

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-0047

Form 990

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

2023

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.

Open to Public Inspection

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

A For the 2023 calendar year, or tax year beginning, and ending

B Check if applicable: C Name of organization THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT D Employer identification number 81-2276219 E Telephone number 877-942-5399 G Gross receipts \$ 1,763,204

F Name and address of principal officer: LORI MARINO PHD 700 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. SE, SUITE 200 WASHINGTON DC 20003 H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? H(b) Are all subordinates included?

I Tax-exempt status: X 501(c)(3) Website: WHALESANCTUARYPROJECT.ORG H(c) Group exemption number

K Form of organization: X Corporation L Year of formation: 2016 M State of legal domicile: DC

Part I Summary

Table with 3 columns: Description, Prior Year, Current Year. Rows include: 1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: SEE SCHEDULE O; 2-6 Governance and Activities; 7a-b Revenue; 8-12 Revenue; 13-19 Expenses; 20-22 Net Assets or Fund Balances.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here: Signature of officer LORI MARINO PHD, PRESIDENT AND CHAIR. Date.

Paid Preparer Use Only: Print/Type preparer's name NYKOLE TROTTI, CPA; Preparer's signature; Date 08/14/24; Check self-employed; PTIN P00298937; Firm's name BERTI SPECHLER SARMIENTO MCKAY & CO. LLP; Firm's EIN 77-0048636; Firm's address SANTA BARBARA, CA 93109-1591; Phone no. 805-963-0571

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions X Yes No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission:

SEE SCHEDULE O

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?

Yes No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?

Yes No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ **806,460** including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

SEE SCHEDULE O

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ **125,163** including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

SEE SCHEDULE O

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

N/A

4d Other program services (Describe on Schedule O.)

(Expenses \$ **850,000** including grants of \$ **850,000**) (Revenue \$)

4e Total program service expenses **1,781,623**

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

		Yes	No
1	Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A	X	
2	Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors? See instructions	X	
3	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I		X
4	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II		X
5	Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Rev. Proc. 98-19? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III		X
6	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I		X
7	Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II		X
8	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III		X
9	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV		X
10	Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in donor-restricted endowments or in quasi-endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V		X
11	If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X, as applicable.		
a	Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI	X	
b	Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII		X
c	Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII		X
d	Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX		X
e	Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	X	
f	Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X		X
12a	Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII		X
b	Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional		X
13	Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E		X
14a	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		X
b	Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV		X
15	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV		X
16	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV		X
17	Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I. See instructions		X
18	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II		X
19	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III		X
20a	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H		X
b	If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
21	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II	X	

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

		Yes	No
22	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>		X
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>		X
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a</i>		X
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		
c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		
25a	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		X
b	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		X
26	Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5 or 22, for receivables from or payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i>		X
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity (including an employee thereof) or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>		X
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties? (See the Schedule L, Part IV, instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions).		
a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, or substantial contributor? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
b	A family member of any individual described in line 28a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
c	A 35% controlled entity of one or more individuals and/or organizations described in line 28a or 28b? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in noncash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		X
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		X
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>		X
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>		X
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>		X
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1</i>		X
35a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		X
b	If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		
36	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		X
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>		X
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations on Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note: All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O.	X	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable		
1b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included on line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable		
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	X	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance <i>(continued)</i>		Yes	No
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return	2a	3
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns?	2b	X
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	3a	X
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? <i>If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation on Schedule O</i>	3b	
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	4a	X
b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country See instructions for filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).		
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a	X
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b	X
c	If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?	5c	
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions?	6a	X
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b	
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).		
a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7a	
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b	
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c	
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year	7d	
e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7e	
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	7f	
g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7g	
h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?	7h	
8	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds. Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8	
9	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.		
a	Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a	
b	Did the sponsoring organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	9b	
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12	10a	
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities	10b	
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter:		
a	Gross income from members or shareholders	11a	
b	Gross income from other sources. (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)	11b	
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a	
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year	12b	
13	Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.		
a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? Note: See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.	13a	
b	Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans	13b	
c	Enter the amount of reserves on hand	13c	
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?	14a	X
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? <i>If "No," provide an explanation on Schedule O</i>	14b	
15	Is the organization subject to the section 4960 tax on payment(s) of more than \$1,000,000 in remuneration or excess parachute payment(s) during the year? If "Yes," see instructions and file Form 4720, Schedule N.	15	X
16	Is the organization an educational institution subject to the section 4968 excise tax on net investment income? If "Yes," complete Form 4720, Schedule O.	16	X
17	Section 501(c)(21) organizations. Did the trust, any disqualified or other person engage in any activities that would result in the imposition of an excise tax under section 4951, 4952 or 4953? If "Yes," complete Form 6069.	17	

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes on Schedule O. See instructions. Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain on Schedule O.	4	
b	Enter the number of voting members included on line 1a, above, who are independent	2	
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		X
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		X
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?		X
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?		X
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?		X
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?		X
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?		X
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
a	The governing body?	X	
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	X	
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses on Schedule O		X

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?		X
b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?		
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	X	
b	Describe on Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	X	
b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	X	
c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe on Schedule O how this was done	X	
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	X	
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	X	
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	X	
b	Other officers or key employees of the organization If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process on Schedule O. See instructions.		X
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		X
b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?		

Section C. Disclosure

- 17** List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed **NONE**
- 18** Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (1024 or 1024-A, if applicable), 990, and 990-T (section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.
 Own website Another's website Upon request Other (explain on Schedule O)
- 19** Describe on Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.
- 20** State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records.

DAVID ARTHURS, CFO
SANTA BARBARA

101 E. VICTORIA

CA 93101

805-845-7575

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee, or key employee) who received reportable compensation (box 5 of Form W-2, box 6 of Form 1099-MISC, and/or box 1 of Form 1099-NEC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations. See the instructions for the order in which to list the persons above.

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) LORI MARINO PHD PRESIDENT AND CHAIR	40.00 0.00	X		X			72,000	0	0	
(2) CHARLES VINICK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	40.00 0.00	X		X			52,500	0	0	
(3) MATT MARAYNES DEPUTY DIRECTOR	40.00 0.00			X			50,000	0	0	
(4) DAVID PHILLIPS TREASURE	1.00 0.00	X		X			0	0	0	
(5) DR NAOMI ROSE DIRECTOR	1.00 0.00	X		X			0	0	0	
(6)										
(7)										
(8)										
(9)										
(10)										
(11)										

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/ 1099-MISC/ 1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/ 1099-MISC/ 1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(12)										
(13)										
(14)										
(15)										
(16)										
(17)										
(18)										
(19)										
1b Subtotal							174,500			
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A										
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)							174,500			

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization **0**

	Yes	No
3 Did the organization list any former officer, director, trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		X
4 For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		X
5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>		X

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization **0**

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

		(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a Federated campaigns	1a				
	b Membership dues	1b				
	c Fundraising events	1c				
	d Related organizations	1d				
	e Government grants (contributions)	1e				
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	1,761,963			
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f	1g \$				
	h Total. Add lines 1a-1f		1,761,963			
	Program Service Revenue	2a	Business Code			
b						
c						
d						
e						
f All other program service revenue						
g Total. Add lines 2a-2f						
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		1,241	-156	1,397	
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds					
	5 Royalties					
	6a Gross rents	6a	(i) Real			
			(ii) Personal			
	b Less: rental expenses	6b				
	c Rental inc. or (loss)	6c				
	d Net rental income or (loss)					
	7a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	7a	(i) Securities			
			(ii) Other			
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales exps.	7b				
	c Gain or (loss)	7c				
	d Net gain or (loss)					
8a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	8a					
b Less: direct expenses	8b					
c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events						
9a Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	9a					
b Less: direct expenses	9b					
c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities						
10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	10a					
b Less: cost of goods sold	10b					
c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory						
Miscellaneous Revenue	11a	Business Code				
	b					
	c					
	d All other revenue					
	e Total. Add lines 11a-11d					
12 Total revenue. See instructions		1,763,204	0	-156	1,397	

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21	850,000	850,000		
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	174,500	128,200	13,850	32,450
6 Compensation not included above to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages				
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)				
9 Other employee benefits				
10 Payroll taxes	13,817	9,432	1,750	2,635
11 Fees for services (nonemployees):				
a Management				
b Legal	17,775	4,865	12,910	
c Accounting	28,259		28,259	
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O.)	420,698	405,054	3,044	12,600
12 Advertising and promotion	61,763	59,454		2,309
13 Office expenses	5,647	658	3,192	1,797
14 Information technology				
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy				
17 Travel	77,829	77,784		45
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings				
20 Interest	4,030		4,030	
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization				
23 Insurance	1,839		1,839	
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (List miscellaneous expenses on line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a VETERINARY SCIENCE - 510	159,789	159,789		
b FIELD OPERATIONS - 570	74,430	74,430		
c DVLPMT MATERIALS - 530	7,513			7,513
d MEALS & ENTERTAINMENT	6,252	6,157		95
e All other expenses	11,304	5,800	3,727	1,777
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	1,915,445	1,781,623	72,601	61,221
26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	667,197	1	870,921
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	1,254,463	2	866,933
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net		3	
	4 Accounts receivable, net		4	
	5 Loans and other receivables from any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		5	
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		9	416
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a 92,989		
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	10b 92,989	10c	
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities		11	
	12 Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11		12	
	13 Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11		13	
	14 Intangible assets		14	
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11		15	
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 33)		1,921,660	16	1,738,270
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	79,672	17	48,523
	18 Grants payable		18	
	19 Deferred revenue		19	
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22 Loans and other payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		23	
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		24	
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D	144,544	25	144,544
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	224,216	26	193,067
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow FASB ASC 958, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27, 28, 32, and 33.			
	27 Net assets without donor restrictions	1,697,444	27	1,545,203
	28 Net assets with donor restrictions		28	
	Organizations that do not follow FASB ASC 958, check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 29 through 33.			
	29 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		29	
	30 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		30	
	31 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		31	
32 Total net assets or fund balances	1,697,444	32	1,545,203	
33 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	1,921,660	33	1,738,270	

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	1,763,204
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	1,915,445
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	-152,241
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 32, column (A))	4	1,697,444
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain on Schedule O)	9	
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 32, column (B))	10	1,545,203

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain on Schedule O.		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both. <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		X
2b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both. <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		X
2c	If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain on Schedule O.		
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Uniform Guidance, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F?		X
3b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why on Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2023

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization

THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT

Employer identification number

81-2276219

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status. (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 12, check only one box.)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).**
- 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).** (Attach Schedule E (Form 990).)
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).**
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** Enter the hospital's name, city, and state:
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).** (Complete Part II.)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).**
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 9 An agricultural research organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land-grant college of agriculture (see instructions). Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university:
- 10 An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions, subject to certain exceptions; and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2).** (Complete Part III.)
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4).**
- 12 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2).** See **section 509(a)(3).** Check the box on lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g.
 - a **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
 - b **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
 - c **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
 - d **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
 - e Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
 - f Enter the number of supported organizations
 - g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
(A)						
(B)						
(C)						
(D)						
(E)						
Total						

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2019	(b) 2020	(c) 2021	(d) 2022	(e) 2023	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	1,052,310	464,517	1,540,241	1,925,191	1,761,963	6,744,222
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	1,052,310	464,517	1,540,241	1,925,191	1,761,963	6,744,222
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						6,744,222

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2019	(b) 2020	(c) 2021	(d) 2022	(e) 2023	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	1,052,310	464,517	1,540,241	1,925,191	1,761,963	6,744,222
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources						
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on				189	241	430
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						6,744,652

12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions) 12

13 First 5 years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here**

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2023 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f)) 14 %

15 Public support percentage from 2022 Schedule A, Part II, line 14 15 %

16a 33 1/3% support test — 2023. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b 33 1/3% support test — 2022. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test — 2023. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test — 2022. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions

**SCHEDULE I
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

**Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations,
Governments, and Individuals in the United States**
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.
Attach to Form 990.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2023

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT

Employer identification number

81-2276219

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

- 1 Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? Yes No
- 2 Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States.

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1	(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section (if applicable)	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of noncash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
(1)	FRIENDS OF TOKI N/A N/A FL 33041			850,000				
(2)								
(3)								
(4)								
(5)								
(6)								
(7)								
(8)								
(9)								

- 2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table
- 3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2023

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT

Employer identification number

81-2276219

FORM 990 - ORGANIZATION'S MISSION OR MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

**TO ESTABLISH A MODEL SEASIDE SANCTUARY WHERE CETACEANS (WHALES AND
DOLPHINS) CAN BE REHABILITATED OR CAN LIVE PERMANENTLY IN AN
ENVIRONMENT THAT MAXIMIZES WELL-BEING AND AUTONOMY AND IS AS CLOSE AS
POSSIBLE TO THEIR NATURAL HABITAT.**

FORM 990 - ORGANIZATION'S MISSION

**TO ESTABLISH A MODEL SEASIDE SANCTUARY WHERE CETACEANS (WHALES AND
DOLPHINS) CAN BE REHABILITATED OR CAN LIVE PERMANENTLY IN AN
ENVIRONMENT THAT MAXIMIZES WELL-BEING AND AUTONOMY AND IS AS CLOSE AS
POSSIBLE TO THEIR NATURAL HABITAT.**

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4A - FIRST ACCOMPLISHMENT

**PROGRESS AT THE SANCTUARY SITE: COMPLETION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES; BAY
PEN DESIGN; FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT.**

**STUDIES ON LAND, SEABED AND WATER: WE COMPLETED THREE YEARS OF
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ON LAND, WATER, AND THE SUBMERGED SOIL AT THE
SANCTUARY SITE. THESE STUDIES ARE REQUIRED TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION AT THE
SITE, OF BOTH THE LAND-BASED FACILITIES AND OF THE BAY PEN AND PERIMETER
NET. THEY ARE ALSO ESSENTIAL TO CONFIRM THAT THE SITE WILL PROVIDE A SAFE
AND HEALTHY HABITAT FOR ITS FUTURE WHALE RESIDENTS.**

**WE CONTRACTED AN INDUSTRY LEADER IN THE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF HDPE
FLOATING STRUCTURES AND NETTING SOLUTIONS TO BEGIN DESIGN AND FABRICATION**

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT

81-2276219

OF THE LARGE BAY PEN. THE BAY PEN IS A KEY ELEMENT IN OUR ACCELERATED PLAN DESIGNED TO WELCOME WHALES PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE FULL SANCTUARY.

FIRST NATIONS CONSULTATION & RELATIONS: THE SANCTUARY IS LOCATED IN THE ANCESTRAL AND UNCEDED TERRITORY OF THE MI'KMAQ PEOPLE AND WE CONTINUED OUR PART IN THE NATION-TO-NATION CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT. FORMAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ABOUT THE SANCTUARY PROJECT WAS INITIATED BY THE NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT AT THE END OF 2021, AND WE GREATLY APPRECIATED THE COOPERATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF MI'KMAQ ELDERS AND AUTHORITIES THROUGHOUT 2022 & 2023 AS THEY CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS.

FOLLOWING FIRST NATION CONSULTATION REVIEW OF OUR SITE ASSESSMENT WORK AND THE REQUIRED ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCE IMPACTS ASSESSMENT, THE NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RENEWABLES ISSUED THE LETTER OF AUTHORITY. THE MI'KMAQ ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE INDEPENDENT MI'KMAQ APPROVED TRIBAL CONSULTANT HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO TRIBAL LEADERSHIP. ADDITIONALLY, WE BEGAN COORDINATING OBTAINING A FORMAL LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM MI'KMAQ TRIBAL LEADERS, ADDRESSED TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND TO BE DELIVERED IN 2024.

ACCELERATED PLANNING FOR URGENT WHALES:

TO MEET THE URGENT NEED OF TWO CAPTIVE ORCAS HELD AT A FRENCH MARINE PARK, WE DEVELOPED AN ACCELERATED PLAN DESIGNED TO MAKE THE SITE READY TO RECEIVE WHALES BEFORE FULL CONSTRUCTION OF LAND-SIDE FACILITIES AND THE SITE'S PERIMETER NET HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT

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THE BAY PEN WILL ALWAYS BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SANCTUARY, SERVING AS AN INITIAL SPACE FOR OTHER NEW ARRIVALS, WHERE THEY CAN BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE TIDES AND FLOWS OF THE OCEAN AND WHERE WE CAN HAVE THEM UNDER CLOSE OBSERVATION BEFORE RELEASING THEM INTO THE FULL AREA OF THE SANCTUARY.

DIPLOMACY: IN TANDEM WITH A FRENCH NGO, WE WORKED EXTENSIVELY TO PRESENT THE SANCTUARY WE ARE ESTABLISHING IN NOVA SCOTIA AS A SOLUTION FOR THE TWO SURVIVING ORCAS WHO ARE BEING HELD IN CAPTIVITY AT A FRENCH MARINE PARK. A NEW FRENCH LAW DICTATES THAT CETACEANS CAN NO LONGER BE HELD IN CAPTIVITY FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES AND THE MARINE PARK MUST RELOCATE THE WHALES BY 2026. THE WHALES HAVE BEEN SLATED TO BE SENT TO A JAPANESE AQUARIUM, WHICH CAUSED A PUBLIC OUTCRY IN FRANCE BECAUSE SUCH A MOVE IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE RECENT FRENCH LAW. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR THE WHALES AND WE INITIATED CONVERSATIONS TO PRESENT OUR SANCTUARY AS A POTENTIAL HOME FOR THE WHALES.

CAPACITY BUILDING: TO BUILD OUR TEAM'S CAPACITY DURING THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE, WE HIRED A FULL-TIME, USA-BASED DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND A FULL-TIME NOVA SCOTIA-BASED PROJECT MANAGER. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON FUNDRAISING, OPERATIONS, STRATEGY AND COMMUNICATIONS. THE PROJECT MANAGER HELPS OVERSEE ALL WORK DONE AT THE SITE, MANAGES RELATIONS WITH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, AND ASSISTS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS.

WHALE AID TOKITAE, OUR 2023 WHALE AID PROGRAM:

IN 2023, WE CONTINUED OUR WORK IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW NON-PROFIT

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THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT

81-2276219

ORGANIZATION FRIENDS OF TOKI IN ITS EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE ORCA TOKITAE (BETTER KNOWN BY HER "STAGE" NAME LOLITA) AND RELOCATE HER TO HER NATAL WATERS IN WASHINGTON STATE.

IN MAY 2022 (AS REPORTED IN OUR FORM 990 FOR 2022) THE MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THE NEW OWNERS OF THE MIAMI SEAQUARIUM, AND THE NEW NON-PROFIT "FRIENDS OF TOKI" HAD ANNOUNCED AN AGREEMENT BY WHICH A TEAM OF INDEPENDENT VETERINARIANS WOULD CONDUCT COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATIONS OF THE ORCA TOKITAE AND PUBLICLY REPORT ON HER PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. HER HEALTH PERMITTING, TOKI MIGHT THEN BE RELOCATED TO AN OCEAN HABITAT IN THE SALISH SEA, FROM WHICH SHE HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN 1970.

IN 2023, MEMBERS OF THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT TEAM, INCLUDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHARLES VINICK, BUILT UPON OUR EARLIER WORK WITH SACRED LANDS CONSERVANCY, AN INDIGENOUS-LED NON-PROFIT IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF TOKITAE. MEMBERS OF THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT TEAM PROVIDED ADVICE AND EXPERTISE TO FRIENDS OF TOKI AND TO STAFF AT THE MIAMI SEAQUARIUM AS THEY PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN. CHARLES VINICK ALSO SERVED AS A VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBER OF FRIENDS OF TOKI AND LATER AS ITS DIRECTOR.

FUNDING FOR THIS WORK, INCLUDING STAFF TIME FOR MEMBERS OF THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT, WAS INITIATED BY DONATIONS TO WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT BY FRIENDS OF TOKI'S CO-FOUNDER, ENVIRONMENTALIST PRITAM SINGH.

PRIOR TO FRIENDS OF TOKI'S ESTABLISHMENT AS A 501(C)(3) CHARITY, THE WHALE

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT

81-2276219

SANCTUARY PROJECT SERVED AS A FISCAL SPONSOR FOR FRIENDS OF TOKI, RECEIVING A \$1,000,000 DONATION FROM AN ANGEL DONOR ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS OF TOKI. INITIAL EXPENSES FOR TOKI WERE COVERED UNDER OUR WHALE AID PROGRAM AND THE REMAINING FUNDS OF \$850,000 WERE DISTRIBUTED TO FRIENDS OF TOKI UPON THE ORGANIZATION'S LEGAL ESTABLISHMENT.

IN ADDITION TO THE EXPENSES ABOVE THERE WERE DONATED SERVICES OF \$19,881.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4B - SECOND ACCOMPLISHMENT

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ESTABLISHED FOR AUTHENTIC SANCTUARIES: IN A PIONEERING COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM AND SEA LIFE TRUST, WE ESTABLISHED A SET OF ACCREDITATION STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR WHALE AND DOLPHIN SANCTUARIES. THESE STANDARDS WERE ADOPTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE GLOBAL FEDERATION OF ANIMAL SANCTUARIES. THE NEW STANDARDS PROVIDE THE ANSWER TO A CRITICALLY IMPORTANT QUESTION: WHAT CONSTITUTES AN AUTHENTIC SANCTUARY?

COMMUNITY EVENTS IN NOVA SCOTIA: WE HOSTED AND/OR PARTICIPATED IN ELEVEN MAJOR COMMUNITY EVENTS THROUGHOUT NOVA SCOTIA, INCLUDING TWO CONCURRENT OCEAN DAY EVENTS. IN THE PROCESS, WE LOGGED OVER 1,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS IN SUPPORT OF THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN: AT SCHULER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN HASLET, TEXAS, THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT'S 'WILD FOR WHALES' CURRICULUM WAS IMPLEMENTED IN SIX FOURTH GRADE CLASS ROOMS (120 STUDENTS). FOURTH

Name of the organization

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THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT

81-2276219

GRADE STUDENTS ALSO WORKED ON VARIOUS PROJECTS OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR IN SUPPORT OF THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT, INCLUDING A PRESENTATION TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS; A VIDEO COLLABORATION WITH STUDENTS IN CANADA, SCOTLAND, ARKANSAS, AND TEXAS; AND A POETRY READING AND A FUNDRAISER.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4D - ALL OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DONATION TO FRIENDS OF TOKI

FORM 990, PART VI, LINE 11B - ORGANIZATION'S PROCESS TO REVIEW FORM 990 THE FORM 990 IS PREPARED BY AN OUTSIDE CPA, SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT, AND REVIEWED BY THE BOARD PRIOR TO SUBMISSION.

FORM 990, PART VI, LINE 12C - ENFORCEMENT OF CONFLICTS POLICY

BOARD MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AS THEY OCCUR; THROUGH THE BOARD'S SMALL SIZE AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS, ANY SUCH CONFLICTS ARE QUICKLY RECOGNIZED AND RESOLVED.

FORM 990, PART VI, LINE 15A - COMPENSATION PROCESS FOR TOP OFFICIAL

COMPENSATION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ARE BASED ON REVIEW OF COMPARABLE DATA AND CONTEMPORANEOUS SUBSTANTIATION OF THE DELIBERATION AND DECISION.

FORM 990, PART VI, LINE 19 - GOVERNING DOCUMENTS DISCLOSURE EXPLANATION

THE ORGANIZATION MAKES ITS GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST.

FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 11G - OTHER FEES FOR SERVICES

Name of the organization

Employer identification number

THE WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT

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DESCRIPTION

TOT/PROG SERVICE

MGT & GENERAL

FUNDRAISING

CONSULTING - OTHER

\$ 405,054

\$ 0

\$ 12,600

PAYROLL SERVICE FEES

\$ 0

\$ 3,044

\$ 0

TOTAL

\$ 405,054

\$ 3,044

\$ 12,600