We strive to promote human interaction and encourage broader community access to science, education, and the arts.
Samuel Lawrence Foundation grew even closer to our volunteers, our donors, and our community in 2020. Our programs are thriving thanks to 72 generous donations and 3,561 volunteer hours from our committed network of volunteers and partners. We celebrate these wins with you.

With effort, we smoothly transitioned to virtual work and expanded our program services. We held more events than previous years, with hundreds of audience members from around the world.

This year we collaborated with twelve regional environmental groups to launch the Coalition for Nuclear Safety, held eight engaging Zoom events, and launched 11 successful advocacy campaigns. We were able to host the second annual Songs for SONGS event at The Belly Up, just before the Coronavirus struck.

Our community impact grew through virtual engagement. Over 2,655 people took action to voice their concerns about radioactive pollution. Those actions included writing formal letters, sending frequent emails to leaders, and voicing concerns on postcards. The content on our website is growing, and serves as a reference for more and more people about the emerging issues we face. We even published our first-ever radioactive waste explainer video to YouTube.

Our four chickens survived squirrel invasions, a skunk attack, and the pandemic. Their coop is now more rodent-proof than most San Diego homes, and they are happier than ever.

The seven fiscal sponsorees we support adjusted to virtual work and continued to serve their communities throughout the health crisis. Barrio Botany navigated the shift to virtual classes for garden and nutrition education, STEAM Leadership Series provided engaging Zoom content for students, and the Floating Schools of Bangladesh used their boats to deliver healthcare supplies to remote villages.

Our leadership in the community is expanding. The SLF Board of Directors grew to include more perspectives and identities. We engaged in thoughtful discussions to articulate and deepen our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We co-authored and published Congressman Levin’s San Onofre Task Force Report in June 2020. In our commitment to elevate Indigenous voices, we invited leaders from two Tribes to participate in the next iteration of the Task Force. We are always looking for ways to create more opportunity for minoritized peoples, and welcome feedback in these areas.

We do this work to protect our vibrant communities. Our core value of shared learning guides us, and together we accomplish so much. Thank you for your investment of money, time, and ideas. We look forward to pursuing our mission with you in 2021, and beyond.

In Gratitude With Good Health to All,

Bart Ziegler, PhD Community and Environmental Medicine
President and Co-Founder, Samuel Lawrence Foundation
We'd also like to recognize SLF key consultants who ensure SLF programs have the greatest reach: Liz Shear, M.A. and David Jewell (Governance and Organizational Development); Adam Kaye (Communications); Nancy Smith (Resource Development); and Lucia Palm (Accounting).
THE SLF MODEL

Behind every successful SLF project are creative ideas, persistent hope, and clear communication, which invites others to be inspired and contribute their talent. We achieve this work by connecting with our community’s knowledge and collaborating on solutions. Our collective impact among direct programs and fiscal sponsees is a testament to the power of collaboration and encouragement.

We are a small and agile team that creates space for people to volunteer their expertise and explore issues, without constraints. This type of unstructured working group allows people to get into an imaginative headspace where they can feel comfortable to dream big and solve generational problems.

Our nonconventional and flexible approach is attractive to a variety of people. SLF serves as an outlet for people in academia, industry, military, and community who seek ways to apply their knowledge in innovative and rapidly-deployed solutions. Together we create a patchwork of visionaries who otherwise would not have met or worked together. We operate as an open-source and inter-generational group that lacks any sense of hierarchy. Students, artists, retired CEOs, scientists, and fashion models join around the table to discuss solutions to pressing issues. The benefit of our partnerships is a cross-pollination of ideas that goes farther than most nonprofits.

SLF Provides Value to our Community by:

- amplifying and elevating community voices first
- developing programs with precision to best meet needs
- moving fast to respond to pressing issues
- investing in the one unique gap that makes programs and research operational
- researching, connecting to experts, and sorting information to find leverage points
- consolidating the big picture and translating technical information into accessible materials
Samuel Lawrence Foundation believes breakthrough change happens when programs work at the intersection of science, education, and the arts.

Samuel Lawrence Foundation acts as a “community engagement bridge.” We connect local, national, and international groups to move forward with bold vision and actions to address vital issues facing our world. Each program we support weaves together aspects of rigorous science, engaging education, and inspiring art, because we need all three aspects to advance learning and make better decisions.

Community expertise guides our program development. Each of our programs was developed by community leaders who identified key objectives to achieve positive change. Our programs tackle topics that are often ignored or sidelined: radioactive waste, disaster recovery, arts instruction, and recognition of social justice advocates. We are committed to identifying solutions to these needs and uplifting community leaders.

We believe that improved solutions require diverse voices and novel ways of partnering across sectors. SLF’s creativity, risk-taking, and can-do spirit are what fuel the work.
SAN ONOFRE AND BEYOND

San Onofre and Beyond supports multi-faceted collaborations to advance the best available radioactive waste storage, across the nation. Our aim is to ensure safety at San Onofre and all nuclear power plants, today and for future generations.

2,655 Individual virtual actions taken by residents.

12 Regional groups launched the Coalition for Nuclear Safety.

2 Public interest lawsuits filed to protect the spent fuel pools.

1 Congressional San Onofre Task Force Report released.

2nd annual Songs for SONGS event at the Belly Up, reached 1,500+ people.

112 Formal letters sent to California Governor Gavin Newsom and California Senate President Toni Atkins.

316 Oceanside High School students learned about nuclear waste in class.

31 News outlets covering San Onofre.

9 Video presentations.

92 Oceanside High teachers educated by their colleagues on San Onofre radioactive waste.
This year people and organizations throughout Southern California formed the Coalition for Nuclear Safety which unanimously supports a set of solutions and works together to bring positive change. Together we launched an educational video series and five successful organizing campaigns which resulted in thousands of emails to elected officials, several articles in the press, and a more engaged community.

We are a proud member of the Coalition for Nuclear Safety. The Coalition’s unanimous radioactive waste solutions include:

1. Installing the most sensitive air monitoring technology for radiation leak detection
2. Conserving the existing spent fuel pools
3. Constructing an on-site handling facility to repair and replace canisters
4. Replacing all existing thin-walled canisters with safer 10-to-19-inch thick-walled transportable casks

These solutions ensure that the material would be secure and ready for eventual off-site disposal, when available.

San Onofre Calls to Action

1. Act by sending an email in support of SLF’s public interest lawsuit.
2. Our legal challenge calls for increased environmental oversight by the California Coastal Commission at San Onofre.
3. Follow our progress and join the discussion.
DANCE CONNECTION FOR KIDS

Dance Connection for Kids, seeks to enrich the education and development of children enrolled in Head Start by teaching dance movement. The program teaches choreography, rhythm, and music appreciation during 50 of the 52 weeks of the year at three Head Start Centers in North County San Diego. Our program democratizes dance and leads to more diverse representation in dancers and instruction.

135 Students trained
6 Professional dancers modeling their shared culture through dance
3 Locations: Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Leucadia

CLIMATE RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

In 2020 we focused on the Puerto Rico electricity recovery effort. We collaborated with frontline environmental groups on the island to provide assistance in Congressional outreach and education. Our conversations with top leaders aim to advance electricity infrastructure improvements, and promote the use of FEMA funding towards rooftop solar and storage and other distributed renewable energy.

13 Congressional offices engaged.
5 Federal agencies/committees engaged.
4 National press releases.
6 Months building capacity of advocates.
Several times per year SLF recognizes inspiring individuals and groups that demonstrate leadership and enhance our communities. The Unsung Hero-ines program was launched to encourage bright minds and inspire collaboration. We believe that encouragement helps to strengthen community bonds and enhances work.

11 Social Justice SLF Hero-ines

The Center for Investigative Reporting
Reporters Without Borders
Voice of San Diego
Legal Defense of Steven Donziger
Playing for Change
Michele Grier
Eric Epstein
Harvey Wasserman
WILDCOAST
Virginia Organizing
National Independent Venue Association
FISCAL SPONSOREE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Samuel Lawrence Foundation is proud to offer our no-cost coaching and assistance to help fiscal sponsorees grow to meet community needs.

SLF knows that we get farther when we work together. That is why we incubate seven organizations that have yet to receive their nonprofit status. The leaders of these groups are members of the communities they serve, making them the best suited to deliver services. Their community relationships and cultural understanding place these organizations on a path to success.

The relationships are long-term and ensure continuity of program impact and professional development of the program directors. Our engagement with their programs helps us to better understand the region. We provide meaningful coaching and structure that helps them focus on program delivery. Serving as a resource in this capacity helps us to better achieve our mission and amplify community leaders.

STEAM Leadership Series
Program Director: Steve Chapple

STEAM Leadership Series brings high-tech science to San Diego Unified high school students through engaging events. The program connects students with leading science professionals who deliver a lecture and career advice from the podium at top research institutions. Students hear from diverse speakers that inspire them to pursue their dreams and provide them with the knowledge on where to start.

*1st “Biodiversity and You at the San Diego Zoo.” Successfully launched STEAM ZOOM virtual series.*

2,000 SDUSD students reached virtually.
Barrio Botany
Program Director: Christina Abuelo
Barrio Botany provides urban San Diego school students with garden-based experiential learning opportunities that improve academic achievement, enhance environmental literacy, and inspire lifelong health and wellness. Our vision is of empowered, capable students taking the lead in transforming polluted, economically depressed neighborhoods into vibrant communities that nurture thriving families.

1,000 Students benefited from our virtual learning strategy.

$100,000 of funding secured for garden education.

1,000 Volunteer hours worked.

1 School garden built and 1 upgraded.

Dually Noted
Program Director: Rebecca Matayoshi
Dually Noted connects people to classical music by sharing a meaningful meal during home concerts. Our aim is to support local chefs and talented musicians, and attract more people to the beauty of classical music. Our name stems from the phrase “duly noted,” meaning “appropriately acknowledged.” The dual components of the series, music and food, are intrinsically linked.

8 Additional spaces for free tickets.

1st Jazz ensemble chamber program.

2 New featured artists to the series.

Expanded host venues.
Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha
Program Director: Mohammed Rezwan

Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha, also known as the Floating Schools of Bangladesh, operates solar-powered school boats which serve as both a school bus and classroom in flood-prone Bangladesh. The program serves students year-round and prevents interruption in education from the monsoon season in the Pabna and Natore districts in Bangladesh.

18 Villages served. 180 Students educated. 1 Hub for community education.

Social Justice in Uniontown, Alabama
Program Directors: Esther Calhoun and Portia Shepherd

The social justice program in Uniontown, Alabama explores holistic, culturally relevant solutions to environmental problems the community faces. With research and support from air pollution scientists and legal experts, the residents of Uniontown fight for justice and their community vision. Our partnership with community leaders and students catalyzes advocacy efforts and broadens community impact.

3 Computers granted to deserving students. 2 Educational videos created by students. Convened student group, “Future Leaders of the Black Belt.” Partnered with BlackBelt Women Rising, an Alabama nonprofit.
TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition
Program Directors: Dario and Sabine Schwoerer

TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition is the first expedition to traverse the seven seas and reach the highest peaks on each of the seven continents. We inspire youth to save our planet by sharing innovative solutions to protect our planet when we speak with local communities in remote regions.

5,000 People attended educational sessions.
3,000 Kilograms plastic collected.
5,000 Nautical miles sailed.
100,000 Altimeters climbed.

Indian Point Nuclear Advocacy
Program Director: Steve Kent

Steve Kent’s advocacy on Indian Point educates and addresses the vulnerability of the nuclear reactors outside of New York City. Steve works with environmental, health, and public policy experts who aim to plan for safe closure and decommissioning of nuclear power plants.

300 People attended a Congressional briefing we organized on pending nuclear waste legislation.

1st Decommissioning Oversight Board created in New York.

185 Officials, journalists, and activists attended a northeast regional forum on nuclear decommissioning.

Photo by TOPtoTOP
Photo by Google
The SLF board and staff stayed the course in 2020, and the community responded in-kind. Thank you to everyone who generously gifted time and money to keep programs running. Your contributions made all the difference this year.

In our year-end campaign we raised $84,071 from 72 individual donations. An incredible 57% of these donors were new to the Samuel Lawrence Foundation. The message of connecting the community through science, education, and the arts is catching on. Thank you for joining the movement.

Your generosity allowed us to lead the organization through San Onofre programming without missing a beat. Thanks to your help, we exceeded our year-end fundraising goal and we’re strengthening our grassroots advocacy. The dollars stretched far in 2020 as we transitioned programs virtually and were even more efficient with our use of resources. Our cash balance is allocated to program deliverables, and we have worked to grow our reserves.

### 2020 FINANCIALS

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SLF In-Kind Support (salaries) $112,846.00
GRATITUDE FOR DONORS AND PARTNERS

Thank you, donors. Your contributions of time, money, and ideas inspire our work. With your gift in 2020, you helped us weather a challenging year in service to our community.

Donors

Organizations:

- Autodesk Foundation
- Actions@EBMF
- The Blynn DA Fund
- Climate Action Campaign
- Family Unity Fund
- Farrell Family Foundation
- Futures Unbound (formerly Moxie Foundation)
- Fyfe Family Charitable Fund
- Hotto Charitable Fund
- Jewish Community Foundation
- Opper Sports Inc
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- The San Diego Foundation
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- Smart & Final Charitable Fund
- Szekely Family Foundation
- University Professional & Technical Employees
- The Westreich Foundation

Individuals:

- Adam Schneider
- Alexis Dixon
- Alice Liu
- Alice McNally
- Allie Duchnak
- Amanda Palucki
- Anonymous (36 gifts)
- Ariana Criste
- Bart Ziegler
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- Tyrone Vonberg
- Vicki Sylvester
- Wendy Wheatcroft
- William Wellhouse
Partners
We are grateful to our partners. Each of you generously assist SLF direct programs and fiscal sponsors in meeting their mission. Together we make up a strong contingent of organizations working on behalf of the common good.

American Indian Movement
Belly Up
Cape Downwinders
Comité Diálogo Ambiental
Corazón de Torta
Diabetes Research Connection
Dr. Bronner’s
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
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Wildlife Alliance
Save SanO
Scrojo
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Slow Food Urban San Diego
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Twelve Senses Retreat
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University of Maryland
USS Midway Museum, Yale University

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info@samuellawrencefoundation.org

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