



Olympia  
Community  
Sailing



# 2023 Annual Report



# who we are

Olympia Community Sailing is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to building a diverse, inclusive sailing community in the Olympia area by providing access, recreation, and competition for all. We seek to develop strong youth and school-based sailing teams, provide opportunities for sailing to all members of our community, and strive to create Olympia's first community sailing center.

## how we supported our mission in 2023

**5650** Hours of Programming

**\$3600** Awarded in Travel Scholarships

**20** Sailors Received Program Scholarships

**85** Number of Race Team Participants

**438** Number of Learn to Sail Registrations



High School sailors racing in Olympia off Port Plaza dock during the 2023 Trick or Treat Team Race regatta. Photo by Dan Solie

# welcome aboard

Another year has come and gone, and Olympia Community Sailing (OCS) is that much older - 5 years to be exact! OCS was founded in 2019 by a group of motivated volunteers, and has grown to include: youth and adult learn to sail classes; community access; environmental educational partnerships; and youth race programs in Olympia. We couldn't do it without countless volunteers, dedicated staff, and our many community partners like our biggest sponsor: the Olympia Yacht Club!

As our organization matures we recognize that this work has been championed long before us by many individuals and organizations. These legacies are important to us. Each day we are inspired by the teamwork, hard work, and passion our sailors exhibit in all of their pursuits. From citizen science to learn about and appreciate the complexity of waterways they've sailed that day; to novice Opti Green team sailors who conquer their fears and helm their own vessels in the crisp fall winds, and waves.

All of our youth participants have the opportunity to leave a legacy here. We are a community they can grow up in, and return to as an adult. From learn to sail classes starting at just 7 years old, to racing their own Opti or Laser in the NW and beyond... Seeking certification as a US Sailing instructor, and giving back as a teacher or coach. More than anything they can be a part of something bigger than themselves - finding a passion they can share through teamwork, friendship, and lifelong memories.

As 2023 comes to a close let's take a moment to appreciate legacies like Mary Fitzgerald's, and the inaugural High Performance Women's Clinic we ran in her honor. Get excited with us as we celebrate young sailors like our Alumni at College Nationals, and Esther Ireland: winner of the US Sailing's National Dave Perry Sportsmanship Trophy at the prestigious Youth Champs in Rhode Island. If you'd like to support OCS's legacy of fostering community through access to sailing for all - please consider supporting us with a donation. Thank you, and we hope to see you on the water in the new year!



Sarah Hanavan, OCS Executive Director





# learn to sail

**Olympia has a historical and cultural connection to our local waters.** At OCS, we strive to bring the people of Thurston County to the water in a format that is accessible, empowering, and inspiring. Our learn to sail classes strive to teach our students not only how to sail, but how to love and care for the waters of Puget Sound.

This year we took feedback from past participants and their parents. Reformatting our classes to provide more time for students to learn. In past years the majority of our classes ran for half the day, with an average of 20 hours in class for each student. In 2023, we ran the majority of our classes as full-day camps, doubling the amount of time each student spent learning (close to 40 hours). This format proved immensely successful. Staff reported better retention of skills, and parents were more likely to re-enroll into advanced classes. We saw a significant increase in the number of students registering for after-school race teams, all citing that their experience learning to sail at OCS inspired them to continue sailing and join our race teams, which for many youth can be the active and social experience they've been searching for.

**We revamped our Junior Instructor program!** Junior Instructors are youth sailors that hope to someday earn their Instructor certification and teach sailing. In addition to hands-on mentorship and learning by assisting Instructors with their classes, Junior Instructors spent an hour each week learning new teaching methods, classroom management techniques, games, drills, and sailing skills. We hope this continuing education initiative support our Junior Instructors in passing their Instructor certifications!

“You do a great job getting kids passionate about sailing!”

-Parent of Learn to Sail Student

**18** Junior Instructors volunteered in 2023

**100%** of our Instructors Learned to Sail at OCS

## STEAM & Sailing

**This is OCS's third year of offering STEAM Sailing Camps!** Sailors get to explore Budd Inlet via sailboat while also learning about science, technology, engineering, arts, and math through hands-on lessons about our local environment.

Through partners with the **Pacific Shellfish Institute**, sailors were able to participate in a citizen science effort monitoring local water quality in Budd Inlet throughout the summer. Sailors also got to explore underwater via remote-controlled underwater drones with cameras, learning about the sea life found in Olympia thanks to our partners with the Puget Sound Estuarium. We love working with our local partners to make a difference in the community!

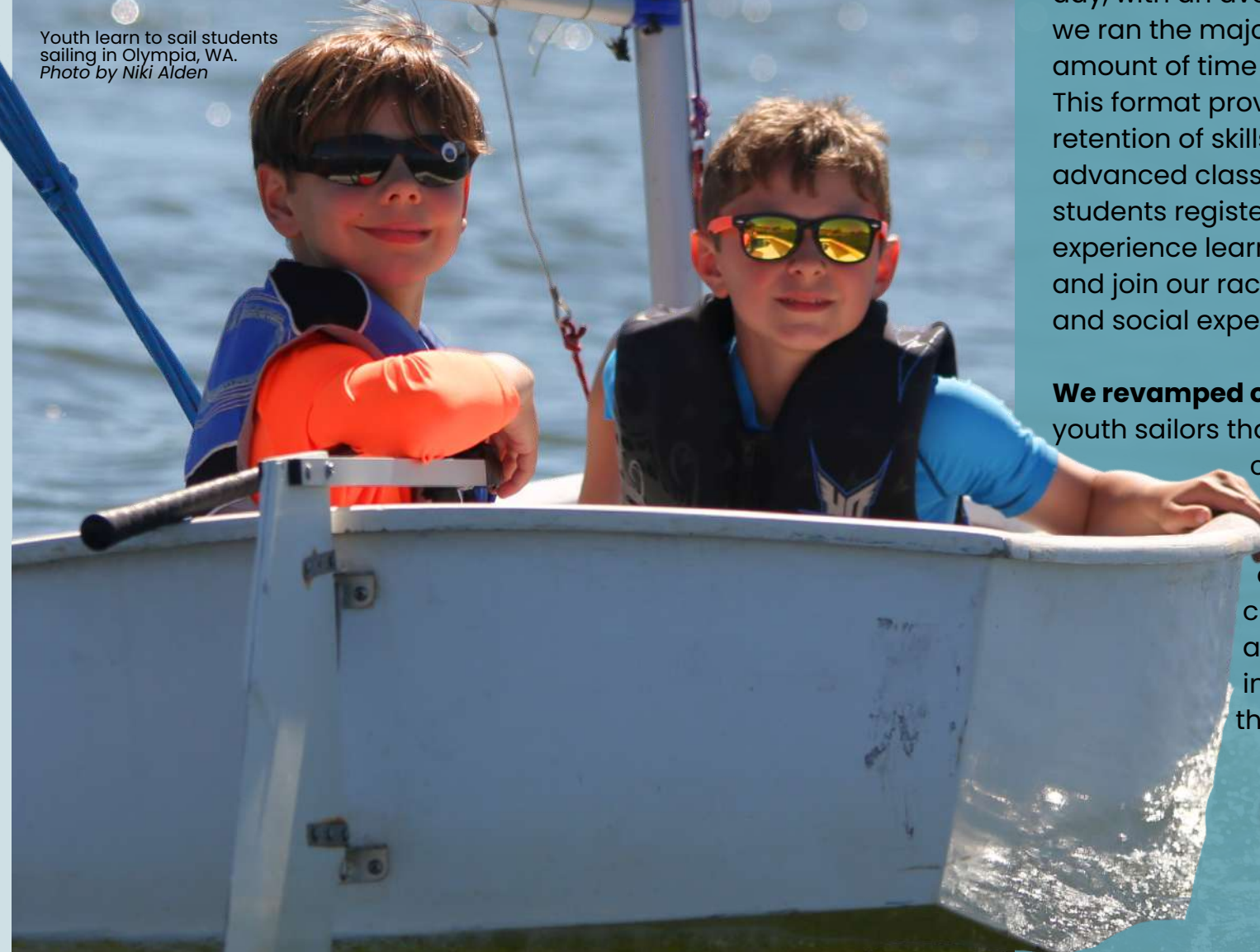
**400**

Hours of STEAM Programs

**92**

STEAM Students

Youth learn to sail students sailing in Olympia, WA.  
Photo by Niki Alden





# high school sailing

**OCS believes that sailing makes good people.** Whether it is the confidence built from steering your own vessel, the grit earned from weathering storms, or the simple joy of being on a team working towards a collective goal... Our sailors walk away with a newfound sense of purpose and self-confidence.

High School Sailing has long been the center of the Olympia youth sailing scene, and remains our most accessible program. Designed to get sailors on the water with minimal gear, provided boats, and low costs, **High School Sailing is a low friction on-ramp to the sport of sailing making it both accessible and fun.** The team format drives teamwork, leadership, and communication while developing a healthy relationship with competition. Sailing elites vex over how to get more youth involved, but at OCS we know the answer: High School Sailing!

With participants from six Thurston County high schools (Black Hills, Capital, North Thurston, Olympia, Rainier, and Tumwater) and several regional middle schools, OCS's program reaches a variety of students. All sailors practice and travel together, and at regional level events may compete together. At District and National events, sailors compete for their own High Schools. **Olympia High School has remained one of the top 3 teams in the State six years in a row now!**

OCS continues to see an upward trend in interest in our High School sailing program. This fall season we were faced with a wonderful problem: too many interested sailors! Thankfully we were able to hire Avian, former Capital HS sailor and OCS alumni, to continue his legacy by helping coach our High School team. With Avian's help, we were able to expand our High School program, therefore accepting all sailors without having to cut anyone.

**61** Participants  
*\*10% growth from 2022*

**40%** Women-Identifying Sailors  
*\*8% growth from 2022*



BLACK HILLS



CAPITAL



OLYMPIA



NORTH THURSTON



TUMWATER



“

My senior year I was part of a team which traveled to Virginia for the Phoebe King Memorial Regatta. Having had a pretty rough season leading up to that weekend, I wasn't sure what might happen. Little did I know that it was going to be the highlight of my high school sailing career. I had an amazing weekend competing in winds upwards of 15 knots and against some of the best sailors I had ever raced. It is the moments like this one which I experienced while at OCS which have made me a **sailor for life.**

-Yuri Berebitsky  
Olympia High School '23

”



Capital High School sailor Siri B. ('28) racing at the 2023 NWISA Women's National Qualifiers.  
Photo by Michael Dougherty.



# OCS Legacy

## College Sailing Success



OCS alumni Sam Bonauto (OHS '21, Bowdoin '25, left) and Owen Timms (OHS '19, George Washington Captain '23, right) at the 2023 College Sailing Open Nationals.



OCS alumni and current UW Captain Erin Pamplin (OHS '22, skipper) won the 2023 PCISA All-Conference Women's Skipper Award!



OCS alumni and current Tufts sailor Ella Hubbard (OHS '22, second from right) at the 2023 College Sailing Women's Nationals.

# 2023 National Awards

## Phoebe King National Invite

Hampton, VA

### 7th Place Olympia High School

The Phoebe King Memorial Trophy is a highly competitive invite-only regatta for high school teams. This event is open only to the national runner-ups from each district. Olympia High School continued their legacy of attending national-level events this spring with an invite to Phoebe King, placing in the top 10!

Left to Right: Yuri B. ('23), Alyssa L. ('26), Alan T. ('26), Charlie S. ('24), Liam P. ('25), Sophia H. ('24), Vadim H. ('24)



## Girls National Invite

San Diego, CA

The PCISA Girls National Invite is a national-level High School Sailing event for junior women to bond with and compete against the top women sailors in the nation. OCS has attended this event for the last four years as part of our legacy of producing fast, dedicated women sailors. This year Olympia High School senior Sophia H. scored a personal best as a skipper, ranking 7th in A fleet!

Left to Right: Coach Hanavan, Sophia H. ('24), Zoey G. ('25), Alyssa L. ('26), Caleigh M. ('25), Cate G. ('27), Simone R. ('27)



## Keelboat National Invite

St. Petersburg, FL

### 9th Place Olympia High School

The ISSA Keelboat National Invite is an incredible event for youth sailors in keelboats. This event is open to only one team per district, and is highly competitive to attend. Olympia High School sailors earned a berth this fall after some tough competition! OHS has only attended once before, in 2017, the only time an OCS team has qualified. Cheer on OHS as they continue their legacy!

Left to Right: Liam P. ('25), Liam T. ('25), Charlie S. ('24), Simone R. ('27)



# 2023 District Awards

## Fleet Race Champs

Cascade Locks, OR



### 4th Place

Olympia High School

Sailors: Sophia H. ('24), Finn M. ('23), Alyssa L. ('26), Charlie S. ('24), Yuri B. ('23), Alan T. ('26)

## Team Race Champs

Oak Harbor, WA



### 3rd Place

Olympia High School

Sailors: Finn M. ('23), Levi M. ('24), Yuri B. ('23), Charlie S. ('24), Sophia H. ('24), Alyssa L. ('26)

## Girls Champs

Orcas Island, WA



### 1st Place

Olympia High School

Left to Right: Caleigh M. ('25), Zoey G. ('25), Simone R. ('27), Sophia H. ('24)

## Singlehand Champs

Seattle, WA



### 2nd Place

Olympia High School

Open ILCA 6 Liam P. ('25)  
Womens ILCA 6 Sophia H. ('24)

## Keelboat Champs

Seattle, WA



### 1st Place

Olympia High School

Left to Right: Liam P. ('25), Charlie S. ('24), Liam T. ('25), Simone R. ('27)

## Fall Champs

Silverdale, WA



### 1st Place

Olympia High School

Left to Right: Charlie S. ('24), Sophia H. ('24), Alyssa L. ('26), Zoey G. ('25)



## Youth Champs

OCS sailors Esther Ireland and Liam Power travelled across the country to Rhode Island this summer to compete at the US Sailing Youth Championships! This prestigious regatta is the oldest national youth championship regatta in the nation, and seeks to identify talent for Youth Worlds and future Olympic teammates. Only the nation's top sailors attend!



*Sailor Highlight!*

*2023 Awards*

### WIND Regatta

Columbia Gorge, Cascade Locks, OR



**1st**  
ILCA 4

Alan T. Charlie S. & Sophia H.

**1st**  
c420

### Oktoberfest Regatta

Sail Sand Point, Seattle, WA



**1st**  
ILCA 7

Liam P.

**3rd**  
ILCA 6

Esther I.

### Pumpkin Bowl

West Vancouver, British Columbia



**2nd**  
c420

Liam T. & Alex Weed

# club racing

Summertime in the PNW is a chance for youth sailors to grow as individuals and experiment with different types of boats. Sailors of all ages can participate, and there are several different classes of boats sailed. OCS offers five summer race teams: ILCA (Laser), c420, FJ, Opti Green, and Opti Champs.

**Summer 2023 was a momentous time for OCS.** This summer we saw the incredible legacy that has been building within our program in the form of our coaching staff. We had five OCS alumni return to Olympia for the summer racing season to coach current sailors! We are proud of all of our alumni, and thrilled that their experience as OCS sailors inspired them to continue sailing in college and return as coaches.

OCS saw great leaps and bounds with interest in summer race programming. Our ILCA Race Team has steadily grown, with over 16 sailors in our program investing in personal ILCA dinghies. The biggest growth was seen in our c420 race team, which doubled in size. Many of the new ILCA and c420 sailors spent 2023 as their first summer competing in these classes, steadily learning new techniques, intermediate to advanced racing tactics and strategy, and independence in caring for themselves and their equipment.

We are thrilled with our sailors' growth and success. The momentum is high to continue thriving and excelling in sailing high performance boats, and we cannot wait to see where our sailors go in 2024!

**11** Number of Events  
*Clinics and Regattas*

**71** Total Participants  
*\*50% growth from 2022*

**57%** Female-Identifying Sailors  
*\*13% growth from 2022*

Opti Green sailors bonding at the 2023 Junior Olympics regatta in Seattle, WA. Left to right: Ben D., Eliot A., Rahab I., Exley R., Tatiana R. Photo by Penny Reck



# womens' clinics

OCS hosted two race clinics for women-identifying sailors in 2023. In March we hosted a High School Clinic, open to scholastic and collegiate female-identifying sailors, and in June we hosted the inaugural **Fitzgerald High Performance Women's Clinic**, open to ILCA and c420 sailors.

Our spring High School women's clinic was well received, with over 40 sailors in attendance from up and down the PNW. We had several women coaches travel to Olympia to coach our youth sailors and model positive teamwork, communication, and friendship in an all-female environment.

The Fitzgerald High Performance Women's Clinic was modeled after the US Sailing Junior Women's Clinic Series that we hosted back in 2021. Designed to promote women in sailing at all levels of the sport, this clinic is both for sailors and for their coaches. Regional youth sailors spent three days practicing boat handling, learning strategy and tactics, and improving their racing while regional women coaches shadowed the event coaches, learning new techniques from some of the country's best women coaches.

OCS is proud to bring this clinic home to Olympia to stay. We are excited beyond belief to see how this clinic grows and supports junior women sailors in the PNW, and therefore the entire region.



**50** Hours of *Women-to-Women coaching*

**6** High Performance *Women Coaches*

**70** Female-Identifying *Sailors*

# sailor highlight!



## Dave Perry Sportsmanship Trophy

This summer OCS ILCA sailor **Esther Ireland** won one of the most prestigious national awards for youth sailors. At the **2023 Youth Championships** in Bristol, Rhode Island Esther was presented with the Dave Perry Sportsmanship Trophy. This perpetual trophy is awarded to only one sailor per class at Youth Champs, a national-level regatta, for their outstanding sportsmanship and attitude demonstrated at the event. Esther was nominated by event coaches and competitors alike for her actions and values.

Esther is only the second OCS sailor to have ever received this prestigious award, and is the first woman from our program to have done so. In 1995 OCS alumni and current coach **Mike Visser** won this award!

We are so incredibly proud of Esther. She is one of the most hard-working sailors we have had the honor to coach and remains kind, humble, and caring while pursuing the highest levels of competition. Her actions have already forged her own legacy in OCS's history!

c420 sailors racing at Oktoberfest regatta in Seattle, WA.  
Photo by Michael Dougherty

# OCS legacy

## Mary Fitzgerald

**Mary Fitzgerald** has been a supporter of women's and youth sailing in Olympia for decades. From teaching sailing classes at the Evergreen State College and on Capitol Lake to organizing an annual Women's Boating Seminar and Charring the Junior Program at the Olympia Yacht Club Mary's passion for all things sailing and seeing spaces created for women is unparalleled. She has transformed women's and youth sailing in Olympia and is responsible for hundreds of new sailors and women getting on the helm and fostering opportunities for all.

To this day Mary is teaching adult classes on her SV Clara McDougal and volunteering whenever she can to help support Olympia Community Sailing - an organization that would not exist if not for her steadfast commitment and support over the years.





# Olympia's future

OCS has a long-standing legacy in Olympia, but we believe that we can do better. From providing better access for youth that face barriers to getting on the water to increasing our adult sailing program, OCS has a lot of work ahead of us. We are proud of how far we've come, and excited to see where 2024 and beyond takes us.

**OCS dreams of a future Olympia where a waterfront Community Sailing Center can be a gathering point for locals, and a destination for tourists.** A place for Olympians of all ages and backgrounds to learn to sail, rent boats, and access the water without needing to own a personal boat. We hope to identify and lease or purchase land in the next 10 years to start our journey towards building a centerpiece of Olympia's future waterfront.

Looking into 2024, we are excited to see the profound interest in our community for getting out on the water. We hope to maintain a high-quality learn to sail program, continue to see success with our youth race teams, expand our adult program offerings, and continue to partner with other incredible organizations in Thurston County.

## how you can support OCS and our mission in 2024

### Donate

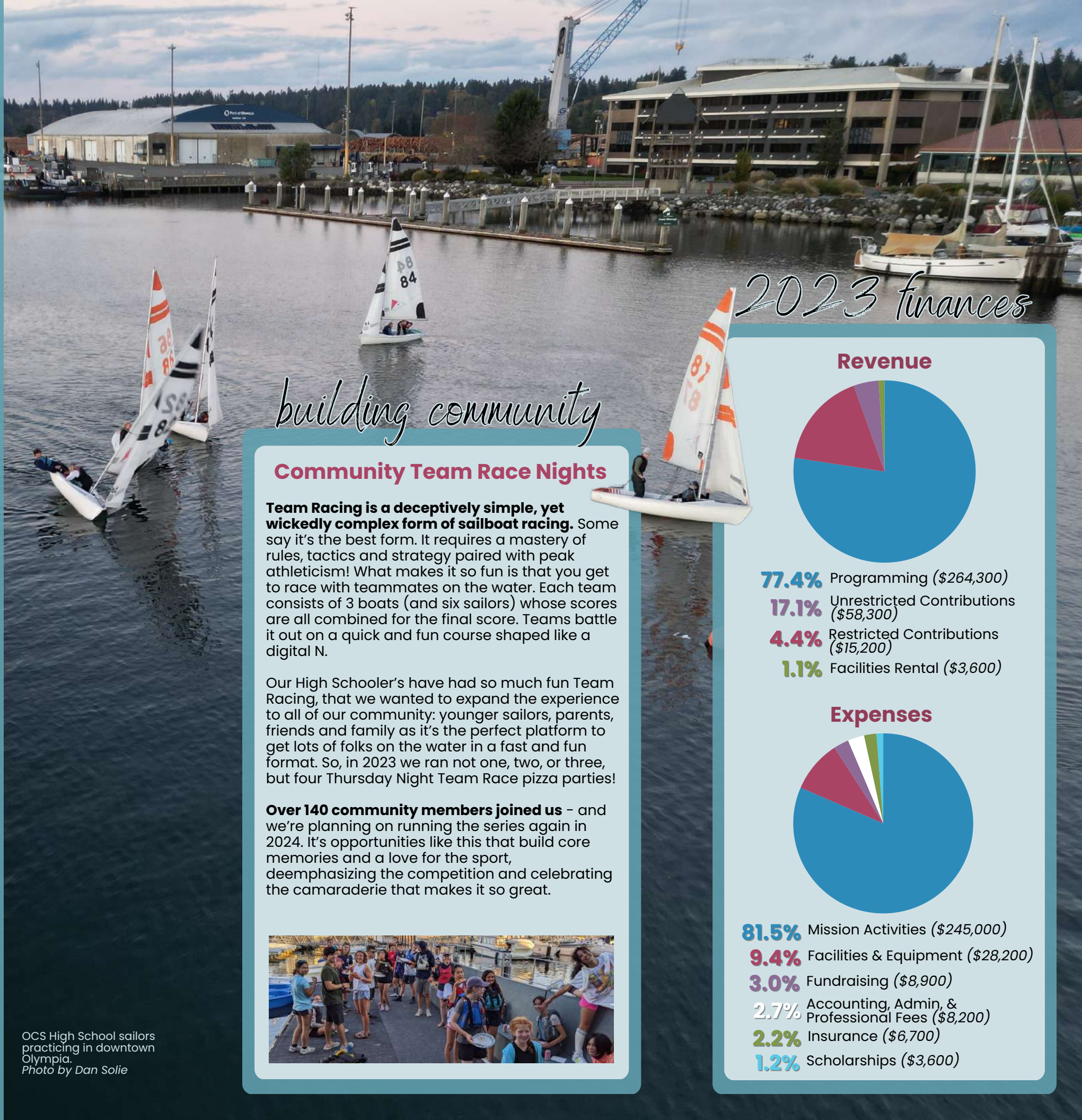
All donations directly impact our program participants!

### Volunteer

Help out at an event, help with fundraising, or assist with maintaining our equipment!

### Join a Task Force!

OCS is currently seeking skilled community members to assist our Board in various projects.



## building community

### Community Team Race Nights

**Team Racing is a deceptively simple, yet wickedly complex form of sailboat racing.** Some say it's the best form. It requires a mastery of rules, tactics and strategy paired with peak athleticism! What makes it so fun is that you get to race with teammates on the water. Each team consists of 3 boats (and six sailors) whose scores are all combined for the final score. Teams battle it out on a quick and fun course shaped like a digital N.

Our High Schoolers have had so much fun Team Racing, that we wanted to expand the experience to all of our community: younger sailors, parents, friends and family as it's the perfect platform to get lots of folks on the water in a fast and fun format. So, in 2023 we ran not one, two, or three, but four Thursday Night Team Race pizza parties!

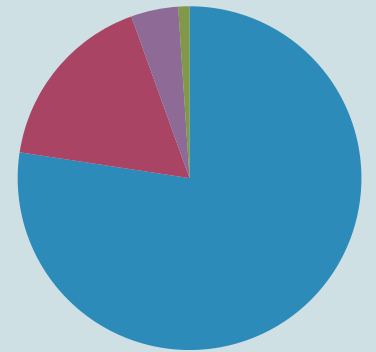
**Over 140 community members joined us** - and we're planning on running the series again in 2024. It's opportunities like this that build core memories and a love for the sport, deemphasizing the competition and celebrating the camaraderie that makes it so great.



OCS High School sailors practicing in downtown Olympia. Photo by Dan Solie

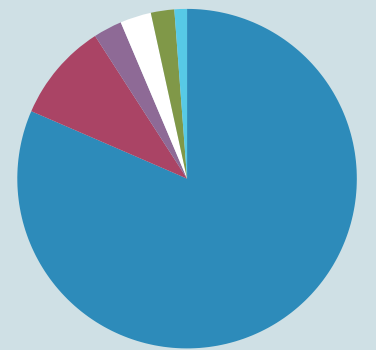
## 2023 finances

### Revenue



- 77.4%** Programming (\$264,300)
- 17.1%** Unrestricted Contributions (\$58,300)
- 4.4%** Restricted Contributions (\$15,200)
- 1.1%** Facilities Rental (\$3,600)

### Expenses



- 81.5%** Mission Activities (\$245,000)
- 9.4%** Facilities & Equipment (\$28,200)
- 3.0%** Fundraising (\$8,900)
- 2.7%** Accounting, Admin, & Professional Fees (\$8,200)
- 2.2%** Insurance (\$6,700)
- 1.2%** Scholarships (\$3,600)



# thank you!

To all the wonderful individuals and organizations that have supported OCS and our mission.

## Sponsors



## Community Partners



Pacific Shellfish Institute



# West Bay MARINA

Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation

### Staff

Niki Alden  
Sarah Hanavan

### Instructors

Alan Timms  
Alex Weed  
Alijah Manzanares  
Charlie Snyder  
Caleb Roberts  
Esther Ireland  
Evan Glasgow  
Joe Downing  
Levi Morse  
Liam O'Connell  
Liam Taylor  
Mary Fitzgerald  
Robert Bloomfield  
Sophia Hubbard

### Coaches

Avian de Keizer Mendoza  
Caroline Hurley  
Ella Hubbard  
Mike Visser  
Orion Bird  
Peter Kelleher

### Board of Directors

Janet Hubbard  
Erin Timms  
Dan Solie  
Lester Power  
Brad Hubbard  
Katie Hurley  
Wendy Taylor

### Junior Instructors

Alden Visser  
Alyssa Leong  
Brolin Boelts  
Cate Griffith  
Corin Gamble-Webster  
Ellen Cummings  
Fiona Tang  
Graham Kirkbride  
Gyu-Rim Ban  
Jack Kesler  
Kaden Kim  
Lila Wilson  
Nolan O'Connell  
Ryan Solie  
Seher Kasmani  
Simone Reck  
Siri Biswas  
Taylor Smith

### Donors (\$5,000+)

Bob Keelthau  
Friends and Family of Bob Connolly  
Lisa Parshley

### Donors (\$1,000-4,999)

Bill & Vicki Shelton  
Chris & Greg Ireland  
Dr. Sung Kim  
Erin Timms  
Holli & Jim Howatson  
Mary Fitzgerald  
Matt Budelman  
Nikki McClure  
Stephen & Penny Reck  
Telfer & Andrea Griffith

### Donors (\$500-999)

Academy Mortgage  
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Coldwell Banker Team  
Jeff & Sue Reiner  
Marcus Alden  
Panowicz Jewelers  
Richard & Laruel Seaman  
Tedd Kelleher & Rachel Nesse  
Terry Church

**A huge THANK YOU to all the individuals that have volunteered for OCS to support our mission and keep our programs running smoothly!**

