



OCEAN MUSIC ACTION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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# MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

This year marked the beginning of Ocean Music Action, and what an amazing start: three days of activities celebrating Earth Day weekend in Houston, Texas, including two sold-out public performances, one volunteer bayou cleanup organized with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, and a public lecture at the Houston Museum of Natural Science by renowned National Geographic photographer David Liittschwager. These events were by all measures a huge success, allowing us to reach over 250 audience members and join hands with over 30 volunteers in helping to clean a local waterway. They also provided valuable feedback and guidance as we continue to plan future Ocean Music Action concerts and community engagement activities.

I am so grateful to everyone who has helped make the Ocean Music Action dream become a reality. I want to offer my deepest gratitude to the incredible women that make up our board; our musicians, including our student composer collaborators at Rice University; our partner organizations, who expand our community reach; and our audiences, many of whom joined us for our first community Day of Action. I look forward to more concerts, cleanups, and connection!

With love and gratitude,

Megan Conley

President and Founder, Ocean Music Action

# OUR 'WHY'



**Mission:** We use the transformative power of music to promote ocean conservation. We present inspiring, world-class performances paired with educational materials and volunteer activities, in order to build community and connect audiences to local conservation efforts.

**Vision:** We envision a world in which music brings together community members not just for a concert but for the common good. We see the power of music to transform popular culture, promoting ideas and policies that value people and planet over profit.



**Values:** Ocean Music Action is centered around artistic excellence and community service focused on environmental conservation. We stand against racism, and believe that diversity and excellence go hand in hand. We are committed to working toward a world where the planet and all of its people are treated as precious.

# OUR ARTISTS

## Artist Collaborators



**Janavi Mahimtura Folmsbee**

Conservation Artist and Writer



**David Liitschwager**

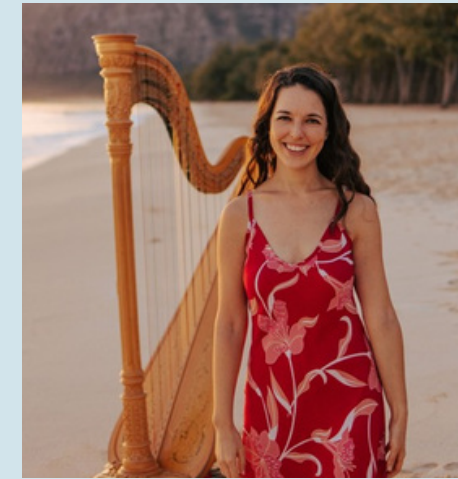
Photographer, National Geographic



**Maile Okamura**

Dancer, Pam Tanowitz Dance

## Musicians



**Megan Conley**

Harpist



**Shawn Conley**

Bass



**Colin Jacobsen**

Violin



**Alex Sopp**

Flute and Vocals



# OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Ocean Music Action collaborates with conservation organizations and presenters, using our concert platform to support and amplify their work.

## The Bishop Museum

Ocean Music Action musicians Megan Conley, Shawn Conley, and guest artist Abe Lagrimas, Jr, performed for the opening of *Backyard Adventures*, an interactive science exhibit engaging guests with the wonders found in their own backyards. This exhibit serves to inspire the next generation of citizen scientists while emphasizing the importance of outdoor activity and exploration.

## Buffalo Bayou Partnership

In collaboration with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Ocean Music Action organized an Earth Day weekend volunteer cleanup with Buffalo Bayou. Over 35 community members joined together to help revitalize the bayou, which flows through Houston and down to Galveston Bay.



## Houston Museum of Natural Science

Ocean Music Action was proud to partner with the Museum for *A Deep Dive: Octopus, Seahorse, Jellyfish* with David Liittschwager. Liittschwager shared images and stories of his decades of experience photographing wildlife, answered questions, and signed copies of his book *Octopus, Seahorse, Jellyfish*, recently published by National Geographic.

## Houston Arboretum & Nature Center

Ocean Music Action presented our first children's concert at the Arboretum. The program, *Water in Harmony*, included a nature-inspired chamber music performance, a water-quality lesson, hands-on art making, and pond-dipping, where children delighted in discovering the variety of life in a pond. We are thrilled to welcome Arboretum Senior Naturalist and Early Childhood Coordinator Patti Bonnin to Ocean Music Action as our new Education Advisor.

## Mālama Maunalua

Megan Conley provided beautiful harp music for Malama Maunalua's screening of *Chasing Coral*, a documentary that details the massive coral bleaching events of 2014-2017 and serves as a call to action in defense of the world's ocean ecosystems.





## Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University

On April 23, the Moody Center presented Ocean Music Action in an hour-long tapestry of music, art, and dance featuring live music performed alongside stunning ocean photography by National Geographic's David Liittschwager. The multidisciplinary showcase featured dancer Maile Okamura as well as works composed and performed by students from the Shepherd School of Music.

## Rothko Chapel

Ocean Music Action presented our first public performance at the Rothko Chapel, in Houston Texas, over Earth Day weekend. This sold-out, al fresco concert took place in front of the Chapel reflecting pool, and featured ocean-inspired music by Takemitsu and Debussy, accompanied by dancer Maile Okamura. Artwork by conservation artist Janavi Mahimtura was on view, and plastic-free water was provided by HOW water company.

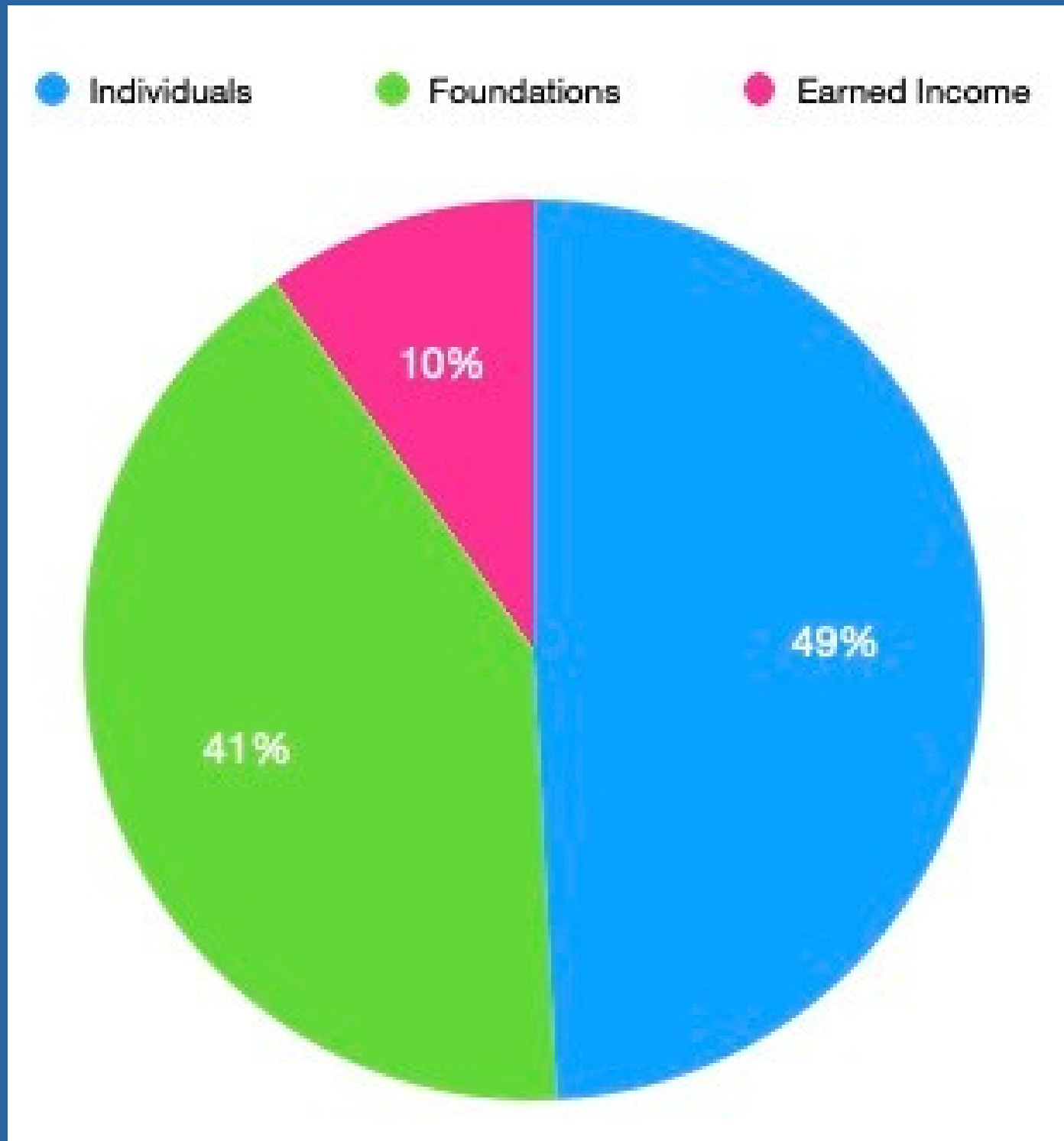


## Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts

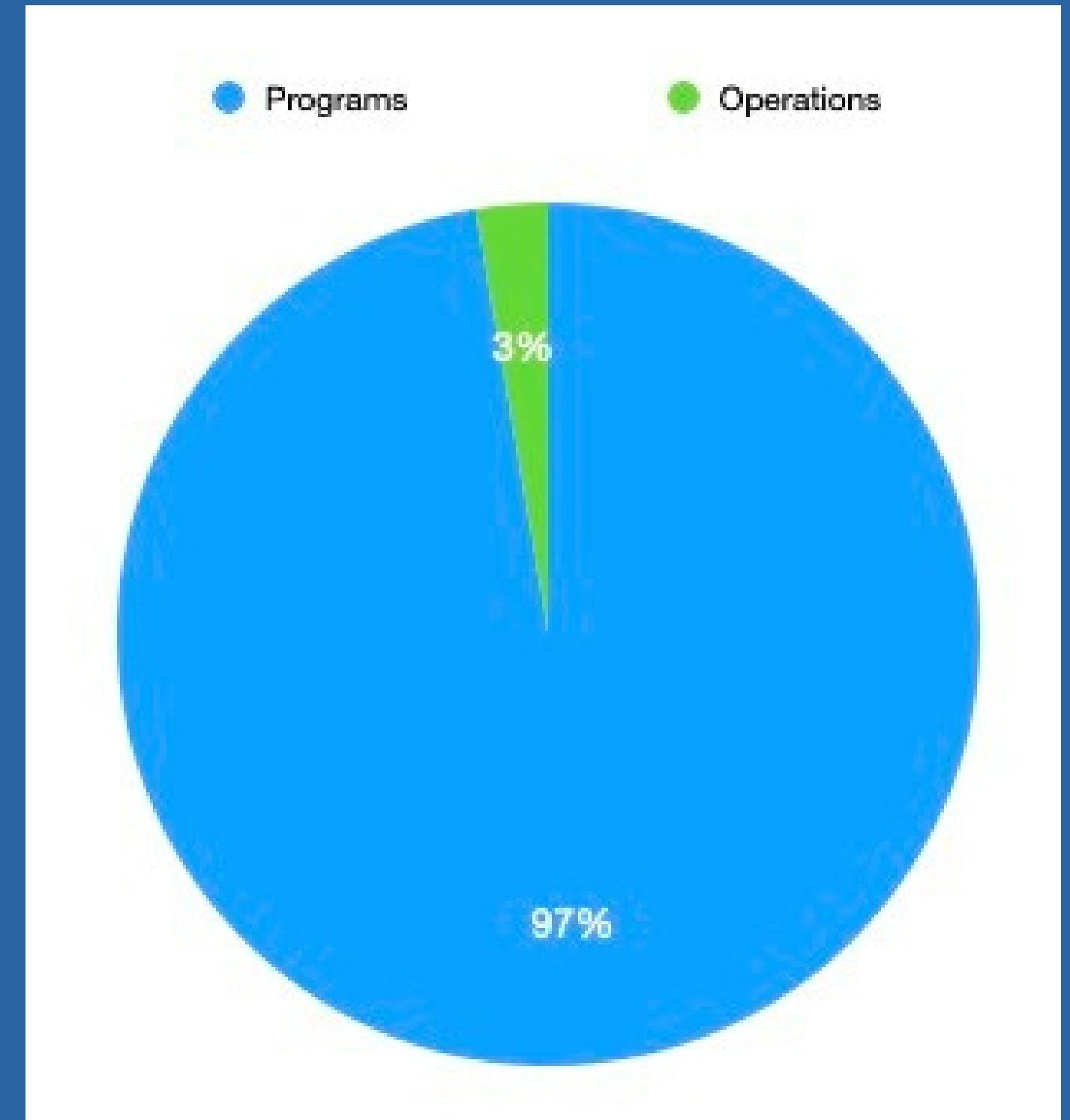
Over three weeks in July, members of Ocean Music Action worked with over 150 Usdan students on themes of sustainability and cross-disciplinary art making. This culminated in an original performance, premiered in the midst of a global heat wave, that celebrated student-led creativity and paid tribute to the life-giving powers of water and its artistic potential.

# 2022 FINANCIALS

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



# IN THEIR WORDS

Rothko Chapel comments:

“Beautiful music and dance in a wonderful outdoor setting. Thank you!”

“Gratifying experience of beautiful music & dance outdoors. Hope to find more like events in the future.” -Rothko Chapel

“Could not have been more wonderful to hear such creative compositions played by such incredible musicians.”

**“Truly magical.”**

Moody Center for the Arts comments:

“Everything was so great. The multimedia aspect of the concert was incredible!”



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Megan Conley**

President

**Crystal Dawli**

Vice President

**Johnna Gluth**

Treasurer

**Stephanie Bergeron**

Secretary

## Advisory Board

**Patti Bonnin**

Education Advisor. Senior Naturalist and Early Childhood Coordinator at Houston Arboretum & Nature Center

**Adrienne Correa**

Science Advisor. Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at UC Berkeley; Founder and Co-Director of Berkeley Center for Ocean Futures



# WITH GRATITUDE

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our donors. Thank you so much!

## **Individuals**

Samira Bakhtiar  
Megan Conley  
Nancy Conley  
Colleen DiFonzo  
Janavi Mahimtura Folmsbee  
Mark Griffith  
Ronda Jones Levin  
Catherine Lanteri  
Jaye Stepp  
Donna and Ken Yanowski

## **Grants**

The Knights' Carmela S. Haklisch Innovation Fund Grant  
Rice University's Arts Initiative Fund



OCEAN MUSIC ACTION

THANK  
YOU

