

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

IMPACT REPORT

2017-2018



A scenic view of a rocky coastline. The foreground shows a rugged, rocky cliffside with sparse, dry vegetation. The middle ground features a small, rocky beach where waves are crashing, creating white foam. The ocean extends to the horizon under a clear, deep blue sky. The overall scene is a beautiful example of natural coastal beauty.

Nature is
the biggest
exhibition of all.

Dear Museum friends,

If you have been in the Museum recently—and I certainly hope you have—you may have noticed a palpable sense of energy and excitement. This past year has seen a blossoming of creativity and vitality behind the scenes, and it is evident in our public spaces.

As promised in our Strategy Roadmap, we are leading with our science and focusing on conservation in our region. This is no small feat, given that our region stretches to the tip of Baja California. Among their many accomplishments, our scientists have rediscovered “lost” species, monitored worrisome invasive species, led large binational expeditions, and published the definitive *Mammal Atlas for San Diego County*.

We also promised to apply our research to help save habitats and species, and this is happening on both sides of the border. We organized our first annual State of Biodiversity Symposium, and worked with

Mexican researchers and the government to assess areas of conservation concern on the Baja California peninsula.

Back in the Museum, we shifted our concentration from large traveling exhibitions to galleries and exhibitions featuring our own collections and content. *Unshelved: Cool Stuff from Storage* provides a backstage view of our collections, and has already turned some specimens into cult classics.

We also added experiences to our bag of tricks. On any given day, visitors are likely to encounter our staff, Docents, and new volunteer corps, the NATuralists, on the Museum floor with specimens and special activities. Our new Secret Society of Adultologists and Nat at Night programs combine fascinating science with our new bar service, and we put the finishing touches on a botany-themed escape room as well as a play-based gallery for children 5 and under.

This year, we also re-dedicated ourselves to serving all members of our community through free or subsidized admission, including the Museums for All program for families, the Museum Access Fund for school visits, and the Outdoor Access Fund providing free hikes for school children, among other programs.

Our talented staff members continue to study and conserve our amazing region and to surprise and delight our visitors. We value our community of members, supporters, colleagues, and other friends, and we hope you will visit soon.

Sincerely,



JUDY GRADWOHL
PRESIDENT AND CEO





Three species our researchers rediscovered in Baja California last year include the lagoon milkvetch, Palmer's bladderpod and the San Quintín kangaroo rat. The deep relationships between organisms and their environment are delicate, and the extirpation of a species can have severe ecological consequences.

Rediscovering “Lost” Species

There is nothing to match the excitement of searching for a plant or animal known from many years ago in a particular area, but never seen again. Did it fall victim to extinction, was it eliminated by some environmental problem, or have scientists just not been in the right place at the right time? Sometimes these plants or animals are called “Lazarus species” because they appear to come back from death or extinction.

When plants or animals are so rare, we don’t even know if they need protection. So knowing they exist is the first step in conservation. This year our researchers have been succeeding beyond anyone’s expectations at “rediscovering” Lazarus species.

In summer 2017, Mammalogist Scott Tremor and Research Associate Dr. Sula Vanderplank were surveying the San Quintín area of Baja California, which has seen major changes as natural habitat areas have been lost to agricultural use. This area was the last known habitat for the San Quintín kangaroo rat, *Dipodomys gravipes*, a species described as “critically endangered and possibly extinct” on Mexican federal lists. Despite exhaustive surveys, it had not been seen since 1986—until recently. During their field monitoring, Scott and Sula captured several individuals, then observed, measured, and released them unharmed. The story of their recovery made international headlines. The research team is now working with local organizations on a conservation plan for kangaroo rats.

In addition, Scott and Sula have rediscovered the tule shrew, (*Sorex ornatus juncensis*), which was also considered extinct but was found in a small patch of

intact habitat south of the Socorro Dunes in Baja California.

Curator of Botany Dr. Jon Rebman received a grant through the National Geographic Society to track down 15 species of plants endemic to Baja California that are known only from very old type specimens. Rebman is collaborating with Dr. Jose Delgadillo at Universidad Autónoma de Baja California in Ensenada, Dr. Jose Luis Leon de la Luz at Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste in La Paz, and John La Grange, a volunteer in the Botany Department.

The team’s first success came when they encountered *Astragalus piscinus*, a rare species of milkvetch last seen in 1889, when the type specimen was collected by Edward Palmer near Scammon’s Lagoon in Baja California Sur. They have also rediscovered *Physaria palmeri*, Palmer’s Bladderpod, a plant last seen in 1884 when it was collected by the naturalist Charles Orcutt, who first found it in Topo Canyon, in the Sierra de Juarez of northern Baja California. By studying historic maps, carefully reading Orcutt’s original field notes from our Museum archives, and noting accompanying species of plants, the team was able to make a very educated guess about where to search, and it paid off.

More recently, Jon and a team of field botanists were collecting closer to home in Camp Pendleton along the Santa Margarita River, when they found a nutsedge, *Cyperus esculentus* var. *macrostachyus*. This represents only the second time this native plant species has been documented in California, the first being in 1885 by Charles Orcutt, with only “San Diego” listed as the locality.

The Herpetology Department can also claim their own Lazarus species. The Couch’s Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus couchii*), a toad-like frog, was rediscovered on Isla Cerralvo, off the coast of La Paz in Baja California Sur. Couch’s Spadefoot had been reported as present on the island by Richard Etheridge in 1960, but there had been no additional observations since then. In 2016 during a binational rapid assessment survey, Curator of Herpetology Dr. Bradford Hollingsworth and a team of scientists rediscovered this species behind the island’s coastal dunes—only the second documented individual after 56 years.

In terms of range extensions, Curator Phil Unitt and Dr. Lori Hargrove of our Birds and Mammals Department have documented for the first time successful nesting and colonization of Zone-tailed Hawks in the Mojave National Preserve. This represents a substantial breeding range expansion northward from Baja California and Arizona. As part of the study to retrace Joseph Grinnell’s 1914 survey of this area and document changes occurring 100 years later in the California desert, the museum scientists found that it is likely that several pairs of nesting Zone-tailed Hawks have made their homes in the Mojave.

All of these discoveries validate the important work done by our research scientists who study Southern California and the Baja California peninsula. The data they collect will help stakeholders make appropriate land use decisions, in order to decide how habitats and the species they support might be protected for the future.

THANK YOU | MAMMAL ATLAS DONORS

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A Milestone for Mammalogy

The diversity of mammals in San Diego County is greater than any other county in the United States. This is just one little known fact that Mammalogist Scott Tremor was determined to share—and did he deliver on that goal!

In December 2017, after nearly two decades of research and documentation, Tremor, lead author, along with 40 other biologists, published the *San Diego County Mammal Atlas*. The Atlas is now considered the definitive guide to the mammals in the county. The 432-page, full-color book covers the biology of all 91 terrestrial species and 31 inshore marine visitors known to have occurred here during recorded history (since 1769). Accounts of each species include identification, distribution, habitats, conservation challenges, and aspects of natural history such as diet, reproduction, space use, activity patterns, predators, and behavior.

Editors and authors on the project include Tremor, Drew Stokes, Howard Thomas, and Philip Unitt at The Nat; Susan Chivers at the

National Marine Fisheries Service; Wayne Spencer at the Conservation Biology Institute; and Jay Diffendorfer at the U.S. Geological Survey. Other major partners included colleagues at the San Diego Zoo and the U.S. Forest Service.

Knowing where animals live allows us to understand what issues they face—urbanization, habitat fragmentation, susceptibility to wildfire, and more—and where to focus our conservation efforts. Recording this information also ensures that future generations will be able to study how habitats and distribution patterns change over time, much like we do today with historical collections data.

San Diego County is now, biologically speaking, one of the best-documented regions in the world thanks to the *Mammal Atlas*, its sister publication the *San Diego County Bird Atlas*, the online *San Diego County Plant Atlas*, and the online *Amphibian and Reptile Atlas of Peninsular California*. Rest easy, San Diego, we've got this covered.



Long-tailed weasels, antelope ground squirrels, and bobcats are three of the 122 mammals featured in the *San Diego County Mammal Atlas*.

Filling Data Gaps, One Expedition at a Time

The mighty cardón (*Pachycereus pringlei*), the Colossus of cacti, can sometimes dominate the landscape in the peninsula of Baja California in such density that it forms a forest of towering cacti.

In November 2017, more than 35 researchers and students from Mexico and the U.S. joined forces to conduct a rapid biodiversity assessment in one of Baja California Sur's most spectacular cardón forests. The area, stretching from the foothills of the Sierra la Gata to the dunes of Bahía de la Ventana near La Paz, is packed with thousands of cardóns, including some of the largest cacti on the planet.

Cardóns are well known to be hubs of biological interactions. At night, bats pollinate the cardón flowers that are abuzz with nectar- and pollen-loving insects during the day. Just about any animal that can access the fruits will partake in the sweet seedy pulp. Woodpeckers excavate nesting cavities that are later inhabited by purple martins, desert iguanas, and a variety of owls.

So, it naturally made sense to bring together researchers from across multiple disciplines to unveil the area's hidden diversity. Following data analysis and species identification, we will publish a bilingual report on the area.

In addition to building upon the Museum's ongoing interests in the biodiversity of Baja California Sur, data from the expedition are being used by local citizens working to have the region designated as a protected area. Expeditions, like much of the research the Museum does, center around the very simple question, "What lives where?" Although simple, the question is fundamental to biodiversity conservation. What to save? Where to save it?

Our expeditions focus on areas that are not well documented. One expedition at a time, we attempt to fill the voids and contribute to the conservation of some of the most amazing places on Earth.

We actively organize expeditions to areas that have poorly documented biota. This red-spotted toad and the banded argiope spider were two of many animals that were observed and documented by researchers on our interdisciplinary expedition to a cardón forest in Baja California Sur.



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Inspiring the Next Generation of Naturalists

Serving as leaders in scientific research and engaging people in the scientific process is what we do. It has been part of the Museum's DNA for more than 140 years.

We are always looking for new ways to work with everyone in our community, including people who might not normally think of themselves as scientists or museum visitors. Two recent programs hosted by The Nat aimed to do just that.

Last spring's City Nature Challenge—an international competition to document the most plants and animals in a particular area over a short period—was an ambitious and successful exercise in bringing the public into exploring our local biodiversity. More than 1,211 participants made a total of 33,455 observations all over San Diego County over the four-day period. In all, 2,692 species were documented here, and San Diego came in third internationally of all participants.

The Nat also hosted the inaugural State of Biodiversity Symposium, a new annual event that brings together diverse groups to discuss the latest science surrounding urgent environmental issues. In addition to academics and conservation practitioners, we hosted interested members of the public as well

as graduate students in the early stages of their careers. Despite the focus in some of the sessions on threats to our local biodiversity, we see signs of progress and hope as scientists enlist new tools to protect our native plants and animals. More importantly, we are optimistic that some of the attendees will be among our standard-bearers for the environmental challenges ahead.

We chose Dr. Michael Soulé to serve as keynote speaker for the symposium. Soulé is the founder of the Society for Conservation Biology and considered by many to be the father of conservation biology as a research discipline. And he has a long association with the Museum.

"I 'grew up' in the San Diego Natural History Museum and discovered my home there," Soulé commented. "I didn't know what to do with my strange urges as a naturalist until someone suggested I check out the Museum. It saved my life in a way."

By finding innovative ways to engage new segments of the public in the process of science, we hope to ignite and cultivate the "strange urges as a naturalist" among the Dr. Soulés of tomorrow.



The City Nature Challenge aimed to get people excited about observing and documenting nature around them in San Diego County.



“I’m excited to share a compliment about the Escape Room. I hope the new experience is working well, and will become something other museums desire to steal over the next few years. They say all the good ideas come from the West Coast!”

— A COLLEAGUE AT A PEER INSTITUTION

The hands on fossil workshop was awesome, my girlfriend and I talked about it the rest of the night. We also stayed in *Unshelved* the longest and were amazed by the taxidermy demonstration. This event far exceeded my expectations, the staff was incredibly knowledgeable and friendly, I would love to attend another one of these events.

— SECRET SOCIETY OF ADULTOLOGISTS GUEST

We loved the experience in *The Backyard*. Everything was done wonderfully. Thank you!

— VISITOR TO THE NAT THROUGH A RECIPROCITY PROGRAM WITH NEW CHILDREN’S MUSEUM



New Experiences Engage Expanding Audiences



On a Saturday night in February, darkness enveloped Balboa Park, but The Nat was lit from within, and the Museum was abuzz with activity. Inside, hundreds of people roamed the galleries talking to scientists, observing insects or bird specimens being prepared, making Valentine's Day cards, posing in the prom selfie station, and looking at specimens—the multi-species penis comparison was among the most popular stations.

This was the second in a series of new events called The Secret Society of Adultologists, each with a different theme (the February event revolved around love, courtship, and sex in nature). Inspired by the Museum's founders who came together to form the San Diego Society of Natural History, this event aimed to get modern-day movers and shakers just as excited about the natural world as our predecessors were.

The result was delightful. Visitors aged 21-89 commented on how they loved learning about science in a social setting, and enjoyed experiencing the Museum at their own pace when it was filled with like-minded adults. Some were Museum regulars, and others were Nat newbies. But one thing was consistent—every guest walked away with new knowledge about nature and a sense of having gotten to know The Nat better.

This new event series is one of many ways the Museum is working to get people interested in, and excited about science and conservation. Other programs have been creating a buzz and drawing people

in. Escape The Nat: Botanic Panic is a unique escape room experience in which participants have one hour to solve a botanic-themed mystery using riddles, puzzles, and clues. The artist-in-residence program invited two local artists to interact with visitors and to make art using Museum specimens as inspiration. On-the-floor programming—from informal gallery tours to hands-on carts staffed by our Docents and NATuralists—encourages more interaction with guests. Our participation in the international City Nature Challenge last April prompted more than 1,200 San Diegans to observe and document nature using their smartphones. Nat at Night offered extended hours until 10 PM on Fridays in the summer, welcoming visitors to explore our rooftop, enjoy a beverage and delicious food, and play natural history-themed trivia.

These changes are no coincidence. They're intentional shifts in the way we're doing business, and are a direct result of our Strategy Roadmap. We're fulfilling our goal for more visitor engagement in a way that's approachable, fun, and educational.

These experiences were made possible through our staff's ingenuity and vision. And they are financially feasible due to the change in our exhibition strategy, venture funding from generous donors, and new earned revenue streams.

We are pleased to see the growing popularity of our programs. We often say we're letting our geek flag fly. And we hope this encourages our visitors to fly



Thank you for paying
for us. My favorite
part is the 3D Movie

Thank you
Disney Director



All Are Welcome

Do you remember your first time at The Nat? We do! It was full of wonder and discoveries that made us more curious about the world around us. Every day, someone experiences the Museum for the first time—seeing award-winning exhibitions like *Coast to Cactus in Southern California* or interacting with our educators in *Unshelved: Cool Stuff from Storage*. Visitors leave the Museum with a better understanding of the uniqueness of our region and, we hope, a stronger desire to protect it.

That first Museum experience can ignite an appreciation for nature, it can spark the curiosity of a budding naturalist, or it can even inspire environmental advocacy in our region. Every year, we provide opportunities for this Museum experience to 70,000 members of our community through programs designed to offer low to no-cost Museum access to all.

One of these programs is Museums for All, which provides free general admission to individuals and families with the presentation of an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Women, Infants & Children (WIC) card.

Programs like this, and others, create the opportunity for San Diego residents to experience what The Nat has to offer—engaging exhibitions and educational programs driven by our regional, ongoing scientific research.

Museums for All has been well received by the community. The number of people receiving free admission has doubled in the first six months, and in the course of the year, we're hoping to host 2,500 people. That means 2,500 members of our community who may not have had an opportunity to visit the Museum will be able to build a love of museums and learning.

In addition to Museums for All, The Nat continues its longtime Museum Access Fund for Title I schools in San Diego. We also started a camp scholarship (or “campership”) program, and ASD Mornings that aim to make the Museum experience more accessible to individuals with an autism spectrum disorder. We continue to offer free admission year round through the Resident Free Tuesday program, during the annual December Nights festival, and during the San Diego Museum Council's Kids Free October program. We also provide free nature hikes to school children through our Outdoor Access Fund.

Community access programs like these are integral to our efforts to share our collections, our knowledge, and our advocacy with all members of our region. In this way, we make the Museum a bigger and better part of our community.



Volunteers Keep Us Running (and Hiking)

If you want to know the history of the Museum, ask Priscilla Dick, one of the original Canyoneers, or Joan Parker, a longtime Docent. This year, both celebrated 45 years of volunteer service with the Museum.

Priscilla (pictured below left) heard about the Canyoneer program when her children attended classes at the Museum. A self-described jock, she loved walking, hiking, running, and swimming, and the Canyoneers gave her what she needed to get her fill of nature. Priscilla joined the newly formed group, which was founded by Helen Witham Chamlee, the Museum's associate botanist, and called the Florida Canyoneers. In the 1980s the group dropped the "Florida" from their name and expanded to include hikes in all parts of San Diego County.

Since Priscilla's first class, at least 900 nature lovers have trained as Canyoneers and they, in turn, have led more than 2,500 public hikes. While Priscilla is no longer able to lead hikes, she still participates behind the scenes during December Nights.

Joan Parker (below right) was the first elected chairperson of the Docents, and served as training chair and treasurer.

She also served on the Museum's Board of Directors for 13 years, is a Trustee Emeritus, and a long-time donor to the Museum. Joan joined the Docents after she brought her youngest child to the Museum and saw the Docents in action.

At the time of the Docents' founding in 1968, guided tours in San Diego museums were unheard of, and the word "docent," meaning "teaching guide," was new to most volunteers. The program started as tours of the Museum but grew into an outreach effort that now includes several programs for preschool through primary grades. Docents also offer programs for Girl Scouts. Joan Parker remains an active volunteer, coming in every Wednesday to show desert specimens and artifacts.

Another group of Museum volunteers, The Covey, was instrumental in creating the Docent program. The Covey celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. Christie

Phillips, wife of the Museum's then director, founded the Covey as an auxiliary support group, with a mission to raise funds and encourage community participation in Museum activities. The Covey kicked off their early activities primarily as cooks, preparing *hòrs d'oeuvres* and meals for exhibition openings, trustee meetings, research departments, and visiting city officials. Through its fundraising efforts, the Covey has raised nearly \$150,000 for the Museum since 1991, and much more since its beginning.

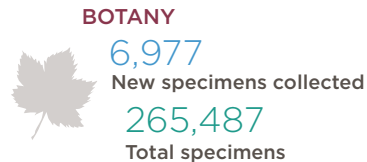
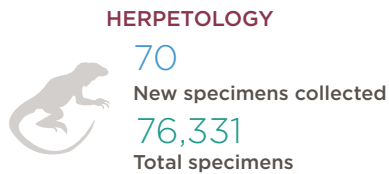
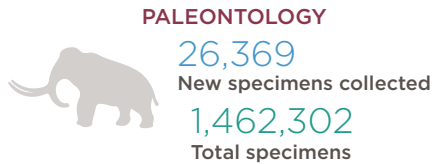
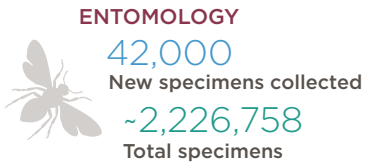
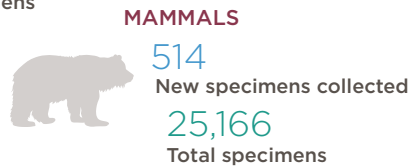
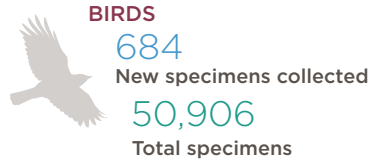
It takes dedicated volunteers to make a difference for the Museum and the community, and you cannot find better examples of that commitment than Priscilla Dick, Joan Parker, and the many members of the Canyoneers, Docents, Whalers, and Covey.



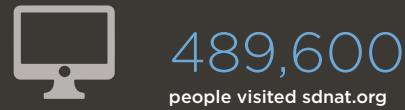
Collections

~9 million

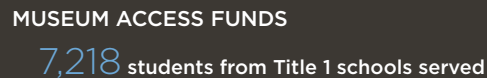
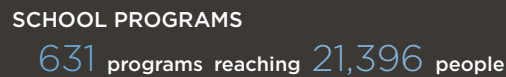
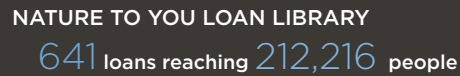
total number of specimens



Visitation



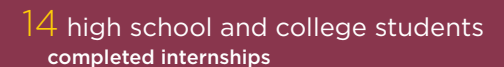
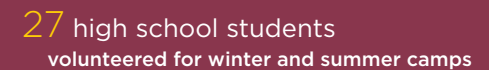
Public Programs



Social Media



Volunteers



Financials

We are pleased to report a strong financial performance for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. It was a year that saw the implementation of our new Strategy Roadmap and the operational initiatives that support it. The Museum experienced a healthy operating surplus, made significant strides in eliminating long-term debt, and identified the financial challenges and opportunities embedded in our Strategy Roadmap.

The Museum achieved an operating surplus of approximately \$156,211 in FY18. Our total net worth increased by \$967,324, driven substantially by the return on our endowment and donor contributions. We benefited greatly from the extraordinary generosity of private donors and public supporters. The Museum raised a total of \$4.09 million in unrestricted and restricted contributions in support of its operations, programs, capital improvements, and endowment—a reflection of the Museum’s excellence in the areas of research, education, and exhibitions. Part of this total includes an extraordinary bequest of \$1 million from a member of the Museum’s Live Oaks Society.

The Nat welcomed more than 370,000 people into its doors, while generating a total admissions revenue of \$2.53 million. This remained a large source of our

operating funds, as did contract income, which contributed over \$2.12 million. In addition, we experienced significant growth of \$543,772, or 107.9%, in auxiliary enterprises, which include food and beverage services, retail merchandise, and facility rentals. The most notable improvement was enhancement of The Flying Squirrel Café, which grew by more than 25% in revenue than in the prior fiscal year.

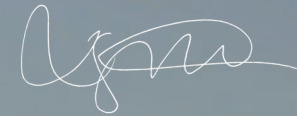
We put a temporary hold on large traveling exhibitions and, consequently, exhibit-related expenses decreased by \$886,008, compared to the prior fiscal year when we hosted 12 months of traveling exhibitions. Otherwise, the Museum’s expenses remained relatively constant as we continued to focus on the best ways to deliver our programs and fulfill our mission.

The Museum’s net assets grew by \$967,324 in FY18, largely due to an increase of \$669,031 in contributions for specific projects. Cash increased by \$366,506, while the value of the Museum’s endowment rose to \$17.5 million.

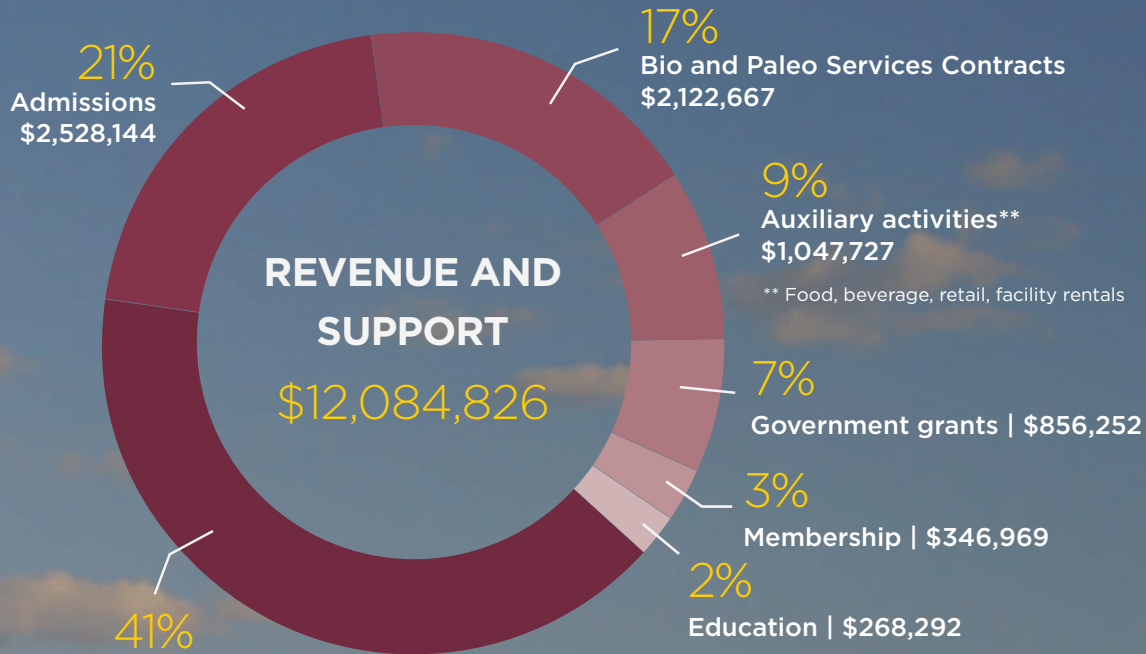
The Museum invested \$538,928 to fund capital improvement projects to meet critical infrastructure needs. As in the past, capital improvements were funded primarily from private contributions. The Museum recognized non-cash depreciation

expense of \$1.45 million during FY18. This exceeded the Museum’s \$818,956 capital asset investments that resulted in a decrease of the value of our property, equipment, and leasehold improvements of \$630,609. Additional details can be found in our audited financial statements, which are posted at sdnat.org/about-us.

Accounting benchmarks do not permit us to applaud the Museum’s two most important assets: our collections—whose quality and scale are indeed remarkable—and our people, whose dedication and commitment to the Museum are equally noteworthy. These assets propel us forward and are essential to achieving our mission.

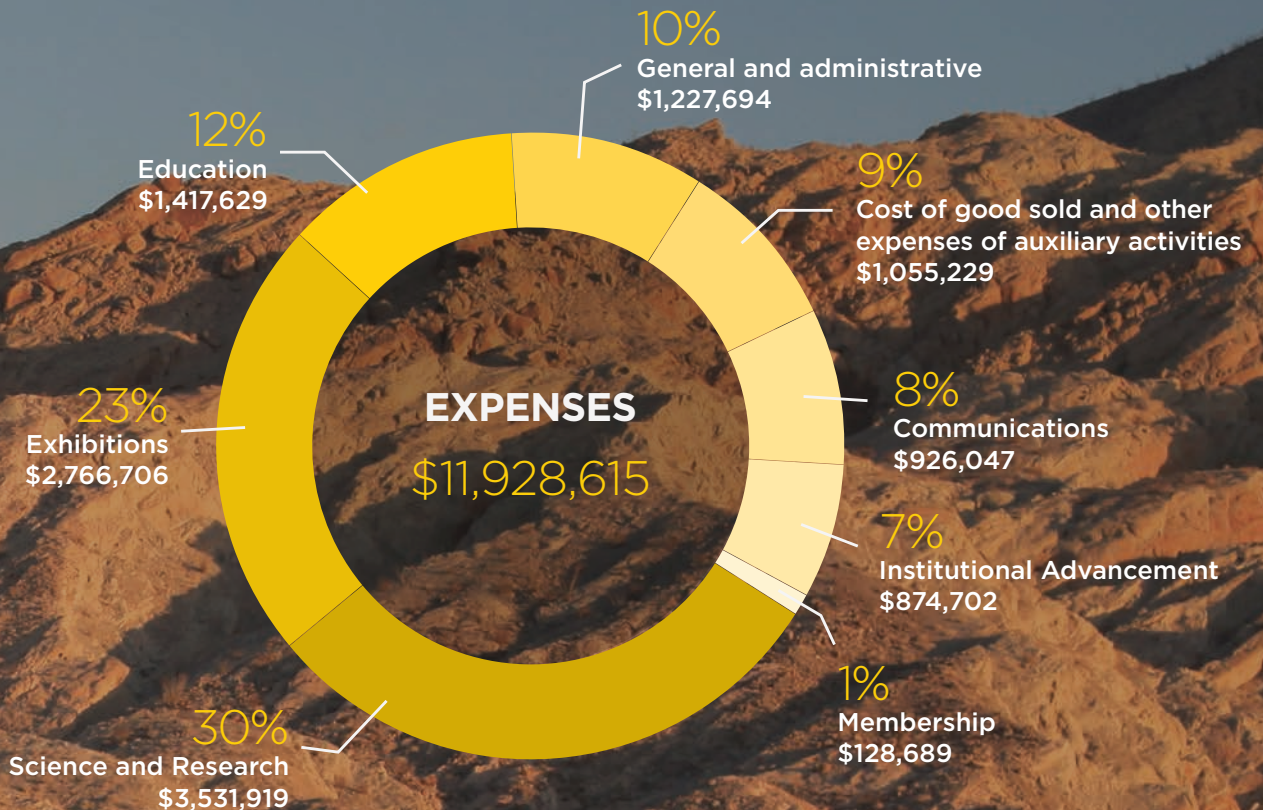


MARK OROZCO
CFO/COO



The Museum's FY18 audited financial report can be found at sdnat.org/about-us

* Indicates a portion of net assets released from restrictions of \$2,478,283



Publications

Research publications are at the very core of the scientific process. Isaac Newton noted “If I have seen further, it is from standing on the shoulders of giants.”

When scientific results are not published, we don't advance the field. Unpublished science dies with the researchers who did the work, leaving no shoulders for future researchers to stand upon. Through publication, research is open to the rigorous critique, testing, rejection, or verification necessary for knowledge to grow.

Through publication our researchers continue a long tradition of scientific inquiry at The Nat and become the giants of tomorrow.



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Our donors provide gifts that support everything from exhibitions to programs to infrastructure. After the Museum’s fire suppression system began showing signs of degradation, we learned the pipes had rusted, creating the potential for failure during an emergency. Replacing these fire suppression pipes was a high priority project.

Due to the size of our facility, the project proceeded in phases, starting in November 2016 on the lower level, and moving upward through the Museum until the project was completed in May 2018. We are eternally grateful to the donors who understood the importance of infrastructure and protecting our most valuable assets—our collections, exhibitions, visitors, and staff. We need only remember the catastrophic fire

at the National Museum of Brazil to see how important it is to invest in our museums.

A recent op-ed in the Los Angeles Times points out this dilemma, saying “infrastructure doesn’t generate press releases and donors aren’t lining up to slap their names on sprinkler systems.” We’re pleased to say that wasn’t the case here. Thank you again for your unerring commitment to The Nat!

In Memoriam Paula Knoll

Paula Knoll, a longtime Canyoneer and Museum supporter, lived her life with passion and intent. Paula, who passed away January 1, 2018, celebrated 30 years as a volunteer Canyoneer in 2017, logging more than 10,000 volunteer hours.

Those who knew Paula in the early years remember the happy outdoor girl excited about learning, recording, and photographing plants, birds, and rocks, as she explored both mountains and desert and everything in between, looking for new places to include in the Canyoneer hiking program. She served many roles with the Canyoneers—president, hikes program coordinator, and the official Canyoneer historian. She also was active in collecting for the San Diego County Plant Atlas.

Paula became one of the most popular and sought-after guides, with a loyal following who signed up for many of her hikes.

Paula was a tireless promoter of The Nat and a terrific recruiter of new Canyoneer guides. In her

quiet and unassuming way, she mentored many new Canyoneers, and helped them gain the confidence to grow as guides.

With her friend and fellow Canyoneer Alan Marshall and a few other dedicated volunteers, Paula prepared the annual hikes program for most of her years with the organization. The voluminous hike information Paula and Alan compiled for the program, and later for the San Diego Reader's Roam-orama weekly column, eventually blossomed into *Coast to Cactus: The Canyoneer Trail Guide to San Diego Outdoors*. A group effort involving many talented and dedicated Canyoneers, the book is part of Paula's enduring legacy, not only for Canyoneers, but also for the public and for the Museum she loved and to which she gave so much of her time, expertise, and heart for more than 30 years.

Paula is survived by her husband, Pat, who also contributed to the trail guide, as well as two sisters, three stepchildren, and seven grandchildren.



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In Memoriam

The following individuals represent members, donors, and volunteers who have passed away this fiscal year. We are thankful for their commitment to the Museum and wish to honor their memories.

William E. Beamer	Jules Hertz
Wolfgang Berger	Spencer Luke
Murray Bloom	Paula Knoll
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Claire Brey	Rudolph V. Regalado
Thomas E. Cisco	Wilhelmina Reynolds
Ken Clark	John R. Stevenson
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Charles Gorder	Adrienne Wood

In Memoriam Spencer Luke

This year we were honored to receive a significant estate gift from Mr. Spencer Luke. Mr. Luke was the Collections Manager of Benthic Invertebrates at The Scripps Institution of Oceanography from 1969 to 1998. He produced their first catalog of the Benthic Invertebrate Collection holdings and established an electronic database for subsequent catalog development.

Mr. Luke was also an avid traveler and joined Museum curators Reid Moran and Joe Jehl on numerous trips to Baja California. He had wonderful memories of these adventures and of being a Museum member. As a result he joined the Museum's Live Oaks Society in 2016.

Mr. Luke passed away in August 2017, and his decision to name the Museum as a beneficiary in his estate will have an impact for years to come. We are incredibly grateful for his commitment, and his legacy will now live on through future generations of Museum explorers.

Live Oaks Society

The Live Oaks Society is comprised of supporters who have made gifts to the Museum through their estate plans.

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In Memoriam Karen Garsson

The Museum lost a great friend and board member when Karen Garsson passed away on May 12, 2018. Karen joined our Board in 2014, and served on the Executive, Finance and Audit Committees, bringing her unique combination of kindness, intelligence, high ethical standards and great sense of humor. Karen spent the majority of her career, over 24 years, at SAIC. As vice president of corporate responsibility, she

designed and implemented corporate citizenship strategies involving employee engagement, community outreach and environmental sustainability initiatives.

Karen carried her philosophy of engagement and community outreach into her personal life through volunteer service on several boards, including Athena San Diego, the UCSD Alumni Association, the

San Diego Humane Society, Project Wildlife, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the San Diego Science Alliance, in addition to The Nat. A devoted San Diegan, Karen received her bachelor's degree in management science from the University of California, San Diego and her MBA from the University of San Diego.

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COVER PHOTO

The San Quintín kangaroo rat is one of several species museum researchers rediscovered this year. Photo by Alan Harper.

INSIDE BACK COVER PHOTO

A group of researchers from various institutions in Mexico and San Diego, including the Museum's Curator of Botany Dr. Jon Rebman, take a break from the heat and humidity during plant surveys on a binational, interdisciplinary expedition to Sierra la Gata in Baja California Sur. Photo by Deborah Small.



Our Mission

To interpret the natural world through research, education, and exhibits; to promote understanding of the evolution and diversity of southern California and the peninsula of Baja California; and to inspire in all a respect for nature and the environment.

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