their guests, will have special trail access to explore our Bainbridge Island campus on weekends. When you give \$150 a year, as a one-time gift or as monthly gifts, you are a Friend of IslandWood.

Give today – support IslandWood's programs reaching 30,000 people a year and secure access to additional trail time on our Bainbridge campus!

Learn more at islandwood.org/friends



MISSION

To provide exceptional learning experiences and inspire lifelong environmental and community stewardship.



4450 BLAKELY AVE NE
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA 98110
206.855.4300
ISLANDWOOD.ORG

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