

Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back Awards \$500,000 to Inaugural Grant Recipients

West Palm Beach, Fla. (March 6, 2024) – The *Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back* grant program announced the inaugural grant recipients at a cocktail reception on Wednesday, February 21, at the Lake Pavilion in Downtown West Palm Beach.

The grant program is a collaboration between the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County (MIAPBC), the owner of the Palm Beach International Boat Show, and Informa, the producer of the show.

In its first year, the *Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back* grant program distributed \$500,000 among 25 nonprofit organizations to help support environmental and marine education programs, and waterfront projects in Palm Beach County. This included educational activities, curriculum development, field trips, outreach, in-house programs, and cultural events.

“We are honored to promote and protect the sound growth of the marine industry in Palm Beach County for the benefit and education of the community and the environment,” said Alyssa Freeman, executive director of the MIAPBC. “The *Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back* program has allowed us to take our donation efforts to the next level by enriching people’s lives across the community.”

The *Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back* grant program is funded through the proceeds from the annual Palm Beach International Boat Show, which include ticket sales, optional add-on donations, and other boat show-related endeavors. The Palm Beach International Boat Show has a 42-year history and has made a major economic impact on the region. It is a much-loved, annual tradition for residents and visitors to South Florida, and is widely known to be among a handful of must-attend, major boating events in the world.

“The Palm Beach International Boat Show has always given back to the community, and we want to enhance that further by providing more funding to local nonprofits,” said Rena Blades, director of community and government affairs for the boat show. “We have pledged \$500,000 in our first year, and we hope to give millions in the future.”

The 2023 *Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back* grant recipients are:

- Andrew “Red” Harris Foundation
- ANGARI Foundation
- CareerSource Palm Beach County
- Civil Air Patrol
- Cox Science Center and Aquarium
- Education Foundation of Palm Beach County

- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida Fishing Academy
- Friends of Manatee Lagoon
- Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
- Girl Scouts of South Florida
- Inlet Grove Community High School
- Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches & Treasure Coast
- Loggerhead Marinelife Center
- Marine Education Initiative
- Marine Megafauna Foundation
- Palm Beach State College Foundation
- Partnership for Environmental Education
- Sandoway Discovery Center
- Sea Turtles Adventures
- StreetWaves
- SunFest
- The Reef Institute
- The Talented Teen Club
- Youth Sailing Foundation of the Palm Beaches

Donations to the *Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back* program can be made while purchasing tickets to the Palm Beach International Boat Show at pbboatshow.com. Donations are distributed through the *Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back* fund, managed by the [Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties](http://CommunityFoundationforPalmBeachandMartinCounties).

For more information about *Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back*, visit marinepbc.org/grant-program.

About Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back

Through the *Palm Beach International Boat Show Gives Back* grant program, the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County and Informa provide funding to nonprofit organizations in Palm Beach County. The grants will help the organizations to underwrite environmental and marine education programs, and waterfront projects in Palm Beach County that serve residents and visitors.