

CREATURE CONSERVE

BRINGING ARTISTS AND SCIENTISTS TOGETHER TO SAVE SPECIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



CREATURE CONSERVE

MISSION

We bring artists and scientists together to foster informed and sustained support for animal conservation.

VISION

Everyone participates in conservation, inspired by a community of artists and scientists who collaborate to save species.

PLAN

Provide the funding, expertise, and oversight needed to establish, sustain, and promote art/science collaboration.

STRATEGY

We celebrate, study, and help protect all living creatures by reconnecting art with science.

WHO WE ARE

We are an all-volunteer group that includes a Board of Directors led by founder Dr. Lucy Spelman and an Advisory Group made up of artists and scientists.

GOALS

- Give artists interested in science the opportunity to research and respond to the problems facing animals today.
- Give scientists working in conservation the opportunity to explore the artistic, humanistic, and emotional side of their work.
- Inspire collaboration among artists and scientists working with animals.
- Inspire conservation action by bringing artists and scientists together to save species.
- Demonstrate conservation is something we can all do.
- Follow best practices for non-profit boards.



"Sumatran Elephant" by Angela Gram examines the problems of population fragmentation and isolation, and the wildlife trade. From the 2016 Creature Conserve *Wildlife: Trading & Conservation* exhibit.

(Cover) "Long Live the King" by Chloé Bulpin celebrates the Lion Guardians, modern Maasai warriors who protect lions rather than hunt them. From *Wildlife: Trading & Conservation*.

OUR PROGRAMS

The world of animals as we know it is disappearing. The extinction rate today is higher than it's ever been. Science tells us that most animals will not survive our massive presence on earth unless we intervene. It also predicts a ripple effect on human health and society: we rely on animals for food, trade, shelter, sport, companionship, medicine, and spirituality.

Art deepens our understanding of this interdependency. It helps us explore how we feel about animals and our relationships with them. It encourages us to show compassion and reminds us we are all connected.

Our programs include exhibits, field studies, scholarships, and workshops.

EXHIBITS



We develop exhibits that explore the problems facing animals today—and, their solutions—through art that is informed by science and emotionally charged.

FIELD STUDIES



We support a new more creative and collaborative approach to conservation, one in which artists and scientists work together.

SCHOLARSHIPS



We provide stipends for conservation-minded artists, designers, and writers who are exploring art/sci collaboration.

WORKSHOPS



We give artists and scientists the opportunity to practice making conservation science more accessible, meaningful, and relevant.

EXHIBITS



In "White Rhino" from *Wildlife: Trading & Conservation*, Mara Trachtenberg explores the aesthetic appeal of rhino horn, made of keratin just like your fingernail, by sculpting it out of cake icing.

FIELD STUDIES



Kenyans Fred Mepukori (scientist) and Sam Lerosion (artist) formally launched their "Water for Elephants and People" field study in 2019. Ultimately they want to develop a conservation plan for the Maasai-owned Naimina Enkiyo (Loita) Forest.

SCHOLARSHIPS



Architecture student and scholarship recipient Derek Russell created this drawing to highlight the diversity of animal life in South Africa and the many conservation challenges.

WORKSHOPS



Creature Conserve scholar Heather McMordie instructing participants during one of our workshops for visual artists, hosted by Sprout CoWorking with funding support from RISCA, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2019

Our priorities for the year were to increase our fundraising from grants and foundations, expand our social media presence, establish an online scholarship application along with selection criteria, develop templates for our half-day workshops that we can share with artists and scientists interested in teaching one, and explore additional types of art/sci events.



- We secured our first grant from a state arts association, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, RISCA, for a series of art/sci workshops.
- We received funding from four private foundations, three more than the prior year.
- We supported 18 artist scholars, up from eight the prior year.
- We hosted five workshops, up from three the prior year, for a total of 49 participants in four states.
- We started featuring our scholars and posting news about our programs to Instagram in June and reached nearly 500 followers by the end of the year. Follow [@creatureconserve](https://www.instagram.com/creatureconserve).
- Our exhibit, "Urban Wildlife: Learning to Co+Exist" was featured on the PBS hit show *Arthur*. Filmed at the Rhode Island School of Design, the segment shows local kids from Providence visiting the art exhibit, making art, and offering their views on how to coexist with wildlife. Watch the video at: vimeo.com/339752553.
- We also arranged for our urban wildlife exhibit to be at Sprout Gallery in Providence, RI during April 2020 and the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, WY during summer 2020.

RECONNECTING ART WITH SCIENCE



While in South Africa, Creature Conserve scholar Jack Yuen studied the biology, conservation, and natural history of Temminck's ground pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii*). His painting, "The Ground Pangolin" is intended to generate curiosity and conversations about pangolins and their critically endangered status in the wild.

METRICS 2019

EXHIBITS

We continued our focus on URBAN WILDLIFE: LEARNING TO CO+EXIST. Plans are in place for two exhibitions in 2020: at The Gallery at Sprout CoWorking in Providence, RI for the month of April, and at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, WY for the summer 2020. We also put out a call for new submissions from local artists in both RI and WY for art to add to each exhibit.

FIELD STUDIES

We continued to support three art/sci conservation projects, each led by scientist/artist collaborators. They are: Surveying Giant Otters, Visualizing Pangolins, and Water for Elephants and People.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We significantly expanded our scholars program by defining new categories of scholarship (community engagement, research, study abroad, and visiting artist) as well as criteria for selection, and establishing an on-line application. We funded 18 scholars in 2019, bringing the four-year total to 30. Together they represented eight US states, Guyana, and the United Kingdom. Eight of the 18 were students.

WORKSHOPS

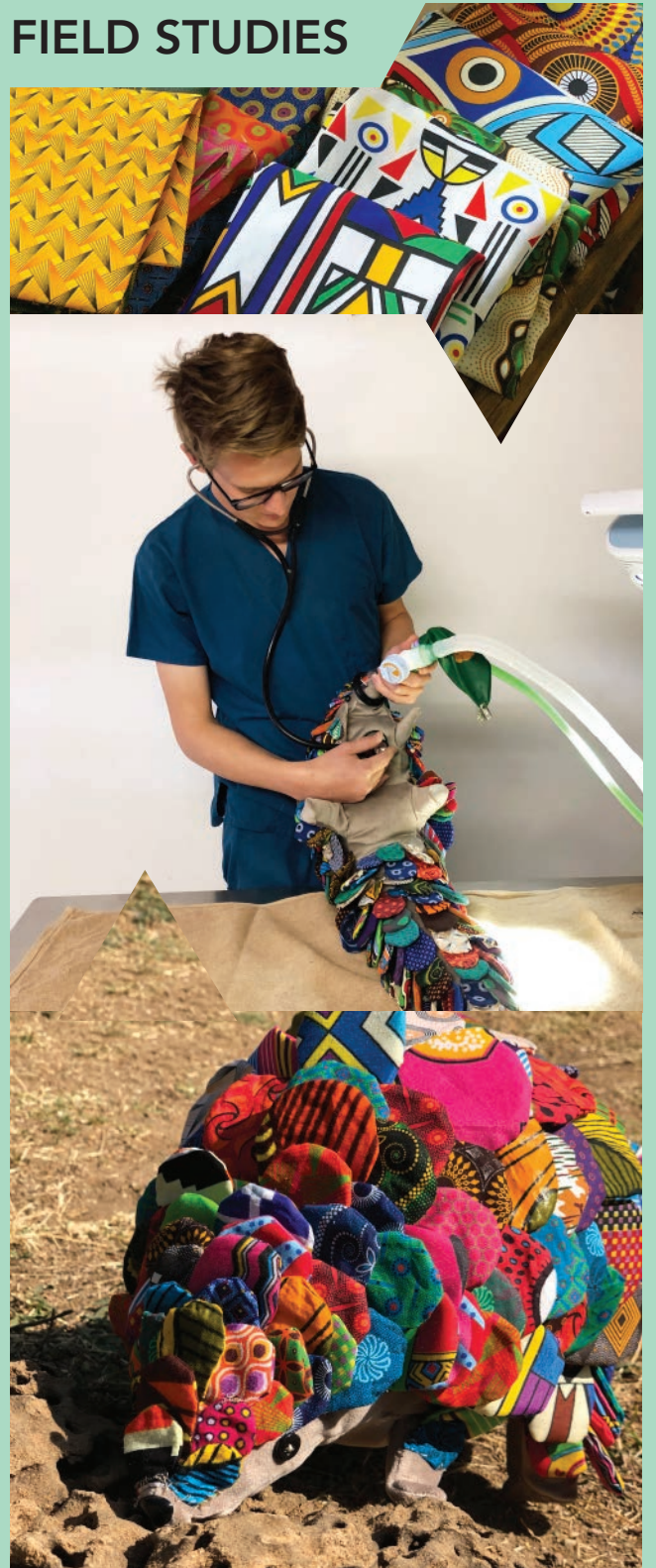
We hosted five workshops in 2019, three in Rhode Island, one in North Carolina, and one in Oregon. The participants included 36 artists and 13 scientists. Among the artists, 30 were fine artists and six were writers. We also completed work on a workshop template that includes a suggested agenda, post workshop survey, and example promotional materials. We plan to make these instructional materials available in 2020 to visual artists, writers and scientists who would like to offer their own Creature Conserve workshops.

FUNDRAISING

We applied for and received our first grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, RISCA, for our RI workshops. We secured funding from four private foundations, up from one in the prior year, and raised over \$3500 in a month via Instagram and Facebook to support the production of the pangolin plush.

Since we launched our four program areas in 2016, we have brought together a total of 220 artists and 73 scientists, resulting in over 200 works of original art for public display.

FIELD STUDIES



As part of our “Visualizing Pangolins” study, artist/scientist Adam Moreno designed a plush pangolin that is now in the beginning stages of production by the Mapusha Weavers, a women’s cooperative in Acornhoek, South Africa. Proceeds will go to veterinary care of orphaned and injured pangolins.

WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

In order to improve our templates and inform our future plans, we surveyed artists participating in our 2019 Rhode Island workshops. The results were informative and inspiring.

Participants self-identified as professional artists and, interestingly, teachers. This suggests an additional target audience for our programs and that breaking down the art/sci divide has appeal to educators as well as visual artists and writers.

Most found out about the workshops either by word of mouth or Instagram. Going forward, we plan to invest more resources into social media to spread the word about our programs for artists/scientists.

When asked about workshop content and design, participants were very positive. Some asked for more; all expressed interest in other formats, ranging from evening salons to weekend retreats and, even study abroad. We will be exploring their responses further.

One hundred percent (21) of the visual artists taking the urban wildlife workshops in Providence and Warren, RI indicated they planned to submit artwork for our upcoming 2020 exhibit.

"I learned that I have the potential to promote change for the good of our earth."

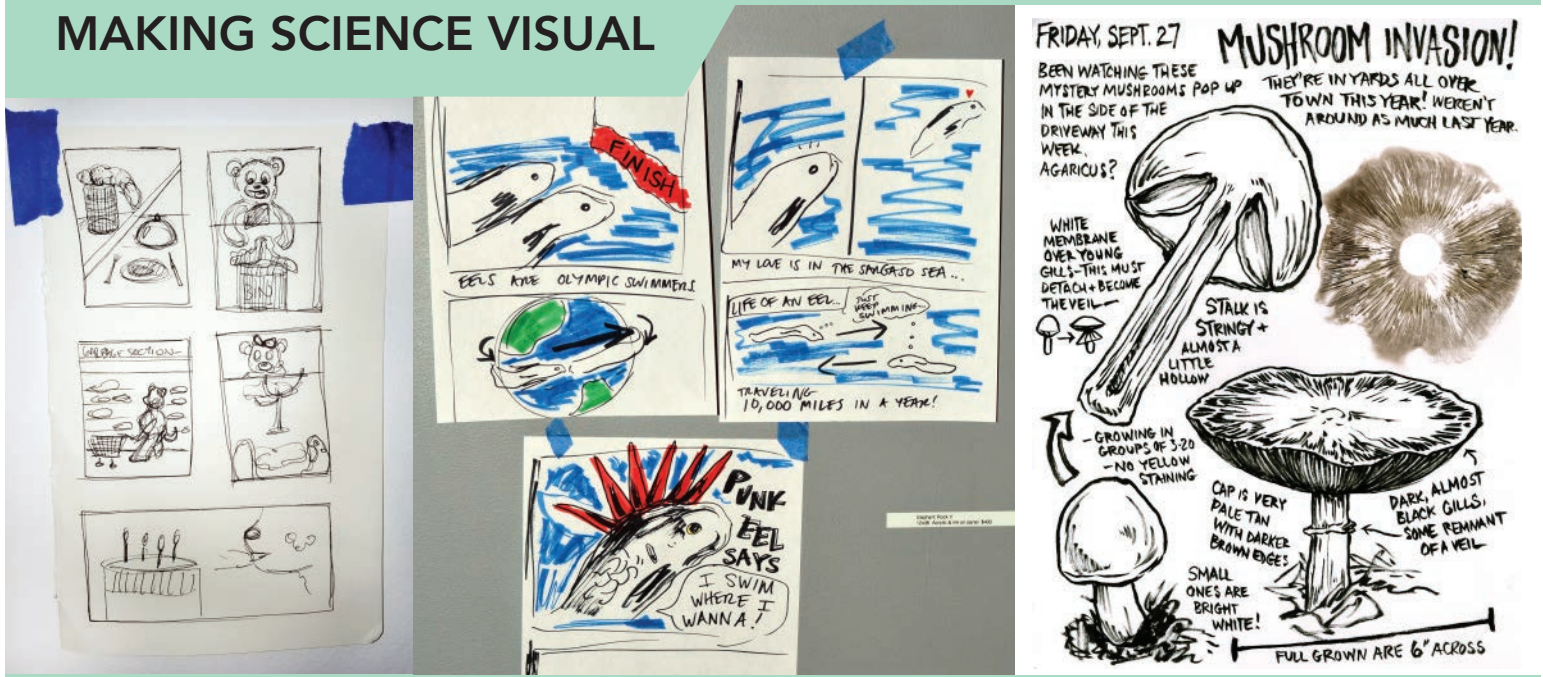
"I learned that the inclusion of science in a piece of writing can be done in a way that doesn't have to become an over-explanation; the reader can be drawn in and then given the science, and sometimes it is better that way."

"I really loved being reminded that the questions we ask should be what we pursue, rather than focusing on the answers."

"This workshop helped me step outside my science bubble to understand how artists might interpret my images."

"The workshop reaffirmed the importance of blending science and art."

MAKING SCIENCE VISUAL

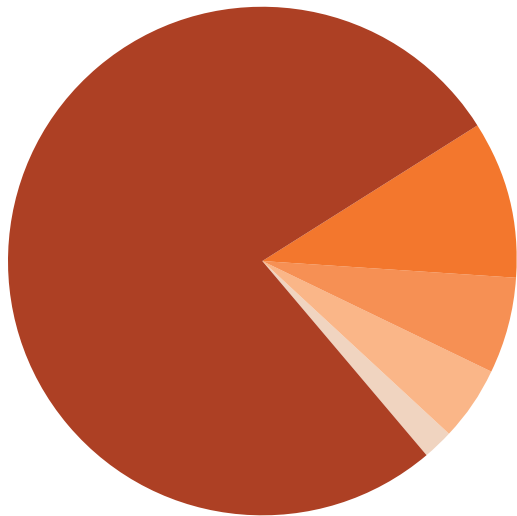


Thumbnail sketches made by visual artists during one of our 2019 workshops about living in balance with urban wildlife.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2019

INCOME

In 2019, we raised the majority of our funds from foundations. For the first time, we also earned income from our workshops. Our total income was \$30,664.44.

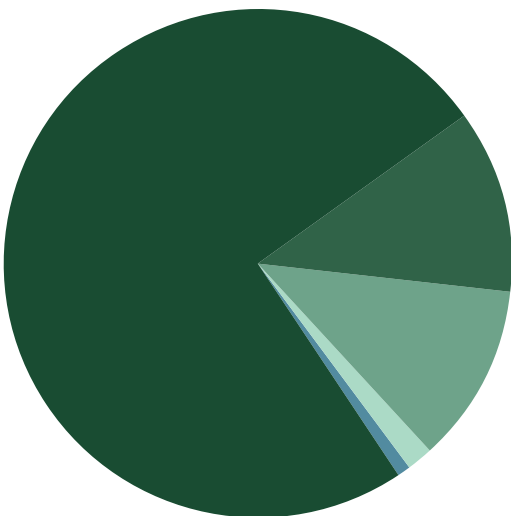


FOUNDATION GRANTS 77.4%	\$23,750.00
DONATIONS RESTRICTED 10.1%	\$3,090.75
DONATIONS GENERAL 5.9%	\$1,806.64
OTHER GRANTS 4.9%	\$1,500.00
WORKSHOP REGISTRATIONS 1.7%	\$517.05

TOTAL INCOME 2019: \$30,664.44

EXPENSES

We spent a total of \$23,206.06 in 2019, nearly all of it on our programs. As in the past, our administrative costs were minimal.



SCHOLARSHIPS 72.6%	\$16,851.63
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 10.2%	
- RESEARCH 33%	
- STUDY ABROAD 29.4%	
WORKSHOPS 11.4%	\$2,639.58
FIELD STUDIES 11.1%	\$2,567.00
EXHIBITS 1.5%	\$356.15
ADMINISTRATION 0.7%	\$791.70

TOTAL EXPENSES 2019: \$23,206.06

TESTIMONIALS FROM SCHOLARS

FRANCO ZACHARZEWSKI

francozacha.com

"With support from Creature Conserve, I attended the Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. The event consisted of three days of lectures, presentations, and conversations where scientists and researchers spoke about their work and fields of study. Not only was the conference a very positive experience, but it was also an opportunity for me to step away from my practice and engage with other young professionals. I now have a better understanding of how my work operates and its overall potential, and how I might integrate conservation into my career. I believe this comprehensive and holistic approach to conservation will not only encourage more people to take part in our cause, but also shed light on the importance of such efforts."



RECENTLY, I GOT TO ATTEND THE STUDENT CONFERENCE FOR CONSERVATION SCIENCE (SCCS).



THE ONLY RESEARCH I EVER CONDUCTED WAS AS A KID. I STUDIED THE ANIMALS ON TV, ON MY LAWN.



BUT AT SCCS, I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE A RESEARCHER. IN A FOREST OF DATA AND SCIENCE, THEY FELT CURIOUS ABOUT ME!



THEN THEY SPOKE. ABOUT THE SPECIES THEY LOVED, THE ISSUES THAT MADE THEM THINK. THEY MADE ME THINK, TOO...



...THAT THE ARTS AND THE SCIENCES HAVE WORK TO DO. TOGETHER, WE CAN—WE WILL.



A COMIC BY:
FRANCO ZACHARZEWSKI

AND THANK YOU TO AMNH & CBC
FOR HOSTING THIS EVENT!

TESTIMONIALS FROM SCHOLARS

SOPHY TUTTLE

sophytuttle.com

The intention of the Electrical Box Landscape Project (Medford, MA) was to bring awareness to the species that we share our semi-urban landscape with, and show the beauty and value of these other beings through art and poetry. By making these paintings larger than life and placing them in the middle of city blocks, the usually clandestine species command a space in our human environment. While I was painting, I had people constantly asking me what kind of plant or animal I was working on that day. As a result, I added in the names of each pair of species so that the public could distinguish them and then identify them in the wild. I'm excited for the next steps in this project and want to thank Creature Conserve for supporting this effort.



ABOUT CREATURE CONSERVE

Board of Directors: Abby Adams (Secretary), Cameron Little, Chloé Bulpin, Samantha Dempsey, Punita Koustubhan, John Pearson, Melissa Torres (Treasurer), Nick Jainschigg (Vice Chair), Nicole Merola (Clerk), and Lucy Spelman (Chair).

Advisory Group: Lauren Cason, Susan Doyle, Peter Green, Heather McMordie, Emily Poole, Emily Schnall, Traer Scott, Susan Tascent, and Rae Whiteley.

In her 2015 TEDx talk, **Creature Conserve founder Dr. Lucy Spelman** describes how her work as a zoo and wildlife veterinarian led her to seek new ways to engage people in conservation by connecting art and science. Over the course of her career, she has treated animals of all kinds, from cockroaches to giant pandas. She has lived in Rwanda, where she managed the veterinary team responsible for the world's only mountain gorillas, has served as Director of the Smithsonian National Zoo, and is a published author. In addition to scientific articles, she contributed the title story and co-edited the others in "The Rhino with Glue on Shoes" (Random House, 2008) and wrote the text for the popular "National Geographic Animal Encyclopedia" (2012).

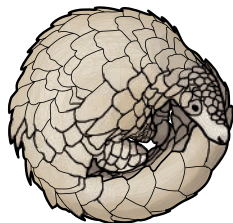
She has taught biology to architecture, art, and design students at the Rhode Island School of Art and Design since 2010 and continues to practice veterinary medicine at Ocean State Veterinary Specialists.

Artists have always been interpreters of our time. Through their eyes, the science of saving species and the importance of taking a one-health approach to conservation becomes accessible, meaningful, and relevant—and, the source of positive change.

– Dr. Lucy Spelman, Founder, Creature Conserve



"Hands Off" by Emily Schnall



CREATURE CONSERVE

Find out more at creatureconserve.com and follow [@creatureconserve](https://www.instagram.com/creatureconserve) on Instagram.

401.924.4994 connect@creatureconserve.com
12 Rosedale Ave, Barrington, RI 02806