

NURTURING SPIRIT, SOCIETY & SOIL

PASSIONIST EARTH AND SPIRIT CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022



PASSIONIST
EARTH & SPIRIT
CENTER

Dear Friends,

If we've learned anything from the pandemic, it's that there really is no "back to normal." There's only onward, preserving the best of the past while embracing change and pursuing new opportunities – and doing our best to stay present to the present in the midst of it all.

Our most recent fiscal year has been one of both continuity and change. We were thrilled to reopen our doors (while not closing Zoom!) and welcome our community members back to in-person meditation classes and events. We continued to scale up our "Listen, Learn, Act" racial justice programs, forging a robust new partnership with Metro Government's Office of Equity. We began offering retreats for youth and adults, hosting over 40 day retreats with almost 900 participants, mostly from local schools. We conceived and designed the SpiritScape nature discovery and team-building area, made significant progress in fundraising for it, and have almost completed the first phase of its construction. We radically expanded our Camp Odyssey summer camps from two weeks to eight. We've been busy!

As we look to the future, we're planning for the continued growth of our programs, especially our retreats and camps. And we're beginning to explore how we might provide mindfulness, team-building, and leadership development services for nonprofit and for-profit organizations. In all of this, we feel that our mission – connecting contemplative practices like mindfulness with concern for community and ecological health – is more needful and compelling than ever, and we're thrilled to be sharing it with broader and more diverse audiences.

None of this is possible without the support of our program participants, individual and corporate donors, and foundations. We're grateful to all who make our good work possible – thank you so much!

Kyle Kramer

Passionist Earth & Spirit Center CEO



Providing Mindfulness Meditation Courses and Experiences Bringing Awareness and Peace to the Complexity of Modern Life

Since our founding in 2005, thousands of individuals in our own community have experienced the benefits of our mindfulness meditation courses. Mindfulness meditation aids in our ability to adapt and become more resilient, to better manage stress and anxiety, and to respond to the world with compassion toward suffering. Although our course enrollment has not yet returned to pre-Covid levels, we have seen a strong recovery since in-person classes again became possible, and we have greatly expanded the number of our faculty and the variety of our meditation programs.

Mindfulness meditation techniques have had a profound effect on me and how I view and handle all aspects of my life.



Each child was treated as an individual. I loved the mix of indoor and outdoor activities and the connections my kids made.

Camp Odyssey Day Camps Are Growing

As they explore our 27-acre nature sanctuary, work and play with our artists, musicians, garden and environmental educators, yoga and meditation instructors, and chefs, campers in grades 1-6 come to understand how ecosystems work, where their food comes from, and how to be more mindful and compassionate toward themselves, others, and the world around them. In 2022, our original two weeks of camp grew from 80 campers per week to almost 100, and we added six more additional weeks, each one with a different mission-related theme. Kudos and thanks to Beth Zangari, Lori Hadorn-Disselkamp, and so many others who are helping us grow this important part of our programming.



Fast-Growing Retreat Programs Provide Transformative Learning Experiences

Begun in the fall of 2021, retreats have become an important part of our programming, inviting participants to experience our mission through nature hikes, team-building exercises, mindfulness meditation, compassion exercises, and other activities. In 2021-22, our first year, we hosted 863 retreat participants from schools, faith-based groups, and other organizations, including 839 high school students, 24 middle school students, and 25 adults. For 2022-23, we are on track to host over 1400 retreatants, including approximately 1380 high school students.

I loved meditation and the teamwork exercises; team building and bonding. I enjoyed getting closer to my classmates.



New Partnerships Expand Racial Equity Programs

In 2019, as part of our mission commitment to social justice and initially in partnership with JustFaith Ministries, we began offering programs in racial equity. Little did we know how important those programs would become as racial equity issues came strongly to the fore across the country – and especially in Louisville – in 2020. One of our four-week courses, taught online at the height of the pandemic lockdown, had over 450 participants! We have since partnered with ListenLearnAct.org and received generous financial support from Louisville Metro Government's Office of Equity to continue and expand this work with action-oriented courses, workshops, and monthly community conversations, prominently featuring Black community leaders as guest speakers.

Learning about racial equity was the first step I needed on the path to advocate for those who are most vulnerable.



A place for children and adults to gather and engage the natural world in a meaningful, educational, and creative way.

Breaking Ground on SpiritScape Nature Discovery Area

With the dramatic growth of our outdoor programs, it became clear to us that we needed a place for children and adults to gather and engage the natural world in a meaningful, educational, and creative way. Inspired by the "Playcosystem" at Bernheim Forest and in consultation with Bernheim staff, we conceived the SpiritScape Nature Discovery Area. We have raised a significant amount of financial support for the project and have completed some initial phases of the project, including a large gathering space (soon to have a permanent shade structure installed over it), a team-building course, and a natural log-play area – with much of the materials sourced locally from the campus. Stay tuned to see how the SpiritScape project develops!



Earth and Spirit Podcast adopted by NPR

Back in February of 2020, with grant funding from the Kalliopeia Foundation, we launched the Earth and Spirit Podcast. Twice a month, Earth & Spirit Center CEO Kyle Kramer hosts thoughtful conversations with local and national leaders working at the intersections of spirituality, social change, and ecology. The podcast is available on all the major podcast platforms (Apple, Google, Spotify, etc.), and in 2021, it was adopted into the National Public Radio podcast family. With over 65 episodes in the archive, the podcast continues to grow, and we're thrilled to put Earth & Spirit Center mission priorities out to a much broader audience.

Thoughtful conversations with local and national leaders working at the intersections of spirituality, social change, and ecology.

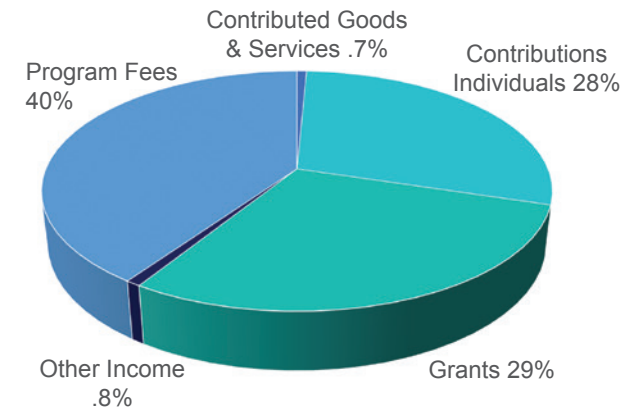


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BALANCE SHEET

	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21
Assets		
Total Checking/Savings	\$521,856	\$571,092
Accounts Receivable	\$20,575	\$10,111
Other Current Assets	\$6,326	\$2,913
Fixed Assets	\$41,839	\$3,547
TOTAL ASSETS	\$590,596	\$597,662
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$32,434	\$7,705
Accrued Expenses	\$0	\$11,309
Accrued Liabilities	\$0	\$1,381
Deferred Revenue	\$29,866	\$53,814
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$62,300	\$74,209
Equity		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$523,454	\$509,955
Net Income	\$4,842	\$13,499
TOTAL EQUITY	\$528,295	\$523,454
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$590,596	\$597,662

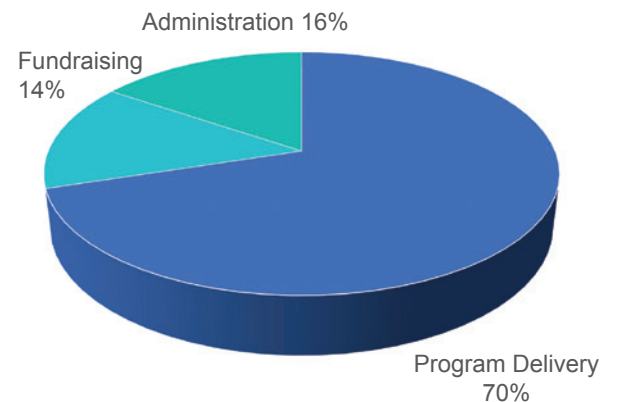
REVENUE



Contributed Goods & Services	\$3,375
Contributions - Individuals	\$135,180
Grants & Organizational Contributions	\$135,580
Program Fees	\$187,721
Other Income (interest, sales, rental)	\$3,731

TOTAL REVENUE **\$465,686**

EXPENSES



Program Delivery	\$323,128
Fundraising	\$66,125
General Administration	\$71,592

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$460,845**

Accountability & Transparency

The Earth & Spirit Center is a BBB Accredited Charity, meeting all 20 standards of Charity Accreditation. We have a Gold Star Seal of transparency on GuideStar, a national non-profit rating database. Our recent financial records are publically available on our website and earlier records are available upon request. We are dedicated to maximizing our resources, maintaining the highest level of fiscal responsibility and transparency, and investing in long-term organizational sustainability.

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The Gilbert Foundation
Trust for Meditation Process
USDA Jefferson County Soil Conservation
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A Special Thanks to Our Volunteers

Our deepest thanks to all of our volunteers and our volunteer leadership who contribute their time, talent, and treasure in immeasurable ways that contribute to the advancement of our mission and stand as the foundation for our future endeavors. We'd like to express our gratitude for your support and appreciation for all you do.

We could not achieve our mission without you.



FR. JOE MITCHELL ON SABBATICAL

When Fr. Joe Mitchell founded the Earth & Spirit Center in 2005, our beginnings were very humble: offering a few courses in meditation and in cosmology, as well as a small summer camp program. Since then, our organization has grown in every way, and we reach thousands of people per year through a large variety of programs in meditation, social justice, and environmental care, for people of all ages.

Over the past 17 years, Fr. Joe has been the face, voice and spirit of the Earth & Spirit Center. He has transformed thousands of lives through his skilled and charismatic teaching, and his visionary thinking has helped us grow and expand our mission.

Fr. Joe is taking a much-deserved sabbatical for 2023 to tend to his well-being. We are so grateful for his many years of service thus far to the Earth & Spirit Center mission and we wish him every blessing for 2023.

Even as we will very much miss Fr. Joe's regular presence at the Center, we continue to move forward as an organization, with many exceptionally talented meditation teachers, growing retreat and summer camp programs, robust community partnerships, an exciting capital project, new programs, and new staff members, including a new full-time Director of Meditation and Spirituality Programs position. Fr. Joe has helped us become a strong, vibrant, mission-driven organization. We are grateful to our Earth & Spirit community for your investment in us, both to honor all of Fr. Joe's good work and to support the future of the organization he founded and nurtured.



LOOKING AHEAD



Please consider a gift in support of our mission today. Your support is vital to help our organization and our community thrive. Every gift makes a difference and is an investment towards a more compassionate future.

Donate online at EarthandSpiritCenter.org/donate, or mail your donation to:
Passionist Earth & Spirit Center
1924 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40205

