

**Ana Blanco, Executive Director
Member, Board of Directors
International Ocean Film Foundation**

Executive Director, Ana Blanco joined the International Ocean Film Foundation 2011 with more than a decade of experience in executive nonprofit management with several prominent Bay Area non-profit organizations.

In 2012, Ana established the International Student Film Competition encouraging middle school and high school students around the world to create a film about the ocean and compete for prizes. In 2013, recognizing the need for ocean inspired independent films to extend to broader audiences, Blanco created the IOFF Traveling Program, creating partnerships across the US as well as in Germany, South Korea, Russia and others.

Blanco began her non-profit career as the Donor Relations Officer for the [San Francisco Foundation](#), preceded by her role as Vice-President and Development Director at [BizWorld.org](#), an educational entrepreneurship curriculum for young students. Ana's passion for the ocean began at an early age when she moved to Lima, Peru at the age of eleven to meet her extended paternal family and saw the Pacific Ocean for the first time. She is a certified PADI diver, and learned to sail on the San Francisco Bay, while also volunteering with the [Blue Water Foundation](#), a local non-profit dedicated to introducing at-risk youth to the joys and challenges of sailing on the bay. Her passion for protecting our oceans has become stronger after seeing so many films in the festival and she always looks for opportunities to explore and discover the beautiful underwater world.

Blanco has served as a jury member for numerous film festivals, including Jackson Wild, CINEMARE International Ocean Film Festival in Kiel, Germany, San Diego Underwater Film Expo, FICMA Film Festival in Barcelona, Spain and the Brest Surf Film Festival in Brest, France.

Blanco is currently co-producing and co-directing her debut film *Sequoias of the Sea*, about the vanishing bull kelp along the coast of Northern California. The expected completion of the documentary is December 2024.