



Salish Sea Expeditions 2006 Annual Report

Relevancy and Demand

In 2006, as Salish Sea Expeditions neared the organizational milestone of a decade of inquiry-based marine science and sailing programs, our board and staff pondered the current relevancy of our mission. A survey of the region's most pressing educational and environmental issues highlighted significant challenges: a crisis in science education, the failing health of Puget Sound, and the disconnect between youth and nature. We recognize and believe that Salish is uniquely positioned with an uncommon opportunity to leverage success in each of these areas.

Our belief is confirmed by the demand for our programs. Area teachers enrolled their classes in record numbers; the number of students served and the number of program days we were on the water both increased by over 25%. Additionally, we were faced with capacity challenges—demand for spring programs exceeded capacity by another 25%. Examining the critical educational and environmental issues that affect our region will help explain both the relevancy of and demand for our programs:

A Crisis in Science Education

A quick examination of the knowledge of and interest in science among Washington's youth in 2006 reveals startling statistics. Two-thirds of our 10th graders have failed the science portion of the state exam (WASL) in each of the last three years. The failure rates for members of marginalized communities were significantly higher than privileged members, when both race and class were examined.

The problem is further evidenced by the fact that only half as many 8th grade girls as boys show an interest in science despite the fact that in 4th grade the two genders recorded equal interest. Organizations dedicated to providing research for improving science education advocate a comprehensive, inquiry-centered curriculum as a key strategy. Salish has built a reputation for providing outstanding inquiry-based science programs, and has been recognized by our peers as being a leader in this educational method.

The Health of Puget Sound

Led by the governor's task force, Puget Sound Partnership, 2006 saw focused efforts to put into place a plan that would attempt to change the trajectory of the health of the Sound by the year 2020. One of the more disturbing conclusions of the Partnership was the disparity between how the general public viewed the health of the Sound and how scientists focusing on the Sound viewed that same body of water. Over 80% of the regions' residents, including opinion leaders, considered the health of the Sound to be "good" to "very good". Area scientists, not blinded by the surface beauty, painted a very different picture. With an anticipated population increase of as much as one million additional people by 2020, the problems that face the Sound are increasingly complex, as will be the solutions—there must be outstanding science and research to effectively and accurately decide what courses of action are best suited to accomplish this critical work.

Salish provides seeds for growing future brilliant science minds in hopes that they will be up for the challenges and be stewards of the environment. In 2020, Salish students will be 35-40 years old, and reaching the height of their careers. We believe that with the introduction to Puget Sound's beautiful and unique ecosystem combined with great science training, young and curious minds can be inspired to dedicate themselves to stewardship and to solving the pressing problems of the Sound.

The Disconnect Between Children and Nature

Spurred by Richard Louv's book, *The Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, 2006 saw a heightened focus on the societal changes in today's youth. Louv closely examined children's relationship with nature and how that has profound implications for the mental, physical and spiritual health of future generations. A resulting movement to reconnect children to the natural world has arisen quickly and is racing across the usual social, political, and economic dividing lines.

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The joys of "science-under-sail" is apparent to all who view the face of this Eastside Prep student



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While a few of today's youth may possess a technical knowledge of an ecosystem or an environmental issue, they are increasingly less likely to have an emotional connection to the land or water. We frequently bear witness and revel in the strong connections that our students make with the Sound, its inhabitants and surrounding lands. At Salish, we are committed to providing engaging programs that provide today's youth with a highly interactive experience with our rich natural surroundings. We believe that providing positive experiences in nature will deepen the connections to the natural world, promoting the potential for lifelong stewardship.

2006 Highlights

Public School and Low Income Initiative Targets

Salish met 2006 targets, ensuring that our "science-under-sail" programs were accessible to a wide spectrum of the region's youth. 75% of our programs involved public schools, and 25% of our programs were for students represented by our Low Income Initiative. In 2006, nearly 35% of our participants were young scientists and sailors of color.

Surge in Program Enrollment

Demand for programs continues to be high. A change of our calendaring method allowed Salish to increase our capacity in 2006, creating a surge of 25% in both the total number of students and the number of program days on the water. Return rate of schools continues to be near 75%.

Foundation Support for Salish

In 2006, Salish was pleased to receive numerous grants from local foundations in support of our programs. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's continued support of our Low Income Initiative provided meaningful gifts to ensure that our programs were accessible for all. The Russell Family Foundation recognized the impact of Salish programs on the health of Puget Sound and again entered into a strong partnership. The Edwards Mother Earth Foundation provided significant support for students of South Seattle. The final page of this report includes a full listing of the amazing support of our foundations.

Salish Celebration Dinner and Auction

During 2006, Salish Sea Expeditions hosted our second annual fundraising auction and dinner celebration. Through the hard work and dedication of our Board of Directors, many volunteers, and staff, the event was a great success. Proceeds from the event almost tripled from the previous year thanks to the generosity of many Salish supporters.

Risk Management

Risk Management was a focus of 2006. Careful recording of all accidents and incidents found no significant trends; Salish staff continue to be well trained to respond to incidents and evaluate risk. No significant injuries were reported. Lori Mitchell, Education Director, sought additional risk management training through a workshop hosted by the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS).



A REACH student enjoys the role of group "scribe", a task that includes leading the science stations, recording the data gathered, and serving as liaison between the two watch groups

Successful Hire of Development Director

In a process that took much of the calendar year, Salish was pleased to welcome May Leong as our first Development Director. With funding from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, May joined Salish in October to help build a sustainable fundraising model. May has over 20 years of work experience in community building, education and fund development, working in a variety of positions from Wall Street to San Francisco to Tokyo to Seattle. Prior to Salish, May directed development programs for Junior Achievement of Washington, Nikkei Concerns, and The Northwest School.

Focus on Science

There's no denying it – a 61' sailboat and a chance to be out on the waters of Puget Sound with classmates is a huge educational "hook". In 2005, Salish implemented a series of strategies to ensure that sailing didn't overshadow our core mission—hands-on inquiry-based science. The most notable effort was the launching of the *Journal of Student Research on Puget Sound*, an online collection of the results of student research. New in 2006 was an effort to begin the process of developing an editorial review team comprised of area scientists and educators.



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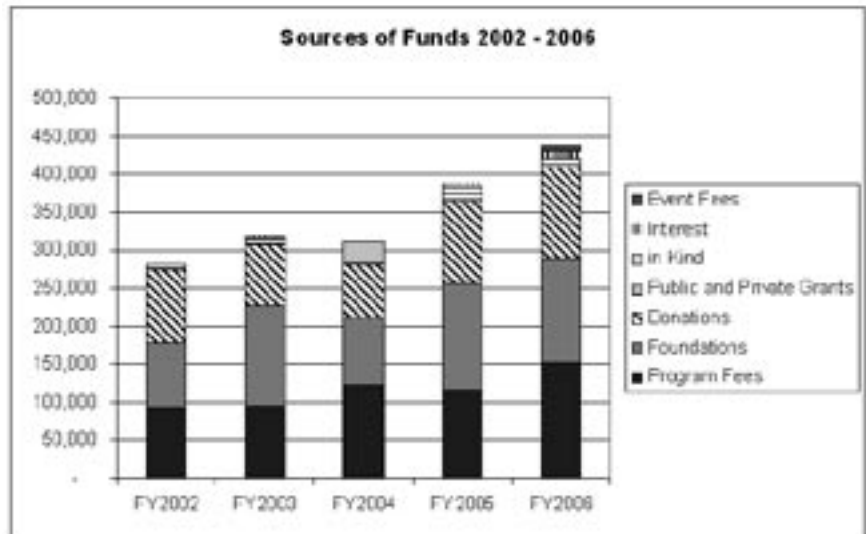
Relevancy and Demand

Financial Summary:

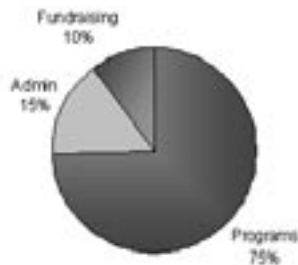
Salish Sea Expeditions continued its tradition of excellent financial management in 2006, building cash reserves and delivering on commitments. The team managed cash flows effectively and improved forecasting skills considerably throughout the year. Revenues grew 13% - which is slightly above the 4-year average. In late 2005 the board recommitted to working toward a second vessel, and 2006 not only generated a small amount of cash, but also saw planning stages to address meeting demand for our programs by expanding our educational fleet.

Sources of Funds:

In FY 2004, 2005 and 2006 Salish committed to offering a substantial percentage of programs to low-income schools - forgoing a portion of program revenue, which is evident from the moderate growth in program fees despite an increase in actual program days. Foundation, public and private grants are making up the difference in direct funding of low-income programs.



FY2006 Uses of Funds



Uses of Funds:

Salish continues to operate very leanly - 75% of expenses are for the programs themselves, with just 15% going to administration, 10% to fundraising. The Salish management team has proven they can effectively scale both to seasonal and annual growth.

We thank the following businesses for their generous contributions received between 01/01/06 and 12/31/06.

Adventure Hardware	Cuttysark Nautical Antiques	Metropolitan Market	RED Urban Spa and Salon	The Gemologist
Agua Verde Cafe	Todd Dettman	Sgt. Nickolas Metz	Redhook Brewery	The Harbour Public House
American Alpine Institute	Eagle Harbor Inn	Kathleen Morris	Redington Reels	The Melting Pot
Anchor Environmental, L.L.C.	Flying Fish	Museum Quality Framers	Ride the Ducks	The Paddle Club
Anthony's Restaurants	Fresh Flours	Noble House Hotels and Resorts	Sage Manufacturing	The Seattle Running Company
Greg Atkinson	Func Pro Tunc	Northwest Outdoor Center	Seattle Children's Theatre	The Triple Door
Bainbridge Bakers	Alan Haywood	Olive You	Seattle Sailing Club	Town and Country Market
Baranof Fisheries	Helly Hansen	Olympic Brewing Supplies	Squawk Nursery	Training Wheel
Bead & Beyond	Icon Grill	Olympic Music Festival	Stoel Rives LLP	UW World Series
Blinx	KPFF Consulting Engineers	Orion Ballroom	Stonington Gallery	Wild Salmon Seafood
Bonefish Grill	Kristine Donovick Interior Design	PCC Natural Markets	The Chandlery	Wildfire Productions
John Calvin	Madoka	PND Engineers, Inc.	The Empty Space Theatre	Zumiez
Chateau Ste. Michelle	Maritime Pacific Brewing Company	Pyramid Brewery & Restaurant	The Epicenter	
Cutter's Bayhouse	McCormick & Schmick's	Ray's Boathouse	The Essential Baking Company	



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We thank the following corporations, foundations, organizations, and individuals for their generous contributions received between 01/01/06 and 12/31/06.

Matching Gifts

Microsoft Corporation
Nintendo of America, Inc.
Saltchuk Resources, Inc.

Foundations

Anonymous
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Bruce R. and Jolene M. McCaw Fund
Ceres Foundation
Edwards Mother Earth Foundation
Eulalie Bloedel Schneider Foundation
Harrington-Schiff Foundation
Kirlin Foundation
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Roke Foundation
Seattle Yacht Club Foundation
The Bainbridge Foundation, Inc.
The Martin Fabert Foundation
The Russell Family Foundation
The Seattle Foundation
The Starbucks Foundation
Victor R. Scheffer Foundation
Windermere Foundation

Organizations

Four Winds * Westward Ho Camps
Odyssey Maritime Discovery Center

\$5,000+ North Star Society

Laurie and Steve Arnold
Ken Fabert and Elizabeth Martin
Leila and Jonathan Linen

\$2,500- \$4,999 Tsunami

Katherine Wellman and Doug Wells

\$1,000 - \$2,499 Tide

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In-Kind

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Seelye Martin & Julie Coryell
Claudia and William Stelle

We gratefully acknowledge the many staff, board and friends who generously contributed their money, time and efforts to Salish Sea Expeditions. Every effort has been made to list all contributors accurately. If, however, an error has been made, please accept our apologies and notify us at (206) 780-7848 ext. 3# or lorrieke@salish.org.