



H2000  
2020

ANNUAL  
REPORT

# HEIRS TO OUR OCEANS





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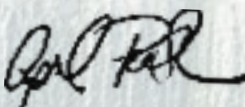
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## We are the next generation, taking ocean, water & climate crises into our own hands

Heirs To Our Oceans’ WHY has never and won’t ever change. We envision and work toward a world where all youth understand the world they are inheriting and are capable of creating a healthier, safer world for themselves and future generations.

Our mission to achieve that vision? Inspire the next generation of leaders by connecting them in purpose, educating them on the environmental and humanitarian crises they are inheriting and cultivating the necessary skills to make real-world change. We support Heirs in realizing solutions to today’s global challenges.

This year, 2020, with the challenge of a pandemic, the village was real. We are so very grateful to the volunteers, staff, and friends who support our mission as we work toward achieving our vision regardless of how large a hurdle is presented.



April Peebler  
Executive Director



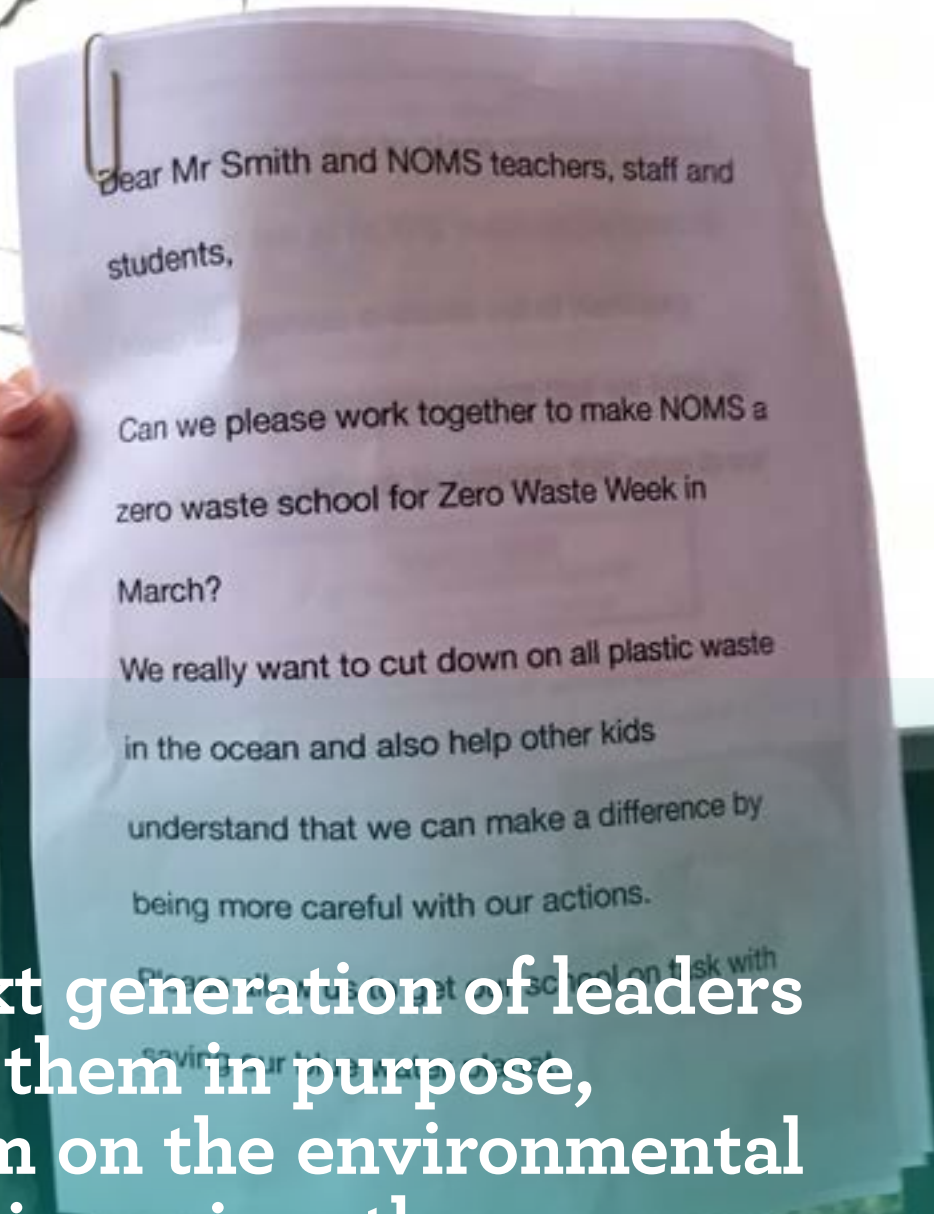


## H200 VISION

All youth understand the world they are inheriting and are capable of creating a healthier, safer world for themselves and future generations.

## H200 MISSION

Inspire the next generation of leaders by connecting them in purpose, educating them on the environmental and humanitarian crises they are inheriting and cultivating the necessary skills to make real-world change. We support Heirs in realizing solutions to today's global challenges.





# H200 PILLARS



## Real-world, action-based, education for ALL youth

Heirs To Our Oceans strives to educate all youth, and adults alike, about how our actions affect our oceans, waterways, climate, and each other.

We show the connections between human health and the health of our natural environment. For example, we connect the dots sharing that plastic is made from petroleum, so plastics not only cause plastic pollution but also contribute to the climate crisis.

We believe all youth—not just a small, privileged percentage—should have the opportunity to learn about our planet’s natural environment, in our natural environment, and to develop critical thinking, problem solving and creative thinking skills.

Water and climate literacy should be a right starting in elementary school and continuing in the curriculum of every middle school and high school.

## Develop a generation of empathetic leaders

We take leadership development seriously.

The world we will inherit needs leaders who value more than status and profit.

In developing empathetic leadership skills, we hold workshops in how to build healthy relationships, interpersonal skill development, and

nonviolent communication. Moreso, those situated most vulnerably, on the “frontlines”, are often those without voice amplification. We prioritize amplifying their voices.

## Empowerment opportunities for ALL youth

All youth—no matter their socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, nor religion—should have empowerment opportunities to shape their futures and the world they are inheriting. Heirs To Our Oceans provides scholarships so that all youth may thrive in empowerment opportunities like these:

- Public speaking appearances and advocacy work;
- Participation in our annual two-week intensive Summit for Empowerment Action & Leadership (H2OO SEAL) and other leadership summits fully sponsored;
- Attendance at international conferences, workshops, symposiums and engagements focused on ocean, water and climate issues;
- Dive certification and training in swimming and snorkeling for marine ecosystem learning in their own waters; and more!

## Youth inspire youth

In Heirs To Our Oceans, youth teach youth (and adults!) about human impacts on our oceans, waterways and climate, about the importance of bringing all voices “to the table”, and about how to support vulnerable communities.



# H200 2020

All youth together—not just those of the same demographic, skin color, nationality, ethnicity, or spirituality—can engage in shared learning. It’s inspiring and empowering and connecting!

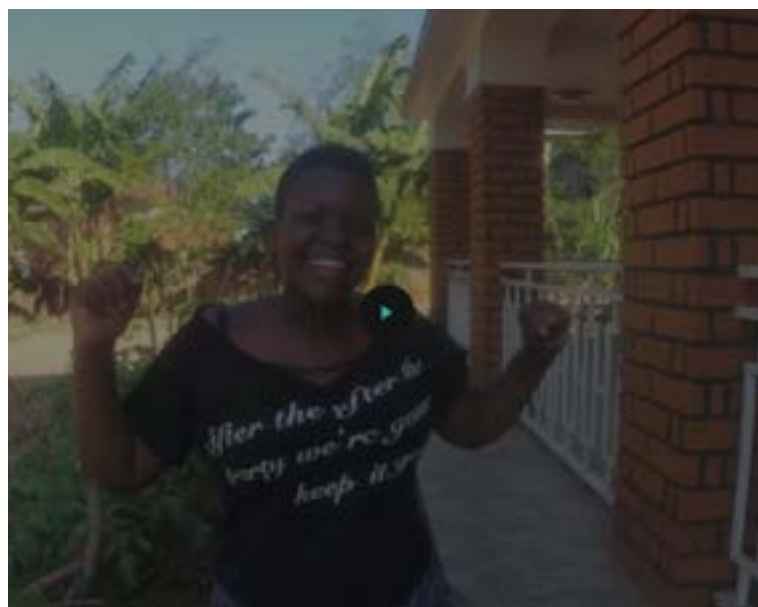
We, as the next generation, can rise up together to become better decision makers for each other and for the health of our planet.

## We Got Each Other

Wow 2020 sure was —something! And Heirs To Our Oceans again stood up to the challenges and became all the more unstoppable. We were put to the test, and we’re still standing, together, more strongly than ever, doing what is right in the world to turn this ship around.

Thank you for being with us in this journey, a part of our tribe, our ocean- and water-protecting and climate-action family. We’ve got this, because we’ve got each other.

Read on to learn about what we were up to during “covid lockdown”



“We Got Each Other” video was made during our first-ever virtual SEAL (Summit for Empowerment Action & Leadership) summer 2020 where youth around the world were engaged in filmmaking and were provided the same cameras and laptops to do so.

To watch the video, please click on the image (left)





# H200 2020

## H200 Summit for Empowerment Action & Leadership (SEAL), First-Ever Virtual “SEAL 2020 Special Ops”

This year we made a fast pivot. What was planned to be a SEAL on the northern coast of Bali in the indigenous village of Les turned out to be our first-ever virtual SEAL with covid-19 causing us to make a very fast turn around from in-person to virtual.

SEAL 2020 “Special Ops” was a 6-week intensive leadership opportunity engaging virtually 44 youth from Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Brazil, New Zealand, Guam, Palau, Indonesia, and throughout the US, where participants learned about empathetic leadership, processed together the greatest crises their generation faces, and they became literate in film making technology to amplify their stories.

Each youth received the same laptop, edit software and camera for the project. We congratulate all 9 of the international film making teams as they crossed barriers to effectively collaborate with one another finishing their first film cuts in the time allotted!



The SEAL participants’ films, which include their important words and images for raising awareness, can be viewed [here](#).

To watch the video, please click on the image (left)

## CATARINA, Youth Leader, Brazil



“How to talk about an experience like SEAL 2020 “Special Ops”? I would like to start by saying that this was my first SEAL experience, and though we met on-line it was still one of the best experiences of my life. SEAL is one of those experiences that words are not enough to express. It was an opportunity that I was so excited about it.

I remember that every day when I opened my

computer to go to SEAL I knew I would learn new things. At SEAL we learned about UN Sustainable Development Goals, we discussed the crises my generation faces and what we can do about it, we learned to make films to amplify our voices, and much more.

For me, one of the best parts of SEAL is getting connected with youth from all around the world who have the same goal as I do, but with a different perspective. When the Summit ended, I knew I had a new family in my life, a global family that was built with a lot of love in SEAL 2020.”

## LATIFAH, Youth Leader, Uganda



“This year I was blessed to be part of H2OO’s Summit for Empowerment, Action & Leadership (SEAL) with youth from all around the world addressing the problems related to the climate crisis. SEAL was virtual due to Covid-19, so everything was new to me. I received a laptop, camera and modem, and I was taught how to use the equipment by H2OO staff and teachers from school.

At SEAL my team made a short movie about the climate crisis using the tools and skills attained from attending the Summit. I was able to make my film about Climate Smart Urban Farming as a solution to the problem of the climate crisis.

Since then, I have been engaged in different speaking opportunities by H2OO starting with the Environment Change Maker’s Series, International Day of Youths, educating youth around the world about Climate Smart Urban Farming through virtual presentations, presenting at H2OO’s Youth Summit for UN Ocean Decade, and sitting on an Acterra panel with fellow Heirs. I received guidance in how to speak to my audience and how to most effectively deliver my message through a presentation.”

## ABIRAMI, Youth Leader, Washington, U.S.



“SEAL 2020 introduced me to a team of like-minded youth and to the tools necessary for creating a successful and meaningful film – which was a main goal of the workshop. My team included Serena, Cambria, and Mercy as well as my team mentors Diamond and Chloe. As a team, we decided to address a system that impacts us all enormously – the education system, with a specific focus on where

the education system falls short: educating us about the health of our planet.

As we storyboarded our film, we discussed both the lack of quality education for youth and how misinformation perpetuates. As Heirs we offered a solution which focused on project-based learning as an antidote to misinformation. My team members created their own film clips and I enjoyed bringing it all together as “master editor” to create our film which we titled “Youth Misinformed”. H2OO submits films made by youth at its Summit to film fests, and so far our film has won 3 awards. Here it is!”

To watch the video,  
please click on the image  
(right)







## H2OO Hosted 2020 Youth Summit for the United Nations Ocean Decade

2021  
2030 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

In December 2020, one month before the UN Ocean Decade would kick off, H2OO dove in to prepare youth from around the world to participate by holding the world's first UN Ocean Decade Youth Summit for the UN Ocean Decade where, regardless of final exams, approximately 120 youth from all continents came together to get ready for the Decade, recognizing that they are the greatest stakeholders to decisions made today involving their ocean, waterways and climate. This Summit prepared youth around the world to learn about the Ocean Decade and to inspire them to form youth advisory councils in their respective UN Member States. The Summit opened with words of awareness acknowledging the people of the lands upon which we sat and with inspiring words from Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. An incredible array of keynote speakers followed including inspiring and enlightening presentations by traditional leaders, scientists, policy specialists, educators and global youth leaders.

Day 2 was committed to the youth collaborating in small groups to process intersectionality and the question: What key problem must be resolved during the Decade to eliminate some of the greatest challenges humanity faces today? Their responses, shared via presentations, were on point identifying core issues. Their messages should be shared with the world.

Here you can view a handful of the impactful presentations created in international teams in just a couple of hours time.

To watch the video, please click on the image (right)



## Youth Advisory Councils

Youth today are motivated and knowledgeable and seek a seat at the table. [#YS2020UNOD](#)

H2OO established the world's first Youth Advisory Council for the UN Ocean Decade. It was formed in the U.S.

The U.S. Youth Advisory Council for the UN Ocean Decade (US YAC for UNOD) brought together youth ages 14-25 for the First Cohort established fall 2020 and running through end of 2021. The youth represented voices from around the US including occupied lands or "Territories" including Guahan/Guam, American Samoa, US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The US YAC for UNOD collaborates with the US National Committee for the UN Ocean Decade. The youth also plan to speak to policy makers in 2021 as the issues faced by the next generation during the next 10 years are increasingly existential.

Youth Advisory Councils for governing and policy-oriented bodies is imperative as (1) youth today are the greatest stakeholders in facing the challenges involving our Blue Planet's natural environment; and (2) the crises humans face at present, both caused by and exacerbated by the climate crises, have resulted in an existential crisis for youth around the world. Water, air, food, biodiversity and a climate for a safe and habitable planet — all existential requirements — are under threat. Youth today must have a voice at the table where discussions of these topics, including policy affecting management or exploitation of the Earth's natural resources vital to life, are discussed.



## Charley, California, U.S., Chair of the H2OO-Formed Youth Advisory Council to the Ocean Climate Action Plan, Chair of the Policy Committee of the Youth Advisory Council to the UN Ocean Decade, and Co-Founder H2OO



The youth leaders of Heirs To Our Oceans engage in policy advocacy through speaking to their Congresspersons, State and Federal, regarding bills that support the health and well-being of their futures. It has become, literally, seeking protection of their lifeline now at risk – the biodiversity and health of our natural environment for the next and future generations. The next generation have no choice other

Charley speaks with U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman

than to ask their elected leaders to protect them and their future children.

Charley is one of the Heirs who has been busy seeking change through policy advocacy in 2021. They organized and chaired the Youth Advisory Council to the Ocean Climate Action Plan (OCAP YAC), which was intended to be part of a comprehensive bill, and

they chaired the Policy Committee of the Youth Advisory Council to the UN Ocean Decade formed October 2020. Charley shares:

“The OCAP YAC has had an incredibly productive year. We provided comments on drafts of the OCAP document and collected feedback from youth around the world through a youth-focused webinar. Additionally we reviewed and commented on the House of Representatives Ocean Based Climate Solutions Act, adding our greatest-stakeholder perspective and urging for more advanced steps in mitigating the climate crisis.

Our generation requires more than merely some action. We need the pendulum to swing far “the other way” considering the crises my generation faces. We must have paradigm-shifting climate action. In 2021, we will be speaking to US congresspersons urging climate action, as what’s at stake for us is a safe and habitable planet.”



See more about Charley's work featured on ARTE, on Europe's prime time television

To watch the video, please click on the image (left)





## H200's RAISE Initiative

We understand that how we grow good currently creates a myriad of problems, including the climate crisis and resulting human atrocities including food insecurity and poisoned waters. And a group of Heirs are doing something about it...



## Dakota, California, U.S., Co-Chair of the RAISE Initiative (Regeneration Agriculture and Indigenous Systems for Our Environment) and Co-Founder H2OO



“Heirs To Our Ocean’s RAISE initiative – Regeneration Agriculture and Indigenous Systems for Our Environment – is an education and policy-oriented initiative that I started with my fellow Heirs in 2017. This year we took deeper steps in research to educate ourselves through science articles and interviews of experts and farmers so that we may more effectively engage with government

officials, indigenous peoples, farmers, scientists and youth from around the world. We want sustainable agricultural practices to be mandated and to become mainstream, the same practices that have been used by indigenous peoples for hundreds of years.

Traditional and indigenous agricultural practices that recognize we are a part of nature, not separate from it nor over it, is the greatest and most globally scalable solution to one of the greatest crises our generation faces – the climate crisis – affecting humans around the world in so many awful ways. We can no longer wait to take action. It’s time to act!”





We jumped right into 2020 last January with an intensive 3-day skill building workshop where youth leaders new to public speaking experienced a deep dive into speaking on a mic with an audience sharing their words, their stories, regarding human impacts on their communities and solutions. Youth leaders who were more seasoned speakers took it up a notch in building out their presentation skills including creating meaningful visual aids. The workshop was designed to serve youth at all levels of public speaking – beginning, intermediate and advanced.

At the end of the 3 days the youth participants presented on a stage not only to each other but also to Chapter Advisors and to a panel of professional evaluators.

## Heirs Retreat



We were so grateful to the professionals who volunteered their time to evaluate the youth participants providing meaningful verbal and written feedback as these youth leaders readied themselves to have their voices amplified in the world for their sake and their communities. Thank you Rita Mancera, Executive Director of Puente de la Costa Sur, Tomlinson Holman, Distinguished Engineer at Apple and creator of THX Sound, Dr. Jyothi V. Robertson, global consultant and keynote speaker, JVR Shelter Strategies, and Dr. Erika Woolsey, marine biologist and founder of The Hydrous.

While covid stopped these youth from being in-person on others stages this year, it sure didn't stop them from getting heard. We found new and different platforms in a currently virtual world. In 2021 we watched more youth shine brightly and they grew more resilient and more determined than ever.





Aired on her 15th Birthday – a virtual TedX Talk – Dakota, Co-Founder of H2OO, shares “All I Want For My Birthday Is To Kill Earth Day”. TED picked up the piece and you can see it here at Ted.com

TED ideas worth spreading



“All I Want For My Birthday Is To Kill Earth Day”

To watch the video, please click on the image (left)

## RAINA, Germany, #rebEARTHday Campaign Contributor for Earth Day 2020



“Similar to us celebrating our birthday each year, we come together to cherish our beautiful Planet on April 22nd -- Earth Day! With the intent to protect our planet, the first Earth Day was celebrated 50 years ago. In many ways this was a milestone as people became more aware of the importance of protecting our planet.

But in spite of this, the health of our

environment has steadily decreased in the last five decades. We seem to have forgotten about the other 364 days in a year which is why we need a rebEARTHday. Earth Day shouldn't be an annual celebration on which we post pictures of nature on social media. Instead it should be a daily reminder of how important the protection of our planet is. For this year's H2OO rebEARTHday campaign, youth from all over the world came together to do exactly this. We highlighted the importance of cherishing and protecting our planet everyday, we reimaged Earth Day, and made it a daily celebration and daily we take action.”

“Dear educators these are great to share with your classrooms!”

Please see the youth-made awareness-raising videos showcased here, click on the image (right)





## MIGUEL, California, U.S., Chapter Youth Leader of H2OO Pescadero CA



“My community, Pescadero, California, is a small agricultural town on the coast of Northern California. An abundance of food is grown here as so much of the land is used for agriculture. While there are some small farms that are organic in Pescadero, there are also many farms in and around Pescadero that use industrialized farming practices including chemical fertilizers.

The farmers using chemical fertilizers often don’t know the consequences their practices have on us and the ocean. The fertilizers run into the ocean causing harmful algal blooms affecting marine life and it leads to a lack of oxygen in the water creating dead zones. A serious problem we face in Pescadero due to chemical fertilizers is nitrate-poisoned drinking water as it runs into our groundwater and surface water. This is especially bad on the outskirts of town.

My classmate used to live in a home with poisoned water, so bad they couldn’t shower with the water. Our schools have not had potable drinking water for approximately 10 years. Since the community doesn’t feel safe drinking their water, it has relied for many years on water purchased in single-use plastic bottles. Plastic pollution has increased due to the situation.

H2OO  
2020

## MIGUEL, California, U.S., Chapter Youth Leader of H2OO Pescadero CA

Access to clean and healthy water should be a basic human right. For a community to not have access to potable water is not right. The problem of chemical fertilizers being used in growing food is causing communities like mine, Pescadero CA, to be without the most basic right of access to clean and healthy drinking water.

We are seeking policy change in the State of California and in US Congress this coming year, and I am raising my voice for my community doing presentations and sitting on panels.”

“Here is a recording of a panel I sat on for Acterra along with some fellow Heirs where I presented on the poisoned water in Pescadero CA.”

To watch the video, please click on the image (right)



“Here is an H2OO video highlighting my voice for my community during Hispanic Heritage Month!”

To watch the video, please click on the image (left)



## JENS, Kentucky, U.S., Chapter Youth Leader of H2OO Kentucky



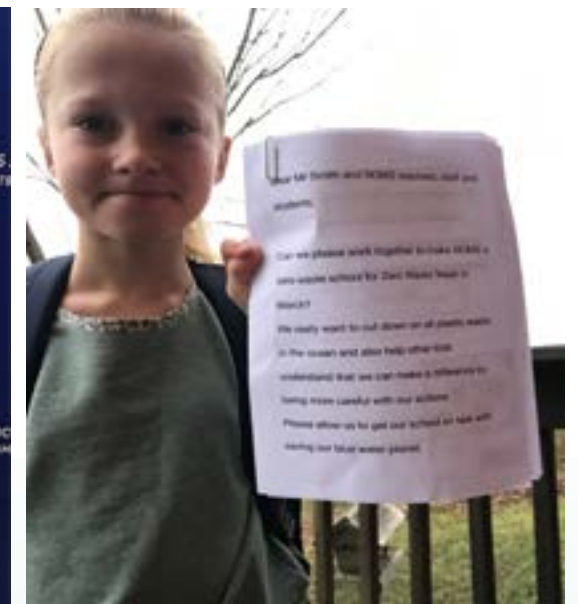
“We strive to protect the health of Kentuckians by minimizing their environmental exposure to lead, cadmium, brominated flame retardants, and other chemicals found in electronic scrap components, or “E-Waste.” So far we have seen that eliminating E-Waste in Kentucky landfills by 2022 has been a bipartisan effort, which is great news.

Representative (D) Mary Lou Marzian and Speaker of the House (R) David Osborne supported our request to form a task force that addresses E-waste in Kentucky landfills. In 2020 we extended a partnership with Ecocell and a network of schools in multiple districts through an Engineering robotics program to further our I-device drive. We recently attended the Kentucky Conservation Legislative Summit in January to draw attention to the importance of proper E-Waste disposal and support the fight against the global climate crisis. We pride ourselves in active environmentalism by engaging in biweekly creek sweeps and ask citizens to call their representatives to support local and international environmental issues. Last January, we asked citizens to show their support for Mary Lou Marzian’s Bill Request 999 which will help phase out plastic use in Kentucky.

H200  
2020

## JENS, Kentucky, U.S., Chapter Youth Leader of H2OO Kentucky

Our youngest member put on a challenge and walked 400 miles to raise awareness for the need for Climate Action and with the help of all supporters raised great financial support for victims of the recent California wildfires. This coming year 2021 will bring great change and more activism on our part in Kentucky.”



“Follow us on social media!  
Instagram: [ky\\_heirstoouroceans](https://www.instagram.com/ky_heirstoouroceans)  
and check out our website  
[kentuckyheirstoouroceans.com](https://kentuckyheirstoouroceans.com)”

Access the website click image  
(left)



## EMMETT, California, U.S., Chapter Youth Leader of Berkeley CA



“2020 has been a rough year for all of us. Despite the challenges we have faced, the Berkeley Heirs have accomplished a lot.

January 1, 2020 marked the start of the Disposable Free Dining Ordinance in Berkeley. The Heirs helped pass this groundbreaking law by collecting signatures and speaking at press conferences and city council meetings beginning in 2018.

The all encompassing law (as it includes all cutlery, containers, bags and straws) prevents single use plastic disposables from being given out by restaurants and other businesses in the first place. For 2020, we decided to study the roll out of the new law; we wanted to better understand how the citizens of Berkeley would react to this law so we divided the city into four quadrants and interviewed random people to find out what they thought. We conducted interviews before the law went into effect and planned to expand our interviews of people after. Unfortunately Covid-19 hit, the use of plastic disposables skyrocketed and human interaction became limited.

As we were working on our project (August 2019– February 2020) called Speaking Up For a Disposable Free Berkeley, we decided to enter into the Algalita Plastic Pollution Youth Summit and National

# H200 2020

## EMMETT, California, U.S., Chapter Youth Leader of Berkeley CA

Geographic Geo Challenge. We succeeded in being chosen for both! In late February, we went to the Algalita Youth Summit. We were part of 100 youth from around the world that came to share what they were doing to fight plastic pollution.

In early March, we learned that our project Speaking Up For a Disposable Free Berkeley was chosen as a semifinalist to compete in National Geographic’s Geo Challenge for Tackling Plastic Pollution at the regional level competition. Our project included researching and supporting and educating the public about Berkeley’s Disposable Free Dining Ordinance and the pilot reusable cup program, Vessel. Sadly due to Covid-19 the competition had to be cancelled. We are very proud of our accomplishment of advancing from 6,000 teams to the top 250 and definitely had our eyes set on winning at the finals in Washington DC.

Beyond these experiences, we look forward to the day when we can finally return to the streets of Berkeley and continue to raise awareness in our community, help to support a citywide reusable cup and dish program and work to move our city towards its goal of becoming a Zero Waste City.

Once the pandemic hit in March of 2020, chapter leader Jacqueline Omania moved to bring the Heirs together online in a group called Global Heirs welcoming youth from around the world. As difficult as the pandemic is, it was beautiful to have this virtual connection and to keep learning and growing together.”



## CAMBRIA, California, U.S., Co-Chair San Francisco Leadership Council



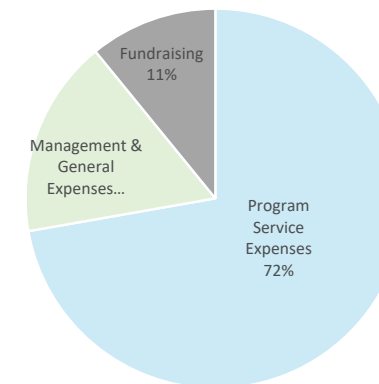
“Talking to legislators is a super important way for youth to take action to seek a safe and habitable planet for all. Even in the time of COVID-19 we are staying strong by talking to policymakers virtually! In August we talked to California lawmakers about two bills -- SB54 and AB1080 -- that sought to reduce plastic in California. Unfortunately, plastic corporations funded

arguments against the bills. Although ultimately the bills did not pass, we are committed to continuing to fight against corporations producing plastics, because plastics are a severe threat to us and future generations and the corporations profit off the illness of us and harm to our planet.

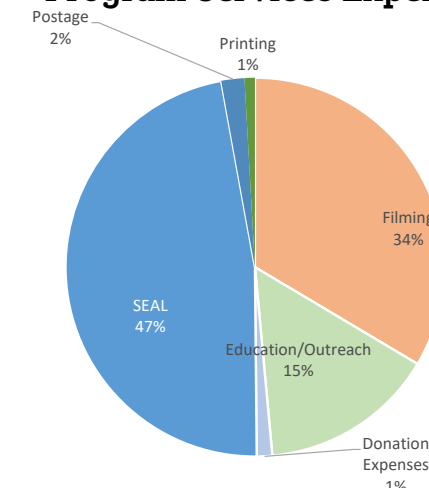
Plastics contribute to the climate crisis through its life cycle from extraction to production to incineration. It is a danger to human health and the health of our environment. The experience of talking to policymakers and leaders continues to remind me of the power youth voices have. I am grateful for all of the youth that join us and who become empowered by the experience as we continue to work toward change.”

# H200 FINANCIALS

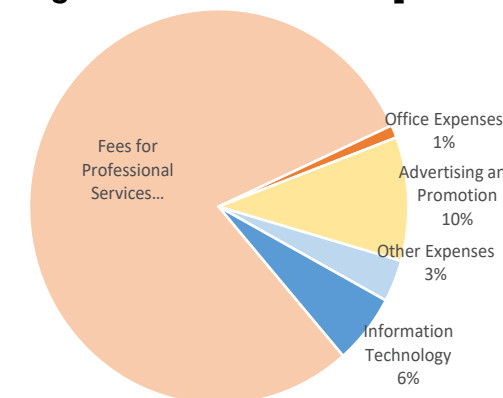
## Total Expenses



## Program Services Expenses



## Management & General Expenses



Information prepared by third-party accountant firm SD Mayer & Assoc for H200's 990 for 2020. Full 2020 990 available through the link below:

[https://project-h200-wp-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/TR\\_2020\\_Via-Senti\\_PUBLIC-DISCLOSURE-COPY-990.pdf](https://project-h200-wp-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/TR_2020_Via-Senti_PUBLIC-DISCLOSURE-COPY-990.pdf)



# HEIRS TO OUR OCEANS

DESTINATION EVERYWHERE

## H200 YOUTH NETWORK

**Australia**

**Brazil**

**Canada**

**France**

**Germany**

**Guam**

**India**

**Indonesia**

**Kenya**

**Marshall Islands**

**New Zealand**

**Nigeria**

**Palau**

**Saipan CNMI**

**Uganda**

**United States**

California

Florida

Kentucky

New York

Pennsylvania

Washington

“Where will we grow next?”



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