



**Mission:** To cultivate a passion for science, leadership, and service in a diverse community of learners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Growing Denver Nonprofit Hosts Largest Fundraiser of the Year at  
the Denver Museum of Nature and Science**

On the morning of Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, Denver nonprofit Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) gathered Denver’s business and community leaders for a morning of celebration at their largest fundraiser of the year: ELK ‘n Eggs. Hosted at the facility of long-term partner and friend, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, this marked the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this impactful event. With a mission to “cultivate a passion in science, leadership, and service in a diverse community of learners,” this time-tested organization is changing the landscape of the outdoor recreation and STEM worlds as we know them.

Said Juan Pérez Sáez, ELK Executive Director, “Environmental Learning for Kids is a prime example of what grassroots, community centered, and transformational relationships can accomplish.

I see our journey and get inspired for what is yet to come. We have the power to continue to transform our community, organization, and ourselves into the version that

we have dreamed to become. Our youth speaker, parent speaker, lifetime legacy awardee, and celebrated partner embody just that.”

One of the greatest 2021 accomplishments this joyful event honored was the opening of the organization’s very own Education Center in the heart of Montbello. A project 26 years in the making, this facility is activating programs at Montbello Open Space Park while also fulfilling a need for in-door, educational programming, and a space for community gatherings.

ELK ‘n Eggs includes the presentation of a Celebrated Partner Award and a Lifetime Legacy Award. This year’s Celebrated Partner was longtime partner, Denver Parks and Recreation. “As stewards of a legacy park system, Denver Parks and Recreation is dedicated to customer service and enhancing the health of residents and the environment through innovative programs and safe, beautiful and sustainable places.”

Accepted by Denver Parks and Recreation Executive Director, Happy Haynes, this award honors a strong partnership in providing safe and equitable access to all of Denver’s residents. On receiving this award, Haynes had this to say:

“Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) has a stellar reputation not only for engaging underserved youth but serving as the model for youth leadership and youth-driven initiatives. For Denver Parks and Recreation to receive this year’s Celebrated Partner Award from ELK is the highest praise and inspires us to strengthen and grow our partnership with ELK.”

One of Montbello community’s most well-known and action-oriented residents, Ms. Pam Jiner, was bestowed the Lifetime Legacy award for her commitment to youth, families, and community.

On what this award means to her, Ms. Jiner said the following: “Absolutely everything! Having lived in Montbello for over 50+ years; working the past six years as the Executive Director of Montbello Walks - receiving a "Lifetime Legacy Award" from Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) is the icing on my cake. ELK designs and facilitates outdoor environmental learning experiences for our kids as does Montbello Walks. I am truly honored to accept this award on behalf of myself and the many Montbello Walks volunteers that support my work in community.”

This event raised \$110,000 in funding for this important organization. Professional photos will available shortly.

#### **About Environmental Learning for Kids**

Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) is a Denver-based, 501(c)3 organization established in 1996 to address the growing need to introduce and educate Colorado’s urban youth about

science, leadership, and careers. Twenty-five years later, ELK continues to provide strong educational support, good role models, and opportunities for positive community action for youth, helping them to become engaged, productive, and successful members of society. For more information about ELK please visit [www.elkids.org](http://www.elkids.org).

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