



Reconnect

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Last year, despite many challenges and uncertainties, the Academy team remained hopeful about the future. We pushed ourselves to think deeply about what came next, taking this opportunity to develop our purpose-driven mission to regenerate the natural world through science, learning, and collaboration. Together with this mission comes a new **strategic plan**, refocused **vision** and **values**, and three strategic initiatives: ***Thriving California***, ***Hope for Reefs (Phase II)***, and ***Islands 2030***.

We're already making major strides with our initiatives: from *Hope for Reefs* partnerships with local researchers on exciting new species discoveries in the Maldives, to securing unprecedented state funding to advance *Thriving California* science education, to launching an *Islands 2030* collaborative research project on the Caribbean island of St. Martin. Integral to all of this initiative work is bringing the Academy to our

community, both in the museum and beyond our walls. Whether it's at our magnificent facility in Golden Gate Park or online through digital programs, every day we bring to life the wonders of science and nature in ways that everyone can enjoy.

Another important milestone this year was our partnership with **Momentum Collaborative**, an organizational change management firm focused on anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Academy has critical work to do bringing to light the legacies of institutional racism and colonialism within museums, including our own. How can we advocate for environmental and climate justice without also addressing systemic racial injustices? The answer is simple: We can't. As writer and activist Wendell Berry reminds us, we must "solve for pattern"—seeking out the threads that connect individual problems to co-create systemic solutions. Regenerating the natural world demands that we simultaneously tackle climate change, social justice, and the biodiversity crisis.

It's a powerful role for a natural history museum to take on, and we are well-positioned—indeed proud—to do so. In addition to our ongoing work in biodiversity science and environmental learning, we are deeply committed to engaging collaboratively with communities that have been systematically oppressed, as well as pursuing more diverse and inclusive participation in STEM, **amplifying voices** that have been excluded for too long.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank the entire Academy community—staff, students, volunteers, members, donors, Trustees, and other supporters—for making this year's accomplishments possible. I could not be more excited about where we're headed as an organization, and I thank you for being part of this impactful journey.

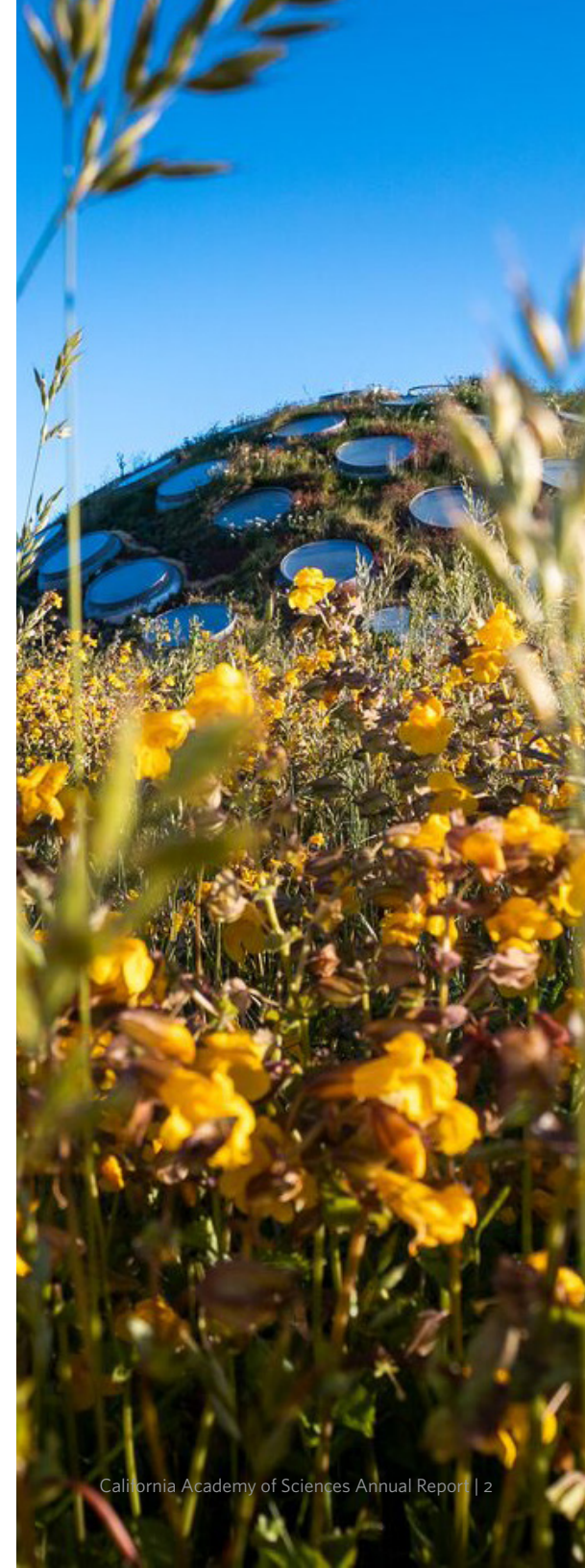
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Sampson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being more prominent.

Scott Sampson, PhD

Executive Director

William R. and Gretchen B. Kimball Chair





FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, our incredible community

of supporters, for your ongoing partnership with the Academy. This year, we had our first in-person gala since 2019. Thank you to everyone who contributed to **Big Bang | Next Wave**, our annual fundraiser gala. With your generous support, we raised over \$2 million to advance our bold **new mission** with a spotlight on Phase II of our **Hope for Reefs** initiative. I would like to personally thank our event co-chairs, Academy Trustee Kevin Hartz and Julia Hartz, and keynote speaker, **Alexandra Cousteau** for a spectacular night.

Over the summer, the Academy saw a healthy attendance recovery from our local and domestic markets; however, attendance to the museum was negatively impacted by the Omicron variant in the second half of the fiscal year. During these challenging times, the Academy was fortunate to receive support from various

stimulus programs. These funds were instrumental in helping the Academy reopen its doors to the public as well as positioning the organization to execute its new strategy. I am incredibly proud of our Academy staff for their hard work during these challenging times. Without their contributions, we would not be where we are today—well-positioned to play a leading role in regenerating Earth's damaged ecosystem and climate.

As we look at the year ahead, I am happy to say we are well-positioned to advance our mission and strategic initiatives, from expanding science, learning, and collaboration here at home in California to tropical islands and coral reefs around the world. As we make major advancements with these exciting initiatives, we will continue to update our Academy community through our email and social media channels.

I remain inspired by the unwavering commitment from our donor communities, including the **Friends Circle, Leadership Circle, Director's**

Circle, Institutional Partners, and Eastwood Associates. Your support has allowed us to do incredible work, both inside the Academy and beyond.

Because of you, the Academy continues to grow and inspire people every day. On behalf of the leadership team, Board of Trustees, and Academy staff, thank you all for your support and for being an integral part of our Academy community.

Sincerely,

Dan Janney
Chair of the Board of Trustees

A close-up photograph of several bioluminescent sea anemones. The anemones have a pinkish-purple base and a crown of tentacles that glow with a bright blue light. The background is dark, making the glowing organisms stand out. The text "Highlights of the year" is overlaid in white, with a dark teal horizontal bar behind the word "of".

Highlights of the year

August 10

As part of our *Thriving California* initiative, and in collaboration with the Presidio Trust, Academy scientists kicked off **genomic sequencing** aimed at restoring San Francisco's dunes and identifying a modern relative of the Xerces blue butterfly, an essential player in keeping the ecosystem healthy.



July

August

September

September 15

Our eighth annual **BigPicture** Natural World Photography Competition brought us **49 winning photographs** from a pool of nearly 8,400 submissions from 68 different countries—each image capturing the incomparable beauty of Earth and the diversity of life it fosters.



October 22

San Francisco's annual favorite *SuperNatural* event raised a record-breaking total of nearly \$300,000 in support of the Academy's educational outreach programs. Thank you to everyone who supported our family-friendly Halloween fundraiser.



October



October 6

The Academy received its first-ever patent for a submersible container that enables researchers to collect live fish from coral reefs in the *Twilight Zone*—all part of our *Hope for Reefs* work. This game-changing technology has been used to safely surface hundreds of precious fish (and many new-to-science species!) from these deep reefs in a non-invasive way.



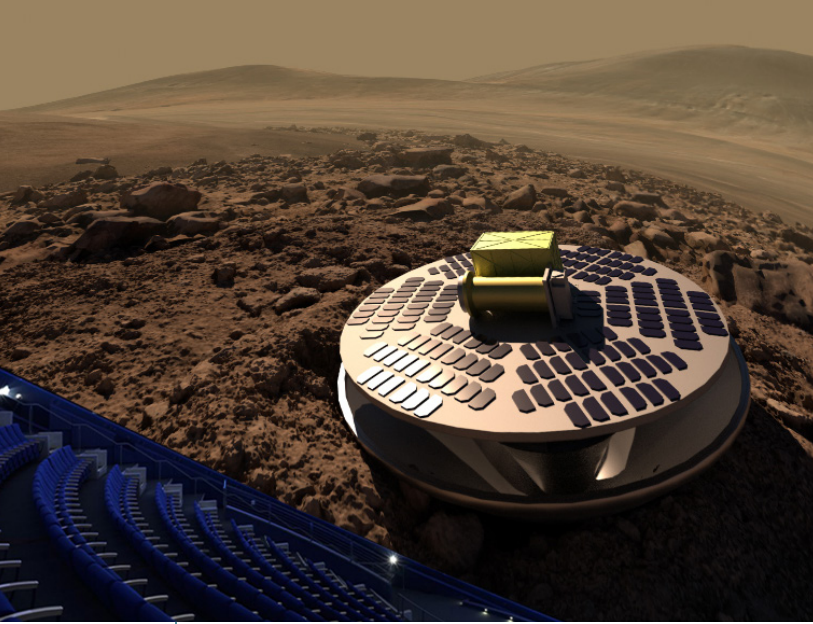
October 23

The *New Science* exhibit, which increases the visibility of LGBTQ+ women and gender minorities of color working in STEM, was **named runner up in the “inclusion” category of this year’s Blooloo Innovation Awards.**



October 28

The Academy was **awarded a Big Bee project grant** from the National Science Foundation to digitize 180,000 bee specimens and provide greater, equitable access to our **scientific collections**.



November 5

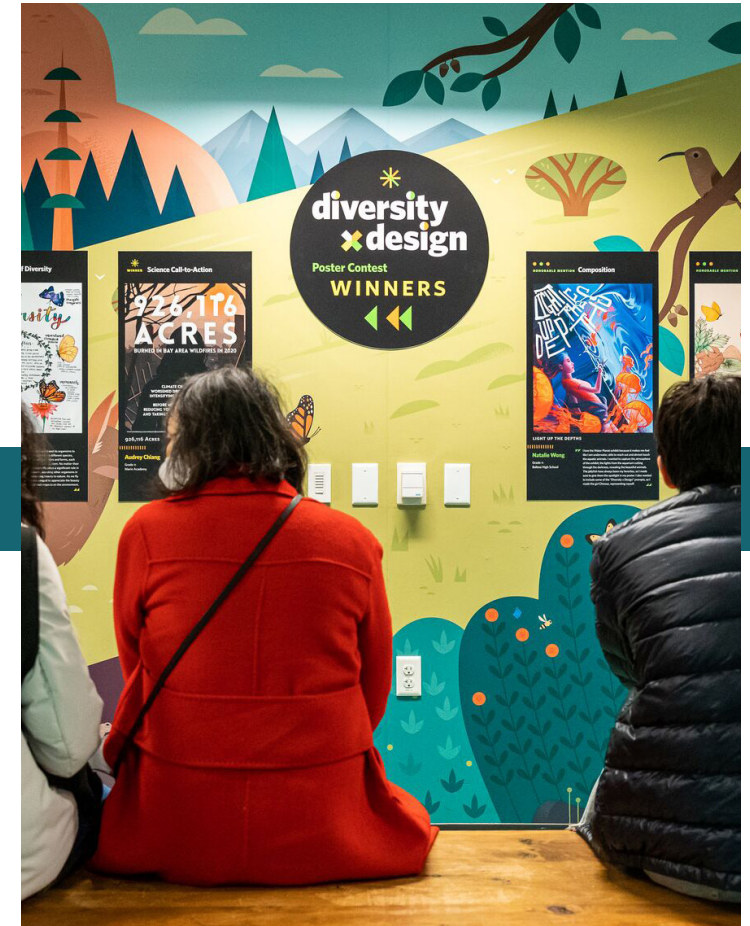
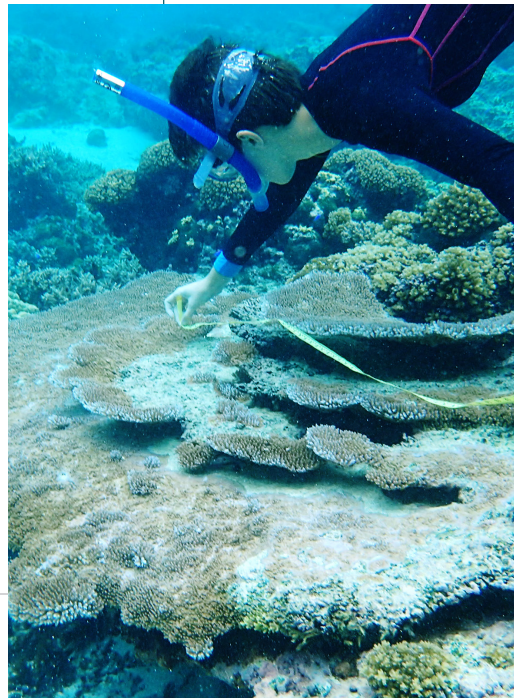
The Academy's newest film *Living Worlds* premiered in **Morrison Planetarium** and was named the winner of the 2021 Dome Fest West **#BestOfEarth** award for Science and Education.

November

December

December 1

Biologist **Elora López-Nandam**, PhD, was recognized in **Forbes' 30 Under 30** list for her groundbreaking research on coral resilience to climate change, advancing the Academy's *Hope for Reefs* initiative.



December 17

The Academy proudly displayed the **winning posters** of the **Diversity x Design** contest, a contest for Bay Area students that celebrates diversity in science.



January 14

New exhibit *Wander Woods* opened in the East Garden, expanding childhood education opportunities for local youth, unleashing imaginations and fostering a deep connection with nature.

January

January 11

The Academy announced the **Larry E. Serpa Western North America Aquatic Invertebrate Collection**—the largest private collection of Western aquatic invertebrates—in honor of late ecologist Larry Serpa.



February

February 10

President Joe Biden honored the California Academy of Sciences' **Careers in Science** STEM and workforce development program with the **Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring**, celebrating 25 years of impact.



“The internship has given me so much confidence in myself—especially as a woman of color going into the STEM field, which is predominantly white and male. The internship has given me the opportunity to have my voice heard.” — Gaby, Careers in Science intern

“From common plants to endangered amphibians, every observation helps us reconnect with nature and contributes important biodiversity data that enables scientists and managers to better understand and protect our planet.”

—Alison Young

Co-director of Center for Biodiversity and Community Science





March 8

In collaboration with the Maldives Marine Research Institute, the *Hope for Reefs* team documented several species not previously known to science, including the **first-ever fish to be described by a Maldivian scientist**.

April 28

Big Bang | Next Wave raised over \$2 million to advance our bold **new mission** and Phase II of *Hope for Reefs*, which aims to reverse the decline of Earth's coral reefs within the next five years!



March



March 3

bioGraphic short film **Mexico City and its Sacred Salamanders** won in the Stories of Hope Short Form category at the **2022 World Wildlife Day Film Showcase**.

April

April 29

In support of the Academy's **Thriving California** initiative, **City Nature Challenge 2022** broke records with more than 1.69 million wildlife observations across 47 countries around the world! More than 67,000 community scientists contributed valuable biodiversity data using **iNaturalist**.



May

May 16

As part of the **Breakfast Before Conservation** project—led by Patterson Scholar and Curator of Entomology **Brian Fisher**, PhD—and the **Islands 2030** initiative, the Edible Farm Lab opened. Together with the Madagascar Biodiversity Center, we are using edible insects to both sustain local habitats and feed local communities.





May 27

Two new exhibits premiered: *Hidden Wonders: Inside the Academy's Collection*, a new exhibition of rare specimens from the Academy's vast scientific collections, marked the opening of the new Pauline and Tom Tusher Collections Gallery, which is specially designed to showcase delicate specimens. *Bugs*, a fantastical bug-themed exhibit created by Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand and Weta Workshop, showcases the adaptive genius of arthropods.

June

June 8

On World Oceans Day 2022, the Academy's *Hope for Reefs* initiative was **officially endorsed by the UN Ocean Decade**, joining a global network of partners dedicated to reversing the decline of Earth's ocean system.



By the numbers

6,211,663

views of online learning materials



9 undergraduate interns were selected from more than 600 applicants to participate in the nine-week Summer Systematics Institute intensive training and mentorship program



553

553 teachers participated in virtual **Teacher Professional Development** workshops, collectively reaching 62,397 students with science and environmental learning

279

279 livestream programs delivered, including Academy Breakfast Club, NightSchool, and Member Talks

236,405

Distance learning participants

37

37 local youth interns engaged in science learning and workforce development through our **Careers in Science** program



1,176,085

1,176,085 in-person engagements (692% increase from FY21 due to re-opening)

70

new-to-science plant and animal species added to the tree of life



8,480

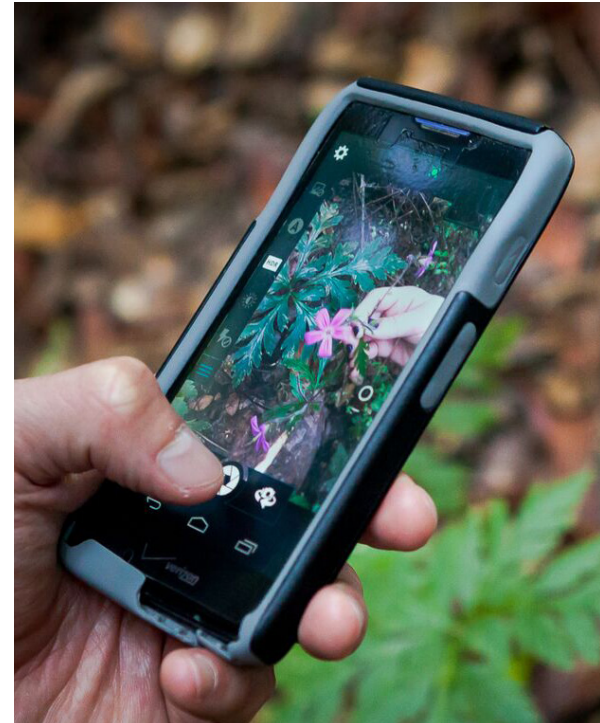
youth served through afterschool programs and internships

308

Science Action Clubs supported 13,860 educators and 6,390 youth, with 236 clubs in California, 57 nationwide, and 15 in Spain

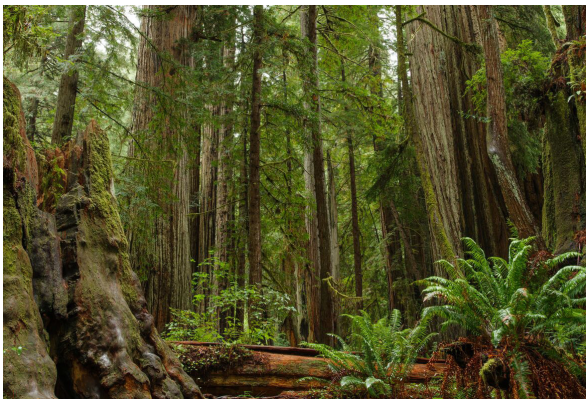
73

Steinhart Aquarium divers and volunteers conducted 2,041 dives, 81% of them in the aquarium, to keep our living collection healthy during shelter-in-place



8,189

hectares of California lands surveyed for wildfire impacts on birds, plants, and vegetation



925,000

community scientists made 34M observations of 279,000 species on **iNaturalist**, one of the world's most popular nature apps



Thank you

We are grateful to those who made generous contributions to the Academy from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Your support makes it possible for us to bring extraordinary opportunities and inspiration to our community both locally and beyond. A special thank you to our **Friends Circle**, **Leadership Circle**, **Director's Circle**, **Institutional Partners**, **Eastwood Associates**, and online contributors.

It is our pleasure to recognize the following individuals for their commitment to the Academy: Gary and Nancy Steele for being the first to donate to the Legacy Matching Gift Challenge and inspiring others to make estate gifts; the Gerson Bakar Foundation for their transformational contribution towards environmental learning and biodiversity science; and Bill and Brenda Younger, Gregory DiPaolo, Margaret and Will Hearst, John Atwater and Diana Nelson, and Dan Janney and

Noelle Montgomery for their exceptionally meaningful support of our strategic initiatives.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and attended **Big Bang | Next Wave**. Your donations helped raise \$2M in support of **Hope for Reefs**, a strategic Academy initiative aiming to reverse the rapid decline of Earth's reefs. A very special thank you to our amazing lead sponsors: Autodesk, as the Presenting Sponsor and crowdfunding Challenge Match Donor, and Carmel Partners, as the VIP and Dessert Reception Sponsor. We'd also like to thank Kevin and Julia Hartz for their incredible work as Event Co-Chairs, as well as Jack Forestell at Visa, Inc. for being this year's Corporate Chair. We look forward to celebrating with you next year!

Financials

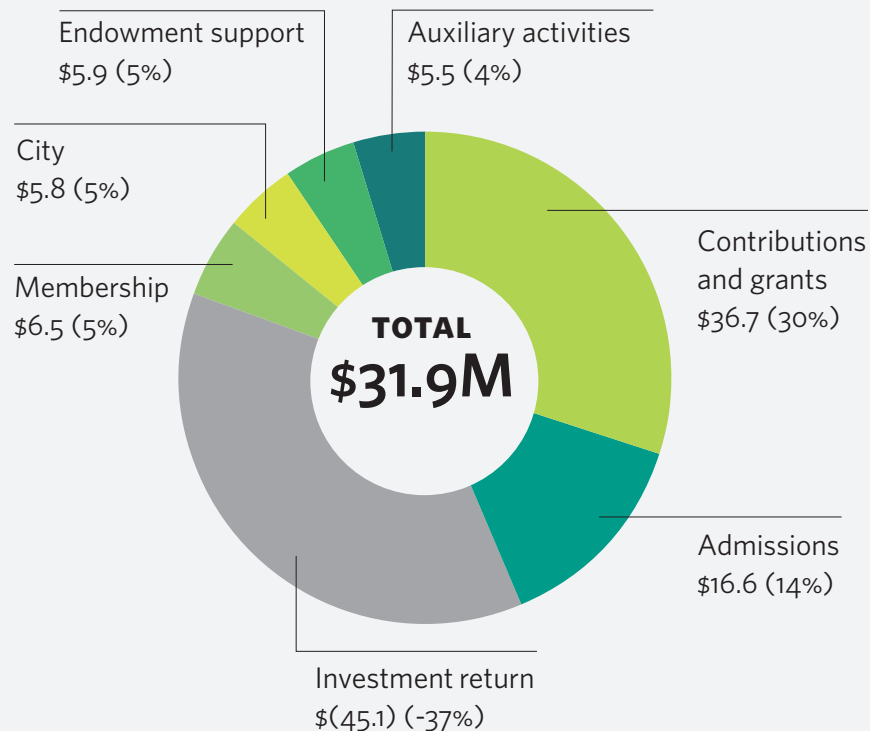
FY22 REVENUE MIX

\$ IN MILLIONS

This is an excerpt from the Statement of Activity.

These revenue items include transactions with and without donor restrictions:

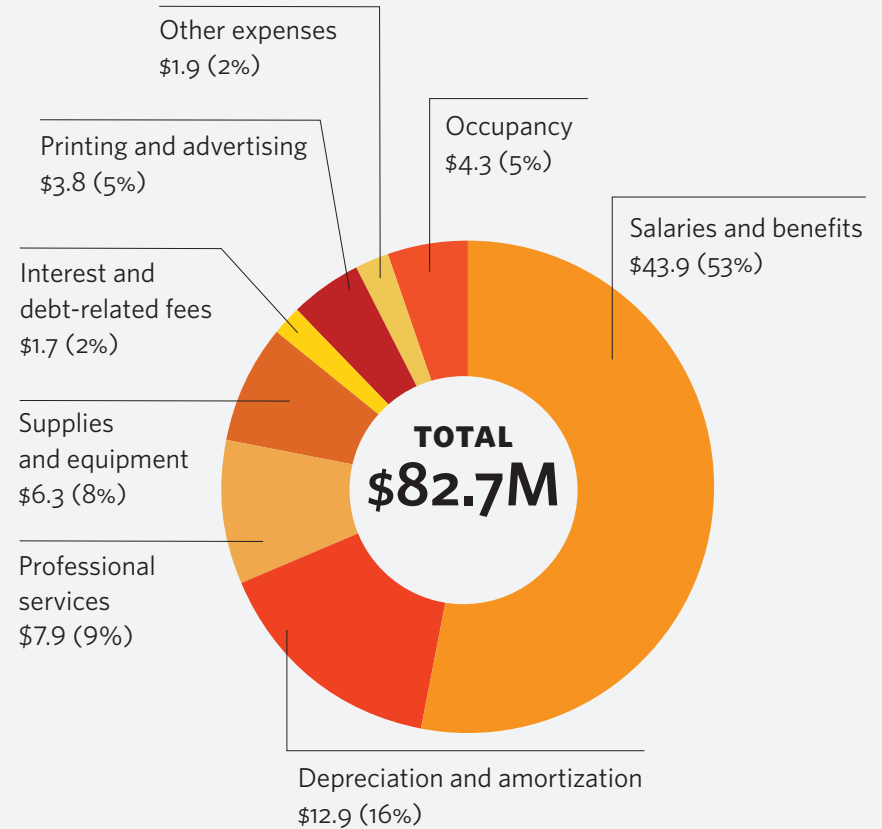
- » Contributions and grants
- » Investment return



FY22 EXPENSE MIX

\$ IN MILLIONS

This is an excerpt from the Statement of Activity.





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