



EARTHECHO
INTERNATIONAL

YEAR IN REVIEW



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INTRODUCTION

A WELCOME MESSAGE

FROM CO-FOUNDER PHILIPPE COUSTEAU

Dear Friends, Partners, and Changemakers,

If the past year has proven anything, it's that young people are not just the future of ocean conservation—they are the leaders of today. And considering the difficulties ahead for the environment, it is even more important that we build a society that cares and that is capable of advancing a durable ocean conservation movement. At EarthEcho International, we believe in the power of youth to drive meaningful and lasting change, and in 2024, they did just that.

This year, our global movement of young ocean advocates has reached new heights. From restoring marine ecosystems to combating plastic pollution, advancing critical environmental policies, and shaping the blue economy, EarthEcho's young leaders are making an impact that will be felt for generations.

Our GenSea digital community now unites thousands of young advocates from over 120 countries, connecting passionate changemakers, amplifying their voices, and empowering them to take bold steps for ocean conservation. Through youth-led initiatives, our Ambassadors and Youth Leadership Council members have tackled some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges—from preserving critical marine habitats to influencing global climate policy at COP16.

In 2024, we expanded EarthEcho Academy, equipping educators worldwide with cutting-edge STEM and environmental literacy resources. The OurEcho Challenge continues to support student-led biodiversity restoration projects, turning ideas into action. And through the EarthEcho Water Challenge, over 16,000 community scientists across 16 countries assessed and worked to protect their local waterways. As we look ahead, education and empowerment remain at the heart of our mission.

These incredible young people are proving that climate action is happening now. Their passion, creativity, and determination inspire me every day, and I have no doubt that 2025 will be our most impactful year yet.

But they can't do it alone. Whether you are a donor, volunteer, educator, or community leader, your support makes all this possible. Together, we can continue to equip, inspire, and elevate the voices of the next generation, ensuring a thriving ocean and planet for all.

Let's keep the momentum going. The future is bright, and it starts with all of us.



ABOUT EARTHECHO

EarthEcho's mission is to build a global youth movement to protect and restore our ocean planet, a critical part of creating a sustainable and equitable future for all.

OUR VISION

We envision a future where every individual, regardless of background or experience, has the opportunity and the tools to contribute to a healthy and thriving environment. By fostering youth participation in initiatives today, we ensure that the momentum for change continues into the next generation. Our mission is to build a global youth movement to protect and restore our ocean planet, a critical part of creating a sustainable and equitable future for all.

OUR IMPACT

EarthEcho reaches over 2 million people in 157 countries, offering original educational content, immersive training and leadership experiences, and active collaboration networks—all free of charge for youth, teachers, and community leaders. Our signature programs empower individuals and groups to identify local needs, develop actionable plans, and take initiative in their own communities as part of a larger, interconnected global network of changemakers.

CORE PROGRAMS



LITERACY

Building ocean, climate, and environmental literacy in youth



ADVOCACY

Connecting youth to the broader community of ocean advocacy and activism



ACTION

Expediting and elevating youth-led ocean and climate action

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

155
young people

leading ocean
environmental
protection initiatives

913
teachers

supported through
professional
development and
curriculum materials

2K+
young people

EarthEcho's online
community of young
ocean advocates

47,000
students

reached through
environmental literacy
programs

103,000

Participants in
youth-led workshops
or education events

24,421
followers

on EarthEcho's social
media community

730
sq. meters

of habitat restored

24,421
kilograms

litter/rubbish collected
or removed

20,140
sq. meters

native species planted/
raised



DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

Young people who gain environmental literacy early on are significantly more likely to become lifelong advocates for the planet.

EARTHECHO ACADEMY

TEACHERS' AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES AMPLIFIED AT EDUCATION CONFERENCES IN U.S. AND ABROAD

Throughout 2024, our EarthEcho team brought Academy teachers to major educational conferences, ensuring they had a platform to share authentic, classroom-driven experiences on the global stage. Sessions across the US and abroad addressed the multitude of programming and opportunities that EarthEcho offers. They included introductions to EarthEcho educational resources as well as ways students can get involved (through Challenges, Youth Leadership Council, GenSea, and Ambassador programs), offering real-world, authentic examples of how the programs enhance environmental science education and foster student engagement through hands-on, interactive learning.

Three EarthEcho Academy Teachers: Lalitha Murali (WI), Anna Cazal (FL) and Jennifer Langston (AR) hosted an exhibit and gave a presentation at the National Science Teaching Association Annual Conference in Denver, CO.

EarthEcho Academy teachers and the EarthEcho team also shared authentic classroom experiences with EarthEcho's resources and programs at the National Marine Science Educators Association annual conference in Boston, MA, the North American Association for Environmental Education conference in Pittsburgh, PA, and the California Science Education Conference in Sacramento, CA.

“It was an absolute privilege to be invited to the Association for Science Education Annual Conference in Northampton in January 2024. Promoting the OurEcho Challenge from the perspective of a teacher and mentor of the first UK winning team and networking with a fellow mentor was incredible!”

”

- Rose Edmondson, Science Teacher, Falinge Park High School, Rochdale, England



SPOTLIGHT TOOLS FOR EDUCATORS

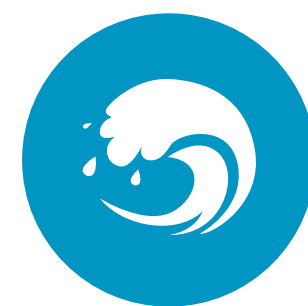
Critical Environmental Conversations Brought to Life Through Classroom Resources

In 2024, EarthEcho launched three innovative online courses to equip teachers and educators with the vital tools and resources they need to bring conversations about climate into their classrooms and engage youth in ocean conservation and advocacy. Learn more about these and other courses [here](#).



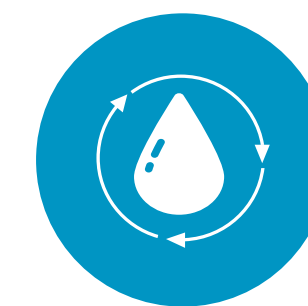
INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Provides a deep dive into environmental justice and racism through videos, case studies, and data-visualization tools.



AN OCEAN OF OPPORTUNITY

Engages learners in an exploration of the climate solutions and career opportunities of the Blue Economy.



EXPEDITION: WATER BY DESIGN

Learners explore water scarcity and drought, understand aqueducts and aquaponics, define desalination, and discover innovative environmental solutions to the water crisis.

PROGRAM SPONSOR

**NORTHROP
GRUMMAN**

OURECHO CHALLENGE *Impact*

The OurEcho Challenge is a STEM competition that empowers youth to take a closer look at the biodiversity around them and step up as leaders in their communities. Young leaders first identify threats to local ecosystems and then propose solutions to help preserve, protect, or repair those natural resources. Over the four years that EarthEcho has managed the OurEcho Challenge, the winning and finalist teams have made a remarkable impact within their local communities. Many of these teams have expanded their projects well beyond their original goals, reaching participants not only within their local communities but also across their states and even countries.

20,080

native
species
planted

284

invasive
species
removed

385

sq. meters
habitat
restored

3,252

kg litter
collected
and removed

23 countries

100+ events

80,000+ youth
and community
reached

OUR ECHO CHALLENGE

INNOVATION FUELS STUDENT-LED SOLUTIONS

OurEcho Challenge Winners Activate Creativity and Passion to Drive Biodiversity Initiatives

The 2024 OurEcho Challenge competition resulted in an outstanding display of youth ingenuity and creativity, with teams submitting project proposals ranging from aquatic biofilters, to butterflies, to biogardens. Congratulations to the top three winning teams in both the U.S. and the U.K., who were awarded grants to fund their projects and make them a reality.

U.S. WINNERS

1st Place, \$5,000 grant prize
Marine Guard from Florida Atlantic University
High School in Coral Springs, FL

2nd Place, \$2,500 grant prize
Monarchs Matter from Great Neck, NY

3rd Place, \$1,000 grant prize
BitternAIDers from John P. Stevens High School
in Edison, NJ

People's Choice Award Winner:
Monarchs Matter from Great Neck, NY

U.K. WINNERS

1st Place, £5,000 grant prize
Henry Richard Team from Ysgol Henry Richard
School in Tregaron, Wales

2nd Place, £2,500 grant prize
Verdant Vale Guardians from The King's (The
Cathedral) School in Peterborough, England

3rd Place, £1,000 grant prize
Team Biogarden from Heathcote Sports and
Science College in Chingford, England

People's Choice Award Winner
Team Sparrows from Eastlea Community
School in London, England

SPOTLIGHT

MONARCHS MATTER

In the summer of 2024, OurEcho Challenge team Monarchs Matter hosted the Raise, Tag, and Release (RTR) Summer Program in Port Washington and Manhasset, NY, to encourage youth to fight the steep decline in monarch populations. Over 10 weeks, students learned the importance of biodiversity and native plants, while raising and tagging more than 80 monarch butterflies, planting 100 native milkweed plants (the exclusive host plant of monarch butterflies), and collecting over 1400 citizen science data points for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project and the Monarch Watch Tagging Program.

“From this project, I realized how interconnected we are with nature. Little by little, I am shifting my perspective of nature, and realize there is more to be captivated than by just the beauty that surrounds us. As I watched my butterfly flutter away, I realized that a seed of beauty requires patience and time to blossom. Besides biology and a butterfly’s metamorphosis, I also learned that each effort in life will bring change through time.”

-Cynthia Zhang, 16, Leader of winning team Monarchs Matter, Great Neck, NY



THE EARTHECHO WATER CHALLENGE

EarthEcho and Xylem Watermark Partner to Protect and Advocate for Local Water Resources

The EarthEcho Water Challenge is EarthEcho's signature program that equips young leaders around the world to become community scientists by testing their local water quality, sharing their data through our global database, and taking action to protect local water resources. In response to unforeseen challenges in 2024 as a result of supply shortages for our water quality testing kits, we pivoted to focus on action-oriented projects, such as cleanups, creative education campaigns, and invasive species removal. Through these efforts, fostering community science and supporting youth water advocates remained front and center for this program.

The results were stunning: 16,468 community scientists participated in the EarthEcho Water Challenge, monitoring local water quality at sites around the world and taking action to protect local water resources.

Of these, over 5,300 took action beyond traditional water quality monitoring, and nearly 600 square meters of invasive species were removed. These efforts support the environment by allowing native plants and animals to reclaim their habitats, promoting biodiversity, restoring the natural balance of ecosystems, and increasing local water quality.

To date, this program has activated over 1.81 million participants in 157 countries to protect and advocate for their local water resources.



The success of this program would not be possible without the support of Xylem Watermark. Beyond financial support, Xylem employees make a hands-on impact as well. In 2024, 450 Xylem employees were engaged in individual community events and educational opportunities. Additionally, more than 500 people were directly engaged through events hosted by Xylem volunteers in their own communities.

THE EARTHECHO WATER CHALLENGE



NEW ORLEANS, LA WORKSHOP

Environmental Research interns from the Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainability and Development brought the Water Challenge to students, ages 13-18. Supported by Xylem volunteer Jose Suarez, the workshop also explored global water issues and introduced students to potential careers in the water sector.



BUFFALO GROVE, IL WATERSHED DAY

Xylem volunteer Adrian Vasquez and Lake County Lake Lovers hosted the first Watershed Day with 85 Buffalo Grove High School students. They evaluated the Buffalo Creek Watershed through five interactive stations. A 10-minute video captured the day's activities, highlighting the students' hands-on engagement with environmental science.

EVENTS ENGAGING COMMUNITIES & RAISING AWARENESS



PEACE BOAT YOUTH FOR THE SDGs

In its third year, our partnership with Peace Boat's Youth for the SDGs program continued to monitor water globally. During the Patagonia voyage, Youth for the SDGs participants collected samples from eight different bodies of water, including beaches, lakes, and rivers.



AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES

We are building proven pathways for youth to become leaders and grow as the next generation of conservation leaders.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) serves as the guiding youth voice behind the development and implementation of EarthEcho's global programs. Selected annually through a competitive, international application process, the YLC is comprised of 21 young leaders, ages 15-22, who play a pivotal role in expanding the reach and impact of EarthEcho's initiatives. YLC members collaborate on campaigns to mobilize young ocean advocates in our GenSea youth community, engage in learning with a global network of peers, and gain valuable skills to grow as conservation leaders.

The reach and impact of the YLC continues to grow. In 2024, members directly engaged 1,098 youth and community members through presentations at external conferences, events, and workshops. Beyond local efforts, YLC members and alumni have elevated youth engagement on global platforms. Through high-level presentations and sessions at key international convenings—such as the United Nations Ocean Decade Conference, Our Ocean Conference, INC-5 Plastics Treaty negotiations, Capitol Hill Ocean Week, and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP16 meeting—they have played a crucial role in advancing marine protected areas, ocean-based climate solutions, the Global Plastics Treaty, and the High Seas Treaty.

A PROVEN PATHWAY FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND GROWTH



”

“These individuals may be young, but when it comes to protecting and restoring our ocean and our most critical natural habitats, each one of them has demonstrated leadership far beyond their years. It is both humbling and thrilling to see the skills and experiences our new members bring to the table.

- Phillipe Cousteau, EarthEcho Founder

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

In 2024, EarthEcho International welcomed eight exceptional young environmental advocates from Argentina, The Bahamas, Philippines, and United States to join our Youth Leadership Council. These new members will serve a two-year term.

The new Council members joined our 13 returning members in Seattle, WA, for the 2024 EarthEcho Youth Ambassador Retreat, alongside participants from our Marine Plastics and Blue Carbon Ambassador programs. During the Retreat, YLC members were introduced to the full scope of EarthEcho's programs and led peer-to-peer professional development sessions to support the ocean conservation efforts of this global network of young advocates. Additionally, YLC members participated in their annual planning meeting, setting the stage for their work in the coming year. This included preparing for the 2025 EarthEcho Youth Leadership Summits, which will focus on advancing the High Seas Treaty.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alyssa Reynolds, Jamaica	Lisa Hoerning, United Kingdom
Amanda Sun, United States	Mae Chew, Malaysia
Anya Bansal, United States	Maraki Tamrat, United States
Artash Nath, Canada	Marianela Pepe, Argentina
Audrey Berlie, United States	Mehak Arora, United States
Brigitta Gunawan, Indonesia	Nina Shetty, United States*
Cameron Armstrong, Canada	Ninna Catipon, Philippines
Camila Rimoldi Ibanez, United States	Pia Visaria, United States
Catalina Gianatti, Argentina*	Renz Nathaniel Luyao, Philippines*
Chloe Wetzler, United States	Sahasra Yellepeddi, United States*
Diego Arreola Fernandez, Mexico	Siyeon Joo, United States*
Emma Chu, Canada	Snigtha Mohanraj, United States*
Gisela López Béjar, Spain	Stephanie Akiinfolarin, United States
Isabel Peters, United States	Sunook Yoon, United States
Kai Tran, United States	Taylor Cargill, The Bahamas*
Kendall Ford, United States*	
Kyra Stillwagon, United States	
Lela DeVine, United States	

**New Member in 2024*

GENSEA

POWERED BY EARTHECHO INTERNATIONAL

ACTION FUELED
BY COMMUNITY GROWTH

At its core, GenSea is more than just an online platform - it's a movement. Since our public launch in 2023, GenSea has grown into a thriving hub for young ocean advocates committed to protecting and restoring our planet's ocean. What started as a vision has grown into a powerful digital space where youth from 120+ countries are coming together to connect, collaborate, and drive meaningful change for our ocean and climate. Our community grew by 56% to over 2,200 members in 2024, welcoming energized new participants into this interconnected space where youth from around the world can learn from one another, build meaningful relationships, and contribute to a global conversation on ocean and climate issues. This growth has fueled incredible momentum. Over the past year, we've watched our community come together, build skills, and take direct action to advance ocean protection.



120+
countries

56%
growth

2,200
members

\$7,837
grants
distributed



SPOTLIGHT GENSEA ACTIVATIONS

The GenSea Shoreline Cleanup Challenge was led by GenSea members with support from Ocean Wise. We provided twenty-two \$50 honorariums to cleanups hosted by U.S. GenSea members, which resulted in the removal of 567 pounds of litter. These efforts not only helped keep litter out of nature, but also contributed valuable data that is used to inform Ocean Wise's litter-related policy work and fuel innovations to address pollution at its source.

Through the GenSea Sustainable Blue Economy Grant Program, EarthEcho distributed \$7,837 in funding to support six projects led by GenSea members from Bermuda, Canada, Kenya, Nigeria, Indonesia, and the United States. These projects, which range from coral reef restoration initiatives to sustainable community aquaculture programs, are designed to advance the Sustainable Blue Economy. These grants were made possible with generous support from HP.

Our monthly AdvocaSEA workshops and virtual events engaged over 250 participants globally, providing GenSea members with opportunities to connect, expand their knowledge, and enhance their skills as ocean advocates. These events covered a variety of topics, including careers in marine conservation, engagement opportunities in advancing the Global Plastics Treaty, youth-led conservation projects, and advocacy strategies to support local ocean protection campaigns.



ADVANCING YOUTH ACTION

EarthEcho is committed to developing a continuous pathway for young leaders to develop the skills and motivation needed to advance some of the world's most critical environmental priorities

EARTHECHO AMBASSADORS

ACTION ON UN SDGs TO CREATE LASTING IMPACT

EarthEcho is committed to developing a continuous pathway for young leaders to develop the skills and motivation needed to advance some of the world's most critical environmental priorities – particularly the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals focused on protecting our ocean and water resources. EarthEcho currently supports five Ambassador programs designed to foster youth leadership and advocacy.



Blue Carbon Ambassadors
High Seas Ambassadors
Marine Plastics Ambassadors
Ocean Protection Ambassadors

Building a pathway for leadership and professional opportunities is essential to creating lasting impact in ocean conservation. EarthEcho and our partners are cultivating a powerful network of changemakers who champion innovative solutions, influence policy decisions, and inspire others to protect and restore the health of our ocean.

The EarthEcho Ambassador programs are a cornerstone of our strategy to inspire and develop the next generation of environmental leaders.



Water Challenge Ambassadors

These programs equip young ocean advocates between the ages of 14-22 with the training, funding, and tools needed to lead creative campaigns and initiatives mobilizing support for policy and regulatory actions and leading projects to advance ocean protection and restoration. Learn more about each of our Ambassador programs [here](#).

MARINE PLASTICS AMBASSADORS



Great Lakes Region Youth Combat Plastic Pollution

Through a partnership between EarthEcho International and SC Johnson, the inaugural Marine Plastics Ambassador program equipped 25 youth leaders from the U.S. and Canada with the knowledge, tools, and inspiration to combat plastic pollution in the Great Lakes region, allowing them to design and implement local environmental impact projects focused on sustainable solutions. These projects addressed plastic pollution across various sectors, including fashion, food, education, and policy, with a focus on tangible, community-driven solutions. These passionate young leaders directly engaged 4,400 community members and reached nearly 40,000 more through their expansive campaigns, petitions, and events. By fostering a sense of ownership and agency, the program equipped young leaders to drive

authentic, sustainable change in their communities while advancing broader efforts to protect our oceans and waterways.

The program also played a significant role in empowering youth to advocate for policy change at the national and global levels. Ambassadors contributed to discussions around the Global Plastics Treaty and led the #Youth4PlasticJustice petition, which drew attention to key environmental and social justice concerns regarding plastic policy. The inaugural cohort of Marine Plastics Ambassadors garnered over 100 signatures from youth and youth-led organizations supporting federal Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation, and met with representatives from two state legislator offices, five U.S. Congressional offices, one Canadian Parliament office, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality to push for youth priorities in the fight against plastic pollution.

MEDIA VOICES AMPLIFY YOUTH VOICES

This year's Marine Plastics Ambassadors captured the hearts of journalists across the US, with interviews and articles featuring their work and impact reaching an estimated audience of over 240,000 and a combined audience of nearly 450 million.

Marine Plastics Ambassador Ryann Jibson penned a powerful op-ed warning readers of how her hometown of Newage, MI, is currently under threat from a new chemical recycling facility. The article, picked up and [published in Bridge Michigan](#), reached over 500,000 people.

Alpena Community College student Olivia Miller was highlighted by [WCMU Public Media through Central Michigan University](#) for working to tackle textile waste and plastic pollution in her community. Miller is also launching a sustainable clothing brand, helping people to learn to fix or upgrade their clothes.

Three Ambassadors were highlighted in a Speaking Sustainably series produced by [WFRV-Green Bay](#), including Maya Heller, Ryann Jibson and Jack Benson. There, they educated the public on plastic pollution in the Great Lakes.

Five Ambassadors were recognized for prestigious awards, including an [RBC 21 Under 21 Award](#), National Youth Climate Activism Award, a Jewish United Fund 18 Under 18 Award and first place for the WVUSA Change Engine Competition, further highlighting the program's visibility and influence.

HIGH SEAS AMBASSADORS

Young Ocean Advocates Drive Campaigns in Support of UN High Seas Treaty, Building Public and Political Momentum Built to Advance Ratification

In 2024, five young leaders from Brazil, India, Indonesia, Samoa, and South Africa were selected to participate in the High Seas Ambassadors program, working together toward the shared goal of securing the 60 country ratifications needed for the High Seas Treaty to become international law. The program, run in collaboration with the High Seas Alliance, was announced during the Our Ocean Conference in Athens, Greece, in April 2024, as part of our broader commitment to a multi-year capacity building initiative to mobilize youth leaders in support of the High Seas Treaty and High Seas marine protected areas.

Ambassador-led campaigns directly engaged 36,385 youth and community members in learning about and taking action to advance the High Seas Treaty through creative events, engagement with government officials, petitions, and social media campaigns. These efforts inspired people across the globe, reaching an estimated 13.5 million through a *Times of India* article written by our Ambassador from India. These Ambassadors are making history, pushing for the ratification of a treaty that has been under negotiation for decades and is critical to achieving the global goal of protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030.

In addition to their core campaigns, EarthEcho and the High Seas Alliance collaborated to engage High Seas Youth Ambassadors in elevating their work at key international conferences through speaking and leadership roles.

In October 2024, EarthEcho partnered with the High Seas Alliance, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and WILDTRUST to co-host a youth-focused session at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP16 meeting in Cali, Colombia. This session united young ocean advocates, government officials, and NGO leaders from 14 countries to discuss joint priorities for advancing the 30x30 ocean goal and implementation of the High Seas Treaty.

OCEAN PROTECTION AMBASSADORS

Young Advocates from Across the World Mobilize their Communities to Support Marine Protection

In 2024, EarthEcho's Ocean Protection Ambassador Program engaged eight young leaders from diverse regions, including American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawai'i, Maine, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This program equips young advocates with the training, tools, and funding to take action and support the "30x30" goal of protecting 30% of U.S. waters by 2030.

With guidance from EarthEcho, and support from the National Ocean Protection Coalition alongside a network of community partners, the Ambassadors led campaigns to build public and political support for new marine protected areas and to strengthen existing National Marine Sanctuaries. Key campaigns included youth-led workshops, community festivals, mural projects, and educational resources across various regions, directly engaging over 600 community members.

PARTNERS

Conservation Law Foundation
Friends of the Mariana Trench
The Northern Chumash Tribal Council
The Surfrider Foundation,
The Wildlife Conservation Society's
New York Aquarium



OCEAN PROTECTION AMBASSADORS

The full cohort of Ocean Protection Ambassadors came together for a professional development and advocacy experience at Capitol Hill Ocean Week in June 2024 in Washington, DC. Through this event, Ambassadors joined EarthEcho and our partners to host the Capitol Hill Ocean Week Youth Advocacy Training, uniting over 50 youth and adult mentors to prepare for meetings with members of Congress.

Ambassadors directly elevated their campaigns and key marine conservation priorities through meetings with 10 members of Congress, as well as leaders from NOAA and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. They advocated for expanded



YOUTH ADVOCACY COMES TO CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK

marine protected areas, including the establishment of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, which was designated in late 2024. Through participation in sessions and speaking roles during Capitol Hill Ocean Week and the Upwell Ocean Justice Symposium, Ambassadors connected with and learned from the broader ocean conservation community in the United States.

“My experience as an Ocean Protection Ambassador gave me a voice and a platform to do advocacy work that I had always wanted to do but never knew how to go about it. I was reassured and fully equipped to carry my project to completion. Being a young woman from a tiny island in the Pacific, I was given a voice”

- Emma Chong, 19, Ocean Protection Ambassador from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

BLUE CARBON AMBASSADORS

ENGAGING YOUTH FROM HISTORICALLY EXCLUDED COMMUNITIES CAREERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

EarthEcho International's Blue Carbon Ambassador program (formerly ResilienSEA Externship) engages youth from frontline coastal communities in North America who identify as Black, Indigenous, or a person of color. Students engage in a hands-on professional learning experience designed to introduce participants to the role of blue carbon ecosystems (including kelp, seagrass, mangroves, and salt marshes) in fighting the climate crisis. They also explore the field of regenerative ocean aquaculture— ocean “farming” that restores coastal habitats while creating both economic and ecological benefits.

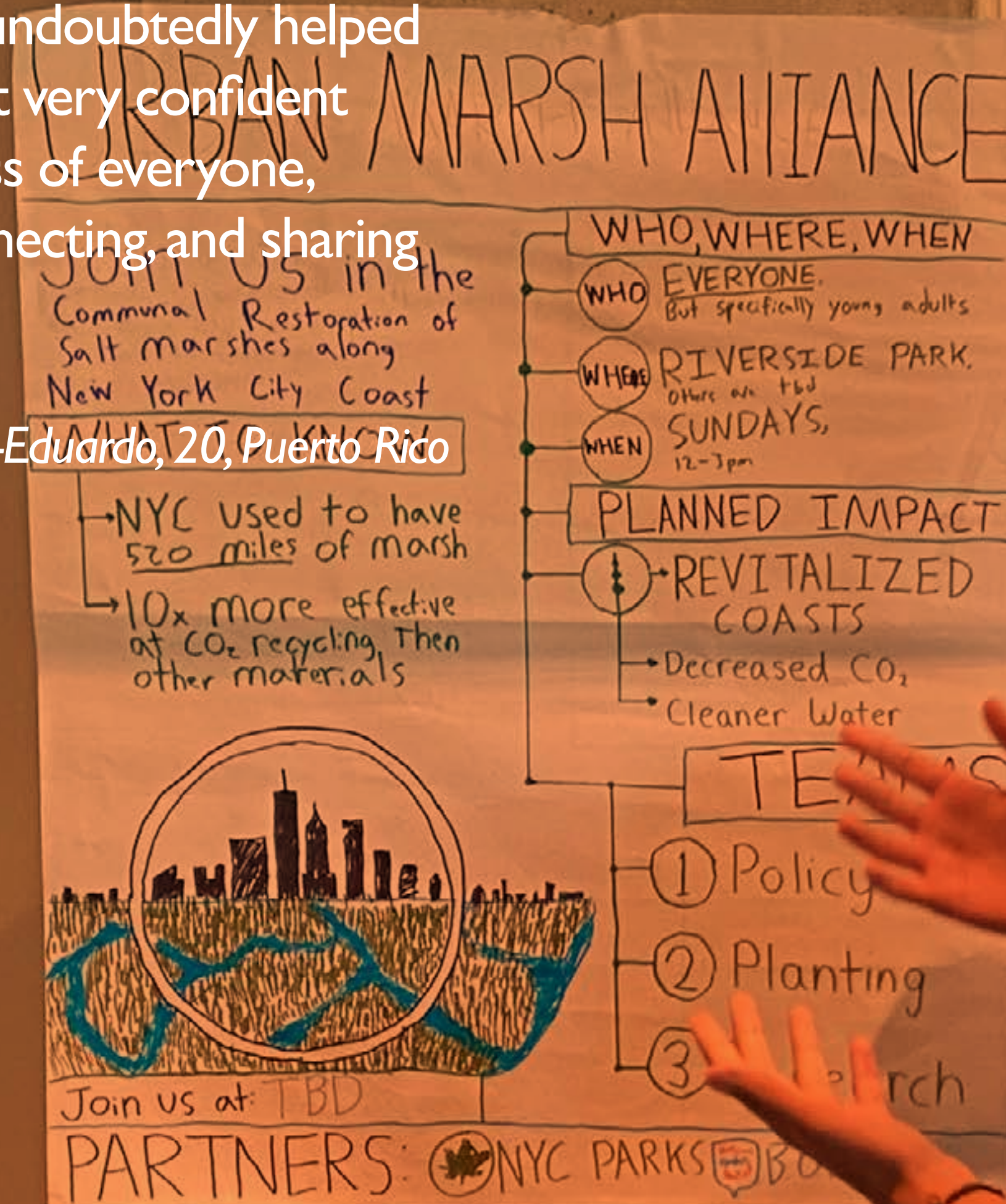
In 2024, our Blue Carbon Ambassador program welcomed 16 new Ambassadors from frontline coastal communities in North America who participated in in-person and virtual training, learning from 28 expert mentors about ocean-based climate solutions and blue carbon ecosystem restoration. The program kicked off with an in-person training in New York City, where Ambassadors learned about the importance of blue carbon ecosystems, followed by bi-

weekly virtual meetings with experts over the next eight weeks. The Ambassadors also met in person at our Youth Ambassador Retreat in Seattle, WA, with their peers in EarthEcho's YLC and Marine Plastics Ambassador programs, and engaged in training and project planning, prior to initiating their community efforts.

Throughout the year, the Blue Carbon Ambassadors implemented community projects to advance the protection and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems. These included research on mangroves in Guam, federal advocacy for seaweed aquaculture investment, outreach programs for elementary schools, and the development of a video game focused on blue carbon awareness.

Blue Carbon was truly one of the best experiences of my life. I had the chance to meet young people like myself, full of enthusiasm and commitment to the ocean, while learning about blue carbon. It was amazing and undoubtedly helped me expand my knowledge and improve my English, as I'm not very confident speaking it. What I will always cherish the most is the kindness of everyone, which I will remember with great appreciation. Learning, connecting, and sharing are the things I hold closest to my heart

-Eduardo, 20, Puerto Rico



SPOTLIGHT NOAA

In June 2024, EarthEcho Youth Leadership Council (YLC) members and alumni, along with our staff, youth Ambassador program participants, and leadership from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), came together to celebrate the signing of a five-year partnership agreement focused on advancing youth engagement in U.S. ocean conservation policy. This agreement builds on three years of collaboration between the YLC and senior NOAA officials, identifying priorities to expand NOAA's existing youth leadership work, and jointly advancing efforts focused on marine protected areas and ocean-based climate solutions at the federal level.

EarthEcho will connect young ocean advocates with NOAA through collaborative events, campaigns, and ongoing dialogues. This close interaction will gather valuable input from stakeholders while actively involving young leaders in decision-making processes related to NOAA's initiatives and mandates.

Now, more than ever, it is critical to integrate youth voices into environmental decision-making and global ocean policy. We are proud to have established this partnership, ensuring that this pathway for young leaders to actively participate in shaping priorities and initiatives remains open while we continue to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among the next generation of ocean stewards.





OPERATIONS & FINANCES

EARTHECHO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alex Morrison (Chairperson), Chief Operating Officer, Millsapps, Ballinger & Associates, LLC (MB&A)

Dominique Lueckenhoff (Vice Chairperson), Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability, Hugo Neu Corporation

Jon Wentzel (Treasurer), Vice President of Communications, Nuclear Energy Institute

Lela DeVine (Secretary), Member, EarthEcho Youth Leadership Council

Claudia Toussaint (Secretary), Senior Vice President, Chief People and Sustainability Officer, Xylem

Jill Belasco, Partner, Fairlight Consulting

Carleen Beste, Retired Director, Corporate Citizenship, Northrop Grumman Corporation and Manager, Northrop Grumman Foundation

Celeste Cooper, Consultant

Heiko Henning, Chief Operating Officer, Seavoir

Aldrinana Leung, Senior Manager of Global Social Impact, Starbucks

David Sontag, Chairman Emeritus

Kyra Stillwagon, Member, EarthEcho Youth Leadership Council

Amanda Sun, Member, EarthEcho Youth Leadership Council

Ex-Officio Members

Alexandra Cousteau, Co-Founder, EarthEcho International; Founder, Oceans 2050

Jan Cousteau, Co-Founder, EarthEcho International

Philippe Cousteau, Co-Founder, EarthEcho International



EARTHECHO STAFF

Philippe Cousteau, Founder

Mia DeMezza, Executive Director

Scott Webb, Chief Financial Officer

Stacey Rafalowski, Chief Program Officer

Sean Russell, Director of Youth Engagement

Kasey Gaylord-Opalewski, Associate Director
of Programs

Samantha Athey, Marine Plastics Program
Manager

Marilu Cristina Flores, Water Challenge
Manager

Brigid Meyers, Water Challenge Manager

Sasha Harrison, Marketing and
Communications Manager

Tori Hunt, Youth Engagement Coordinator

Leslie Smith, Program and Events Coordinator



EARTHECHO

2024 DONORS

The following donors supported EarthEcho International in 2024 with a minimum gift of \$2500:

EarthEcho International Board of Directors

Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club

The Henry Foundation

Aramco Americas

Northrop Grumman Foundation

The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment

Aramco Europe

Ocean Defense Initiative, a program of Resources Legacy Fund

Voyacy Ventures

Boclips

Oceans 5, a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

Xylem, Inc.

David Burnell

ZG Foundation

Charlie Cleveland

Peek Family Charitable Foundation

High Seas Alliance

SC Johnson

La Mer Blue Heart Oceans Fund

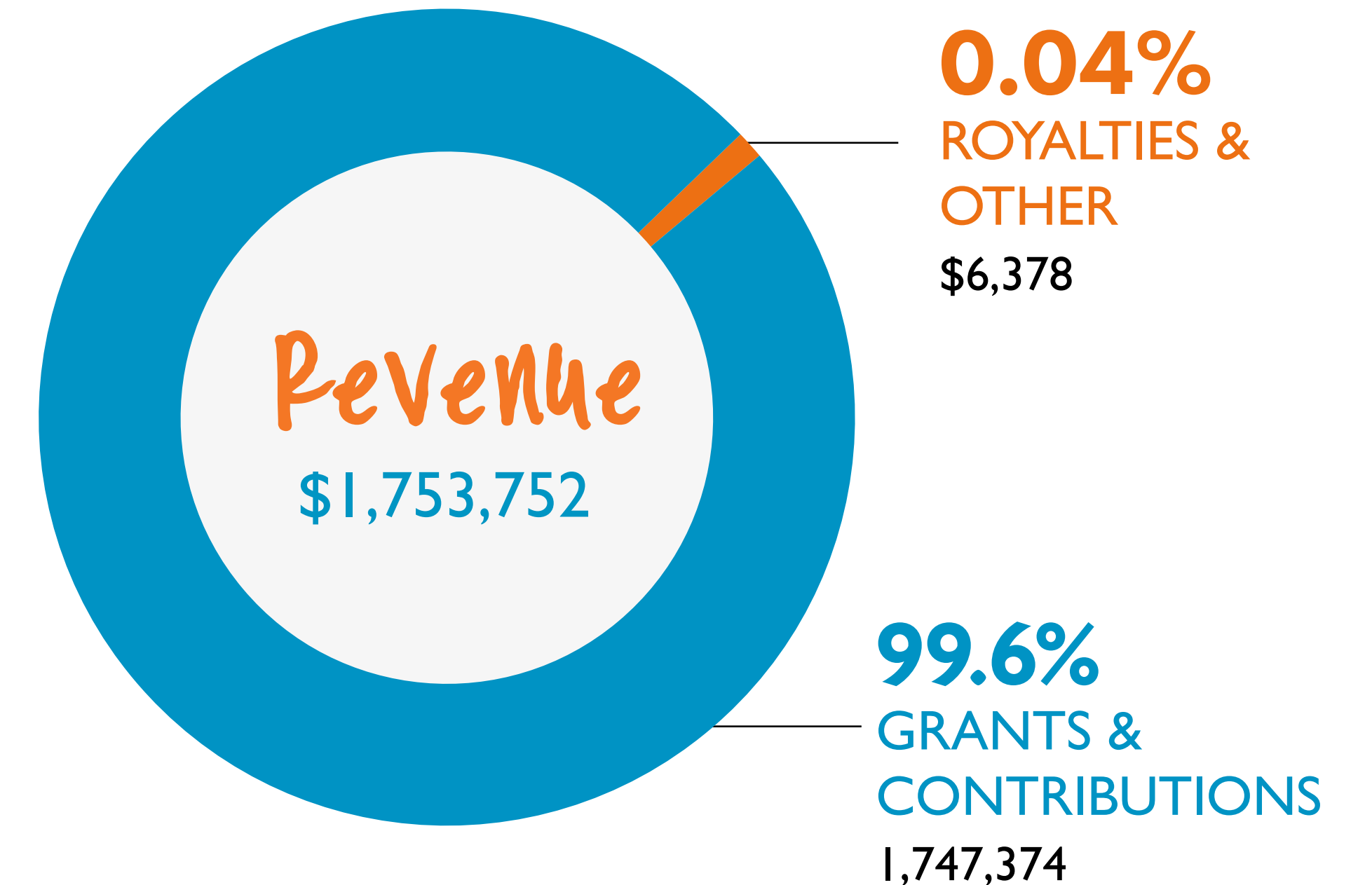
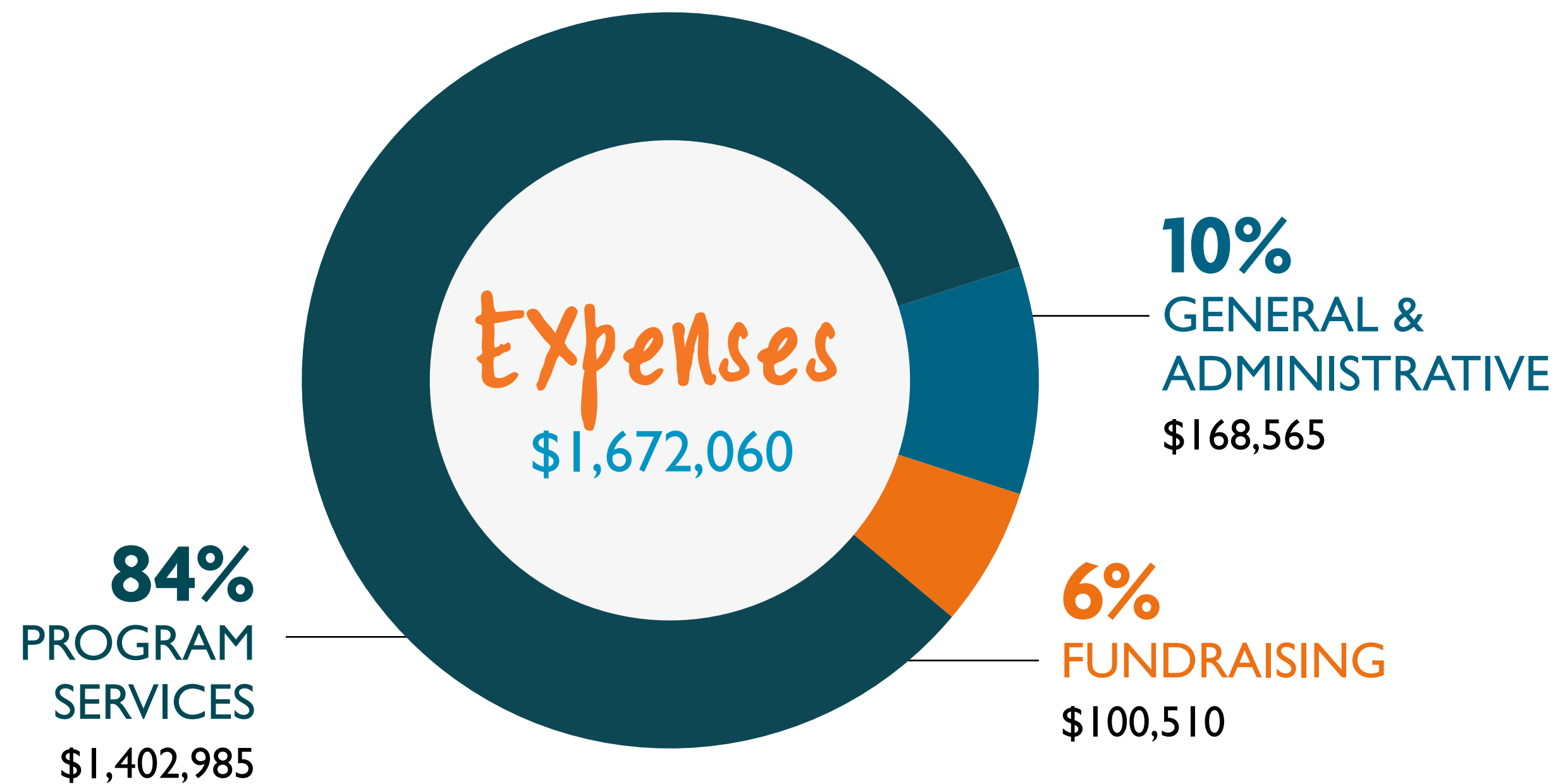
The Estée Lauder Companies Travel Retail \ Division

2024 FINANCIALS

YEAR END 12.31.2024

EarthEcho International ended the 2024 fiscal year on strong financial footing, with total revenue of \$1,753,752—driven overwhelmingly by grants and contributions (over 99% of all income). Total expenses for the year were \$1,672,059 with 84% directed to program services, underscoring our commitment to delivering impactful, mission-driven work. The remaining expenses supported essential administrative operations (10%) and fundraising efforts (6%).

At year-end, EarthEcho held \$1.56 million in total assets, including more than \$1.36 million in cash and cash equivalents. Our liabilities remained low at just under \$47,000, reflecting careful fiscal management. Net assets totaled \$1.52 million, with a healthy mix of both unrestricted and temporarily restricted funds to support ongoing programming. These financial results reflect not only the generosity of our supporters but also our disciplined approach to managing resources for long-term sustainability and impact.





together, we protect and restore
our ocean planet.

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