



Brown Girl Surf Spring 2018 Newsletter

Dear Brown Girl Surf Community,

We are excited to share with you our first newsletter of the year! In this newsletter, we're going to share:

- 1) Upcoming events
- 2) Brown Girl Surf 2017, in numbers
- 3) Transitions
- 4) Highlights of activities since last fall
- 5) Media coverage
- 6) Organizational needs

Upcoming events

We are gearing up for our Spring programs! The Surf Sister Saturdays are open to girls and women 9 years and up. No experience is required, and we provide all of the necessary equipment. Can't swim? We'll provide a safe and supported environment for you to be in the ocean. Come out and share the stoke! Sign up today and mark your calendars! A list of upcoming events can also be found on our website [here](#).

March 29 – Film Screening of It Ain't Pretty in Berkeley. Tickets available [here](#)

April 14 – Surf Sister Saturday #1 – [Registration open!](#)

April 21 – Earth Day Fun Day - [Registration open!](#)

April 28 – Surf Sister Saturday #2 – [Registration open!](#)

May 5 – Surf Sister Saturday #3

May 19 – Surf Sister Saturday #4

June 2 – Surf Sister Saturday #5

Brown Girl Surf 2017, in numbers

Number of participants served: 102

Number of repeat participants: 86

Number of participant hours completed: 888

Average # of hours participants receive of programming / events / activities: 8.7

Number of days of programming, both in and out of the water: 26

Percent of girls and women served that are low income: Of the 69 known incomes,

22% have household incomes of less than \$30k/year;

46% have incomes of less than \$50k/year

Percent of girls and women of color: 93%

Number of volunteers: 46

Number of volunteer hours committed: 1203

Percent of volunteers that are women of color: 87%

THANK YOU to all of you for helping to make 2017 the best year yet for Brown Girl Surf!!

Transitions

2017 was amazing, and 2018 is also off to an exciting start at Brown Girl Surf! Mira is officially on maternity leave for the year, expecting twins any moment. While Mira begins her new adventure, our Lead Surf Instructor, Marley Reynosa, has taken the role of Programs and Events Manager. We also welcomed our new Interim Executive Director, Maya Yamato. You can read Marley and Maya's bios [here!](#)



Mira and Cris



Marley



Maya



In addition to our existing community members, we also have a whole new group of volunteers (left) and Rising Leaders (right) joining us this year. It's going to be a great year for Brown Girl Surf!

Highlights of activities since last fall

Our annual Year End Celebration was held in December at the East Side Arts Alliance. We celebrated a year of ocean connection, sisterhood, advocacy, arts, and action! Hosted by M.C. Mama B, our celebration featured hip hop diva and surfer Ar3mis Prime, DJ Taino Glo, Sistar Cypher, a slideshow of our year, and interactive nature booths run by NatureBridge and California Center for Natural History. Delicious eats were generously provided by Homeroom, The Little Chihuahua, and Extreme Pizza.



Photos from our Year-End Celebration in December

Protest against offshore drilling: Brown Girl Surf was a featured guest at the Rally Against Offshore Drilling in Sacramento on Feb. 8. Marley gave a phenomenal speech, which can be viewed [here](#). Rising Leader Jessica and her mom Robin were featured in a news story covering the event (click [here](#))!



Marley, Genet, and Jessica were among the eight BGS representatives at the Rally Against Offshore Drilling.

Equity in Coastal Access panel: Brown Girl Surf was part of a panel at the 13th Annual Green California Summit, which brings together leaders in the environmental community, legislative leaders, and allies in Sacramento on Feb. 28. We presented a workshop on intangible barriers to California's Coast, including physical, cultural, and political roadblocks that prevent Californians from getting to the ocean. Fellow panel members included our friends at the City Surf Project, Wahine Project, Institute for Women Surfers, and Surfrider Foundation. Based on these discussions, we formed a coalition of organizations and agencies who want increased equity in coastal access. We are actively working on this issue in 2018 – stay tuned!

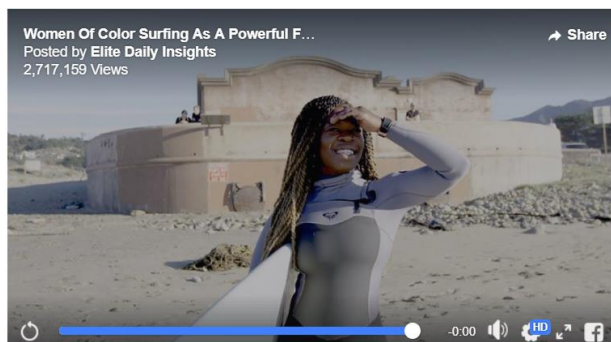
Ocean Safety Training: Last Saturday, we held our annual Ocean Safety Training. Ocean Rescue Supervisor Doug Armstrong of the National Park Service runs this training for Brown Girl Surf each spring. We were blessed with great weather and ocean conditions this year. We learned beach hazards and got to practice rescue techniques in the water! Thank you Doug!!



Since last fall, our Rising Leaders have also held several independent buddy outings, including surfing trips to Santa Cruz and Pacifica, and outings to the Oakland Museum of California.

Media coverage and development

In addition to the [media coverage](#) on the Rally Against Offshore Drilling, we received awesome media coverage since last fall. Mira and Brown Girl Surf won the [ESPN W / Toyota Everyday Heroes Award](#). We were featured in the [Fader Magazine](#), [Redbull Amaphiko](#), and [SF Magazine](#). A [news story and video](#) featuring Brown Girl Surf and Natasha has received over 2.7 million views since December! You can see more of Brown Girl Surf's media coverage on our website, [here](#).



We are excited to announce two new major partners of Brown Girl Surf in 2018: The California Coastal Conservancy's [Explore the Coast](#) program, and Patagonia's [Environmental Program](#). Combined with our existing partnerships with organizations including [Youth Outside](#), these new opportunities will allow us to triple the number of our in-water program days in 2018! We will be running more Surf Sister Saturdays, and bring back our Youth Summer Camp program, which was not held last year. A huge thanks to the institutional partners of Brown Girl Surf, which can be found [here](#).

Organizational needs

Wetsuits: We need new or used wetsuits for our spring programs! We are especially in need of women's size 10 and smaller (or Men's M and smaller). There is a wetsuit drive happening this week at ESTABLISH, [3811 Noriega St, SF](#). If you are unable to make it to the drop-off location, please contact us and we'll arrange a pick-up.

Jessica, a Rising Leader youth, used a newly donated wetsuit for her training 2 weeks ago and she was amazed at how warm and comfortable she was in the water. Your gift can transform a participant's surf experience!

Shed building: Brown Girl Surf is taking on a construction project in May! We need volunteers to help build a small equipment shed on Saturday, May 12 (10-2:30). Depending on our progress, we may need to continue on Sunday, May 13. Please contact us at info@browngirlsurf.com if you are interested! Huge thanks to Tucker Gorman of Tucker Gorman Designs for guidance on this project!

Over 40% of our operational funds come from individual contributions!

Thank you for being a member of our community. Please help us grow the movement by spreading the word and supporting our work!

Click [here](#) to support the programs of Brown Girl Surf!