In fiscal year ending April 2018, we continued to see positive growth by raising more than $287,000, an increase of 48% over 2017 income levels. We also received more than $60,000 of in-kind donations.
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The 15th Anniversary of the International Ocean Film Festival proved to be an amazing opportunity for patrons of all ages to celebrate the ocean. With more than 150 film submissions it was a banner year for the IOFF.

Our festival season kicked off with our signature Off the Reef Gala where we honored director Louis Psihoyos as our 2018 Ocean Champion Awardee, for his work and commitment to protecting the ocean through film. Psihoyos gave us an inspiring speech, encouraging large scale social change through a plant based diet which in turn benefits the ocean by protecting fish stocks around the world.

The film festival attracted a record audience of more than 5,000 people which left people inspired to take action and make changes in the daily lives to help protect our blue planet. So many ticket holders commented on the quality of the films and the imagery of the films that took us all over the world.

Saving the Ocean one film at a time,

Ana Blanco
Executive Director

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

COMMUNICATING WITH YOU

✦ 151 Official Submissions
✦ 45 Films Screened
✦ 13 Countries
✦ 10 Filmmaker Awards
✦ 25 Filmmakers in attendance
✦ 4 Panel Discussions
✦ 5,029 Attendees

STUDENT FILM COMPETITION

✦ 131 Submissions, 3 Countries
✦ 15 Finalists

FILM FESTIVAL

This year’s festival attracted more people than ever before. As we celebrated our 15th Anniversary we inspired more people to take action by increasing our outreach with two additional venues; the Roxie Theater in San Francisco and the Lark Theater in Marin County. The films at each screening were selected for their content and messaging and confirmed our commitment to audiences throughout the Bay Area.

With over 150 submissions, we screened 46 films representing 12 countries and had 26 visiting filmmakers from around the world. Each of ten award winning films were selected by our dedicated group of ten screening committee members who screen each submission. The filmmakers were acknowledged on screen and presented their awards on stage.

One main highlight of the film festival this year was our newly created partnership with Cine Mare, International Ocean Film Festival in Kiel, Germany. As a sister city with the city of San Francisco, Kiel is located in the northern part of the country on the southwestern shore of the Baltic Sea and is recognized as a major high-tech shipbuilding center in Europe. We screened a dedicated film program featuring films from CineMare with San Francisco’s Interim Mayor Mark Farrell in attendance. In October 2018 IOFF will represent its filmmakers in a similar exchange of ocean inspired films at the CineMare film festival in Kiel.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The International Ocean Film Festival continues to be the leading film festival dedicated to ocean films for the younger generation of budding filmmakers and aspiring oceanographers. This year’s Free Student Education Program saw a tremendous improvement in attendance thanks in part to the dedicated fundraising support at the gala for bus transportation resulting in over 1,272 middle school and high school students attending. Fifteen schools participated in the program with five schools using six buses to get to the theater, all of whom would not have otherwise been able to attend.

STUDENT FILM COMPETITION

The 7th Annual Student Film Competition saw more than 130 film submissions from around the world, with students from Turkey and South Korea attending in person. Ranked and selected by a rigorous criteria selection process, the films are scored on four technical components and six content criteria. Of the top 15 finalists cash prizes were awarded to top three winners in each grade level category, but everyone is a winner with these films, especially the ocean, its wildlife and its ecosystems.