ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

CHANGING TIDES





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Dear Friends,

There can be little doubt that 2021 and the changing tides of the pandemic created another challenging year to navigate. But a smooth sea never made a skilled sailor, and throughout the year the Academy frequently went in search of new and effective ways to deliver its mission. The institution is better for the journey, and this annual report reveals some of the year's more notable milestones.

First and foremost, our doors reopened to welcome the return of our guests, safely and in person. At the same time, we connected those who could not visit with plenty of virtual programs intended to initiate conversations and encourage learning about our environment.

Throughout 2021 the Academy themed its programs around one major subject — climate change. Partnering with Drexel University, we launched Climate Year and marshalled our resources to support interdisciplinary research, student engagement and community-driven programming in ways that produced real change.

At the same time Academy science continued to create significant new knowledge about our planet and how to steward it, both across the region and around the globe. From the Amazon Basin to the Delaware River watershed, the institution partnered with diverse communities to find new ways to understand the natural world and inspire everyone to care for it.

Finally, the Academy explored innovative ways to communicate its mission, serve wider audiences and, as Hurricane Ida swept through the city, connect Philadelphia to the environmental challenges it shares with the farthest corners of our planet.

The steadfast support of the Academy's members, donors, contributors and visitors made this remarkable work possible, as did our transformative partnership with Drexel University. We could not be more grateful for the continued support of all. Thank you for being a force for nature.



Scott Cooper President and CEO sac454@drexel.edu



David E. Griffith
Chair, Board of Trustees
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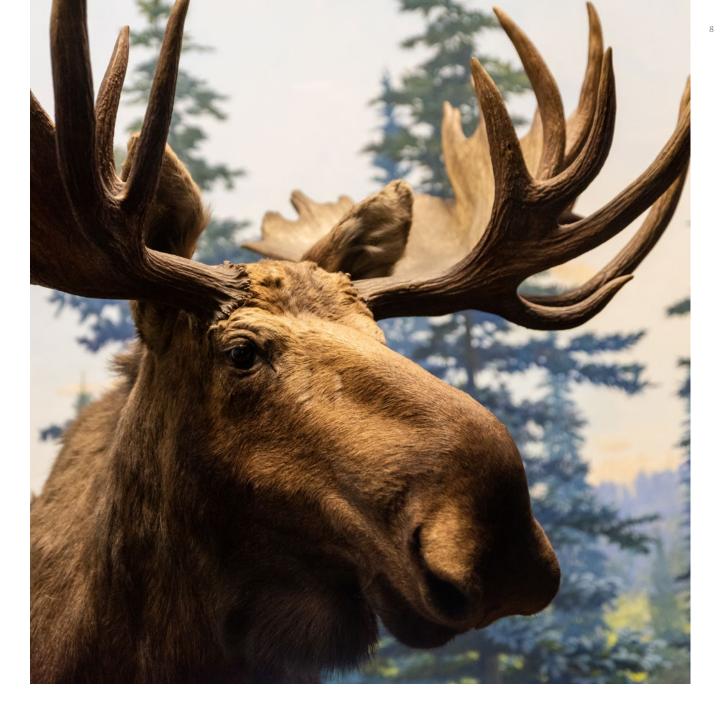
The Academy is back in business—that is, the business of in-person visits.

Diorama lights flicker on. Gallery doors unlock with a click. Once quiet halls are filled with discussion.

Surrounded by an unparalleled maelstrom of societal shifts and uncertainty as the pandemic raged on, the Academy remained a bastion of scientific inspiration, education and research. Seeing opportunity to succeed and grow, we forged ahead with innovative virtual events and in-the-field research. When the world grew silent, we reached out to our communities, explored new ways of servicing science and cultivated our mission to create a sustainable planet for everyone.

But we know the seeds of scientific inquiry grow right here, in the halls of the Academy. From a child's first glance at the magnificence of a *T. rex*, to the art student reproducing the delicate colors of a seashell on their iPad, to the returning members and





volunteers who catalog specimens and support our mission every year — connection to science matters, and we are that forum.

As a museum — a space — we encourage conversations and engagement with the natural world through galleries that foster curiosity and learning. Our dioramas tell a unique story of exploration, habitat loss, conservation, evolution and artistry, bringing awareness of the fragility of nature to our visitors. And our dynamic exhibits and events capture stories that speak broadly to our community's interest in timely, artistic and

environmentally charged topics. So, with the utmost caution and a great deal of excitement, the Academy reopened its doors and invited the public to join us once more.

From the field, the lab, the home office and now the front desk, we have continued to advocate for environmental change, sustain innovation and promote education to the world around us.

Welcome back.

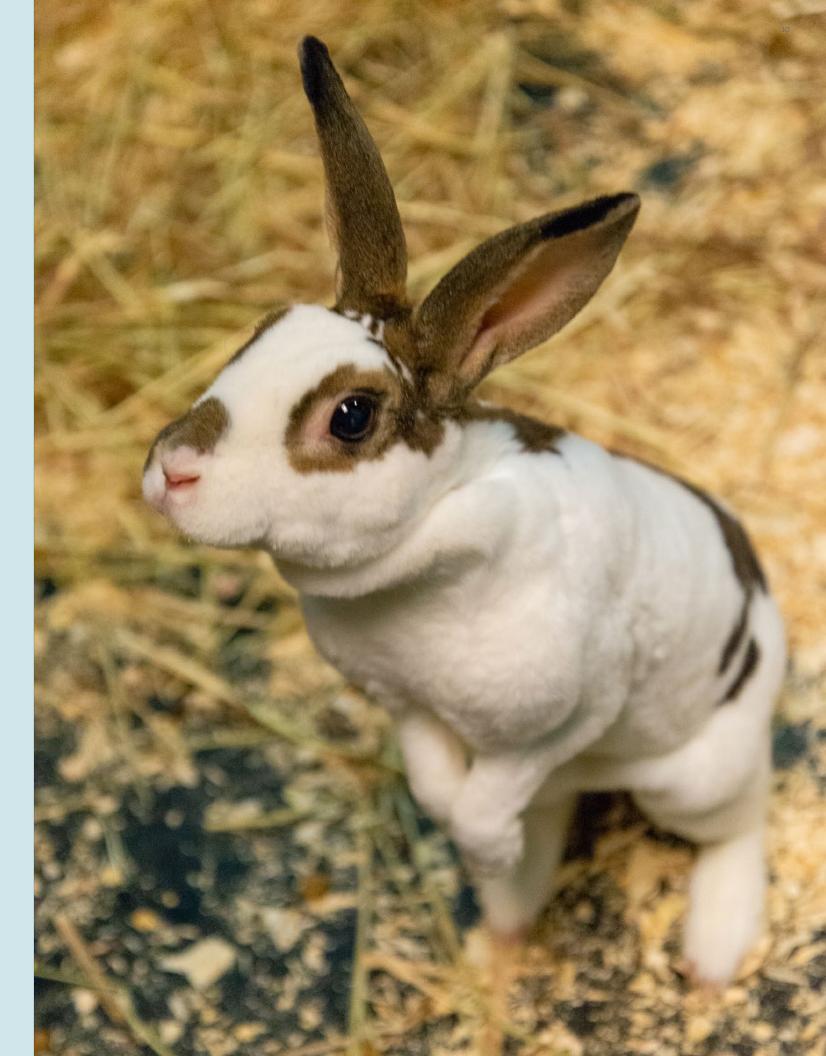
Our son Ian has greatly appreciated your children's programming, both in person and now online. There is clearly a lot of hard work and thoughtfulness that goes into your educational mission.

Throughout the pandemic, the Academy's virtual programming has allowed our son to stay connected to his love of science. It meant a lot to him to see familiar faces from previous Academy visits. This summer our entire family enjoyed the best zoom meeting ever, "Academy Kids Club Hopping into Summer" which featured the Academy's rabbits — or as it is known around our house, "The Hares of Easttown."

"

Diane and Seth McDowell

Academy Members







2021: The Academy kicked off Climate Year — our very first thematic year to address the big issues of our time. And this year's focus was climate change.

Droughts, flooding, wildfires — around the globe we face a crisis of unprecedented proportion. Our oceans, rivers, air, land and biodiversity are all threatened by monumental shifts in our climate brought about by systematic human action. It will take a shared force for nature to solve it.

This central campaign — created in partnership with Drexel University — made our efforts to combat climate change a focus of the Academy's work. Across the year, we deepened and widened our commitment to a sustainable future with bold new initiatives, engaging community-driven programming and creative, powerful content.

Our exhibits, such as *Gideon Mendel: Drowning*World and Wildlife Photographer of the Year

explored our often-fraught relationship with the

natural world in experimental new ways. Aimed to inspire action, we hosted the fourth Annual Philadelphia Environmental Film Festival, and created the Small Actions Spark Big Changes social media campaign that reached tens of thousands of people.

The Academy also presented yearlong environmental justice programming, virtual events and workshops. We continued to curate our popular Academy Town Square series, with a focus on discussing critical global issues, that brought together Philadelphia community members, Academy scientists, Drexel professors and city leadership.

Expanding our efforts nationally, the Academy led Philadelphia's Lights Out initiative. This far-reaching

coalition was created to protect migrating birds and reduce carbon emissions. Endorsed and supported by local nonprofit organizations, scientific partners, building operators and businesses, this work saves the lives of millions of birds as well as seriously conserved energy and minimized the city's carbon footprint.

Throughout the year during peak migrations, prominent buildings across the city will turn off their lights, transforming not only the visual nighttime skyline of Philadelphia, but also the outline of how — when the Academy leads — collective, sustainable action is the result.

Up next: Water Year.



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BOMA Philadelphia's partnership with the Academy is one that has helped our iconic member buildings become more environmentally friendly than ever before. With Lights Out Philly, the Academy brought a simple yet innovative program to our city skyline that made perfect ethical, ecological and economic sense.

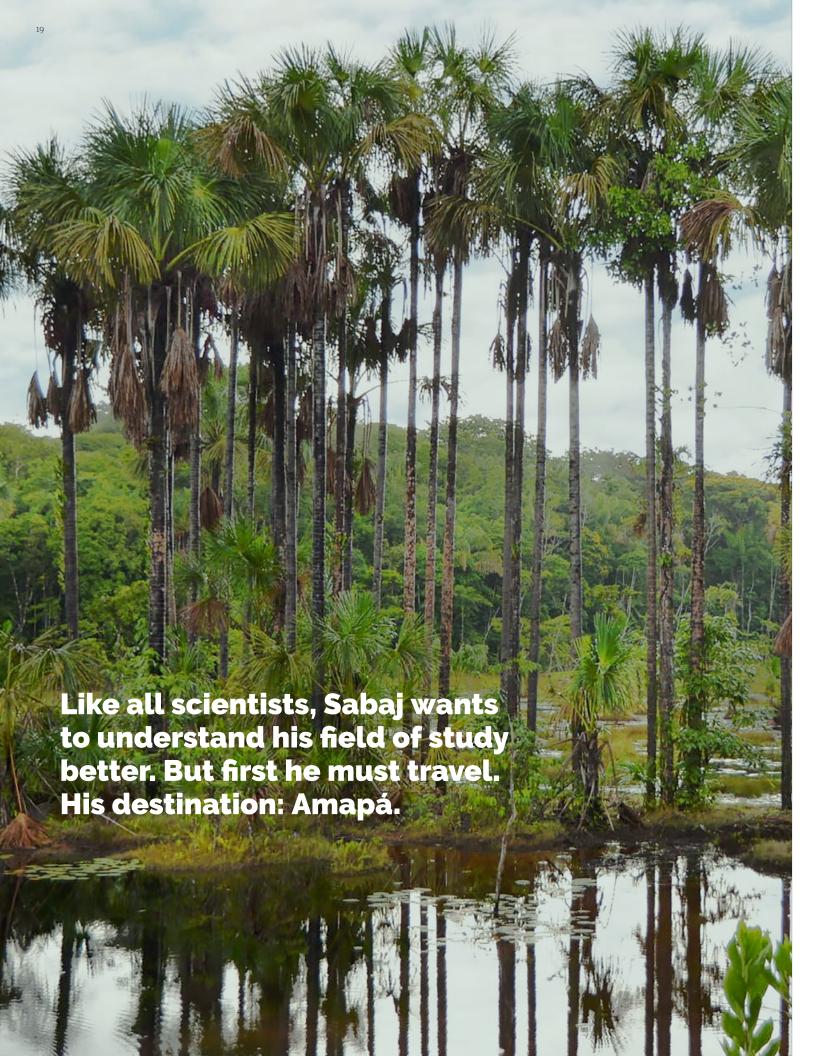
Our Association is extremely grateful for our continued collaboration with the Academy. Their unparalleled leadership in critical programming and education is key to building a better, stronger and more insightful Philadelphia for all of us.

"

Jamal Johnson

Chair, Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA) of Philadelphia





Academy ichthyologist Mark Sabaj is really enthusiastic about fish. But he also deeply cares about supporting the Academy's role in the international partnership of science.

"There are two critical parts to all research," he says. "One part is definitely going out into the field. But the other part — doing research in museum collections — that is where many discoveries are made."

Destination: Amapá. It's a small, diamond-shaped state in northeastern Brazil bound on three sides by the Amazon, Jari and Oyapock rivers. On the last side, it's the wide Atlantic Ocean. Amapá sits at a crossroads of four major freshwater ecoregions, with aquatic biodiversity that is exceptionally rich but poorly understood.

In other words, Amapá is the perfect place for new research, findings and collaborative beginnings.

One such relationship began with Cecile Gama, PhD, curator of fishes at the Instituto de Pesquisas Científicas e Tecnológicas do Estado do Amapá (IEPA). As the host museum of Sabaj's trip and a natural history survey that houses the entire state's biological and anthropological collections, IEPA is a big deal. Gama has been studying Amapá's freshwater and marine fishes for 20 years, building up the largest collection of fishes from the region.





Together with an intimate group of fellow scientists and photojournalists, Sabaj and Gama spent five days exploring Tumucumaque National Park, collecting and sampling the Amapari River in a pilot expedition to better plan future projects that will awaken the international scientific community's awareness to this unique and relatively unknown habitat. While everything was new to Sabaj, a few fish species collected were new to science as well.

Like snapshots, these fishes will demarcate a time and place, representing the health of this pristine ecosystem for years of research to come. The majority of collected specimens were deposited at the host museum IEPA, while a representative part was gifted to the Academy — forging a new scientific partnership that spans the globe.

Fostering the true spirit of discovery and scientific work across borders, Sabaj also assisted Gama in assembling hundreds of metal shelves and inventorying thousands of jars of fish — in short, decades of research — when IEPA received funds to construct a new building for its fish collection.

This collaboration goes beyond goodwill; it will help document the fishes of Amapá state and protect Amapá's biodiversity.

It will also inform institutions around the world, including the Academy, about the unique species found in this biodiversity hotspot — all through the power of a well-kept collection.

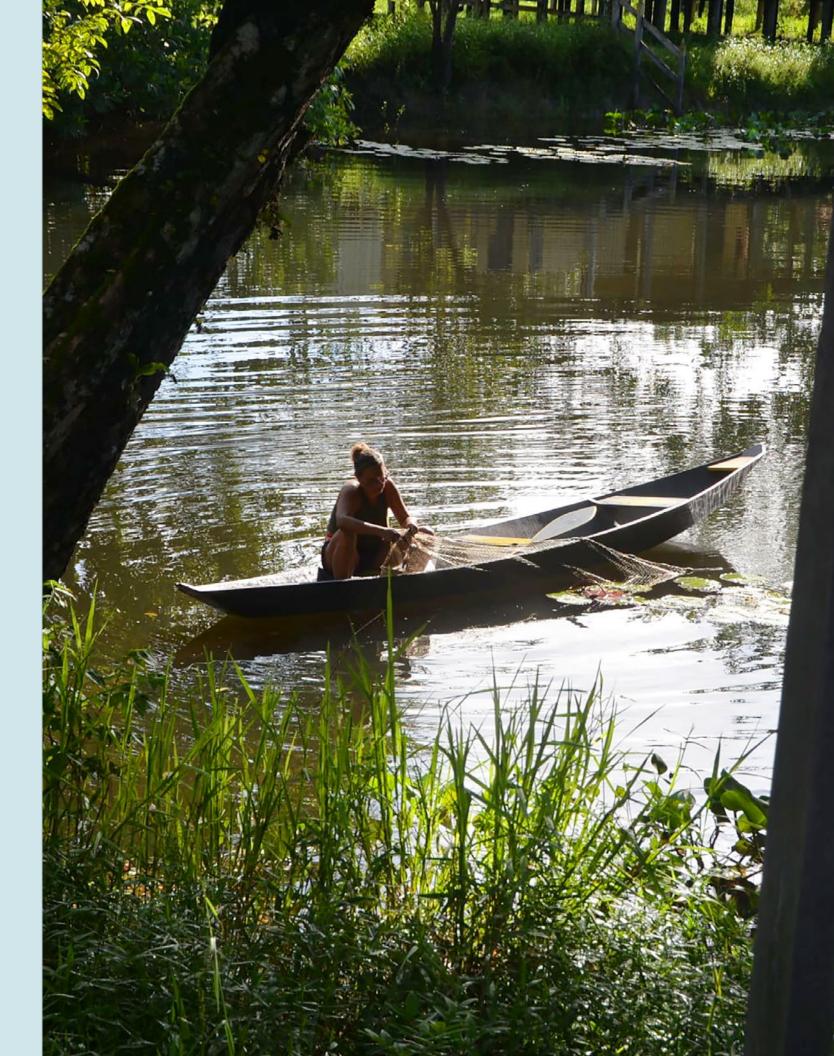
The partnership established between IEPA and ANS is incredibly valuable to our institution, and we are thankful for its ability to call attention to the remarkable fish diversity of Amapá State.

There are too few studies of Amapá fishes and too many threats to our rivers. The Araguari River, the largest watershed in the state, no longer reaches the ocean because of dams and dewatering. Mark and the Academy have a long history of studies of neotropical fishes. Our collaboration has drawn attention to Amapá fishes and facilitated new collaborations even within my own country of Brazil.

"

Cecile Gama

PhD, curator of fishes at the Instituto de Pesquisas Científicas e Tecnológicas do Estado do Amapá (IEPA) and ANS Research Associate





FACTS BY THE NUMBERS

5

new fish species found on this year's Brazil trip will be formally described by Mark Sabaj and the team

65

countries, on every continent in the world, have seen Academy scientists at work

150

years of exploration bolsters one of the world's largest and most important collections of South American fishes here in the Academy

1,360,000

digital records of fish specimens have been released so far by Academy ichthyology scientists





Lisa Woodford had just purchased and renovated her home when Hurricane Isaias hit her Southwest Philadelphia community of Eastwick. Knee-deep flooding and downed trees left her and fellow residents displaced, without power and searching for answers.

Just walking through my community, I saw people's memories on the street ... you could even feel the sadness," Woodward describes the scene in an Academy Town Square.

The storm landed with a suddenness beyond expert forecasting. Eight inches of rainfall dropped on the city and surrounding areas. The Schuylkill River saw a seven-fold rise in its flow. The

floodwaters of Chester Creek crested at 16 feet — double the normal height.

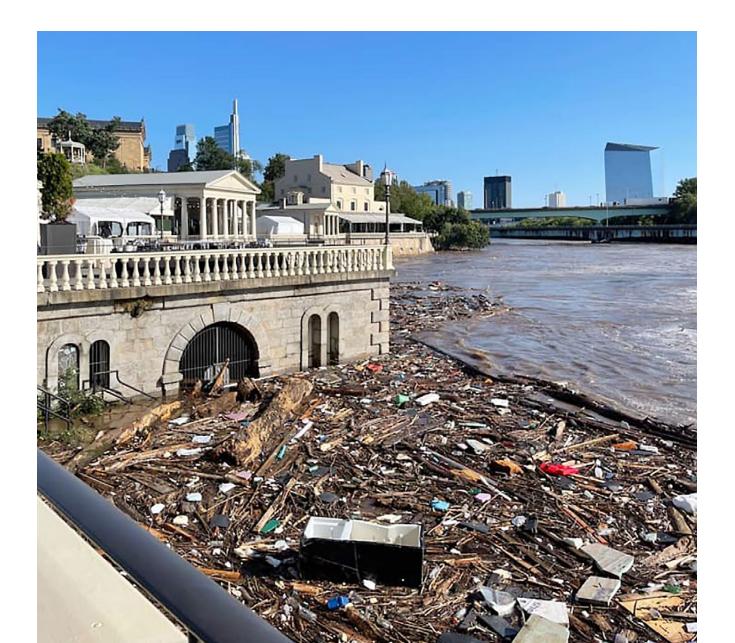
In short: the water systems were overwhelmed and the impact on the surrounding communities was devastating. And because of climate change, it's only just the beginning for communities like Eastwick that are located all along our rivers and creeks.

So how do we find a solution — one that not only measures the impact of such events and understands the risks and needs involved, but also accomplishes the goal of maintaining a healthy and safe water system for all? The answer: cuttingedge, science-based, data collection technology now being created by the Academy, as part of our Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI).

This past year, in collaboration with Drexel's College of Computing and Informatics, DRWI rolled out its high-resolution mapping, modeling and monitoring tools that operate with remarkable accuracy. These digital tools, or applications, collect data on rivers and streams throughout the Delaware River watershed and then use it to create geospatial maps and information on water flows, sources of pollution and changes in land use. What makes these tools so powerful is that they automate in real time and are publicly accessible, allowing everyone — scientists, partners and communities — to be a part of the effort.

"The scale, the funding, the impact, it is unprecedented," says Lin Perez, DRWI program director and Environmental Data Science lead at the Academy. "We're generating information that practitioners didn't have before, with a high degree of confidence never seen before." Perez leads the data synthesis and development work of these mapping applications.

What do these new tools accomplish for on-the-ground practitioners, stakeholders, landowners and communities? Now with crucial data, accurate mapping and constant monitoring, DRWI hopes to see improved stream management and investments in stormwater infrastructure — safeguarding our communities from pollution and future flooding.



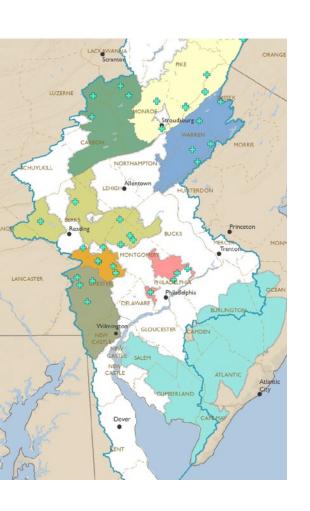




"Our long-term goal is to make this data accessible to more people," says Perez. "Information sitting in databases is useless. We need to leverage this information into understanding and translate it into informed practices."

That's the real brilliance of scientific innovation: when we begin to see things differently and gain more perspectives, not only can we better predict changes, but also, we can find and create real-world solutions.

Whether through clean-ups, investments or state-of-the-art data collection and mapping tools, the Academy and DRWI believe that with everyone working together we can ensure a clean, safe and livable relationship with our rivers for generations to come.







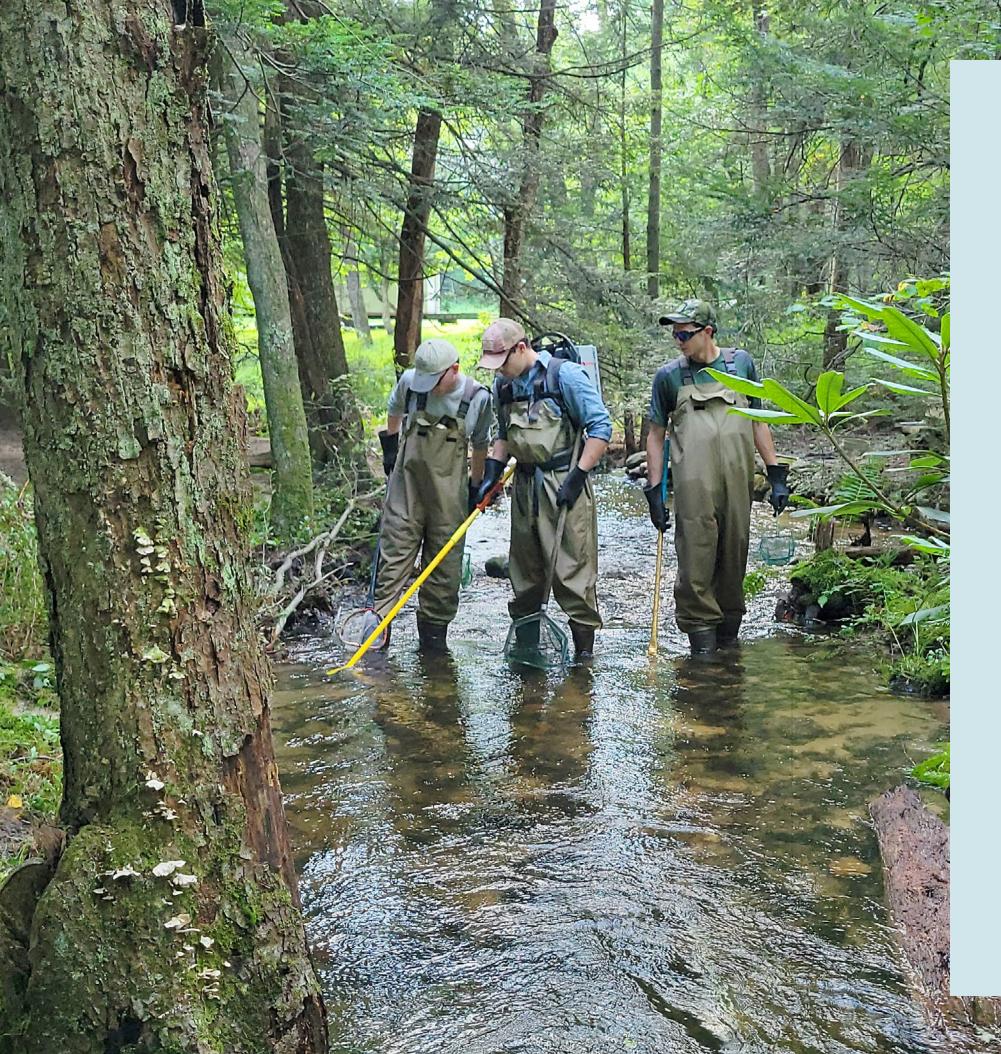
Everyone lives in a watershed. Some of us may live upstream and some may live downstream, but we share a geographic community defined by water. Understanding that we share a common landscape is the first step toward understanding the challenges and opportunities, as is working together to build a constituency to effect solutions to impairment. The health of our creeks translates into healthier green spaces and communities, as well as cleaner drinking water.

The Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership has been a Delaware River Watershed Initiative partner since this milestone program began. Working with the Academy enables us to develop leaders and implement projects, provides us with additional credibility in our communities, especially with schools, that will result in more informed people and healthier creeks.

"

Julie Slavet

Executive Director of Tookany/Tacony-Frankford
Watershed Partnership



FACTS BY THE NUMBERS

4

states impacted by the DRWI's stream management efforts

60

partner organizations provided scientific guidance by Academy scientists

200

stream health sampling sites monitored by the Academy

\$125,000,000

already invested to support the work of DRWI



Like science, art has the power to communicate big ideas.

With our original, engaging exhibits that amplify our scientific connection to global issues, the Academy is exploring new territory.

As the first institution on the East Coast to display this award-winning exhibit from the Natural History Museum, London, the Academy presented *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* in our brand-new Dietrich Gallery. Featuring 100 a captivating images from all over the globe, this exhibit not only sparked conversation, but also awakened a renewed concern about our precarious relationship with the environment.

Then to highlight Climate Year, the Academy exhibited *Gideon Mendel: Drowning World.*Spanning 10 years and over 13 countries,
Gideon Mendel's internationally recognized,
thought-provoking photography has appeared in newspapers, magazines, art exhibits and even climate change activism.

Highlighting the wreckage of our human homes from floods all over the world, these photographs produced a deep sense of shared vulnerability among our visitors.





"I wanted to make a body of work that was immediate, where you are looking in the eyes of the people who are directly affected," Mendel describes his motivation.

As these haunting photographs hung on the walls of the Academy, rain from Hurricane Ida lashed at the windows and its flooding devastated communities within our very own city.

The goal of our new gallery is to offer ambitious, relevant exhibits that exist at the critical intersection of art and science. "Art is as much a part of our culture as Science," explains Marina McDougall, vice president of experience and engagement. In 2021, the Academy was awarded a major grant from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage to develop an innovative, experimental program that will fuse these two fields together in a personal and mediative way.

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WATERSHED MOMENT

Reflections on Water's Movement

Watershed Moment will feature investigative walking tours, iconic art installations and engaging exhibits.





Big in scope and intimate in nature, this upcoming project from from a creative team led by Whit McLaughlin will highlight our Water Year.

It will bring together local Philadelphian history and watershed science in the spirit of socially engaged art. Featuring an investigative walking tour with iconic art installations within and outside the Academy, *Watershed Moment* will reveal the hidden relationships of water to our lives and our city.

"This project is science from the heart, spoken in the language of art."

"We hope that a participant will walk away with a feeling of enduring connection to Philadelphia and the Schuylkill River," says Mclaughlin on a chilly winter morning, as he envisions the sights and sounds of this program, which is set to open this summer.



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About a month after my home was flooded from Hurricane Ida, I stumbled into the *Drowning World* exhibit at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, and it hit me like a gut punch. The photos and videos had such a visceral effect on not only me, but also on my children (ages 5 and 4).

By the time we walked into *Drowning World*, the flood had taken over our life, so it's understandable that my kids were interested in the exhibit. Still, I couldn't believe how long they sat transfixed by the images Gideon Mendel had captured.

"

Jared Bilski
Father and visitor at the Academy

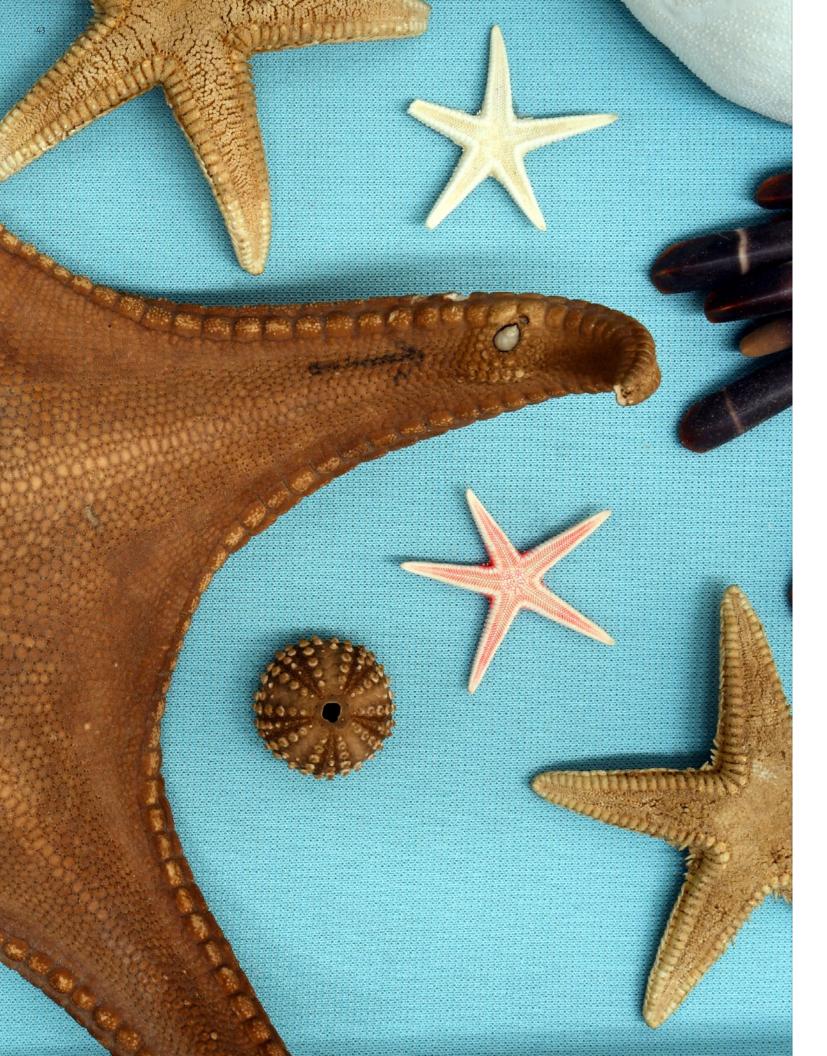


Total

\$4,**21**5

2,899

3,641



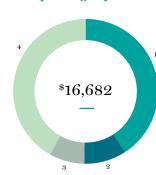
Statement of Activities

for the Year Ended June 30, 2021 (in thousands)

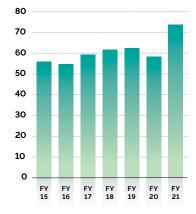
Operating Revenues and Releases



Operating Expenses



Year-End Endowment Market Value (MM)



Operating Revenues and Releases Without Donor Restrictions 1. Grants and Contracts \$2,050 \$2,165 2. Contributions 1,295 1,604 3. Allocations of Endowment Spending from Financial Capital 679 2,962

Total Revenues and Releases	\$16,736	\$1,356	\$18,092
Net Assets Released from Restriction	5,397	(5,397)	-
Total Revenues	\$11,33 9	^{\$} 6,753	\$18, 092
6. Other Income	6,211	3	6,214
5. Auxiliary Enterprises	772	_	772
4. Investment Income, Net	332	19	351

Operating Expenses

1. Salaries and Wages	\$6,831	-	\$6,831
2. Employee Benefits	1,566	_	1,566
3. Depreciation and Amortization	1,323	_	1,323
4. Other Operating Expenses	6,962	-	6,962
Total Expenses	*16,682	_	\$16,682
Increase in Net Assets from Operating Activities	54	1,356	1,410

Non-operating

Contributions - Endowment and Other Gifts	-	^{\$} 172	^{\$} 172
Realized/Unrealized Net Gain on Investments, Net of Endowment Payout and Expenses	216	16,275	16,491
Change in Funded Status of Defined Benefit Plan	2,736	-	2,736
Increase in Net Assets from Non-operating Activities	2,952	16,447	19,399
Total Increase in Net Assets	3,006	17,803	20,809
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$2,721	\$72,358	\$75,079
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

Endowment Growth (in millions)

2021	Jun 30	73.266
2020	Jun 30	58.758
2019	Jun 30	61.880
2018	Jun 30	62.198
2017	Jun 30	59.741
2016	Jun 30	55.032
2015	Jun 30	56.380

The groundbreaking academic department, **Biodiversity, Earth & Environmental Science (BEES)**, formed upon the affiliation of the Academy and Drexel University, had a full-time equivalent enrollment of 181 students in 2021.

Thank You

On behalf of the Academy's Board of Trustees, we wish to recognize and thank those supporters who contributed to the Academy between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Your generosity helps to fund the Academy's many research and education programs, and we are tremendously grateful for your support. Because of our supporters' investments in the Academy, science never stops.

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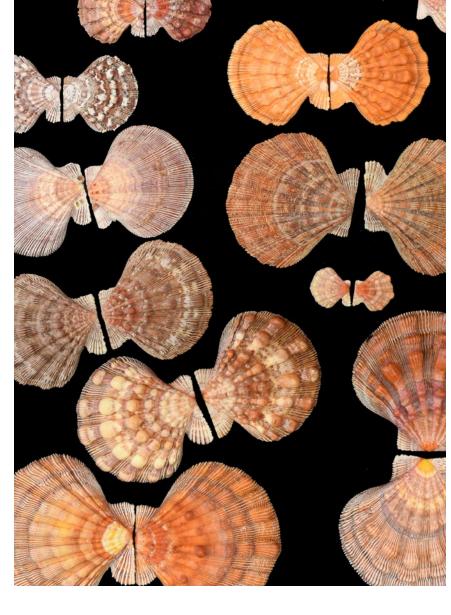
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