



President's Letter

Reflecting on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for your dedication to Boxerwood and its mission. It is an honor to share this annual report with you, showcasing the strides we've made together.

Led by Executive Director Emily Kohl, Boxerwood continues to grow and mature. Strong revenue this year enabled us not only to maintain a welcoming garden but also upgrade our teaching facilities, add new landscape features, and commence wetland restoration planning.

Meanwhile, through new partnerships and expanded education programs, Boxerwood connected even more people of all ages to the natural world and its care. Under the thoughtful leadership of Education Director

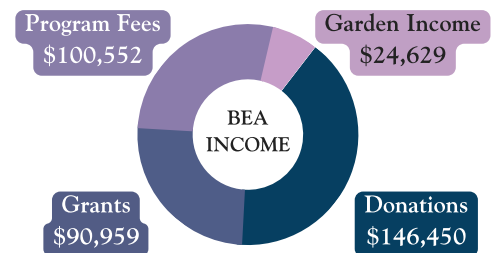
Elise Sheffield, the impact and the reach of our programs keeps expanding. Significantly, BEA has accomplished these outcomes in a fiscally responsible manner. For the 2022-23 year, we balanced our operating budget while also protecting a hard-won 3-month reserve. Starting our new operating year on strong footing, we're excited by what's to come and delighted all this fruitful work comes from our community's unwavering support.

On behalf of BEA, thank you for being the cornerstone of our endeavors. May this report encourage all of us in our earth stewardship commitments.

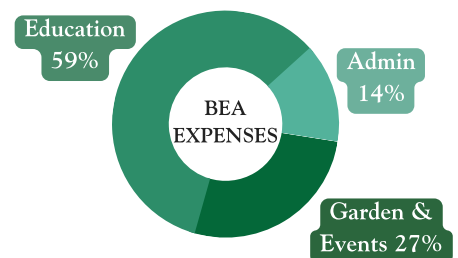
Blake Shester

Boxerwood Education Association
Board President

Financials



BEA's income comes primarily from donations, program fees, and grants. The bulk of BEA's expenses are related to personnel and the rising costs of general operations (utilities, education materials, gardening supplies, etc).



The Garden

In 2022/23, staff and volunteers winterized the Pavilion, installed a rain catchment system over the Roost, built 10+ new benches, revamped the driveway, and established a native garden bed in front of Munger Lodge.

Plan a visit to see for yourself all the ways we are working to ensure Boxerwood's garden and learning campus continues to thrive for years to come.



The Programs

Engaging more people in environmental learning and action is the goal of BEA programming and this was a banner year. We boosted our school partnership program (Project NEST) to full strength, revived the Bay trip after

Boxerwood's mission is to educate and inspire people of all ages to become environmentally responsible stewards of the Earth.

a 2-year pandemic pause, led multiple afterschool clubs, and pioneered a new recycling program. When the school year ended, we stayed busy with 8 summer camps, both at Boxerwood and in the community. Donations subsidized many programs, enabling us to honor our commitment to serve children from all backgrounds.

The intent of all this work is to grow a local generation of youth confident and capable in caring for the earth.

Teaching children is one element of our strategy for long-term community transformation. Another step is institutional – helping our local schools go green: three now have school-based composting systems, with another three in the works.

Pitching in for climate action, we are

concurrently growing community-focused programs. We conducted another successful Backyard Compost Challenge and recruited volunteers of all ages to help with 3 tree-planting projects.

Our carbon offset marketplace, **COREworks**, is up and running with proceeds funding emission-reduction projects. As part of our public outreach strategy, we've made presentations to local groups and welcomed customers including churches and W&L's Law School. We have offsets ready to monetize and fund projects: have you considered securing one to reduce your own carbon footprint?

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the state of the world, but at Boxerwood we're doing what we can with what we have to make a difference.

Thank you for being part of it all.

BOXERWOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2,500+ individual children served, ages 3-18

8 Multi-day summer camps at 3 sites

256 youth environmental education programs at 31 sites

155 afterschool club meetings at 3 schools

15 Boxerwood programs for homeschoolers

24 Watershed field programs at 6 local stream sites

EARTH CARE ACTIONS

103 families in the 2023 Backyard Compost Challenge (BCC)

3,866 pounds of food waste diverted over BCC's 10 weeks

98% of BCC families plan to keep composting

421 anti-littering pledges made by local elementary students

400 Native seedlings planted by 4th graders

100 brook trout raised and released by 5th graders

3 schools committed to daily lunch composting

2,071 Rockbridge trees planted in COREworks-related projects

GARDEN CARE & EVENTS

1510 concert attendees, four summertime shows

20 volunteer weekend Ambassadors collecting visitor stories

5 garden installations maintained by the Rockbridge Area Master Gardeners

