Dear ELC Friends,

Fiscal Year 21-22 was a banner year for the ELC!
- Visitation increased by 79%
- Program hours increased by 78%
- Pontoon guests increased by 66%
- Membership increased by 58%
- Six times the number of scholarships were awarded
- Over 6,000 volunteer hours were contributed
- All 3rd and 4th-grade public school students were served
- Many other grade-level field trips took place
- We hosted many community gatherings as a unique event venue
- Outreach programs continue to expand

The campus is teeming with life - including plants, animals, and humans! We love it! Thank you to our staff, volunteers, members, donors, guests, and program participants for being a part of our ELC family.

Our 64 acres of wild Florida habitat sit in the heart of the Indian River Lagoon. The ELC is at the heart of education, the heart of conservation, and at the very heart of our community.

As our population surges and technology creeps into every part of our daily lives, our work to connect people to the natural world and inspire environmental stewardship and human health is more important than ever. We are committed to continuous improvement to serve you and we invite you to be an even bigger part of our success by volunteering in one of our dozens of roles, supporting us at a leadership level, and helping spread the word about this community gem to your sphere of influence.

Contact me to talk about how you can get plugged in at your ELC.

In gratitude and service,

Barbara Schlitt Ford
Executive Director
Barb@DiscoverELC.org
Our Mission

Our mission is to educate, inspire and empower all people to be active stewards of the environment and their own well-being.

Our Vision

The ELC is an attractive destination for people of all ages to frequently return to for adventure, learning and wellness. Our visitors will experience and appreciate the benefits of immersion in nature, understand the value of a healthy environment and be inspired to create a sustainable world.

- Environmental Programs
- Field Trips and Camps
- Interactive Exhibits
- Aquarium & Touch Tank
- Wellness Programs
- All-Terrain Wheelchairs/Walkers
- Kayak Tours and Rentals
- STEAM Programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math)

- Bird and Plant Walks
- Facility Rentals
- Community Events
- Pontoon Boat Tours
- Canoe Tours
- Walking Tours
- Over 2.5 Miles of Trails

The ELC fosters community awareness, appreciation and concern for the environment. We promote the use of 21st century knowledge and skills to make informed decisions, solve current environmental problems and prevent new ones.

Not only do we educate people about these issues, we empower people to be a part of the solution. Because everyone deserves a healthy planet.

We need nature.
Nature needs us.
Leadership

Fiscal Year – 2021-2022
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Don Barr, Vice Chair
Tyler Puttick, Secretary
Tarik Kawi, Treasurer
Tim Buhl, Director
David Griffis, Director
Shirley Nichols, Director
Carol Lincoln, Director
Barbara Schlitt Ford, Ex-Officio

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Environmental Learning Center

John Daniels, Chair
Don Barr, Vice Chair
Tyler Puttick, Secretary
Tarik Kawi, Treasurer
Rich Brennan, Director
Tim Buhl, Director
David Griffis, Director
Carol Lincoln, Director
Shirley Nichols, Director
Megan Osteen, Director
Carly Barnes Witteck, Director
Barbara Schlitt Ford, Ex-Officio
Dear ELC Friends,

In the fiscal year 2021-2022, we made great strides at the ELC. We dramatically increased program revenues and visitation, made many long overdue improvements to our campus infrastructure, launched our new Thomas R. Schidel Education and Events Pavilion with an exciting Restoration Gala, delivered immersive hands-on feet-wet education experiences for all Indian River Counties 3rd and 4th graders, had sold out summer camps, and continued to promote sustainable environmental practices leading to improving the health of the Indian River Lagoon as well as personal health.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of our dedicated staff, thousands of volunteer hours, the tireless leadership of our Executive Director Barbara Schlitt Ford, our terrific ELC Inc. and Foundation Boards, and the contributions of our many wonderful donors. To all of you I say thank you.

The Indian River Lagoon is fragile. Students of all ages can all learn to be better stewards of this amazing environment we live in. We have a lot of challenging work to accomplish to carry out our mission. The ELC cannot thrive without more volunteers, Committee and Board members, and financial contributions. Please reach out to Barb to learn more about ways to support our cause.

Respectfully,

John L. Daniels
Board Chair
The Environmental Learning Center (ELC) Foundation, Inc. is a separate not-for-profit corporation that serves as a sole support organization to the Environmental Learning Center, Inc. and manages both funds designated by the board for long-term investment and funds permanently restricted by donors for investment in perpetuity. The ELC Foundation utilizes an internal committee of financial stewards who manage the Foundation’s assets. Through prudent oversight, this Investment Committee has ensured rates of return that have performed solidly over a ten-year period.
# Financial Statement

## Fiscal Year July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$2,050,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs/Special Events</td>
<td>$249,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$93,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Change</td>
<td>($908,301)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenue** $1,484,313

### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Programs</td>
<td>$1,144,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$110,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Development</td>
<td>$159,803</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenses** $1,414,582

### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of the Year</td>
<td>$8,357,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$69,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of the Year</td>
<td>$8,426,973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Looking Back

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

- 20,802 Visitors
- 4,347 Educator Run Program Hours
- 289 Maggie Bowman Fund Scholarship Beneficiaries
- 3,054 Pontoon Boat Passengers
- 727 Members
- 4,145 Educational Program Participants Served

OUR ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Highlighting the successes of our purpose-driven mission

You Can Make a Difference!
Volunteer Opportunities Include:

- Aquaria Touch Tank & Discovery Station Docent
- Campus Maintenance/Gardening
- Roving Nature Guide
- Pontoon Boat Guide
- Greeter
- And more!

Volunteers

- 6,387 Hours Volunteered
- $191,290.65 Total Value of Volunteer Service

Want to become a volunteer?
Email Volunteer@DiscoverELC.org or call (772) 589-5050
Fill out our online application at DiscoverELC.org/volunteer
The highlight of the 2021-2022 year was the completion of a major capital project. The new Thomas R. Schidel Education and Event Pavilion opened in April of 2022. This multi-purpose facility is being used as an outdoor classroom for environmental education, lectures, community events, dramatic and musical performances, and festivals.

The construction was designed to be energy efficient and eco-friendly with solar power, a reflective metal roof, LED lighting, recycled materials, and low-flow plumbing. It features a catering kitchen and a refillable water bottle station. Drought-tolerant native plant landscaping enhances the natural environment.

The building was awarded the "Architectural Recognition-Best New Commercial Construction" by the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce at the 2022 Industry Appreciation Awards.
2021-2022

Barrows Welcome Center

The Welcome Center at ELC is home to Guest Services, The Nature Nook gift shop and ELC's Tidal Gallery for art exhibits. Bill Barrows and his family have been supporting the programs, educational initiatives and mission of the Environmental Learning Center for over twenty years. The ELC is pleased to announce that this building is now called the Barrows Welcome Center to honor their commitment.

The Ward Walk

The ELC's Boardwalk leading from the Welcome Center to the Discovery Station was rebuilt in August and September of 2022. ELC is grateful to the many donors who contributed and purchased commemorative planks to fund the project. This portion of our boardwalk is now called The Ward Walk in honor of a significant donation from the John A. and Mary Clare Ward Family Foundation and Tarik and Patricia Kawi.
Windsor Polo

The ELC was a beneficiary of the Windsor Charity Polo Cup, the flagship fundraising event of the Windsor Charitable Foundation. The biennial event featured world-class international polo players, an elegant luncheon, and a high-end raffle to raise funds to benefit the community.

The Environmental Learning Center is extremely grateful for the $175,000 gift to support our mission.

Pontoon Dock Rebuild

The next ELC capital project will be rebuilding the 35-year-old pontoon boat dock. A new dock is essential to continue water related environmental education to children and families in the region. Funding has been secured from Florida Inland Navigation District, foundation grants and private donors. This project is slated to be completed by the end of 2023.
With Appreciation...

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Every effort is made to be accurate in our donor list. If we have omitted or misspelled your name, we sincerely apologize. Please contact Give@DiscoverELC.org or call the ELC at (772) 589-5050 so we can correct our records. Thank you for your support.
Why Give?
Because everyone deserves a healthy planet.

We all know giving helps others, whether we volunteer for organizations, offer emotional support to those around us or donate to charities. Studies show that giving is also good for the giver by boosting physical and mental health.

So many ways to give...
- Invite the ELC to speak at your service club, HOA or business.
- Volunteer. Share your time and talents while supporting the ELC.
- Sponsor an event or program.
- Make an in-kind donation of goods or services.
- Make a charitable donation.
- Give the gift of membership.
- Create a lasting legacy with planned giving.
- Give appreciated assets.
- Make your mark with our naming opportunities.
- Support the ELC with Qualified Charitable Distributions.
- Make a difference with IRA Charitable Rollover.
- Match a donation with your employees or members.
- Make a memorial donation with the ELC.
- Create long-term stability by giving to the ELC Foundation Endowment.

Email Give@DiscoverELC.org or call (772) 589-5050 for more information.
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Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County
Brevard Zoo
Captain Hiram's River Challenge Triathlon
City of Sebastian
Clean Water Coalition of IRC
Coastal Connections
Coastal Conservation Association
Cultural Council Of Indian River County
Disney Vero Beach
FAU Harbor Branch
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Master Naturalist Program
Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Friends of the Spoil Island
Gifford Youth Achievement Center
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
Homeless Children's Foundation of IRC
Indian River CARES
IRC Recreation Department
IRC Solid Waste Disposal District
IRC Stormwater Division
IRL Aquatic Preserves
IRL National Estuary Program
Indian River Neighborhood Association
Indian River County Chamber Of Commerce
Indian River Land Trust
Jabebo
Keep Indian River Beautiful
Leave No Trace
Master Gardeners UF/IFAS Extension
Mental Health Association
Moonshot Community Action Network
Ocean Strings Studio
ORCA
Oxbow Eco-Center
Pelican Island Audubon Society
Pelican Island Conservation Society
Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge
Quail Valley Charities
School District Of Indian River County
Sea and Shoreline
Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce
Sebastian Inlet District
Smithsonian Marine Station
St. Johns River Water Management District
Sustainable Events Network
Sustainable Kashi
The Learning Alliance
The Willow School
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
United Way of Indian River County
Vero Beach Museum of Art
Waste Management
Youth Guidance Mentoring Academy
Our mission is to educate, inspire and empower all people to be active stewards of the environment and their own well-being.