2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT
The ABX Annual Report reflects this past year’s highlights, financial and operational status, as well as looking ahead in the new year. On behalf of the ABX board of directors, we thank you for your continued support of our mission “Enriching Student Learning One Field Trip at a Time to the Arts and Sciences With or Without the Bus.” Our vision is to expose young people to a world of possibilities for themselves and all that they touch.

We fund arts and science field trip learning for thousands of public and charter K-12 students in San Diego County. This connects teachers and students to over 100 San Diego venues including museums, theaters, symphonies, discovery centers, botanical gardens, fish and animal habitats and research centers. In doing so, we bring life-changing moments to students.

While the pandemic was difficult for our administrators, teachers and students to engage in face-to-face educational experiences, we discovered the benefits of adding virtual STEAM based content as a key component for future field trip opportunities. “It's ABout the Xperience!”

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Pivoted our mission statement to deliver **Virtual Field Trip Xperiences (VFTX)** *without* the bus during the pandemic.
- Funded venue educators, presenters and experts from 12 venues to deliver live, interactive and personal field trips via a virtual platform to 6,500 K-12 students.
- Created the **Pre-Paid Field Trip Program** with the help of Mueller Charter School to guarantee all of their teachers received a VFTX.
- Executed the most successful “Giving Tuesday” online funding event in our history resulting in $30,000 in private donations.
- Expanded our listing to include 16 venues with 65 VFTX.
- Teachers rated the new VFTX program 4.8 out of 5, with 5 being excellent.
- Teachers and venues overwhelmingly requested keeping virtual field trip options available, even when the buses start rolling again.

“It all went so well! The virtual format worked better in some ways - allowing us to meet more people when we couldn't see the actual space. If we could do a combination of the two, I think that would be incredible!”

L. Libby, Mueller Charter School – Bayfront High School
The illustration above demonstrates the financial performance over the last 5 years. Since 2017, we have doubled our annual fundraising results. In March 2020, schools closed and 35 funded field trips were cancelled. Fundraising came to a halt resulting in only $54,950 for FY2020, a decrease from the prior year. We bounced back in FY2021 by focusing on bringing the Virtual Field Trip Xperience to the classroom and homes via distance learning on a virtual platform. We worked with a select group of arts and science venues to create live, interactive, personal, and unique STEAM based learnings for K-12 students. We increased our field trip funding by 29% to accommodate the increase in teacher requests year-over-year (Y0Y).

With our all-volunteer board of directors continuing to provide passion and dedication, operational expenses increased by only 7% over the last two years.

Unlike bus field trips where an average of 48 students could enjoy a visit to a venue, virtual field trips required us to lower the number of students per session to ensure the quality of the experience. The cost was $10 per student this past year compared to $6 per student on a bus field trip in prior years.

While our goal is to spread our own funding dollars across all 42 school districts, Mueller Charter School located in Chula Vista approached us to guarantee every one of their teachers had a “Pre-Paid Field Trip Xperience”. They provided us with part of their federal stimulus funding, which became a new source of funding for ABX. This added $24,500 to our fundraising results in FY2021.

Total Field Trip Funding increased 29% year-over-year (Y0Y) from $38,000 to $48,883.
OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE:

Our online teacher application and website is a one-stop shop web portal for teachers to select their on-site or virtual field trip and apply for funding. We manage all invoicing and payments to presenters and to bus transportation companies to lessen the teacher’s workload in arranging field trips.

Operational results included:

- Approved 30% more applications, from 124 to 161 YOY.
- Increased field trips by 10% from 196 to 216 YOY.
- Lowered average class size per field trip from 48 with the bus to 30 without the bus.
- Funded field trips in 20 of the 42 school districts eligible for funding.
- Served 98 schools across 20 districts.
- Served 53 Title 1 schools which was 71% of our total students participating in our program.

“We had the privilege of building more spectacular childhood memories yesterday at Birch Aquarium. Thanks to a generous donor and a grant from ArtsBusXpress, one hundred of us experienced the splash of tide pools, the wonders of underwater creatures and the joy of being together. The day could not have been more gorgeous as we learned, explored and enjoyed the scenes on the beautiful La Jolla coast.” - San Diego Refugee Tutoring School.
LOOKING AHEAD!

We established five critical goals for FY2022:

- Send 10,000 students on a life-changing experience through field trips to the arts and science venues with or without the bus.
- Hire a part-time administrator and executive director to ensure our long-term sustainability.
- Update our website and online teacher application to provide both on-site and virtual field trip options.
- Pursue critical grant opportunities to fund our staff and program requirements.
- Continue focus on strengthening our venue, teacher and donor relationships.
- Expand our Pre-Paid Field Trip Program to all school districts.

As of today (September 28, 2021), we have accomplished the following:

- Updated the ABX website and online teacher application to offer both on-site and virtual field trips.
- Received a significant grant from the Parker Foundation to support our sustainability objectives.
- Hired a part-time program administrator.

We are delighted to welcome Patty Bowman as our program administrator. She is a former administrator from a local museum. Patty brings strong experience working with K-12 schools and helping teachers and students realize the educational benefits of field trip learning.

Please visit us on our website at artsbusxpress.org to learn more!

Respectfully submitted,

ABX Board of Directors and Staff:

Patty Smith, Co-Founder
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