

BROWN GIRL SURF

YEAR END NEWSLETTER



TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Brown Girl Surf friends, families, youth, volunteers, and beyond,

This year has challenged us in more ways than we anticipated. While it wasn't always simple or easy for us, we rose up to face these challenges, with the unwavering support of this community, and met them with some BGS joy, passion, and respect.

Here's a little glimpse into what 2021 growth and sustainability has looked like for Brown Girl Surf.

In our ongoing efforts towards decolonization Brown Girl Surf acknowledges that we are occupying unceded and stolen Lisjan Ohlone lands. These lands and waters where we work and play are, and have always been, that of Indigenous peoples. And so, we pay our respect to our Indigenous elders - past, present, and future - and strive to help heal colonial traumas and create a path for joy.

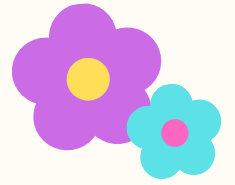
We invite you to reflect on the fact that this land acknowledgment is merely the first step in Brown Girl Surf's decolonization path and that we are turning acknowledgement into action.

Please listen to and respect Indigenous voices by learning more from local community organizations, like Sogorea Te' Land Trust.



Photo by Sue- Jean Sung

WHO'S WHO AT BGS?



Adriana Guerrero | Executive Director

If you didn't hear, the BGS family has undergone some growth! This Spring, Adriana transitioned from Associate Director to her new role as Executive Director! Adriana is the guiding star at BGS - she is responsible for our fundraising, strategic planning, organizational growth, advocacy work and making sure the whole team is fed and happy.



Marlim Reynosa Ricardo | Program Specialist

Marlim is the Brown Girl Surf special sauce. She has been with BGS for nearly 5 years now, and continues to expand our boundaries! In her promotion to Program Specialist Marlim leads program design + delivery, the Rising Leader Program, and manages all program related data. She is responsible for all the "special sauce" that goes into creating BGS programs.



BGS LOVE

Sutara Nitenson | Program Coordinator

Sutara, a new addition to the BGS family, has moved from their role as Admin. Coordinator/ Surf Program Lead to our Program Coordinator. Sutara will be holding BGS's creative buckets including our storytelling, communications, and publications, while supporting our [soon to be hired] Program Director in cultivating volunteer relationships.

(They are also responsible for eating snacks supplied by Adriana)



Kimiko Russell-Halterman | Environmental Educator

Kimiko, also a new addition to the BGS family, is the sunshine that lights up our youth summer camp and environmental programs. She is currently attending grad school in Santa Barbara, and still finds time to work with BGS part-time! Kimiko leads curriculum creation and program design for our amazing summer camps and designs our Creek to Bay Day and Earth Day programs.



YEEEWS FOR THE CREW

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

We've said it before and we'll say it again - **Brown Girl Surf does not exist without our volunteers!** No amount of gratitude encompasses the love, respect, and appreciation we have for our community of dedicated wave riders, boogie aficionados, surf guardians, and floating ocean lovers.



RETURNING VOLUNTEERS

32



Mira's Goodbye Celebration!

NEW VOLUNTEERS

12

VOLUNTEERS GAVE OVER 500 HOURS!



Big thanks to Madoka who coordinated our End of Year Celebration - all the way from Japan!



Photo by Amanda Roosa

Appreciation for Rebecca's creative expertise in printing all our BGS swag - masks, shirts, boards, and more!



Congratulations Cristine!! Welcome to the BGS family baby Augusto! We can't wait to ocean with you.



Photo by Amanda Roosa



CHANGING TIDES

ADVOCACY UPDATES

BGS is expanding our advocacy work and deepening our commitment to equitable beach access. We believe that the BGS community can stand alongside other communities and organizations to fight against racism, localism, injustice, and inequities along the California Coast and beyond.

Community Involvement:

BGS has become a part of several coalitions to further equity and ocean conservation efforts, both internally and externally. These include the Next 100 Coalition's Ocean Equity Collective, Ocean Justice Forum, and Marine Market and Equity Cohort. Within these groups, BGS works to ensure that all communities can participate in the protection and enjoyment of the ocean, create and advance a federal ocean policy agenda that centers economic, racial, climate, and environmental justice within a racial equity and social justice framework. Additionally, we aim to address internal areas where we can improve and deepen our work of creating inclusive and empowering spaces for the communities we belong to.



Partnership Growth through Pacifica Permit Reform:

BGS continues the work in Pacifica to ensure equitable surf access and a legitimate permitting process for Linda Mar State Beach. While this journey has been exhausting and frustrating on many fronts, we'd like to take a moment to appreciate the lasting partnerships that have blossomed through this work. Most notably through our Pacifica permit reform work, we deepened our partnership with Parks Now. With the help of Parks Now, we expanded critical relationships with the State Coastal Conservancy and the California Coastal Commission, as well as on the local and regional levels with City Surf Project, Surfrider San Mateo Chapter, the city of Pacifica's Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Department and Commission, the Coastal Resilience Network, and Together Bay Area. This greatly built our internal capacity to act as thought leaders, organizers, conveners, and strategists for change around issues of equitable coastal access.

SHELL YEAH!

PROGRAM RECAP

We are so fortunate to have been able to continue program operations through 2021. *We found that now, more than ever, our community needed the ocean and the connection it provides.* We completed 3 seasons of joyous youth, adult, and intergenerational programming!



BY THE NUMBERS

Days @ the BEACH!

59

Rising Leader Youth

22

New Participants

49

Summer Camp
Participants

38

Counselors
in Training

3

Total
Participants

312



100% OF PARTICIPANTS FEEL LIKE THEY CAN BE THEMSELVES AT BROWN GIRL SURF

94% OF PARTICIPANTS BELIEVE THAT THEY BELONG IN THE OUTDOORS

2021 Summer Camp Survey Results

"LEARNING TO SURF WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY SUMMER. IT WAS TRULY EXHILARATING, AND IT MAKES ME WANT TO GO BACK WITH MY FIENDS AND FAMILY TO KEEP LEARNING TO SURF AND ENJOY THE BEACH."

75% OF PARTICIPANTS NOW GO TO THE OCEAN MORE OFTEN THAN BEFORE, THANKS TO BROWN GIRL SURF



BUDDY SYSTEM

THANK YOU REI, VANS SURF, IDEAL SURF, & DECATHLON FOR DONATING GEAR FOR OUR RAFFLES & EVENTS

WE APPRECIATE ALL OUR FUNDERS WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT AND INVEST IN OUR GROWTH!

BIG GRATITUDE TO OUR NEW FREINDS AT UNITY WHO HELPED BRING US TO PRINT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN BGS HISTORY WITH THE PRINTING OF OUR FIRST ZINE!

MANY THANKS TO OUR NEW FRIENDS AT THE DAVID BROWER CENTER FOR SHARING THEIR LEARNING SPACE!

SHOUTOUT TO OUR PARTNERS EVO AND SANUK FOR KEEPING OUR STAFF WARM & COZY ALL YEAR LONG

WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS: CITY SURF PROJECT, JUSTICE OUTSIDE, & BROWN GIRLS CLIMBING

Photo of Adriana @ the Round Table Discussion with CNRA, Secretary Wade Crowfoot, US Secretary Deb Haaland, other community stakeholders, & new allies!



APPRECIATION FOR ALL OUR ADVOCACY ALLIES, INCLUDING PARKS NOW, NEXT 100 COALITION, OCEAN JUSTICE FORUM, & THE LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES WHO SUPPORT OUR WORK.