

Board of Directors

Ben Bleiman, Chair
Bethany Patten, Vice Chair
Rosalind Jackson, Secretary
Steven Machtinger, Treasurer

Dean Morehous
Kay Carney
Harrison "Hap" C. Dunning
Captain Zack Kellerman
Margan Tarr
Angelique Tompkins
Ed Ueber
Eric Sklar
JJ Hanley

Advisors

Dr. Yvonne Cagle
Dr. Sylvia Earle
Dr. John Geiger
Dr. Dan Kammen
Dr. Conrad Lautenbacher
Dr. Paul Auerbach
Dr. Rick West Jr.
Taylor Safford
Ajay Madhok
Brian Baird
M.R. Rangaswami
Dr. Branden Brough
James Redford
Dr. Bruce Cahan



Smithsonian Affiliate



Member of Aquarium
Conservation Partnership (ACP)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2018

San Francisco, California

Contact: Vicki DeWitt

vicki@bay.org

415 603 0526

EcoCenter Park at Heron's Head Recognized for Excellence in Sustainability

Eco Center at Heron's Head Park, the only San Francisco institution to win the 2018 Secretary's Award for Excellence in Sustainability

The Secretary's Award for Excellence in Sustainability initiated by John Laird, Secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency is conferred by the California Museums Association and recognizes the outstanding achievements in sustainability for California museum projects in two areas: public education and internal operations.

The EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park is located in San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood (BVHP) and serves youth from this area. BVHP is an ethnically and racially diverse working-class neighborhood. The area has been identified as one of five Bay Area "extreme poverty" neighborhoods. Social, economic, and environmental ills present in the 1950s remain to this day, including: racial segregation and discrimination, substandard housing, poor air quality, dumping of toxics, deteriorating infrastructure, the heavily polluted Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, and high levels of poverty, crime, and violence. Per capita income is less than half that of the rest of San Francisco and 39 percent of residents live in low-income households (as determined by the San Francisco Department of Public Health). BVHP sits in a low-lying area along San Francisco Bay that was built up by artificial fill, adding climate change to the list of threats the area faces.

"A heartfelt congratulations to the EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park for receiving this prestigious award for outstanding achievement in sustainability," said Kimberly Brandon, President of the San Francisco Port Commission. "The EcoCenter's unique internship program provides hands-on jobs for students in the Bayview Hunters Point community while educating them about environmental sustainable systems, environmental justice and empowering young people to maintain sustainable programs in our community."

"We are always proud when a Port tenant and partner receives honorable recognition for the great work they do for San Francisco's waterfront," said Elaine Forbes, Executive Director of the Port of San Francisco. "We are especially proud when a partner connects a Port resource to our City's diverse communities and gives it meaning. The EcoCenter and the students participating in the sustainability programs are an inspiration to us all."



Aquarium
of the Bay



Bay Model
Alliance



EcoCenter at
Heron's Head Park



Sea Lion
Center



The Bay Institute



Bay Academy

The EcoCenter is a certified LEED-Platinum environmental education center and one of the first and finest examples of sustainable building technologies, demonstrating integration of sustainable water conservation and management strategies, renewable energy, and alternative wastewater treatment systems in San Francisco. The EcoCenter is operated by Bay.Org- the largest watershed conservation group in the Bay Area with 6 branches including the Smithsonian Affiliated Aquarium of the Bay, Bay Institute, Bay Academy, Sea Lion Center and the Bay Model, with a unified mandate of inspired conservation of the Bay Area ecosystems from the Sierra to the Sea.

"The 2018 Secretary's Award is well-deserved by the EcoCenter. The EcoCenter is an invaluable resource in the San Francisco community because they provide our youth with much needed opportunities to become engaged in advocating for environmental justice," said President of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Malia Cohen.

The EcoCenter Internship Program in 2017 offered paid internships to college and high school students interested in sustainability studies. The design of the EcoCenter Internship Program both facilitated students' exposure to green careers without requiring a high-level science background and provided an ongoing link to professionals pursuing the content of the job training information. Working scientists, EcoCenter staff, and Community College of San Francisco (CCSF) professors were integral to the program.

"With 59 interns graduating since inception, we are deeply committed to serving the neighborhood communities through internships and skill development programs, we are honored and humbled by CAM's recognition of our continuing work," said the President & CEO, bay.org.

bay.org and its six branches are united under one mission to enable conversations on climate resilience and ocean conservation globally, while inspiring actionable change locally by protection and preservation of the San Francisco Bay and its ecosystems, from Sierra to the Sea™.



Aquarium
of the Bay



Bay Model
Alliance



EcoCenter at
Heron's Head Park



Sea Lion
Center



The Bay Institute



Bay Academy