

2024

Annual Report



Celebrating 60 Years
1964-2024

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This year, as we celebrate 60 remarkable years, we look back with pride and gratitude at our journey at the Elementary Institute of Science (EIS). Since our founding in 1964, our commitment to fostering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) has driven us forward, inspiring countless young minds to explore the wonders of science and to envision brighter futures for themselves and their communities.

Our mission at EIS is not only to open doors to STEM for all, but also to prepare young leaders for the careers of the future. Here in San Diego - renowned for its biotech industry and burgeoning tech hub - there is an ever-growing demand for a diverse and innovative workforce. EIS is uniquely positioned to meet this need by equipping students from all backgrounds with the knowledge, confidence, and curiosity required to excel in these fields. Through hands-on STEM education, we are helping build a future where every student has the opportunity to connect and engage in building the future.

As you read this year's annual report, we hope you will share a sense of pride in EIS's accomplishments. These achievements are the result of dedication from our staff, the unwavering support of our partners, the guidance of our board, and the enthusiasm of our students. It is through the hard work and commitment of each of you that EIS has continued to thrive. Together, we have nurtured curiosity, resilience, and dreams that will shape the future of STEM and empower the next generation of scientists, engineers, innovators and leaders.

The world of STEM is ever-evolving, and as we look to embrace the future, EIS remains steadfast in our mission. The landscape may change, but our purpose remains clear: to inspire, and to create opportunities for all. Thank you for being a vital part of this legacy and for helping us continue this journey of discovery, growth, and empowerment. Here's to another 60 years of making a difference in the lives of young explorers and innovators.

With deep appreciation,

Debra Roy
Board President

Sarah Tuakli Cooper
Executive Director



1964: EIS was established by Tom Watts as the Kennedy Institute of Science at Kennedy Elementary School, now Porter Elementary School.

1968: EIS finds its permanent home, renting an abandoned house on 51st Street from the City of San Diego for one dollar a year.

EIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2023-2024)

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Qualcomm

Alicia Johal
Associate Dean of Upper Academics,
San Diego Jewish Academy

Mary Taylor M.A.
Associate Chief Diversity Officer for Outreach &
Success, Compact for Success & Collaborative
Programs,
San Diego State University

Patsy Tomlin
Community Volunteer

Sharon Whitehurst-Payne
Board Trustee, Board of Education,
San Diego Unified School District

Dr. Alberto Vasquez
Associate Director of STEM Engagement and
Institutional Relations,
University of California San Diego

Joseph Vasquez
Retired Associate Vice President, Business
Enterprises,
San Diego State University



1969: Kennedy Institute of Science is incorporated as the Elementary Institute of Science (EIS).

EIS begins placing African-American high school students as summer interns at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE ELEMENTARY INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Looking back at all that EIS has accomplished in the last 60 years, has been akin to opening a treasure chest. We are immensely grateful for everyone who helped EIS serve the more than 35,000 youth who have walked through our doors with curiosity and wonder and continued with skills and knowledge that opened doors and created opportunities.

This September, we celebrated our 60th anniversary at the Shiley Suite at the San Diego Central Library. The evening began with a stirring speech by Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., California Secretary of State, whose daughter and grandchildren have all participated in our programs. We were deeply moved by her heartfelt speech about the positive impact of EIS, and of our two honorees, Ardelle Matthews and Doris Watts. Student and alumni speeches that followed warmed our hearts and showcased the variety of ways EIS helps local youth. It was a joyous occasion with new and old friends

Surrounded by inequity amid the civil rights movement, founder Tom Watts envisioned a neighborhood resource that would provide students with the opportunities, facilities, role models, and academic tools to build a bright future. This vision was brought to life with help from teachers, parents, and friends who rolled up their sleeves, committed their free time, and built the foundation of where we stand today. In the beginning, funding was out of pocket and unpaid staff volunteered their time. Parents carpooled students on field trips across San Diego. Teachers worked after school and on weekends tutoring students, acquiring supplies, and networking with universities and organizations that would become the original supporters and program partners.

Today, we continue with the vision to dismantle inequities and barriers for K-12 students through high-quality STEM education, internships, and field trips. Supporting over 2,000 youth each year requires not just quality instruction, but a welcoming space that supports the emotional health and wellness of everyone. We accomplish this through staff training and local partnerships. Community is what started EIS and is what keeps us going.

Thank you to our main event sponsors who helped make this event a success, Kid Spark Education, Bob Cademy, the Sycuan Tribal Government, and Booz Allen Hamilton.



1972: The National Science Foundation recognized EIS as one of two programs in the US and one of five worldwide focusing on hands-on science for youth.

1973: EIS wins first place for Science Instruction in the United States from the National Science Teachers Association.



1977: The Salk Institute creates an internship program for EIS students.

1979: While constituting less than 10% of the national competition, EIS students receive 33% of the awards at the National Consortium of Black Professional Development Science completion.

20TH BUILDING ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

There was so much to celebrate in 2024, not only the 60th anniversary of our founding but also the 20th anniversary of the EIS Learning Center. In May, we had a luncheon to honor some of the people who had dedicated themselves to making the dream of the Elementary Institute of Science Learning Center a reality. There was no better place to bring everyone together than EIS. We were thrilled to welcome Mrs. Doris Anderson, EIS Executive Director from 1987 to 2014, and Brandon Harrison, a former staff member, and EIS parent, as the emcees for the event.

We honored Valerie Jacobs, Norm Hapke, and the rest of the Jacobs Family in spirit for their tremendous generosity that fueled the four-year fundraising campaign. It was wonderful to have so many dynamos from the “Building Board of Directors,” including Don Short, Bob Cademy, and Joe Vasquez. Also in attendance were community members and EIS students and alums – Maxine and Bill Stephens, Ben Holman and Kyra Randall, Becky and Jill Watts, and fundraisers extraordinaire Walter and Lola Green.

Hundreds of people contributed in hundreds of ways to “The Miracle on 51st Street”. Their vision was to open the doors to more children and their futures to more opportunities. Their vision is alive. Standing like a beacon in the heart of southeastern San Diego, the landmark 15,000-square-foot building provides the optimal environment for hands-on learning with its light filled labs, an auditorium, extensive technology equipment, and an outside play area. It embodies our conviction that the children in this community deserve the same tools and support available to children in more affluent neighborhoods. What a legacy they have built, the EIS Learning Center is more than a building. It is a place where students and families are welcome, a place for learning, support, and community. The most beautiful thing about the EIS Learning Center will always be the people.



1980: Dr. John Brooks Slaughter, once an EIS instructor and a parent of a next-generation EIS student, becomes the first African American to head the National Science Foundation.

1988: EIS is selected to participate in the University of California’s Task Force on Black Student Eligibility. The task force studied community-based intervention strategies for increasing college eligibility rates of black high school students.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Future Innovators in Robotics and Engineering (FIRE) middle school programs continue to thrive. The EIS Botball Robotics team scored higher than in any previous tournament, receiving awards for best presentation and most efficient robot/streamlined design. The FIRE Up technology camp included new and returning girls for four weeks of confidence building and learning computer science and robotic skills.



Girls Take Flight doubled the number of students in our spring drone camp from 20-40 participants. This has increased space in the practicum for up to 50% more girls. The goal is to improve our efforts to contribute to gender and racial diversity in the aeronautics industry by encouraging more young women and women of color to aspire to these types of careers.

Now in its eighth year, Steps-2-STEM has served over 11,000 elementary students with 20 hours of hands-on STEM learning. Students are eager to learn at EIS and many continue to learn in EIS camps and afterschool programs. Teachers report higher attendance on Steps-2-STEM days, that student's test scores are higher, and students enjoy the hands-on activities.



EIS Summer Camp served 376 youth in grades 2-8. Four high school students who attended summer camp as children returned as Lab Assistants this year making for a nostalgic summer. Dozens of guest speakers and STEM organizations helped inspire students. Thank you to San Diego Foundation and San Diego Unified School District for another year of Level Up funding.

The San Diego Institute of Sci Tech made great progress helping students pursue their interest in STEM careers. Teen STEAM Café students chose homelessness as their project this year. Five students attended the Teton Science School in Jackson Hole Wyoming and presented their experience at our fall Open House. Additionally, EIS students were placed at summer STEM internships across San Diego.



1988: EIS participates in the First Symposium for African Americans in Science, Engineering, and Technology sponsored by NASA, Johnson Space Center.

2004: A grassroots community movement raised over \$6,000,000 to build a 15,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, the EIS Learning Center.

ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

"My passion for science and technology led me to volunteer at EIS as a lab assistant in Fall 2021. At EIS I had the ability to use my knowledge and passion to help create a positive impact on my community through assisting various classrooms and STEM subjects. My favorite memory at EIS was helping guide students through various engineering challenges where I had the opportunity to see students' creativity come to life in the classroom. I am now a sophomore at CU Boulder but EIS helped me to decide on a Biomedical Engineering major where I can further help and inspire my community. My experience at EIS was amazing and I would like to thank Ms. Robyn for giving me the opportunity to be at EIS and to develop my interests in STEM."

Oscar R., Aspiring Biomedical Engineer, EIS Alum



"In high school, my path took an unexpected turn when I first learned about EIS through the Girls Take Flight program, an experience that truly reshaped my future. At most of my schools, my exposure to science or engineering was limited to the occasional science class. However, GTF opened my eyes to the joys of physics and engineering, and more importantly, I found the tight-knit, all-girls environment deeply empowering. Shortly after completing the program, I discovered Wellesley College, a historically women's college that was everything I was looking for. Now, as a Neuroscience major there, I'm fascinated with different captivating fields like biophysics, engineering, and computational neuroscience, all within the uplifting environment of a small liberal arts college."

Araceli M., Aspiring Neuroscientist, EIS Alum



"I remember the grassroots effort of Mr. and Mrs. Watts and community members to create an immersive multi-layered learning environment from scratch. In the little White House the bathtub was turned into a tide pool, a beehive was installed inside near the front windows, and a food pantry was renovated into a snake habitat for Rosie, the beloved boa constrictor. My favorite memories are stargazing at the Palomar Observatory and going grunion hunting on the beaches of San Diego. As an adult, I have a glow-in-the-dark solar system in my room, and get to enjoy the memories I created as a youngster. EIS gave me the curiosity and confidence to problem solve throughout my life. I have done everything from repairing my own dryer to building an 8ft. tool shed in my backyard. I protect and respect nature as Mr. Watts taught us to do. I have let tarantulas climb on me and searched for arrowhead rocks in the mountains. I eventually returned as an instructor and set up the first photography lab and I later served on the board of directors. I also donate to EIS every month so other students can have some of the experiences I had and the magic of EIS can continue. EIS was an integral part of my life. It was a Magic Kingdom for learning, growth and wonder, and I wish every child could experience EIS."

Kyra Randall, Development Director, EIS Alum

2011: Twenty-two EIS high school students served as peer educators in a diabetes prevention program for fifth-grade students. The National Institute of Health published the study.

2014: EIS celebrated its 50th anniversary and created a new strategic plan to expand EIS programs, better utilize its facility, and dramatically increase the number of children served.

VOLUNTEERS ENRICH OUR PROGRAMS

EIS is able to provide a high level of service thanks to the generosity and talent of volunteers and guest speakers. Volunteers help with everything from helping assemble science kits to assisting with events. EIS guest speakers share about a variety of fields from astrophysics to renewable energy. They give presentations and often bring activities related to their work, their pathway to a STEM field, and their education. By introducing our students to diverse role models in STEM careers, we begin to transform the popular image and belief of who “belongs” in STEM.

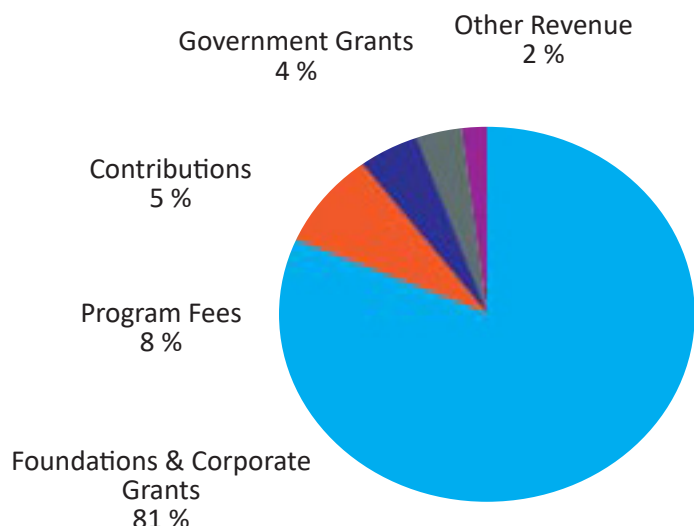
Volunteers from the 2023-2024 school year and summer camp include STEM professionals from Bristol Myers Squibb, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, San Diego Coastkeeper, University of San Diego, UC San Diego, Walter Munk Foundation for the Oceans, Booz Allen Hamilton, Johnson & Johnson, General Atomics, XplorSTEM, San Diego River Park Foundation, Our Genetic Legacy, and Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

Thank you to all the individuals who have volunteered.



2016: EIS begins the Steps-2-STEM initiative with four community partner schools. Within three years, the initiative is extended to all eleven elementary schools in the Lincoln Cluster serving over 1,200 students annually. Steps-2-STEM students perform well above national levels with students demonstrating increased levels of STEM identity, STEM engagement, critical thinking, and perseverance.

FINANCIALS

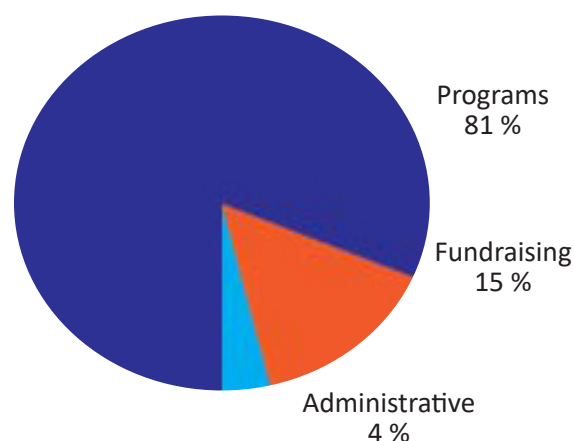


Revenue

Contributions	\$59,642.68
Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$1,071,856.12
Government Grants	\$51,000
Program Fees	\$107,519.35
Other Revenue	\$33,996.15
Total	\$1,324,014.30

Expenses

Programs	\$1,510,019.34
Fundraising	\$278,402.39
Administrative	\$78,241.49
Total	\$1,866,663.22



Financial information is pending the final audit report for FY 2023-2024

Contributors

Mary Abad
Doris Anderson
Mariya Anton
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Stuart Bean
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Amanda Chawla
Gabriel Chong
Charles & Monica Cochrane
Rosaline Cook
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Jodi Drake
Selena Ellis-Vizcarra
Gregory Faulk Sr.
Paul Eichen & Susan Flieder
Frances Foster
Tony Fulton
Pamela Gray Payton
Soumitra Ghosh
Al & Margaret Giuliani

2018: EIS launches Girls Take Flight. It is the first drone program in the United States that provides high school girls with FAA commercial drone pilot certification. Twenty percent of the female FAA drone pilots certified before the age of 18 in the US are Girls Take Flight participants. One hundred percent of the participants, attended Title I high schools, and entered post-secondary after graduation from high school.

GRATITUDE FOR FUNDERS

Contributors (continued)

Monzella Goodwin
Julie Greenberg
Beatrice Haynes
Berthann Heath
Mayra Hernandez
Christine Hickman & Dennis Ragen
Mick & Denise Hager
Kristin Haygood
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Alicia, Amrik, & Pardip Johal
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Eric & E Juline
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Linda & Mel Katz
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Reinvestment Program
County of San Diego
David C. Copley Foundation
Dr. Seuss Foundation
Ebony Pearls of San Diego Foundation
Eugene M. & Joan F. Foster Family
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Farrell Family Foundation
General Atomics Sciences Education
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Girard Foundation
Grifols Community Relations
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San Diego Foundation
San Diego Gas & Electric
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Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
The Ameritino Foundation
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U.S. Bank Foundation
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Zable Foundation

2023: EIS was named California Nonprofit of the Year for the 79th District through a nomination by Assemblymember Dr. Akilah Weber. EIS served 2,771 students in the 2022-2023 school year

2024: EIS celebrates its 60th anniversary of serving the children and youth of San Diego.



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