



Annual Report

RIEEA

Rhode Island Environmental
Education Association

2022

I am thrilled to greet you as RIEEA's new president! Many thanks to our outgoing president, Molly Allard, for showing me the ropes and always being available and eager to listen and advise (not to mention her overall stellar leadership over the last two years!). We so appreciate her service and look forward to continuing to reap the benefits of her wisdom and expertise in her role as Past President.

While many of us experienced a bit of a return to "normal" in 2022, challenges remain. RIEEA continues to strategically plan and deliver relevant and timely programming to meet our members' needs - whether it remains virtual for ease of access or in-person to foster partnerships and collaboration. Speaking of strategy, we are so excited about our new strategic plan! The deliberation and thoughtfulness that was put in by the board, members, and partners will guide us well in the coming years.

We hope you enjoy reading about RIEEA's other accomplishments in 2022 - from an incredible Annual Summit to an inspiring Youth Leadership Retreat to an awesome teacher professional development program. We also overhauled our website and logo, moved into a new office, and welcomed Kaytee Canfield as RIEEA's Communications Manager who is already making a positive impact every day.

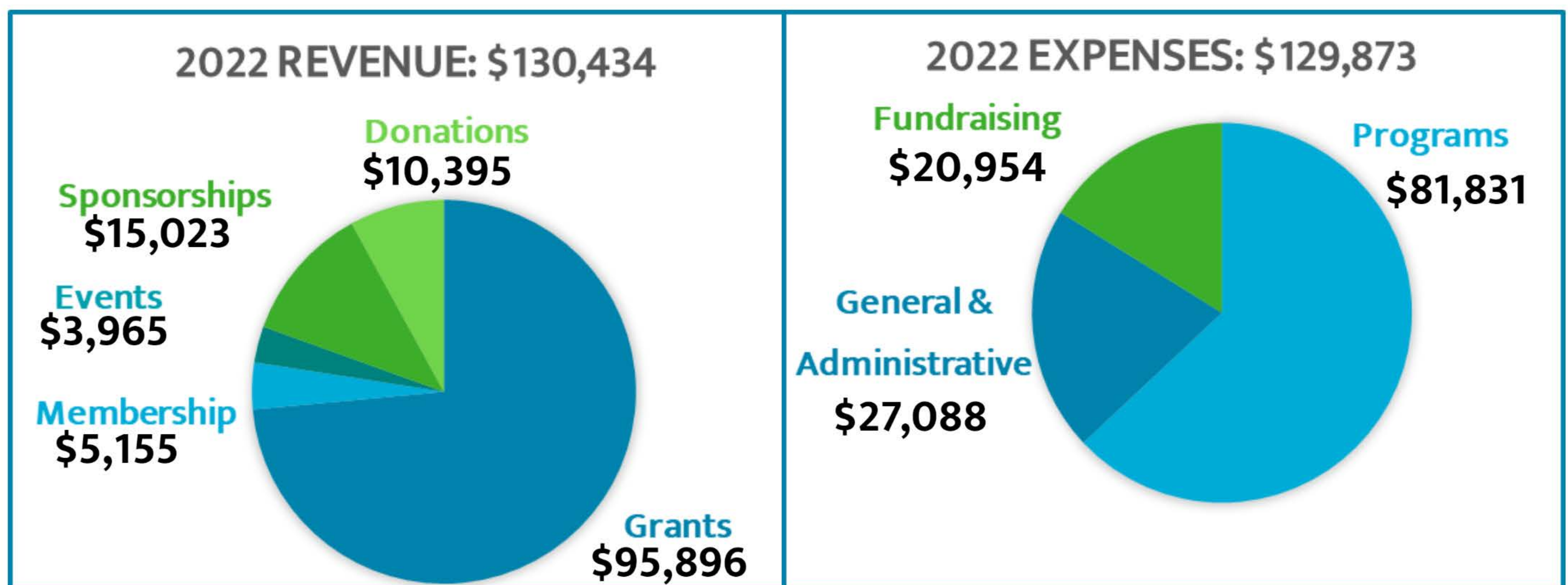
My deepest gratitude to all - we couldn't do this important work without you!

Jennifer West, President

2022 By the Numbers



Financial Report



Major Accomplishments

"Gotta give you major props for keep[ing] the summit diverse, inclusive of local culture, and most importantly, engaging."

Though we had to reschedule our 2022 Summit because of the coronavirus pandemic, we were able to gather in person at Rhode Island College for our largest event for the first time in two full years! The keynote speakers, Joann Ayuso, Kufa Castro, and Tonay Gooday-Ervin, spoke powerfully about the connection between trees and environmental justice for Rhode Island's frontline communities. Small group discussions, networking, and presentation of our Annual Environmental Education Awards followed.

Our logo and website got major overhauls in 2022. We are so grateful to everyone who informed our process - we really did listen to the feedback you gave us through our survey and in various meetings and interviews. The navigation makes it much easier to get involved, find resources, post and view jobs, and more. Don't forget to check out the newly designed Environmental Education Directory - a comprehensive, searchable list of opportunities throughout the state to help get your students, audiences, colleagues, and even your own families engaged in environmental learning.

"Well-organized, easy to find most everything! Really nicely done!"

"Who knew strategic planning could be so much fun?!"

RIEEA also embarked on a strategic planning process in 2022 to guide our efforts in the upcoming years. With the assistance of Spartina Consulting, we hosted a community listening session, conducted a survey, held a board retreat, and had many productive work sessions to develop a plan to guide us through the next several years! Over 80 people were involved in this process, and we truly appreciate the time you took out of your very busy schedules to share your thoughts.

A core function of RIEEA is providing spaces for educators and advocates to gather, discuss the field, and learn from each other, and we provided multiple spaces throughout 2022 to do this. RIEEA hosted a number of open board meetings and our Virtual Lunch & Learn series covered topics such as managing climate anxiety and improving access to environmental education. We also held a dine-to-donate fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza Company and gathered at the Mashapaug Pond Boathouse for a summer social.

For the third year, we hosted a professional development series to help K-12 teachers gain the knowledge and confidence to integrate climate science into their classrooms and build climate literacy in Rhode Island's students. Teachers participated in over 8 hours of professional development, including opportunities to network with and learn from other teachers in the program, and received a RIEEA membership, resources, a stipend, and support throughout the year. Participants from the previous cohort returned as teacher leaders to help us plan and facilitate the workshops.

"This was a great PD session. I look forward to using these strategies and resources with students."

More Major Accomplishments

In the fall of 2022, we welcomed Kaytee Canfield to our team. Kaytee is RIEEA's Communications Manager and is responsible for all of our marketing and communication strategies. They bring a background in environmental education, marine affairs, and social science research, and jumped right in! Kaytee immediately expanded our digital reach, redesigned our newsletter, and is greatly expanding RIEEA's advocacy efforts to help us address environmental injustices.

We also now have an office at the Social Enterprise Greenhouse Hub in Providence! Stop by sometime to check it out, speak with our staff, and learn what resources are available to support your efforts.



"I got to meet new people and we were able to work together and brainstorm ideas as a community! It also made me realize how there are so many people who care about the environment as much as my peers and I do."

RIEEA held its third Youth Leadership Retreat, this time in person! Six teams of youth leaders connected, collaborated, and started to plan a project to promote environmental justice and improve environmental literacy in their local communities. Three youth who participated in this program in 2021 planned and facilitated the evening's activities, and shared their own project experiences.

Lastly, RIEEA's advocacy work in 2022 focused primarily on supporting the proposed Climate Literacy Act. Though this act did not pass in the 2022 legislative session, it helped us build a strong network of educators, advocates, policymakers, and many others. We continue to work with policy makers and partners to reimagine how a climate literacy bill can support workforce development in the blue and green economy through both in-school and out-of-school learning as well as post-secondary job training and apprenticeships. Look for information about the 2023 Climate Change and Ocean Protection Workforce Development and Education Acts and how you can support them.

New Mission & Vision Statements

Mission Statement

Support and promote high-quality environmental education throughout the state. We collaborate with all educators, students, and advocates to respond to community assets, needs, and aspirations.

Our Vision

A culture of environmental and social responsibility that drives equitable decision-making to create a healthy, safe, and just future for all Rhode Islanders.



Our Team

Jeanine Silversmith (she/her), Executive Director
Kaytee Canfield (she/they), Communications Manager
Jennifer West (she/her), President
Joshua Laplante (he/him), President-Elect
Cynthia Corsair (she/her), Secretary
Corrie Ignagni (she/her), Treasurer
Molly Allard (she/her), Past President
Andrew Broccolo (he/they), Board Member
Madison Burke-Hindle (she/her), Board Member

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Abigail Burrows (she/her), Board Member
Gráinne Conley (she/her), Board Member
Stacy Couto (she/her), Board Member
Dean Faiola (he/him), Board Member
Lisa Maloney (she/her), Board Member
Ayana Melvan (she/her), Board Member
Olubunmi Olatunji (she/her), Board Member
Dante Tavolaro (he/they), Board Member

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Thank you
to our
supporters!



Help us continue this work in 2023 and beyond!
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Advancing Environmental Education through Collaboration



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