



Now More Than Ever



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT & THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

By any measure, this has been a year for the record books. The COVID-19 pandemic swept across the world in early 2020, changing everything in its path, including EIS. The toll this disease has taken is heart wrenching and has laid bare many of the inequities EIS has been fighting against for more than five decades. The people we serve have been hit hard by the pandemic, which has only magnified the disparate health outcomes we see in communities of color. The challenges and uncertainty that families face day after day are daunting. And while the disruption and stress in our students' lives have been profound, we are in awe of their resilience. Kids have always been eager to study science, conduct experiments, and make their own discoveries. The pandemic has not dampened their enthusiasm, but it has restricted their access to educational opportunities, especially the rich learning experiences that EIS provides.

EIS has risen to the challenge by adapting our programs to the new environment the pandemic has created and producing on-line learning experiences crafted with the same care and knowledge we have always employed. We also know the learning losses kids have suffered are real, which makes our work of providing students with authentic, hands-on science more important than ever.

Back in March, we began distributing daily do-at-home science lessons and creating open online content. As the pandemic continues through the fall of 2020, we are partnering with neighborhood schools and working directly with teachers to deliver exceptional science lessons to students in their homes via Zoom. We are also developing a Next Generation Science Standards curriculum and will be ready for the day to safely welcome students back into our labs.



The pandemic has taught us the importance of science to understand and react to such events. Even if you are not a scientist or medical professional on the front lines fighting this disease, the more knowledgeable each member of society is, the better we can all respond to challenges like COVID-19. EIS programs and services are needed more than ever. We are deeply heartened by the tremendous support we have received from individuals, foundations, corporations, parents, and partners. Thank you for giving so generously. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Patsy Tomlin
Board President

Jim Stone
Executive Director

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COVID-19 Pandemic: EIS Needed Now More than Ever

The Elementary Institute of Science is committed to meeting our communities needs as we face the unprecedented challenge of a global pandemic. When statewide restrictions went into place earlier this year, and schools shut down, EIS immediately took action by creating and distributing the “Daily Science Dose,” a series of 54 free online lessons and experiments for students to do at home with their parents. Since those early stages of the pandemic, like most communities of color, our community has born a disproportionate share of the impact. As schools can only teach online, concerns of student disengagement, at-home “Zoom burnout,” and associated learning loss are widespread. The long-term consequences could be grave, especially for low-income neighborhoods where educational enrichment opportunities are scarce.

This summer, EIS offered virtual summer camps that kept students involved and engaged in learning science. As we headed into the fall, local schools knew our programs were not only highly effective at teaching science; the students also found them fun and engaging.

Consequently, EIS was invited to be part of the principals’ and teachers’ planning process. The result was a robust partnership that brings our newly developed curriculum to students at home via live Zoom science classes. These classes are an adaptation of our Steps-2-STEM initiative, which provides hands-on science to elementary students in nearby schools to address the systemic inequities that have resulted in fewer educational enrichment opportunities for our local neighborhoods.



San Diego school principals and administrators report that participation in Steps-2-STEM results in improved student test scores in science and other subjects.



“My students return from EIS feeling like real scientists because they are taught by real scientists who also understand the important elements of high-quality instruction. Our partnership with EIS is a critical component of the STEAM education we provide our students.”

Principal Kathleen L. Gallagher, Ph.D.
Baker Elementary

The pandemic has allowed us to enhance our programs by taking advantage of distance learning technologies to let us bring in some of our corporate partners such as Illumina and Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Their scientists and engineers interact with students and conduct engaging science activities such as DNA extraction and biochemistry. Exposure to scientists working in local companies expands students’ horizons and raises awareness of career options that exist in their hometown.

It is difficult to say when the pandemic will have run its course, but in the nine months since it began, the programs we offer have become even more vital to the community we serve. By adapting to these unusual circumstances, EIS is helping to curb the inevitable learning loss that has taken place while addressing longstanding educational inequities that have burdened communities of color. The work we do is essential, and we will be ready to welcome students back into our labs to experience the joy of learning science when conditions finally allow.



CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

Dr. Robert Matthews
Freedom Fighter, Lifelong Educator, Community Leader, Peacemaker
June 2, 1930 – July 2, 2020

As a young child, Bob Matthews watched the sunrise from the porch of his grandfather's house. His grandfather told him, "See that, that's the horizon, and that's as far as you can see, but it's beyond that that you need to go in life. You need to reach farther than you can see and go beyond the horizon."

Those words heavily influenced the future Dr. Robert Matthews, a leader of heart and mind. After attending the Emporia State University in Kansas, and followed by a Master's degree in education from Columbia University, Dr. Matthews moved to San Diego in 1955. He began a long and distinguished career as one of the first African American teachers and school administrators in San Diego. Dr. Matthews was an exemplary husband married to Ardelle Matthews for 67 years. He was the father of three sons: Mark (who preceded him in death), Brian, Scott, and grandfather to seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Left to Right: Theresa Brown, Tom Watts, Dr. Jonas Salk, Ardelle Matthews and Dr. Bob Matthews

We cannot imagine what the Elementary Institute of Science would be like without his vision, commitment, and leadership. Bob and Ardelle Matthews were part of a small, tight group of community members that founded and nurtured EIS in its early years. There was no task too small or too large for him to undertake. Dr. Matthews helped lead camping trips in the mountains and spoke tirelessly on EIS's behalf at clubs, dinners, and corporate and government leaders. Dr. Matthews was on the first EIS Board of Directors and served eight tenures on the board, retiring in 2018, an astonishing feat of over 50 years of service.

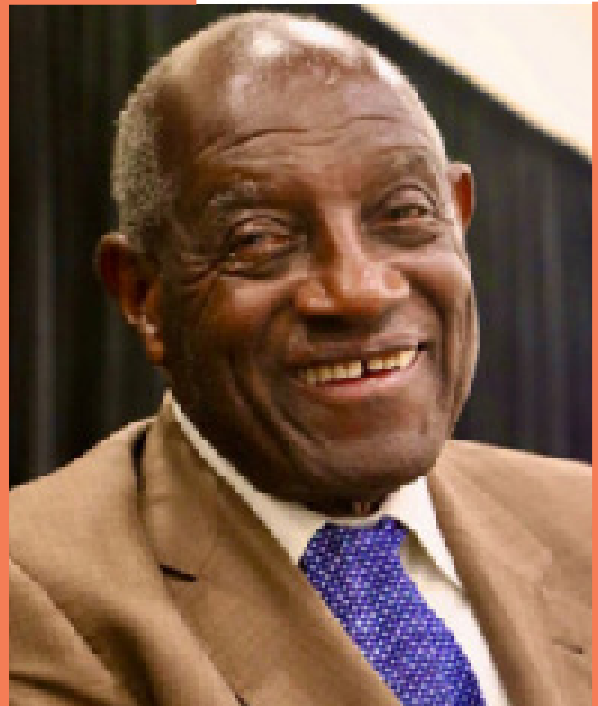
In addition to his involvement in education and EIS, Dr. Matthews has made significant contributions to the development of the African American community of San Diego, serving as a founder or president of numerous organizations such as the Jackie Robinson YMCA Board, RADY Children's Hospital Auxiliary, and Common Ground Theatre. His efforts made significant impacts beyond San Diego. He was the coordinator of the committee of Black leaders at ECC that made an appeal to President Ronald Reagan and later established the California Commission to Establish a National Holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The request ultimately influenced President Reagan's decision to sign the law creating the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday in 1984. As an Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity member, he was involved with San Diego's Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade since its inception forty years ago.

In 2008, the Voice of San Diego interviewed Dr. Matthews about the significance of celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day against the backdrop of front-running, traditionally unrepresented presidential candidates. We share his response of hope and faith in humanity to our community as one of his many gifts.

"The significance of this day can really be said in two words to all of our children: I can. I can. I can be whatever I want to be if I keep faith with the powers beyond me. I can. I can be whatever I want to be. And that is one of the unique things of being anywhere in the United States. Fifty years ago, you couldn't say that without [boundaries]. But today, we've moved to where you can be whatever you want to be if you keep the faith, and you work toward the goal." Dr. Robert Matthews

Thank you to those who have donated in honor of Dr. Matthews

Doris Anderson
Cyrillene Clark
Ron Cummings & Jennifer Vanica
Paul Eichen & Susan Flieder
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Doris Watts
Frederick Walker & Katharine Sheehan
Doc Anderson
Jim Stone
Freddie Jackson
Mabel Wigfall
Donald & Theresa Brown
Bob Cademy
Nancy Watts Peck



THE ALUMNI CORNER

In addition to learning about science, the EIS experience builds qualities and character that have lifetime benefits for both individual alumni and the community at large.

Community Pride



“EIS was a community resource and a community tool that I accessed as a kid. My sister Gina and I attended, and after class we would walk down the hill from the white house, cross the street and walk up the hill to my dad’s dental office. I remember it was fun because we were doing stuff I wouldn’t normally have exposure to. I cherish it as a community landmark and what it means to southeastern San Diego. I’m proud to be associated with it, proud of what it’s grown into, and become for our community.”

Vernon Moore
Chief Compliance Officer, Sweetwater Union High School District

Commitment to Public Service

“I went on Saturdays for years and absolutely loved it and later was part of the [EIS] Commission on Science That Matters program, which I think helped propel myself into my current career of being a public servant. It was cool that I was able to learn about science, which I was always interested in anyway, but it also allowed me to make friends outside of my school and be in touch with my community. As a woman of color being around other people of color who were also interested in STEM, I had never experienced or been exposed to that before and it was so important.”

Ashley Stevens
Personnel Analyst Professional, City of San Diego



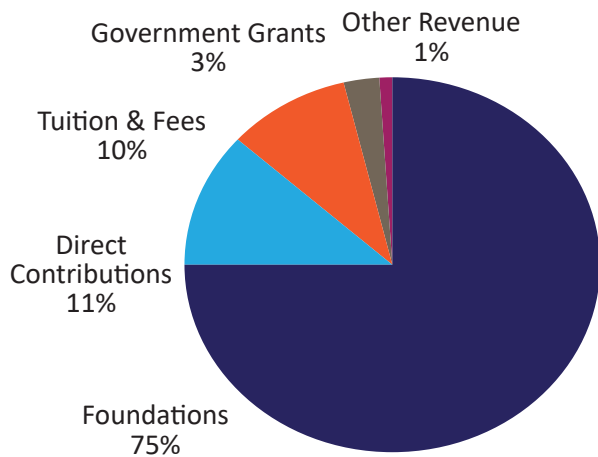
Family Traditions



“The geology class was the best. My grandma made jewelry so just being there with the stones and making our own jewelry was great. EIS was always a safe place to go to. We always participated in the MLK Jr. parade and everyone felt like family when we went. It was small classroom settings. My kids attend EIS now, prior to covid-19, for close to 2 years now. Anytime EIS advertises something, I always enroll them. They like it a lot. They enjoy the 3D printing, robotics, and photography is a favorite.”

Taunisha Manning,
Sr. Systems Programming Analyst, United Parcel Service (UPS)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

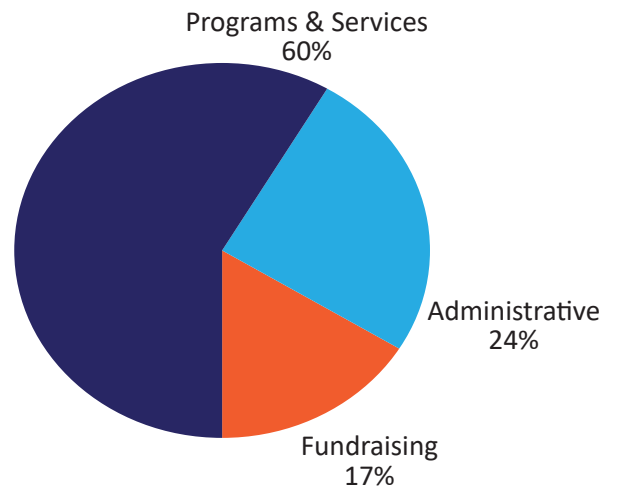


Revenue

Direct Contributions	\$114,213
Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$778,700
Government Grants	\$27,994
Program Fees	\$106,958
Other Revenue	\$6,040
Total	\$1,033,905

Expenses

Programs	\$577,308
Administrative	\$229,560
Fundraising	\$161,418
Total	\$968,286



Financial information is pending the final audit report for FY 2019-20



MAKE A LASTING IMPACT NOW!

Education is as important to children's development as food, shelter, and medical care. EIS is working hard with schools and parents to help keep students engaged in learning.

Now more than ever, we need your support. Just as there many different ways your support helps, there are many different options to support EIS.

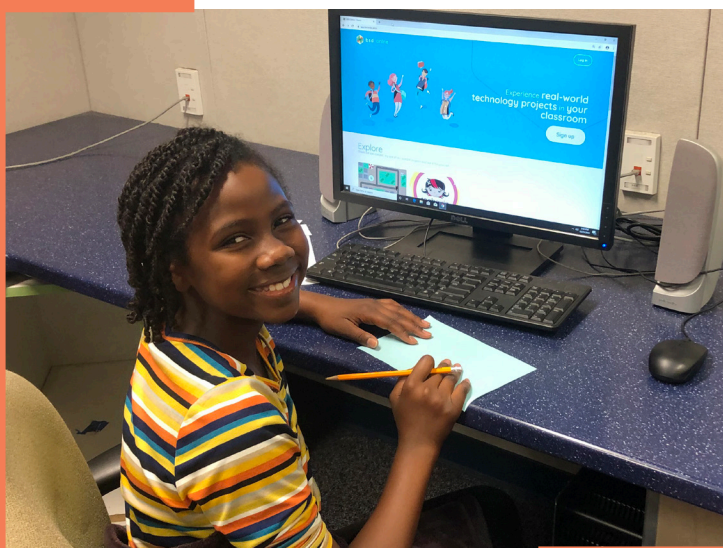
Make a **recurring donation** on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

Create an online **Peer 2 Peer Fundraiser** and rally your family, friends, and coworkers to support EIS.

Make a **Planned Gift** by including EIS in your estate plans.

Ask your employer if they have an **Employee Matching** program and double the impact of your donation.

Make an **Endowment Gift** to create your own science legacy and help sustain EIS in perpetuity.



The lack of diversity in the STEM workforce exists because STEM education and support systems aren't readily available in most communities of color.

Stay Updated!

Follow EIS **@eissandiego** on **Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram** and find us on YouTube!

Learn about new programs and events, **sign up for our newsletter on at eisca.org**.

MORE THAN EVER - GRATITUDE FOR OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Contributors

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority	Annanday Floyd	Claudia Lowenstein	Yvonne Schmidt
Yanira Alam	Frances Foster	Alfred Manaster	Sonia Sethee
Doris Anderson	Melba-Lynn Fuller-Fabien	Taunisha Manning	Mr. & Mrs. Noble Shade
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	Kendall Long	Debra Roy	

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EIS is grateful to Austin Martin who provided 200 students the opportunity to improve their vocabulary using hip hop lyrics through his online learning platform Rhymes with Reason.

EIS



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of Science



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