



# *A Year in Review*

LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM FOUNDATION 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



*Serving the Community since 1948*





# From the President



## Dear Friends,

As this publication goes to press, we celebrate our first spring with a beautiful new Visitor Plaza and entrance. Our newest pink trumpet tree was the first to burst into bloom, followed by our two adjacent outstanding beauties that were carefully protected during construction.

The 2022-2023 fiscal year, highlighted in this Annual Report, was a year of incredible celebration. On November 4, 2022, we broke ground on the \$10 million Visitor Plaza—the Arboretum’s largest capital improvement project since its founding. Not to be left out of the festivities, a momma bear and two cubs visited the Arboretum that very day for a romp around the gardens and an overnight stay, prompting an evacuation for visitor safety. The groundbreaking continued with media helicopters whirring overhead.

In January of 2023, we kicked off a year-long 75th Anniversary celebration filled with historic remembrances, tree walks, giveaways of seed packets and Engelmann oak saplings, monthly peacock passports for youngsters, and culminating in a gala that raised essential support for the gardens.

Despite an incredibly wet winter, we completed construction and opened our Visitor Plaza on June 30, 2023. Completion of this transformational project marked a capstone to an exciting year. We remain grateful to our many donors whose generosity helped make the project possible. In the fall, we celebrated the achievement at the 75th Anniversary Gala!

Throughout the year, we welcomed nearly 600,000 visitors who connected with nature and participated in myriad of programs and classes. Our horticulture team was incredibly busy planting more than 3,500 new plants in the gardens—the majority in our new entrance. And our volunteer corps helped make our service to the community possible.

It takes the ongoing support of our entire Arboretum Community to collectively ensure a thriving public garden. Your membership and donations provide essential financial support to continue to build a better Arboretum for the future. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you in the gardens!

Sincerely,

Annette Castro Ramirez  
President  
Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation

PHOTOS THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE BY MARILYN WOOD/JOANNE WILBORN; COUPLE ENJOYING PAPEL PICADO EXHIBIT BY BRIAN DIAZ

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ON THE COVER:  
THE THREE BEARS  
PHOTO BY [EDIE TYEBKHAN](#)

## 2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### OFFICERS

Annette Castro Ramirez  
President

Kathleen Ellison  
Vice President

Sean Cain, CPA  
Treasurer

Heidi Hood  
Secretary

Michael P Desplaines  
CEO

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

- Debbie Andersen
- Robert Barnes
- Susanne Cohen
- Marie Csete, MD, PhD
- Imy Dulake
- Merrilee Fellows
- Erica Hahn
- Dongmei Huang
- Justin Hutchings
- Harlan Irvine
- Akiko Koh
- Ilona Linden
- Victoria Stratman
- John Tegtmeyer
- Betsey Tyler

### HONORARY TRUSTEES

- George A. Brumder
- Dan Foliart
- Burks L. Hamner
- Kenneth D. Hill, PhD
- Susan Kranwinkle
- Bill Lincoln
- G. Arnold Mulder, MD
- Gilbert N. Resendez



# Arboretum by the Numbers

The garden is a vibrant place where people, plants and history come together. Here is a quick look at some of our mission highlights for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2023.



**572,964**  
Annual visitors



**17,181**  
Member households



**19,207**  
Santa Anita Depot visitors



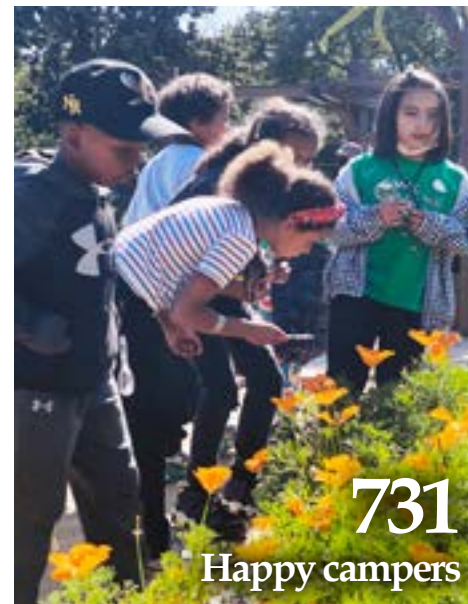
**260**  
Total bird species identified



**29,766**  
Volunteer service hours



**3,500**  
New plants: 62% at  
Visitor Plaza entry area



**731**  
Happy campers



**2,326**  
Seed packs given to  
visitors on Earth Day



**75**  
Years of serving the community



**3,153**  
Wellness & art  
class participants



**3**  
Bear visitors



**Countless**  
Teddy bears spotted



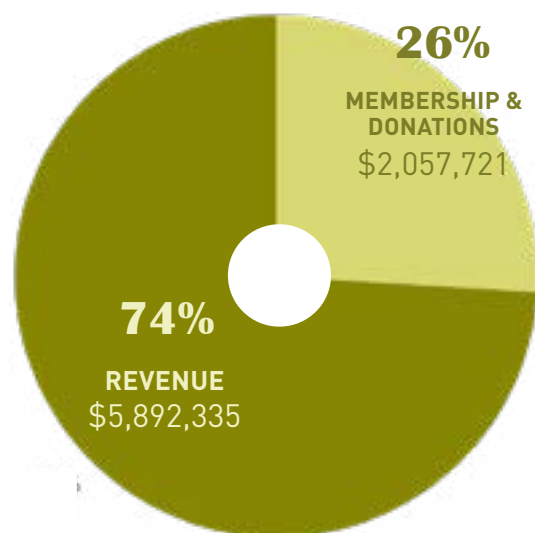
**4**  
Curiosity Carts rolled out



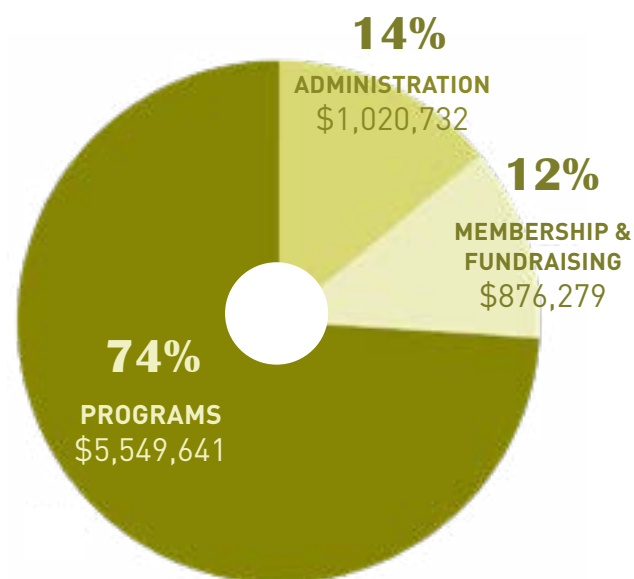
# Financials

Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

## OPERATING REVENUE & SUPPORT \$7,950,056\*



## OPERATING EXPENSE \$7,446,652



## Statement of Financial Position / June 30, 2023

### ASSETS

CASH	\$5,191,265
INVESTMENTS (at fair market value)	\$4,554,541
OTHER ASSETS	\$10,745,023
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$20,490,829</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES	\$749,593
UNRESTRICTED	\$15,955,105
RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$3,786,131
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$20,490,829</b>

\*A surplus due to increased program income and community support was reinvested into grounds improvements and toward construction of the Visitor Plaza.

# Growing the Arboretum Community

## Student Interns at the Crescent



As a former high school teacher, I understand the value of meaningful volunteer opportunities for students. Since 2017 we have offered paid student internships at the Crescent during the summer months. The candidates are selected from the ranks of our enthusiastic and committed junior high and high school student volunteers who join me each Saturday morning during the school year. We are proud to have provided almost two dozen qualified young people with this unique opportunity. With the many skills and knowledge they acquire, the students become mentors to each other, and readily interact with our visitors explaining the various aspects that make the Crescent so unique to the Arboretum. At least six of these interns referred to their experience in their college applications and consequently are pursuing a future in environmental policy and education. We should all be proud of this ongoing legacy.

—John Latsko, Crescent Interpretive Horticulturist

## Corporate Volunteers Help and Learn

Energetic, curious, and full of enthusiasm, 24 employees from Edison International spent a productive September day volunteering in the Engelmann oak grove and the Garden of Quiet Reflection—all part of the Arboretum's engaging Corporate Volunteer Program. The group pulled weeds, removed ivy from trees, and attached flags to protective plant cages; this is important work in maintaining this beautiful public garden and in helping our plant preservation efforts. Our Corporate Volunteer Program offers organizations the opportunity to positively impact the gardens, while also providing their employees with a terrific team-building experience. Participants also enjoy time afterward to freely explore the 127-acres of the garden and go home with new ideas about environmentally sustainable gardening practices. In addition to service, corporate groups, which have also included Avery Dennison and CIT Bank, make monetary donations in support of the Arboretum mission. We are grateful for such inspiring corporate partners! Please contact Judith Hamilton-Márquez at 626.566.3707 or [judith.marquez@arboretum.org](mailto:judith.marquez@arboretum.org) for more information.



—Judith Hamilton-Márquez, Development Manager

## Six Word Blooms: Papel Picado & Poetry



As a setting sun cast a shimmering golden light upon the Garden of Quiet Reflection, gentle breezes fluttered above through large, colorful Papel Picado artwork infused with six-word poems. The sensation was a sublime moment of art and poetry—perfect for the poetry reading that opened the *Six Word Blooms Papel Picado and Poetry* exhibition. Nearly 100 guests gathered on a September Sunday to hear six local poets of color read their original works of six words commissioned by the Foundation. The exhibition paid homage to two ancient Mexican art forms: Papel Picado, the cutting of symbols and figures onto folded pieces of paper, that dates to pre-Columbia times. Poetry, the highest art form in Aztec tradition, honors the ancient *tlamatine*, or “the sage of the word.” The poetic form of six-words was selected for its meditative appeal and succinct capturing of an image, reflection, narrative, or feeling.

# Thank You to Our Supporters

The Arboretum community is made up of many individuals who share a commitment to the vital role a garden plays as a place of learning, inspiration, and enjoyment. We are grateful to our Arboretum Benefactors who are highlighted within this list and celebrate their role as the organization's highest level of members and supporters. We are also proud to recognize and honor our many other special friends, members, foundations, and businesses for their generosity. All donors of \$500 and up are listed based on their cumulative contributions between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

## \$50,000+

Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation  
The LaFetra Foundation  
**Margaret & Dennis Page**  
Tammy & Michael Silver\*

## Kathy & H. Clay "Hap" Kellogg

**Diana Leach**  
**Ilona Linden**  
**Geeta Mehta**  
**Louise Neiby**  
Pasadena Garden Club

**Peg Rahn**  
**Kimberly & Rashad Raisani**  
**Margaret M. Stewart**  
**John Tegtmeyer & Pamela Hillings Tegtmeyer**

## \$2,500+

### Gwen & Guilford Babcock

Bank of America  
**Suzanne Beatty**  
Sue Carol Black

### Renate & Mel Cohen

Malissa Fairbrother

### Jim & Sue Femino

Sylvia Fong Trein

### Cathy Gendron

**Katherine & Robert Gillespie**

### Nel Graham

**Freddi & Kenneth D. Hill, PhD**

### Janice & Dane Hoiberg

**Jill & Patrick Holland**

### Susan & Edward Johnson

**Melissa Jones**

### Phaedra & Mark Ledbetter

Joanna T. Liang

Los Voluntarios\*

### Vivian & Anthony McMahon

**Gretl & G. Arnold Mulder**

### Joan Oakes

**Gilbert N. & Terese G. Resendez**

Suzanne Rheinstein

Rotary Club of Arcadia

### San Gabriel Nursery & Florist

Susann Thomas

Jon Troup

### James Walters & Mitzi Zack-Walters

**Patricia Wilmot**

Nancy Yoshihara\*

## \$1,000+

### Debbie & Ed Andersen

Mary Jo Andrews

Anonymous

Aversa Foundation

### Ann Babcock

## John Baldeschwieler & Marlene Konnar

**Robert Barnes**

### Marcia & Thomas Bent

**Deborah Beveridge**

Eryn Brown

### Marilyn & George Brumder

**Marilyn & Larry Callahan**

Bill Carrick & Beegie Truesdale

Ingrid Carroll

Vikki Chan

### Mark & Julie Charvat

Sandra Cheng

Priscilla & Charly Cheung

### Gloria Cox

### Karen & Steven Craig

### Barbara & Ralph Crane

**Susan E. Crowe**

### Brian Dahl

### Jane & Patrick Delahanty

Alice L. Deliman Fund

Susan Demattei

### Alyce DeRoulet Williamson

Diggers Garden Club of Pasadena

### Diana & Joe Eisele

### Helena Eversole

Liam Fitzpatrick

### Jane Florentinus

Christen & Megan Garrett

### Eileen & Gerard Gendron

### Leonard Gumpert & Wendy Munger

Julie Hakman

### Suzanne & Larry Haller

### Diane & James Harris

### Stephen Henry

### Tracy & Richard Hirrel

John Hodgman

### Suzanne & David Horvath

Rachael Humphries

Sylvia Jimenez

### Garrett Johnson & Charmaine

### Jefferson-Johnson

Sandy Joung

### Larry Kaiser

### Yun Kim

Cynthia Kruckenberg

La Puente Church of Christ

### Alice L. Lewin

### Mary Lindgren

### Guo Ling Luo

MacFarland Family Foundation

Cynthia Marbrey

## Bob Mendoza

Paul Meyer

Dominique C. Moore

Moore Frontini Charitable Fund

### Sue & Art Narevsky

### Nancy Neal Davis

### Anat & David Ohlgisser

### Jerome Paul & Fern Yu

### Mark Pomerantz

### Barbara Rigby-Elson & Douglas Elson

### Sylvia & Paul Rosenberger

### Elaine Sarkaria

### Kalpana Savla

### Victoria & Barry Schupbach

### Lee & Mickey Segal

Peter & Adele Skibba

### George M. Sonneborn

Jonathan Steinberg & Buf C. Meyer

Victoria Stratman

Charles & Geneva Thornton

### Brett Varner

### Kristin & Sean Varner

Mitchell Wallis

### Nathan Watson & Ying Qiao Hee

Randee & Ezekiel Wheeler

Jaqueline & Aaron Wright

Jae Yang

## \$500+

### Gilbert Acosta

Peter S. Adams

Amgen Foundation

### Wayne Andlovec & Donna Campbell

### Amanda & Michael Barrett

### Jill & Robert Bell

### Carolyn & Jamie Bennett

Jeff Blumenthal

Jim Brewer

Jay Brooks

### Emmy S. Chang & Shilung Lin

### Jung C. Chang

### Huimei Chung & Kou C. Lin

### Brandon Coble

### Linda & Stephen Colley

Amy Duval

### Andy Edmonds

### Carolyn Egenes

### Olga Eysymontt

### Marilynn Filbeck

### Jason Gee

### Marcia A. Good

Andrew Grey

### Marlene & Frank Griffith

### Alexander E. Hansen & Renu Bhat-Hansen

### Katherine & David Hensley

John Humphreville

### Barbara & Michael Kaiser

### Kevin Kane & Sandy Snider

### Song S. Kim

### Christine & Tien Lee

### Margaret Leong & Michael Checca

### Mary MacMichael

### Mark Mangoba & Maricel Roque

### Diane Marcussen

Susan D. Martynec

Lewis & Allen Mathies

David McFadzean

### Christine Mitchell

### Minal & Anil Modi

### Robert Muse & Tamerin Kelly

Judy & William Opel

Garrett Paine & June Paine Thurber

### John Penny

### Patrick Perry & Hsiao-Ling Ting

### Shirley G. Quan

### Matthew Randolph & Amy Korn

### Janet Rea & Edward Mittleman

### Richard & Kimberly Rinaldi

### Jean & Dean Rosenberger

### Judith Sallot

### Kyoko & John Schulhof

### Janalee & Lee Shimmin

### Penny D. Smith

### Peggy & Michael Stahlheber

### Greg Stone & Cindy Vail

### Anjana Sura

### Stephen Synnott

### Marjorie & L. Sherman Telleen

### Donna Varner

### Tracy & Kevin Varner

Carolyn H. & Robert D. Volk

### Katie Von Gremp

Denise & Matt Weaver

Helen & Robert Weber

Jeffrey West

### Barbara & Ian White-Thomson

### Jane & Jeff Williams

The Arboretum appreciates your support. Please call the Development Office at 626.821.3237 if we inadvertently misspelled or omitted your name.

# Samuel Ayres Legacy Society



Samuel Ayres was a visionary and the driving force in the establishment of the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden. We are grateful to these forward-thinking individuals and families who share Ayres' vision of a great public garden and have named the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation in their wills or estate plans.

A planned gift is a wonderful way to keep your legacy alive or honor a loved one. It can be as simple as including the Arboretum Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or estate plan, on a life insurance policy, or in your retirement or investment account. There are also planned gifts that will provide you with life income such as a Charitable Gift Annuity.

For more information, please contact Chief Development Officer Sylvia Rosenberger at 626.821.3232 or [sylvia.rosenberger@arboretum.org](mailto:sylvia.rosenberger@arboretum.org) or visit [arboretum.org/support/planned-giving](http://arboretum.org/support/planned-giving). You can help ensure that future generations of Southern Californians will continue to enjoy the Arboretum by joining our Samuel Ayres Legacy Society!

Corrine Abel Estate*	The Frances Clarine Hard Estate*	The Helen Shaffer Trust*
Anonymous (5)	Carl & Jane Herrmann	Estate of Lilly Shen*
The Domenica M. Ashton Trust*	Freddi & Kenneth D. Hill, PhD	The Slater Estate*
Estate of Samuel Ayres Jr. & Helen Ayres*	The Holtz-Hechler Trust*	Victoria Stratman
Coleen & George Ball	Ed & Susan Johnson	The Tauer Family Trust*
Marion Merrill Bateman Trust*	The Kallam Estate*	Evelyn Walpus
Carolyn & Jamie Bennett	Ruby Diane Lewis	The Wilbur Estate*
The Richard Brandes Estate*	Joyce Lim	Fern Yu
Estate of Mary Charlotte Crumpton*	Emma Menninger Estate*	<i>*Legacy Gift Realized</i>
Estate of Barbara Davis*	Estate of Elza Meyberg*	
Alice L. Deliman Fund*	Grace G. & Michael A. Montgomery	
The Onnalee Doheny Trust*	Alex Oser Estate*	
Roger & Carolyn Egenes	The Palmer Estate*	
Brittany Fabeck	Steven & Anita Peralez	
Kirby Fong	Walter Riemann Estate*	
Cathy Gendron	Ruth-Ann Rohman Trust*	
Teresa Gonzales Trust*	Ron & JoAnn Schrantz	
Sandra Goodenough & Richard Schulhof	Estate of Simon Russin III*	
Mr. Burks Hamner	Cynthia Anne Saxon	
	Carrie Scott	



\*Denotes new donors to the Visitor Plaza Campaign, which was celebrated in the 2021-2022 Annual Report. Bold/Italics recognizes Arboretum Benefactors.



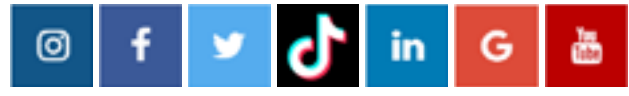


PHOTO BY BRIAN DIAZ

THE LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM FOUNDATION, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, co-manages the Arboretum in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Since it was established, the Foundation has been instrumental in creating the Arboretum and fostering its early development. From its beginnings, the Foundation has provided new gardens and education programs serving Southern California. Today, the Foundation leads a broad community of members, volunteers and donors in establishing the support needed to realize the Arboretum's potential as a premier public garden and educational resource. In an era of economic challenge and reduced public budgets, this role is of increasing importance.



Visit our website for a listing of events, programs and classes.  
[www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org)  
@laarboretum



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