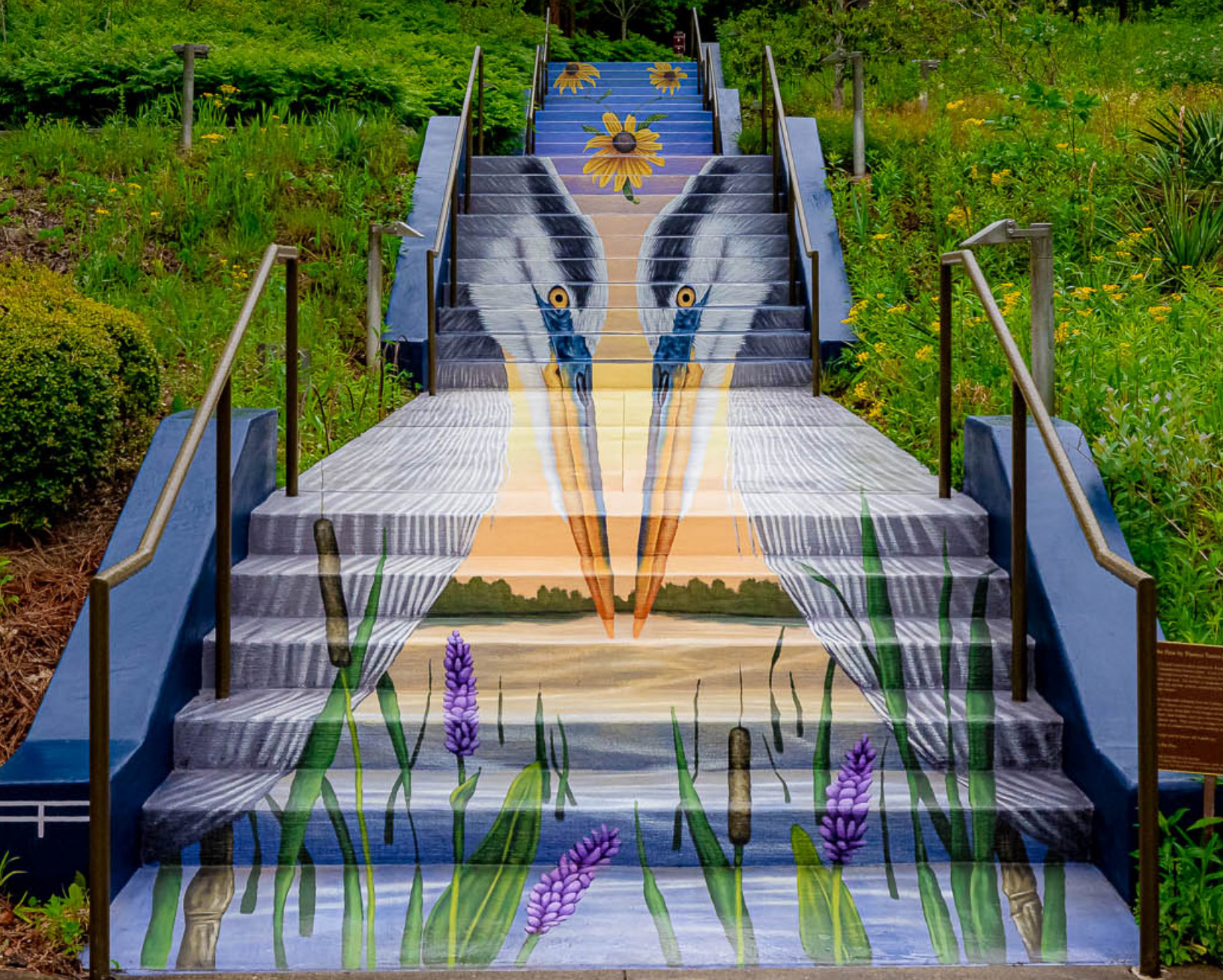


ANNUAL REPORT 2023



LETTER FROM THE CEO

The year exceeded our expectations in so many ways. Many visitors returned to the center for school field trips and community programs such as Boy and Girl Scout programs and canoe, zipline, and kayak adventures drew record numbers back to campus.

In April 2023, we unveiled a new staircase mural titled “The Flow” by Thomas Turner which features Great Blue Herons. We witnessed the magic of nature as a pair of Great Blue Herons nested above Kingfisher Pond and oversaw the artist’s transformation of the staircase. The mural was commissioned by CNC and supported by Fulton County Arts and Culture.

In addition, Chattahoochee Nature Center launched our *Growing Tomorrow’s Nature Enthusiasts* \$9.7M capital campaign. The campaign will fund necessary campus improvements that will expand the reach and capacity of our educational programming, ensuring that best-in-class programs are backed by best-in-class facilities – all while improving the visitor experience through increased safety, greater accessibility, and phenomenal new amenities.

Finally, I am exceptionally proud to say that Camp Kingfisher celebrated 30 years of operations. The program, which has been growing every year, is intended to encourage personal progress, teamwork, and environmental stewardship in campers. Camp Kingfisher has inspired generations of children to care about and for nature. The campers and counselors continue to support the center in many ways as staff members, board members, and educators, to name just a few.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support,

Natasha Rice

President & CEO



Pictured left to right:

Lee Hills and Will Morthland, Roswell Councilmembers;

Andy Wheeler, Visit Roswell;

Laura Martin, Fulton County Arts and Culture;

Natasha Rice, CNC CEO;

Clarence Jackson, CNC Board Chair;

Bridget Thorne, Fulton County Commissioner;

Elan Buchan, Roswell Arts Fund;

Christine Hall, Roswell Councilmember;

Thomas Turner, Muralist



EDUCATION

In 2023, CNC Education Programs continued to grow post-COVID impacts while teachers rate programs as “Best in Class”*. As school budgets are challenged by soaring transportation costs, teachers continue to prioritize field trips with CNC. **CNC Education Programs received over \$150,000 in grants and support for scholarships**, helping us provide programs for underserved schools throughout metro Atlanta.



46,000 individuals participated in Environmental Education programs



300 schools served including 69 Fulton County Schools; 55 Atlanta Public Schools; 34 Cobb County Schools



96% satisfaction rating for CNC Education Programs



Notable partnerships include Fulton County Arts and Culture, Atlanta Public Schools, Fulton Schools, Georgia Forestry Foundation, Los Ninos Primero, Fulton County District Attorney, Wilderness Inquiry, and Georgia Thrive Outside Atlanta, among others.



CNC Education Programs selected as a **Fulton County Community Services Program grant recipient**; funding utilized to grow partnership with Los Ninos Primero; over 400 individuals served in 2023



2,000+ Camp Kingfisher participants



34 campers received **scholarships**



“This was a trip that I wasn’t sure of what to expect. However, what the kids experienced was beyond my imagination. When we started the naturalist program, we were able to learn about jobs in the forest at the outdoor education classroom. Kids took soil samples, compared the different areas of soil, they were able to measure trees, compare them to other trees along with determining if that tree was healthy, or not. We could have stayed longer - we were ready to learn more!”

- Scott Sangster, Area Director, Boys and Girls Club

*Per Net Promoter Score®, ratings above 80 are considered Best in Class.
CNC Rating: 83

VISITOR ENGAGEMENT

CNC welcomed over 60,000 visitors in 2023 – a **9% increase over 2022**. Visitors appreciated the new campus renovations and enhancements, including the beautiful mural and wildlife aviaries.

- **22,000 visitors** attended the **Butterfly Encounter**, CNC's summer exhibit, over its 9 weeks of operation
- **4,000** visitors utilized CNC's **Georgia Library Pass Program**, granting free admission to passholders
- **3,400 CNC Member** Households
- **1,800 Family Fun Day** participants
- **4,900 festival** participants
- **1,700 race** participants



"I became a member several months ago in order to take my grandchildren there. I love and appreciate the outdoors, and I wanted them to get a feeling for its wonder! Everyone is so nice and welcoming. I think y'all do a great job, and we have not even gotten to half of the land, exhibits, and experiences. Keep up the great work and thank you for everything."

– CNC Visitor



CNC Docents are a key component of the visitor experience, sharing nature in intimate, personal interactions with visitors.

CAMP KINGFISHER CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

For 30 years, Camp Kingfisher has welcomed campers from around metro Atlanta, inviting them to explore forest trails and canoe through tranquil waterways. Set amidst the lush woodlands and serene banks of the Chattahoochee River, Camp Kingfisher offers an unparalleled opportunity for children to connect with the natural world and belong to a unique community: the camp community.

Ronald Warnken Jr., Camp Kingfisher's first Camp Director, came to CNC in his 20s with a wildlife management degree from UGA and a second degree in environmental education. Hired in April 1993 and expected to launch the camp in June, Ron enlisted the help of CNC's maintenance team to prepare the campus, and in a short time, Ron laid the groundwork for transforming Camp Chattahoochee into the robust Environmental Education Camp that it is today. The camp was named "Kingfisher" in honor of this beautiful bird often seen around CNC's 127-acre property. Under Ron's leadership, Camp Kingfisher grew each year and kept a robust waiting list due to its reputation as a safe, fun, wholesome educational environment for children.

Today's Camp Co-Director, **Debby Head**, started her Camp Kingfisher journey as a 4-year-old

camper, progressing through the ranks to her current position. "Camp Kingfisher provides not only environmental education but a robust community of people who love and support each other. This camp has helped shape me in so many ways, and it is an honor to continue to build on its legacy."

Debby's journey from camper to Camp Co-Director is a testament to the transformative power of Camp Kingfisher. As a camper, it ignited her passion for nature, environmental education, and helping others grow. As a counselor, she found purpose in guiding and inspiring young campers, encouraging them to explore, learn, and develop a deep appreciation for the environment and become the best, most true version of themselves. "At Camp Kingfisher, campers have the opportunity to have fun, make friends, and engage with the natural world directly, which opens their mind and encourages them to respect the environment."

In its 30th season, Camp Kingfisher saw close to 300 campers per week, hired approximately 60 seasonal staff members, and changed the lives of 2,000 plus campers with the power of community and nature.



Camp Kingfisher Staff, 1998



Canoeing at Beaver Pond



Ron Warnken Jr., mid-1990s



Large raptor animal demo



Journaling during Grow Camp



Debby Head, 2023

OPERATIONS

In 2023, CNC's Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic admitted and cared for more than **650 injured and orphaned raptors, reptiles, and amphibians, representing a remarkable 53 different species**. The primary focus remains on the rescue, rehabilitation, release, and ongoing monitoring of wildlife, while actively engaging in the exchange of best practices, offering training, and fostering collaborative partnerships with various agencies and rehabilitation organizations. The dedicated Wildlife Department proactively implemented measures to safeguard against Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), achieving the exceptional milestone of protecting all resident birds from the virus.

Throughout 2023, CNC's Horticulture team, alongside dedicated volunteers, created four seasons of celebration for horticulture enthusiasts. The "Go Wild with Your Gardening" winter symposium drew participants from near and far, and in the spring, their efforts culminated in a successful native plant sale. The summer months were a spectacle of vibrant blooms, both within and outside the butterfly encounter. As the autumn season arrived, the horticulture team seamlessly transitioned to planting and preparing for the Fall Native Plant Sale. Additionally, the **Unity Garden has yielded over 100 different varieties of produce and contributed 100,000 pounds of harvest to the North Fulton Community Charities Food Pantry** since its establishment in 2012.

The Horticultural Curation team hosted various educational classes, workshops, and speaking engagements. In collaboration with external organizations and institutions, they've taken significant steps to **ensure the survival of five critically endangered plant species from Northwest Georgia**. Four of the five are flourishing at CNC, with plans for seed collection soon. CNC's Horticultural Curation team remains at the forefront of conservation, making invaluable contributions to both our center and the wider community.



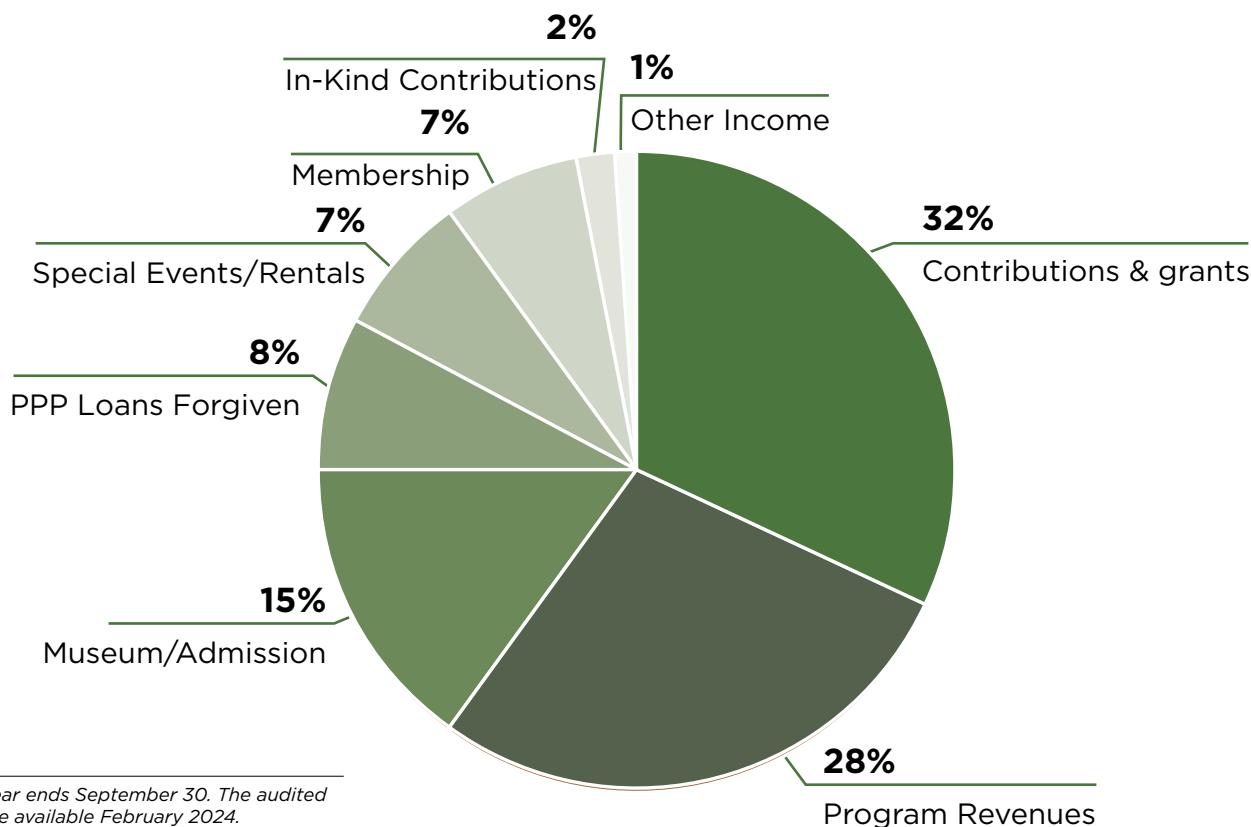
FINANCIALS

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions and grants	\$1,359,334
Program revenues	\$1,191,664
Museum / Admissions	\$628,887
Paycheck Protection Program loans forgiven	\$349,387
Special events / Rentals	\$293,958
Membership	\$289,887
In-kind Contributions	\$86,285
Other income	\$48,121
Total Revenues, Gains and other Support	\$4,247,523

EXPENSES

Program	\$2,877,671
General and administrative	\$745,796
Fundraising	\$260,904
Total Expenses	\$3,884,371
Change in Net Assets	\$363,152



**CNC's fiscal year ends September 30. The audited financials will be available February 2024.*

DEVELOPMENT

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, we rely on the support of members, donors, corporate sponsors and partners, and volunteers to sustain our mission to connect people with nature.

480 donations received from Individuals totaling \$378,000

500 FREE passes donated to community partners

984 volunteers have completed at least 1 shift

134 core volunteers have returned for multiple shifts

20 corporate groups hosted

12 Habitat Restoration projects hosted

21 LITs participated at Camp Kingfisher; a total of 2,715.75 volunteer hours



