

# LIVING CLASSROOM



*Inspiring children to value and learn about the natural world through garden-based education.*



**“The name Living Classroom says it all!** Students were very engaged during the lesson and had many opportunities to explore their surroundings and observe phenomena that otherwise they would have missed. The lessons have definitely planted the curiosity seed in my students.”  
First Grade Teacher

## A Letter from the Founder and Acting Executive Director

What a Great Year! Living Classroom broke records in its service to the Mountain View Whisman School District by providing 667 experiential hands-on lessons to 3,900 students across 11 schools in grades T/K - 6. We also proudly served 320 students from St. Simon School and Oster School program for deaf and hard of hearing students. Through the capable hands of our experienced instructional team and highly skilled gardeners, our garden-based lessons connected students to nature while teaching important academic content, in our biodiverse native habitat gardens and edible gardens.

Living Classroom also was incredibly proud to unveil the new Muwekma Ohlone Garden at Monta Loma School in late May. This garden features 33 species of locally native plants, all with interpretive signs explaining their use by and importance to the Muwekma Ohlone past and present. A Muwekma Ohlone tribe member was an honored guest and provided a land honoring and blessing for the garden. This is a gem of a garden!

Our impact is immense because not only did 4,220 students receive multiple lessons teaching science and other topics tied to environmental literacy and nutrition education, but they also benefit from up to 8 years of lessons from T/K - 6th grade, with over 40 grade-specific, standard-aligned engaging lessons.

*Second graders explore their school's pollinator garden during our Flower Power lesson. The students select and sketch a flower. Then they identify the flowers adaptations and think about which pollinator may visit it. They also get to dissect a flower. By the end of the lesson, the students understand why pollinators are important!*



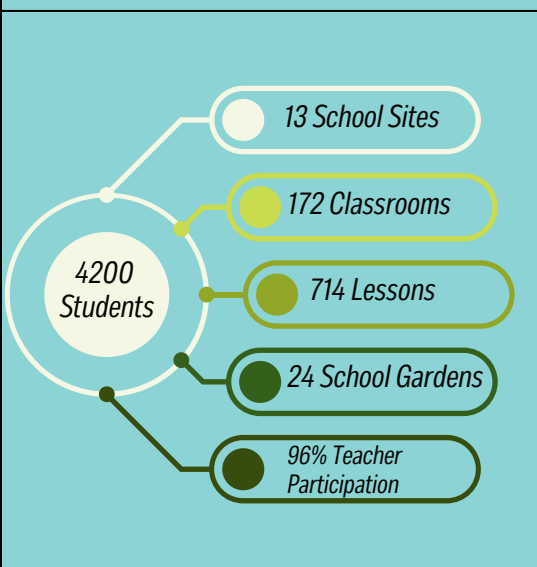
*Students explore their school's new Muwekma Ohlone Garden. The garden will be used to teach students how indigenous people used plants in their daily lives and how native plants provide habitat for local animals.*

Since our founding in 2008, Living Classroom along with its Los Altos School District-adopted program, have taught over 35,000 students! Our small, but mighty and incredibly resourceful and creative team, has had an outsized impact.

We are grateful for all of our school partners, funders, our incredible staff, volunteer docents, community volunteers, and teachers who year after year, allow us to serve thousands of students each year.

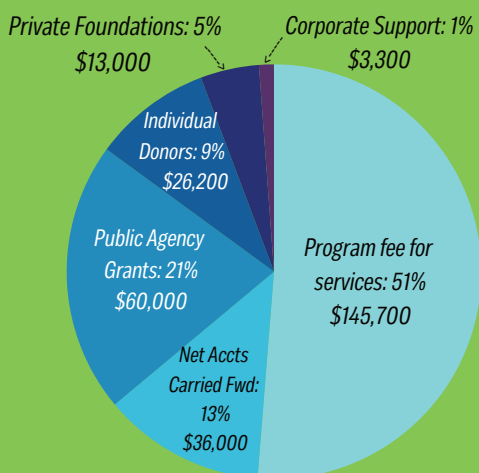
Vicki Moore  
Founder and Acting Executive Director

## OUR IMPACT

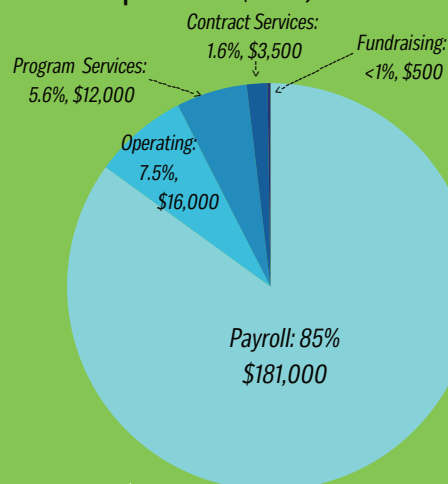


## FISCAL YEAR: JULY 1, 2023- JUNE 30, 2024

Revenue: \$284,200



Expenses: \$214,000:



Living Classroom has a reserve fund of \$36,000.





*“The Living Classroom instructors have been well organized, punctual, communicative and caring. The Energy Salad lesson is wonderful because it inspires students to try and enjoy fresh veggies. I really appreciated seeing my students learn about their food and better understand the health benefits. Thank you for providing students with engaging, hands-on learning opportunities!!!*

*I am truly grateful for this program and the work that you all do.”*  
Fifth grade teacher



## Thank you to our 2023-2024 Donors

### Public and Private Foundation Grantors and Corporate Donors



**EL CAMINO  
HEALTHCARE  
DISTRICT**



**Leslie Family Foundation**

### Community and Education Partners

Mountain View Whisman School District

St. Simon Parish School

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program through the Santa Clara County Office of Education (Oster School)

### Staff

Vicki Moore, Acting Executive Director and Founder  
Susan Harder, co-Program Director  
Kim Reynolds, co-Program Director  
April Ashlock, Instructor  
Jessica Merino, Instructor  
Patti Berryhill, Lead Gardener  
Michelle Bonfilio, Gardener

Stefani Brandt, Administrative Assistant (through September 2024)  
Monica Schmidt, Business Manager (until January, 2024)  
Oi-Yan Chung, Business Manager (as of February, 2024)

### Board of Directors

Vicki Moore, President and Treasurer  
Pamela Devenney, Vice-President  
Don Arnold, Secretary  
Mallory Matthews, Member  
James Kim, Member

### Advisory Board

Ronit Bryant  
Laura Casas  
Deepika Gajara  
Kammy Lo  
Katrina Morkner  
Carol Olson  
Jan Pepper  
Susan Price-Chang  
Frances Niccoli  
Justin Gorman

### Individual Donors

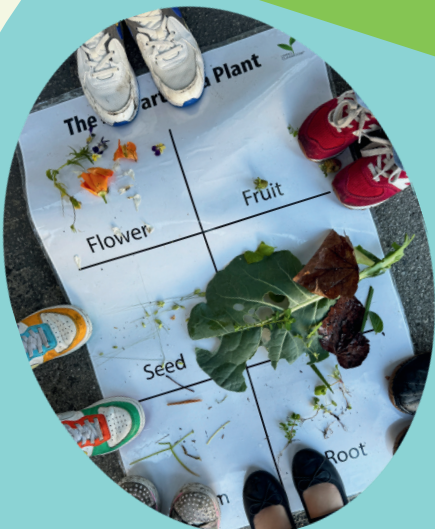
Don and Ann Arnold	Peter and Suzanne La Tourette
Sara and Harry Boadwee	Kammy Lo
Marie Borin	Margaret MacNiven
Daniel and Gia Burns	Pete and Pattie Manoukian
Laura Casas	Robyn Mingle
Pamela Devenney	Vicki Moore
Linda Drey-Nightingale	Gail Pinkner
Anne Garrett	Susan Price- Yang
Carrielynn Haedtler	Mike Sanderson
Margot Harrigan	Lynn Gordon and David Simon
Pat and Gary Hedden	Candice Stark
Norman Hersch	Margie Suozzo
Lucy Hsu	Alexandra Von Feldt
Bryan Johnson	Ellen Wheeler
Andrew Lane	Dilafuz Williams
Maureen and Alfred Lane	
Barb Larkin	

Anonymous donations made through the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and Blackbaud Giving Fund

### Special Thank You for In-Kind Donations

Cisco  
Hands On- Bay Area  
Patricia Campbell  
Summer Winds Garden Centers, Inc.  
Zanker Recycling

Kindergartners learn what living things need to survive in our Incredible Edibles lesson. They also learn about the 6 parts of a plant, how they help plants survive, AND how they help us survive when we eat them. They get to eat all 6 parts of plant and find them in the garden!



Visit us at [www.living-classroom.org](http://www.living-classroom.org) to learn more and get involved!