

20 20



**THINGS THAT CREEP, 501(C)(3)
ANNUAL REPORT**



MISSION

Inspiring conservation action by creating access to science education and building community connections.



ABOUT

Based in Richmond, CA, Things That Creep (TTC) brings hands-on and virtual science programming into Bay Area classrooms. We also engage the community with educational public and private events. Our interactive presentations feature “animal ambassadors”, safe-to-handle live lizards, snakes, and frogs. TTC's original reptile-focused curriculum, crafted by trained biologists and educators, provides an introduction to the biological sciences, opening the door to future careers in STEM fields.

The seeds of TTC were planted over ten years ago when our founder/executive director, Audra Barrios, began bringing reptiles into the preschool where she taught science. Over time, like-minded science educators joined in, developing highly educational and engaging programs. In 2018, TTC achieved 501(c)(3) status. Now bolstered by a board of dedicated educators, zoologists and conservationists, TTC continues to grow.

Through education about our native reptiles & amphibians and their vital roles, we actively engender enthusiasm and pride in our local ecosystems. Together we can make impact.



NEIGHBORHOOD SNAKES PROGRAM

PANDEMIC PIVOT

TTC entered 2020 with a contract to bring Neighborhood Snakes as a hands-on program into Richmond classrooms. *Then came Covid.*

Our dedicated team of educators and biologists pulled together and created a brand-new virtual format, complete with pre-recorded videos, interactive virtual sessions and a detailed teacher's guide.

We are proud to deliver Neighborhood Snakes in virtual form and bring this enriching program to Richmond students wherever 2020 finds them.



PROGRAM

Interactive virtual learning sessions

Led by experienced educators and biologists, featuring live "animal ambassador" snakes.

Pre-recorded videos

Introduction to common Bay Area snakes, reptile and foundational biological concepts, guided activities.

Written/illustrated curriculum

Includes science vocabulary, original illustrations, and detailed descriptions of common Bay Area snakes.

Hands-on activity

Grade appropriate, educator guided drawing, observing/recording or cut/paste/color/trace.

Meets NGSS and Common CORE standards

PILOT

We recently finished delivering our Neighborhood Snakes Program in virtual format to students at Martin Luther King Jr. elementary school in Richmond. 214 students in grades K-3rd received the complete curriculum at no cost to students or the school.

Immediate response from teachers has been positive and we are now collecting detailed feedback in order to improve the program.

Thank you to the City of Richmond for funding this pilot program.



OUTREACH IMPACT (2019)

WE CONNECT COMMUNITIES
TO NATURE THROUGH
IMPACTFUL EVENTS

REPTILIAN NATIONAL EXPO

San Francisco, California
February 2019

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

El Cerrito, California
April 2019

NORCAL REPTILE EXPO

Oakland, California
May 2019

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Richmond, California
August 2019

SAN JOSE REPTILE SHOW

San Jose, California
August 2019

ANIMAL FEST

September 2019

SACRAMENTO REPTILE SHOW

Sacramento, California
October 2019

NATURE WALK

Butano State Park, California
December 2019

MEET OUR BOARD



RACHAEL VAN SCHOIK
PRESIDENT

Rachael has worked in nonprofit management for over 10 years supporting missions that aid in the protection of people and the planet. She currently works in the education department at the California Academy of Sciences.



MARISOL CANTU
SECRETARY

Marisol, a Xicana teacher activist, was born and raised in Richmond, CA. After obtaining her Master's in Linguistics with a concentration in multicultural education, she returned to teach ESL at her alma mater, Contra Costa College.



ESTHER TANG
TREASURER

Esther is a Bilingual Educator Specialist at the California Academy of Sciences. Esther earned a Chemistry BS at Washburn University and a PhD in Chemistry & Chemical Biology in the Pharmaceutical Chem Dept at UCSF.



JASON KNIGHT
BOARD MEMBER

Jason is the Night Keeper at the Oakland Zoo. He formerly served as Lead Reptile Keeper at the California Living Museum. Jason has over 25 years of professional experience in animal care and husbandry, primarily with reptiles and amphibians.



PATTY DONALD
BOARD MEMBER

Patty is a powerhouse in Bay Area Recreation. During 30+ years working for the City of Berkeley and numerous environmental organizations, she has developed and expanded recreational and educational programs which thousands benefit from each year.



SONIA WIERZBA
BOARD MEMBER

Sonia has over a decade of experience in informal education at nature centers, aquariums, and museums across the Bay Area. For the past eight years at the California Academy of Sciences, she has developed accessible and entertaining presentations for visitors of all ages.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As a kid, I spent summers at the nature center down the road. We would wade out in the murky bay, our shoes sinking into the thick, dark mud. Using a large screen we would sift mud to find strange creatures with no eyes or bones, like clams and worms. I loved every minute of it. Without this experience, I would have never known there was so much life around us that I did not see nor would I have become a marine biologist. After graduating college I moved to Richmond, where these science programs that I experienced as a kid did not exist. That's when I asked how could I support students from my community to learn about things that creep around us?

It started with mobile animal programs, teaching reptile and amphibian biology in classrooms. I watched the fear melt into curiosity in students' eyes. Through hands-on experiences with animals, a new kind of connection is made. If we understand what is out there, we can empathize, learn, and make small changes in our daily lives to support it. While living in urban environments, it is easy to forget that there is an ecosystem around us struggling to survive habitat loss, climate change, and pollution. The choices made in our own spaces affect the natural ecosystem in our shared home, the San Francisco Bay Area. By creating Things that Creep, I hope to provide access to science education and inspire our community to conserve the natural world.

AUDRA BARRIOS

Founder and Executive Director



OUR TRAJECTORY

For over ten years, long before our organization achieved 501(c)(3) status, our mission has been constant: to provide high quality animal experiences and science education. We have dipped into our own pockets, and given freely of our time and energy to provide low and no-cost presentations to schools and organizations across the Bay Area.

Our dedicated team feels privileged to interact with and support bright young minds in our communities. We are opening doors for future scientists, biologists, naturalists and conservationists through education about things that creep. And we feel deeply proud of the work we do.

Through the generosity of individuals and foundations, we have grown Things That Creep into a formal organization, increasing our reach and the sophistication of our programming. As we look to the future, we are planning big moves. In 2021, we aim to build a physical classroom space for filming videos and live virtual interactions. And our deepest ambition, many years in the dreaming, is to create a science center in Richmond, CA, where students and community members can interact with the marvelous and creepy creatures who are their neighbors. It will be a place to learn and grow, a true asset to the community.

We thank you for your continuing support.



MAKE IMPACT WITH US

1. DONATE TO MAKE IMPACT

Through monetary contribution, you can help bring our Neighborhood Snakes curriculum into local classrooms. Donations also fund feeding and care for our creepy friends! [Click here to donate now.](#)

2. VOLUNTEER TO MAKE IMPACT

Your time and dedication is wonderful way to contribute! We offer training in public outreach as well as animal care and handling. Volunteer at events and at our facility to get hands-on experience with our creepy friends! Contact us at hello@thingsthatcreep.org

3. CREATE TO MAKE IMPACT

You can support biodiversity in our community by making conscious choices. Cultivate native plants, incorporate a water source in your outdoor space such as a pond or bird bath and avoid the use of pesticides. Support local efforts in your community to preserve natural spaces. Check out our badge program for information on how to be a good neighbor to nature.

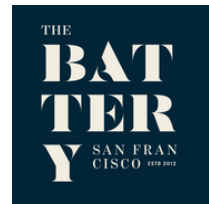
4. TEACH TO MAKE IMPACT

Our Neighborhood Snakes curriculum is now available for local classrooms. Teachers: go to www.thingsthatcreep.org to book your program! Parents: advocate to bring Things that Creep to your child's classroom and learn with them. In 2021, we are making our Neighborhood Snakes program available for public purchase.

5. LIKE AND SHARE TO MAKE IMPACT

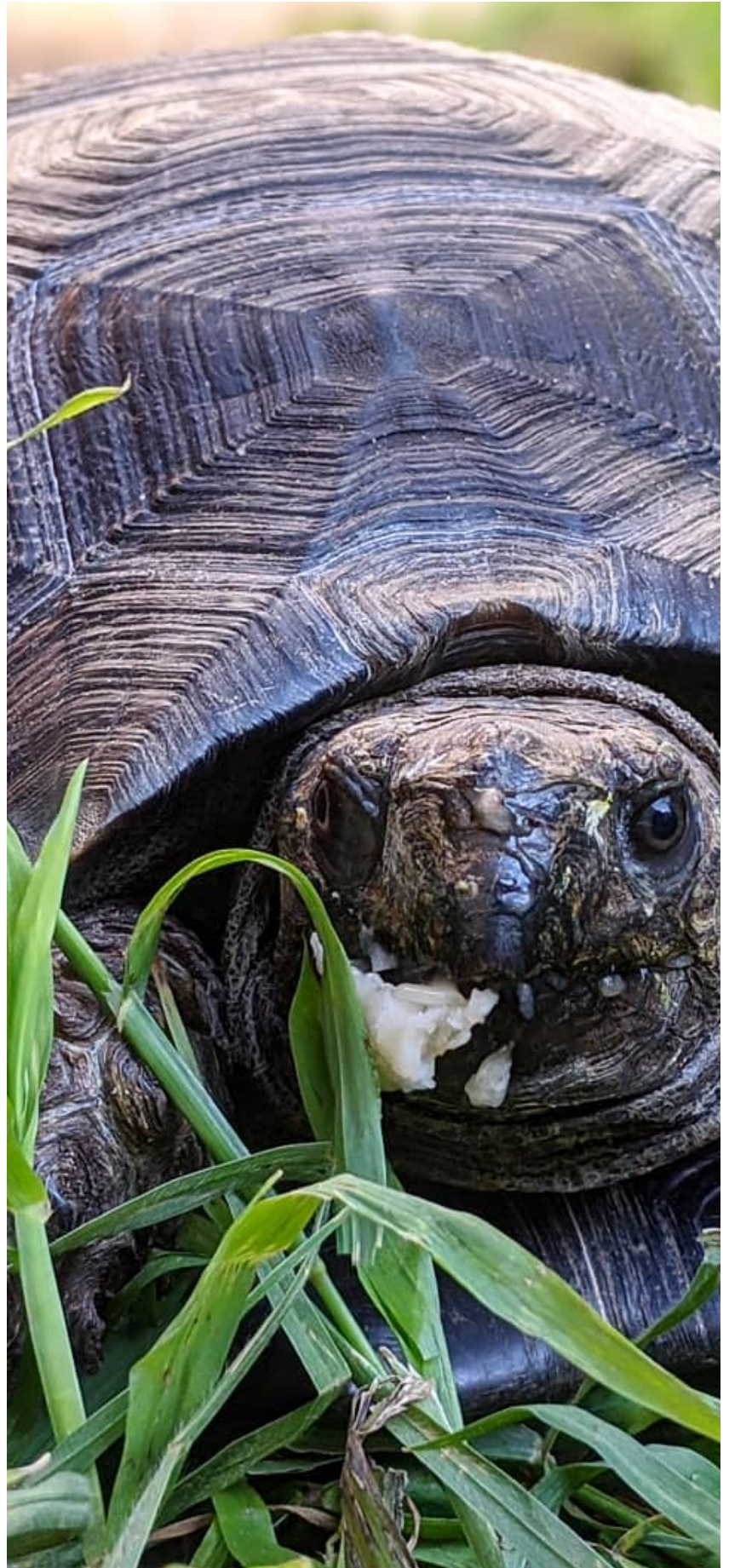
Follow [@thingsthatcreep](https://www.facebook.com/thingsthatcreep) on facebook.com and [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com/thingsthatcreep). Like, share, and promote our creepy friends! Email this to friends, or share directly on Facebook!

THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS



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Andrea Michelle
Russ Gurley
A.J. Kirsch
Maria Pauline Sirat
Jane Call
Dineen Parsons
Nick Stong
Sean Patrick Parnell
Molly Potter
Krista Lane
Rachael Van Schoik
Pol Bautista
Carolyn Pulvino
Debbie Johnson
Melissa Nehmens
Cory Dominguez
Jebb M Reid
Auberry Good
Andrew Montes
Lauren Fetterman
Katherine Dudney
Vivian Moutafian
Joyce Crosthwaite



THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

Alicia Wisdom-Vidovich
Robert Slaughter
Patricia Donald
Maureen O'Shea
Kristine Barrios
Lawrence Erickson
Susanne Lysmer
Annette Lee
Emma Doctors
Tessa Travis
Alice La Pierre
Ed Cruz
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LX Nañez
Edma Dumanian
Edgar Machuca Sahagun

Noe Barrios
Jen Watters
Sarah Parnell
Kristine Loftin
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Anoosh Moutafian
Seneca Spurling
Nina Mautner

