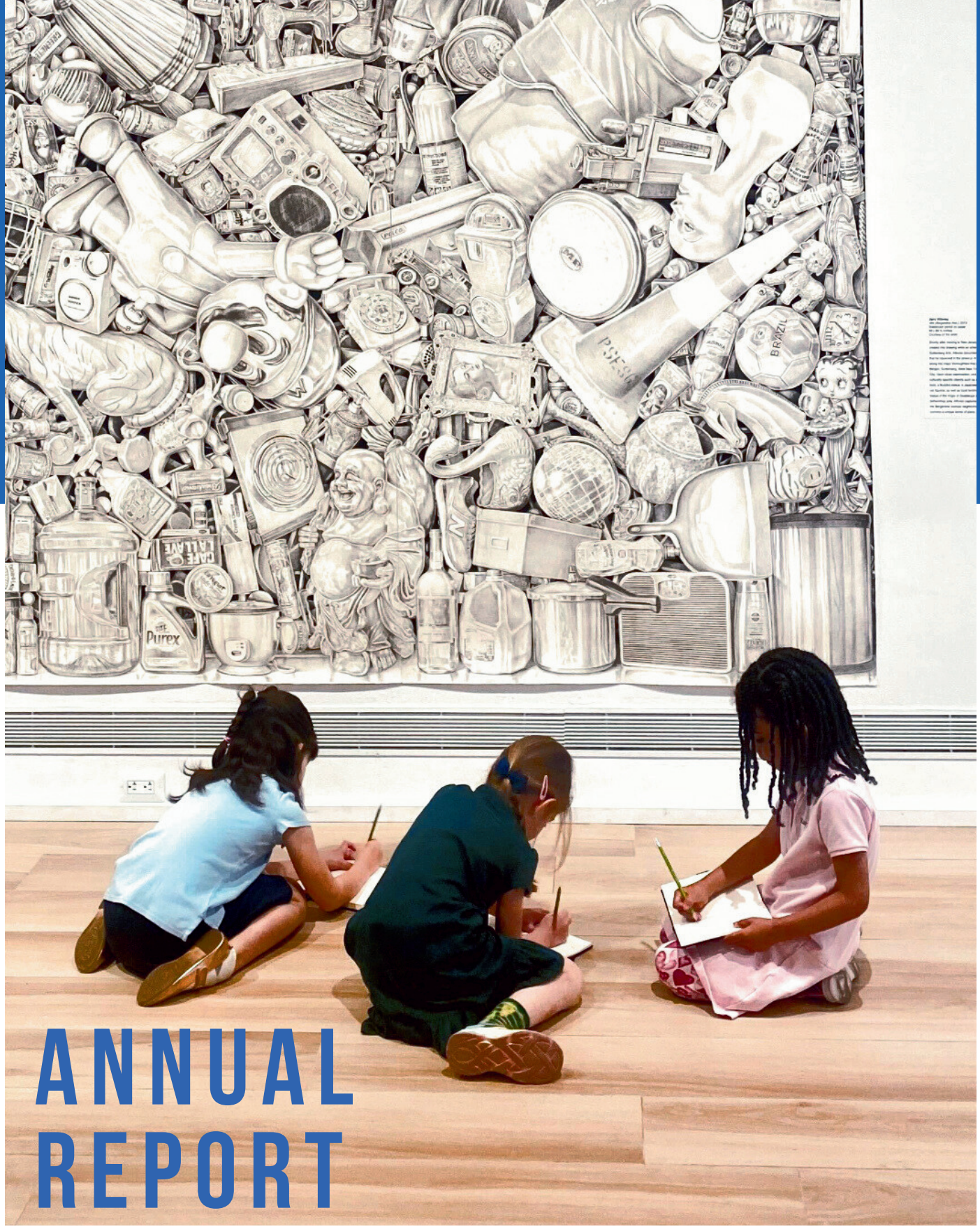


ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022–JUNE 30, 2023

ARTCENTERNJ.ORG
68 ELM ST | SUMMIT | NEW JERSEY

90 YEARS 1933 • 2023 VISUAL ARTS CENTER OF NEW JERSEY

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Jairo Alfonso, *Caribe Transistorizado V*, 2022
Photo by Etienne Frossard

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Diego Rotsztain, Vice Chair
Suzanne Henry, Vice Chair
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Lisa Gingeleskie
Tharanga Goonetilleke
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Vani Krishnamurthy
Anamaria LLanos
André Renaudo
Deborah Schwarzmann
Jess Van Nostrand
Rachel Wilf
Philemona Williamson

VISIONARIES

Mr. & Mrs. William B. Nicholson
The Wilf Family Foundations

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Elizabeth C. Gump
Joseph R. Robinson
Roland Weiser



Ripple Effect
September 16, 2022–January 8, 2023
Photo by Jess Talos



The Sonicycle: Layers of Community
January 24–June 4, 2023
Photo by Etienne Frossard



Jairo Alfonso: Objectscapes
January 24–June 4, 2023
Photo by Etienne Frossard

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the Lenape peoples on whose ancestral homelands the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey is situated. We honor the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today.

90 YEARS 1933 • 2023 VISUAL ARTS CENTER OF NEW JERSEY

A MESSAGE

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES & THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey marked a significant milestone celebrating our 90th year. This Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023) also brought with it many noteworthy achievements, among them the reaccreditation of the Art Center by the prestigious American Alliance of Museums (AAM). We take immense pride in being one of only ten AAM-accredited museums in the state of New Jersey, a testament to our commitment to the highest standards of museum excellence.

Additionally, Fiscal Year 2023 saw the appointment of Kristen Evangelista as our new Director of Exhibitions. In her first year in this vital role, her dedication and vision have already made a significant impact on the Art Center's artistic offerings and overall direction. In the Fall of 2022, our exhibition, *Ripple Effect*, shone a spotlight on the creative endeavors of thirty-seven Visual Arts Center of New Jersey teaching artists. The exhibition's title encapsulates the profound and far-reaching impact of our dedicated faculty who impart their expert skills to students through our Studio School and community programs.

As we entered the Spring of 2023, the Art Center offered a trio of captivating exhibits that made up our *Olas Caribeñas/Caribbean Waves* project, an interdisciplinary initiative that explored the visual art and folk life traditions of the Caribbean diaspora in NJ. In the Main Gallery, we presented *Jairo Alfonso: Objectscapes*, a comprehensive survey of the work of Jairo Alfonso, a Cuban-born artist who has called New Jersey his home since 2014. Alfonso's art delves into material culture, uncovering its capacity to hold both personal and collective significance. His work sheds light on fundamental questions of identity, origin, and belonging.

Meanwhile, in the Mitzi and Warren Eisenberg Gallery, we proudly hosted Los Herederos, a media arts non-profit organization, and their remarkable creation, *The Sonicycle: Layers of Community*. This mobile, audio-visual unit engages communities in sharing stories, music, and cultural traditions. A short audio documentary reel was curated, featuring oral histories, local soundscapes, and musical performances collected by folklorist Naomi Sturm-Wijesinghe and Los Herederos, showcasing the diverse voices of New Jersey community members.

Finally, our Stair-gazing Gallery served as a platform for *Jack & Jill* by Kevin Darmanie. Hailing from Trinidad & Tobago, Darmanie skillfully utilizes photographs of himself and his friend as the foundation for his paintings,



resulting in a powerful and introspective portrait.

Our dedication to the intersection of art and healing continued to expand in FY23. The Art Center was thrilled to announce a generous $1 million gift from the Nicholson Foundation, a commitment that will significantly bolster our Arts and Healing programs designed to support vulnerable populations. This remarkable gift will enable us to offer a decade of arts programming to some of the most historically underserved and marginalized individuals in our society. Specifically, the funds will be allocated to benefit formerly-houseless veterans, incarcerated and formerly-incarcerated individuals, and families facing food insecurity.

FY23 also saw the initiation of an Arts and Healing program in collaboration with Overlook Hospital. This partnership provides meaningful opportunities for exhibitions and artistic expression with the hospital's care teams, fostering a healing environment for patients and staff alike. Through all of the Art Center’s Arts and Healing initiatives, we aim to harness the transformative power of art to promote healing, personal growth, and resilience.

In addition to these initiatives, we were delighted to continue our longstanding commitment to K-12 schools throughout New Jersey. Our ongoing partnership with Elizabeth Public Schools is just one example of how we strive to enrich the lives of young learners by bringing the arts directly into their educational experiences. Our CALTA21 program, made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and PricewaterhouseCoopers Charitable Foundation, works with 9th- and 10th-grade social studies students in bilingual classrooms in Elizabeth Public Schools.

On April 29, the Art Center hosted a magnificent event, "Shine On,” the VACNJ’s 90th Anniversary Gala, which proved to be a resounding success. This gala served as a significant fundraiser, generating a total of $373,500 in support of the Art Center's diverse and enriching programming. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed Premier Event Sponsors, Chubb and Risk Strategies, whose generous contributions made this event possible.

As a highlight of the evening, the Art Center had the privilege of recognizing The Wilf Family Foundations as our 2023 Gala Honoree, who has made remarkable contributions to our community and the world of art. In a heartfelt tribute, we acknowledged their unwavering dedication to the arts and their invaluable support to our organization. Additionally, we celebrated our 6th Annual Changemaker, Layqa Nuna Yawar, whose transformative work continues to inspire, both within the realm of art and beyond. Layqa Nuna Yawar's commitment to social impact through art exemplifies the Art Center's mission to harness creativity as a force for positive change.

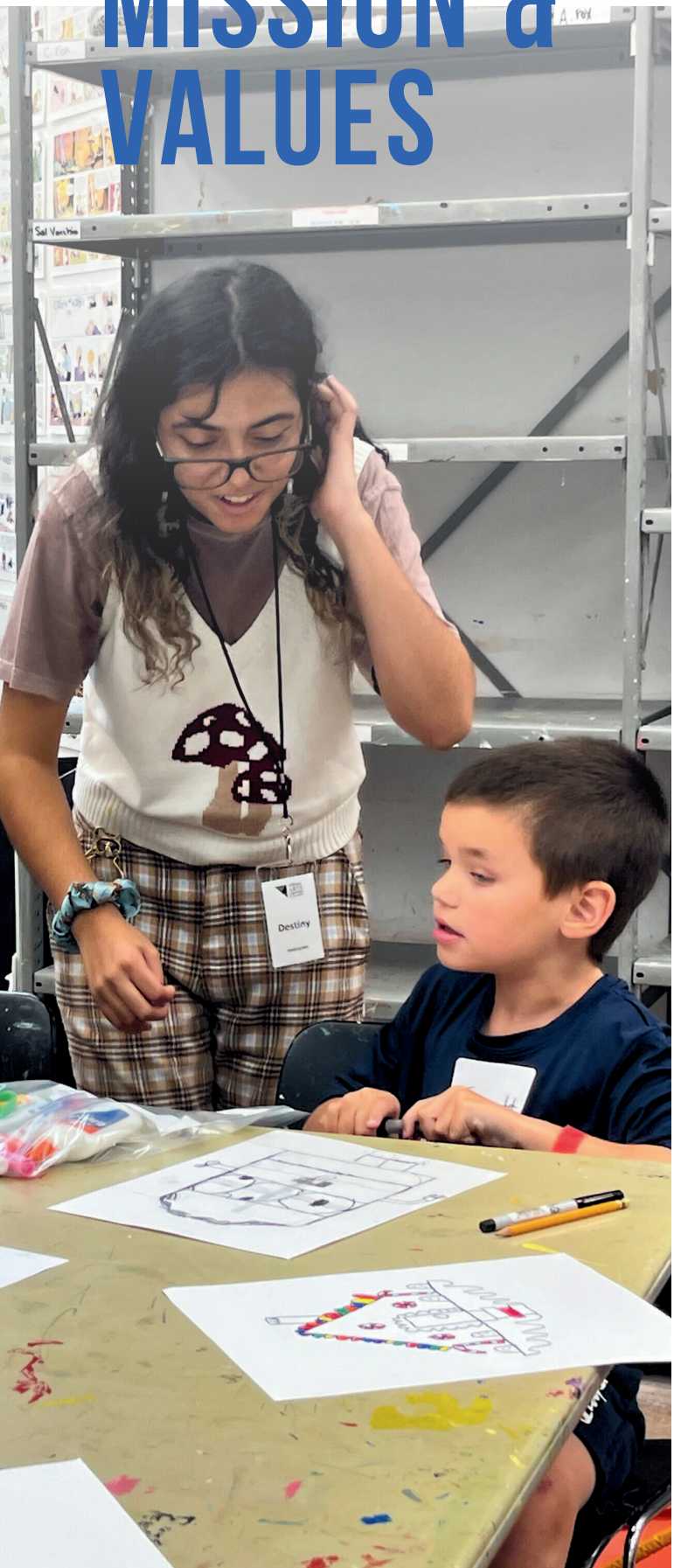
At this year's annual meeting, we are delighted to introduce two distinguished additions to our esteemed Board of Trustees: Philemona Williamson and Anamaria LLanos. They will join a robust board whose steadfast commitment, coupled with the unwavering dedication of our staff and artists, has been pivotal in ensuring yet another year filled with remarkable achievements.

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey remains steadfast in its dedication to providing a diverse and enriching array of artistic experiences to our community. The accomplishments and partnerships forged over the past year stand as a testament to our unwavering commitment to our vision: To create an inclusive and welcoming community where lives are transformed and enriched through the shared experience of art. We extend our deepest gratitude to the donors, collaborators, and friends whose trust and support make these vital programs possible.

Anne Grissinger
Chair, Board of Trustees

Melanie Cohn
Executive Director

VISION, MISSION & VALUES



VISION

To create an inclusive and welcoming community where lives are transformed and enriched through the shared experience of art.

MISSION

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey nurtures the capacity for personal expression, expands the creative experience, and fosters stronger communities by empowering people to see, make, and learn about art. Through exhibition, Studio School, and community programs, the Art Center engenders connection, curiosity, and creative risk-taking among its constituents.

VALUES

In our work, we embrace the following values:

CONNECTION: We foster connection among our community members through a respectful and safe environment.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY: We welcome and value diverse backgrounds and viewpoints, and nurture an environment that is open and supportive.

EXCELLENCE: We are committed to providing outstanding services and programs. We direct our collective efforts to continually improve and innovate.

CURIOSITY & CREATIVE RISK-TAKING: We value receptivity, open dialogue, and innovative thinking, so as to encourage curiosity and creative risk-taking.

HOLISTIC APPROACH: We value a holistic approach to art in the individual and community life, so that art is found in every facet of life.

ADVOCACY: We value standing up and speaking out for the arts, in order to promote our vision and values.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

Tuition	$1,685,863
Contributions	1,471,051
Government	188,560
Special events	315,555
Membership dues	58,198
Services income	52,885
Interest & dividends	153,256
Miscellaneous income	1,215
Total Public Support & Revenue	**$3,926,583**

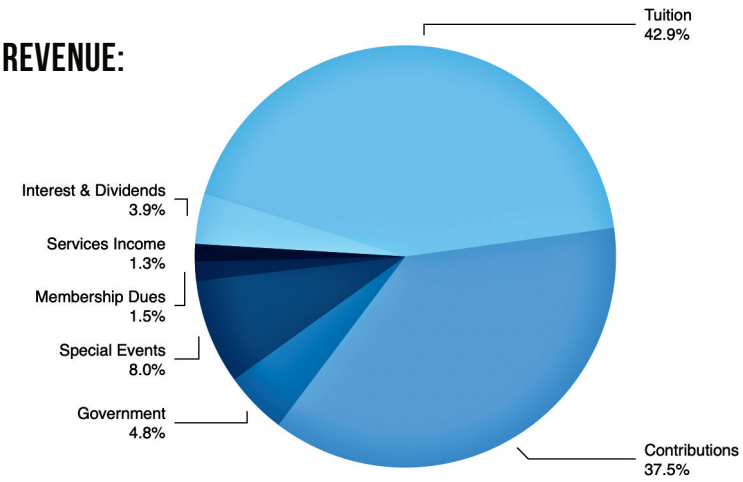
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Programs	$1,965,684
Management & general	486,349
Fundraising	240,066
Total Functional Expenses	**$2,692,099**
Change in Net Assets from Operations	**$1,234,484**

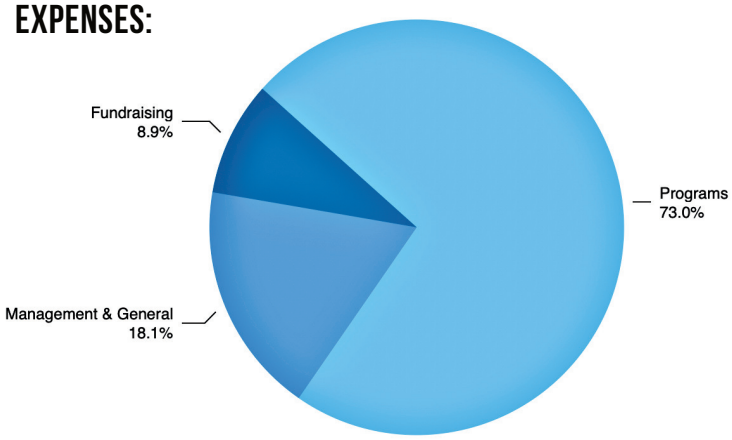
NON OPERATION ACTIVITY

Gain on Swap Agreement	$50,678
Net Invest Gain (Loss)	238,813
Total Non Operation Activity	**$289,491**
Change in Net Assets	**$1,523,975**

REVENUE:



EXPENSES:



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	FY '23	FY '22
Cash & cash equivalents	$2,107,800	$2,248,160
Government grants & other receivables	130,792	105,652
Contributions receivable, net	143,465	224,616
Prepaid expenses & other assets	56,008	44,430
Cash, donor restricted	1,008,264	–
Interest rate swap agreement	182,156	131,478
Cash restricted for endowment	–	500,000
Investments restricted for endowment	4,627,304	3,548,821
Fixed assets, net	3,722,021	3,656,345
Total Assets	**$11,977,810**	**$10,459,502**

LIABILITIES	FY '23	FY '22
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	$187,385	$167,958
Deferred tuition & other revenue	552,886	543,706
Mortgage payable	1,266,460	1,300,734
Total Liabilities	**$2,006,731**	**$2,012,398**

NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	$4,545,863	$4,140,911
Restricted	5,425,216	4,306,193
Total Net Assets	**$9,971,079**	**$8,447,104**
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	**$11,977,810**	**$10,459,502**

Data provided from unaudited financials FY '23

STUDIO SCHOOL

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey's Studio School—one of the largest non-university arts programs in the state—proudly offers an extensive curriculum that includes hundreds of classes, workshops, and camps focusing on a variety of media. Its renowned faculty of professional teaching artists serves thousands of students of all ages and skill levels each year.



2,321 ADULT STUDENTS



2,310 YOUTH STUDENTS



2 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



61 CAMP SESSIONS



64 WORKSHOPS



379 SEMESTER-LONG CLASSES

"MY DAUGHTER LOVED THE DIFFERENT ART PROJECTS, AND PARTICULARLY SEEMED TO LOVE WORKING WITH CLAY. SHE SAID HER COUNSELORS WERE VERY NICE!"

2022 Summer Art Camp Parent

Fiscal Year 2023 was a very successful year for the Studio School, with a return to pre-COVID registration numbers. We served a total of 4,631 students through 504 classes, workshops, and camps. For the first time, we surveyed the children in our 2022 Summer Art Camp about the art projects so that future camp projects can incorporate their preferences. We also piloted capturing and sharing photos of the camp day with parents, so they can see what happens in the camp classroom. In Fall 2022, we again held our annual Raku Festival for 76 participants, which was a higher attendance than in recent years.

Classes held at the Art Center positively impacted the social and emotional well-being of our students. Although we served over 4,500 students this year, our goal is to reach each individual student. Here are two examples:

The first is the story of an adult student who had recently suffered a traumatic brain injury, and as a result, was unable to continue with many of her previous activities. She contacted the Art Center and we coordinated a one-on-one private art class tailored to her special situation. The class arranged was a needle felting sculpture class, and the art instructor created lessons that helped her improve her hand/eye coordination as well as her dexterity by handling the sharp needles used in this art form. The student was so surprised with what she was able to create from this class.

"I LOVE COMING TO CLASS EACH WEEK WITH MY FELLOW CLASSMATES!"

2023 Studio School Student

The second is the story of a teen student who has a physical impairment affecting the use of their left arm. They enrolled in a ceramics wheel throwing class, a medium that traditionally uses both hands. When the instructor learned of the student's special circumstance, the instructor took time in our studio to practice throwing single-handed, using only his right arm, in order to prepare for class. He was then able to teach the student how to successfully complete a project on the wheel using only one hand. This teacher's dedication to their student was a great example of the commitment of the Art Center's faculty members to helping our students.



STUDIO SCHOOL FACULTY

Doug Baron
Kristian Battell
Carolyn Bednar
Lisette Bedoya
Kat Block
Chase Cantwell
Mary Jean Canziani
Beatrice (Jao-O) Chang
Amanda Ciurciu
Donna Conklin King
Paula Cotov
Alicia Cotter
Mark de Mos
Pooja Dhawan
Josh Dillon
David DiMarchi
Chloe Dougherty
Melissa Efrus
Andrea Epstein
Jessica Garber
Andrea Gianchiglia
Allison Gildea
Anita Gladstone
Kelly Green Grady
Marielena Guthrie
Ellen Hess
Gerry Heydt
Judy Hugentobler
Jill Hurant
Destiny Jure
Melissa Krishnamurthy
Diana Hsu Kung
Matthew Langley
Valeri Larko
Maryna Layedra
Vanessa Lopez
Duane Lutsko
Stephanie Maddalena
Drew Maillard
Allison Manalili
Martha McDonald
Jeannette Mullarkey
Brian Ng
Dawn Noonan
Donald Polzo
Shari Quinones
Donna Read
Shelley Rosen Howard
Sandy Ruda
Sue Sachs
Mark Saenger
Heidi SanFilippo
John Scalera
Eva Sienkiewicz
Stella Sormani
Russ Spitkovsky
Peter Syak
Emma Tabachnick
Joel Tidey
Katie Truk
Michelle Truskowski
Janine Weiss
Carole Wong Chesek
Stephen Yavorski
Traci Zaretzka

EDUCATION & ARTS + HEALING



The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey's Education and Arts + Healing Programs serve the diverse communities of Union, Hudson, Essex, Sussex, and Somerset counties. The one thread that runs throughout VACNJ's community programming is the concept that art is not a thing to study and master, but a way. These programs center on the value of community-held authorship and integrate diverse backgrounds of class, gender, ethnicity, and life circumstance to focus on health and vibrancy.

The Art Center's Education and Arts + Healing Programs have a wide-reaching impact that speaks to the heart of the our vision—creating an inclusive and welcoming community where lives are transformed and enriched through the shared experience of art. The diversity of programming offered allows VACNJ to touch various populations in need across the state. We work with public school students who lack the resources for formal arts education through our programs with Jefferson Arts Academy, the PEP Program, and Elizabeth Public Schools. Our partnership with SEEDS: Access Changes Everything allows us to serve high-achieving, low-income students in Newark with lessons in studio art with a taste of art history.

Our collaboration with Cultures and Literacies through Art for the 21st Century (CALTA21) focuses on connecting immigrant English language learners and museums together to provide authentic, meaningful, and engaging experiences that foster learning, enjoyment, and civic engagement while supporting the development of participants' voices in expressing art. Our partnership with Empowering Kids Organization (EKO) connects underprivileged children and their families with unique arts experiences, ultimately providing scholarships for our Studio School classes for kids interested in continuing to explore the arts. Additionally, we have expanded our focus on arts and healing initiatives to those in need of specialized programming—such as our programs working with the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) Pride Program, New Jersey Veterans, and SAGE Eldercare.

The Nicholson Foundation

Changing Systems, Changing Lives

This year, the Art Center was honored to receive a grant award from The Nicholson Foundation in honor of the Art Center's 90th Anniversary. The transformational $1 million gift will have a lasting impact in funding VACNJ's Arts + Healing initiatives by providing $100,000 a year to programs assisting two vulnerable populations: formerly houseless veterans and houseless or housing-insecure families and incarcerated individuals being held in the Middlesex County Corrections system and those re-entering their communities.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

30 Tours (adults & children)
Year-round . . . . . 833 participants

2 Teachers' Symposia
March 31–April 1, 2023 . . . . . 60 participants

Vivid Stage Summer Solos series
July 6–July 27, 2022 . . . . . 100 attendees

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ARC Internships
Year-round . . . . . 120 participants

Battle Hill School Program
April 28, 2023 . . . . . 16 participants

CALTA21
April 25–May 9, 2023 . . . . . 150 participants

Cornerstone School Program
May 16, 2023 . . . . . 24 participants

Elizabeth 8th Grade Program
February 24–May 12, 2023 . . . . . 400 participants

Empowering Kids Organization
October–June 2023 . . . . . 84 participants

Jefferson Arts Academy Program
October–November 2022; February 3–March 10, 2023;
April 28–June 2, 2023 . . . . . 160 participants

Kent Place School Program
April 14, 2023 . . . . . 17 participants

PEP After School Enrichment Program
October 24 & 26, 2022; April 17 & 19, 2023 . . . . . 44 participants

SEEDS: Access Changes Everything
July 8–29, 2022; January–April, 2023 . . . . . 150 participants

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

CALTA21 Professional Development
January 23 & March 13, 2023. . . . . 60 participants

Elizabeth Pubic Schools Professional Development
June 5 & 7, 2023 . . . . . 52 participants

Summit Art Educators Professional Development
February 11, 2023 . . . . . 11 participants



ART & HEALING PROGRAMS

Art Therapy for Teens
March 13–May 22, 2023 . . . . . 60 participants

ECLC Program
January 28–May 12, 2023 . . . . . 750 participants

Governor Livingston Wellness Fair
October 25, 2022 . . . . . 120 attendees

Overlook Hospital Programs
Year-round . . . . . 300 participants

SAGE Eldercare
Year-round . . . . . 735 participants

Veterans Haven South
January–June 2023 . . . . . 390 participants

EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMS

Ripple Effect Last Look Event
January 8, 2023 . . . . . 76 attendees

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
January 16, 2023 . . . . . 50 participants

Olas Caribeñas/Caribbean Waves Community Day
February 11, 2023 . . . . . 135 participants

Artist Talk
March 18, 2023 . . . . . 15 attendees

Olas Caribeñas/Caribbean Waves Closing Reception
June 4, 2023 . . . . . 97 attendees





MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey is a leading regional museum of contemporary art. We present artistically and culturally diverse exhibitions that showcase emerging and established artists from the US and abroad. Exhibitions welcomed 3,739 visitors in FY '23.



Jairo Alfonso: Objectscapes
Photo by Etienne Frossard

RIPPLE EFFECT

September 16, 2022–January 8, 2023
Main Gallery and Mitzi & Warren Eisenberg Gallery

Featured artists: James Adkins, Doug Baron, Kat Block, Melissa Bragg-Krishnamurthy, Chase Cantwell, Mary Jean Canziani, Beatrice Chang, Donna Conklin King, Mark de Mos, Alicia Flynn Cotter, Jessica Garber, Andrea Gianchiglia, Anita Gladstone, Gerry Heydt, Judith Hugentobler, Diana Hsu Kung, Matthew Langley, Valeri Larko, Christopher Lopez, Duane Lutsko, Joanna Madloch, Drew Maillard, Martha McDonald, Jeannette Mullarkey, Mansa Mussa, Howard Nathenson, Dawn Noonan, Janice Patrignani, Dennis RedMoon Darkeem, Shelley Rosen Howard, Sandy Ruda, Heidi SanFilippo, Peter Syak, Joel Tidey, Katie Truk, Emi Winter, and Stephen Yavorski.

90TH ANNIVERSARY TIMELINE

September 16, 2022–January 8, 2023
Marité and Joe Robison Strolling Gallery I

OLAS CARIBEÑAS/CARIBBEAN WAVES

January 24–June 4, 2023

JAIRO ALFONSO: OBJECTSCAPES

Main Gallery

LOS HEREDEROS PRESENTS THE SONICYCLE: LAYERS OF COMMUNITY

Mitzi & Warren Eisenberg Gallery

Featured artists: Andrés Aceves, Marcela Artunduaga, Mauricio Bayona, William Bonilla, Alexander Bustamante, Camilo Correa, Julia Guttierez-Rivera, Alejandro Navarro, and Naomi Sturm-Wijesinghe.

KEVIN DARMANIE: JACK & JILL

Stair-gazing Gallery



The Sonicycle: Layers of Community
Photo by Etienne Frossard



Ripple Effect
Photo by Jess Talos

COMMUNITY EXHIBITIONS

The Art Center offers a variety of exhibition opportunities for our members and local artists both on and offsite. The Marité & Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery II and Ann's Place Gallery showcase rotating exhibitions of our member artists selected by The Art Center's Members Committee, as well as work created through our community engagement programming with local and surrounding areas. We also partner with the Summit Free Public Library to provide additional gallery space and visibility within the town of Summit.

MARY JEAN CANZIANI: SMALL SACRIFICES

June 25–September 18, 2022
Ann's Place Gallery

DAVID ANDERSON WARD

July 1–September 30, 2022
The Gallery at the Summit Free Public Library

MICHAEL WOLF: SANCTUARY (IN FAIRYLAND)

October 1–November 27, 2022
Ann's Place Gallery

TEENA SONI: LOTUS: AWAKENING THE CHAKRA

October 1–November 27, 2022
Marité and Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery II

SARAH BASS ASPE: HAPPENSTANCIAL IMPRESSIONS

October 1–November 30, 2022
The Gallery at the Summit Free Public Library

EVIE MONROE: VESTIGES OF A SHARED PAST

December 1, 2022–January 30, 2023
The Gallery at the Summit Free Public Library

ANNETTE KUSHEN: ABSTRACTED ILLUSIONS

December 10, 2022–February 5, 2023
Ann's Place Gallery

TRACY LUCKNER: ABSTRACT LANDSCAPES—WAYFINDING

December 10, 2022–February 5, 2023
Marité and Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery II

ANITA GLADSTONE: STEPPING STONES (AND OTHER ROCKY PLACES)

February 1–March 31, 2023
The Gallery at the Summit Free Public Library

LOUISE WHEELER: CLAY QUILTS AND TEXTURED TEXTILES

February 18–April 16, 2023
Ann's Place Gallery

CALLIE CAMPBELL: TRUE COLORS?

February 18–April 16, 2023
Marité and Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery II

JOHN PATTERSON: INDEX + REVERIE

April 1–May 31, 2023
The Gallery at the Summit Free Public Library

SHARA BAILEY: IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER

May 6–June 25, 2023
Ann's Place Gallery

ELISSA F. MERKL: THE LAYERED LOOK

May 6–June 25, 2023
Marité and Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery II

PATRICIA KOZLOWSKI: MOMENTS IN TIME

June 1–July 31, 2023
The Gallery at the Summit Free Public Library

Atlantic Health System
Overlook Medical Center

The Art Center is proud to collaborate with Overlook Medical Center on a breakthrough arts and healing initiative that brings mindfulness to Overlook Medical Center's team members, patients, caregivers, and communities to help individuals develop and strengthen mindfulness and other healing arts and cultural practices and expressions.

MINDFULNESS IN MEDICINE

September 8–November 1, 2022

STORIES FROM OUR HOMELAND: JOURNEYS FROM ASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS TO AMERICA

May 11–August 30, 2023

ACCESSIBILITY AT THE ART CENTER

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey prides itself in creating a welcoming atmosphere where all community members can experience the transformative power of art.

To that end, we proudly offer a variety of resources for visitors and students with disabilities to create an equitable environment where all can see, make, and learn about art.

The Art Center staff has undergone Sensory Inclusion training with KultureCity. Additionally, the Art Center has experience creating curriculums and accommodations for students and visitors with visual disabilities, autism, and age-related cognitive disorders, such as dementia.

The Art Center welcomes group and individual visits to our exhibitions and participation in public programming and Studio School art classes.

ADA COMMITTEE

Melanie Cohn
Cassandra Demski
Stephanie D'Souza
Pearl Feder
Sean Scoggin

- ADA-compliant website, including alt-tagged images for visitors with visual disabilities and additional accessibility functions, such as high contrast, adjustable type size, and plain text options
- Open captioning for public programs held on Zoom
- Sign language interpreters (with two weeks notice)
- Braille (with four weeks notice)
- Assistive listening devices available for those who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Verbal descriptions as part of our exhibitions (upon request)

MEMBERSHIP

800 PRIMARY MEMBERS (MEMBERSHIPS)

1128 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

MEMBERS SHOW & COLLECTORS WEEK

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey welcomed back its Members Art Show and Collectors Week on Friday, June 16. This pop-up exhibition featured more than 100 works created by VACNJ members and, for the first time ever, our members 17 and younger were eligible to participate! The show was organized by the Art Center's Members Committee and was on view through June 25.

Guest judge Elizabeth Wiech selected 15 works by members for recognition and during the opening event, the following awards were presented: Trish Gianakis, Marylou Hilyer Award; Diana Kung, Curtis Hilyer Memorial Award for Watercolor; Barbara Beeman, The Juergen and Katie Thieck Memorial Award for Photography; Carol Cassel Baker, Marian Anderson Memorial Award for Portraiture; Emilie Whitley, Martha Barns Memorial Award for Ceramics; Bruce McClellan, Martha Venturo Award for Landscape; Victoria Munro, Rani Sinha Memorial Award for Ceramics; Aanya Rangavajjula and Louis Whitley, Rani Sinha Memorial Awards for 17 and Under; and Mary Jean Canziani, Glen Guarino, Joanne Leone, Roy Nuzzo, Ida Ochoteco, Aviva Sakolsky, Margarita Somnolet, and Anna Sponheimer, Honorable Mentions.

MEMBERS COMMITTEE

Sally Abbott
Aliese Andersen Volk
Chandra Aquilina
Michelle Auerbacher
Deric Carner
Tanya Chaturvedi
Melanie Cohn
Lori D'Uva
Andie de Saro
Jillian Decker
Kristen Evangelista
Cristina Fittipaldi
Carol Gaffney
Trish Gianakis
Jill Joseph
Tracey Luckner
Jennifer Markovitz
Carol Masi
Corinne Nallet
Jesús Núñez
Lori Riseman
Lori Rosenberg
Heidi SanFilippo
Molly Springer
Heidi Sussman
Rachel Tramposch
Michael Wolf



FUNDRAISING



SHINE ON
90TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

On Saturday, April 29, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (VACNJ) held its largest fundraising event of the year at Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit. Shine On, VACNJ's 90th Anniversary Gala, raised a record-breaking $373,500 to support the Art Center's powerful arts programming.

The evening, which was presented by Premier Sponsors Chubb and Risk Strategies, featured live music, cocktails, fantastic food, and a robust contemporary art auction, including a signature live auction of select artwork and unique experiences led by auctioneer CK Swett. During the event, the Art Center also recognized their 2023 Gala Honoree, The Wilf Family Foundations, and the 6th Annual Changemaker, Layqa Nuna Yawar, for their significant contributions to the arts on both a local and national level.

"This year's gala was a fitting celebration of the impact the Art Center has had on the community and the state for the last 90 years," said Gala Co-Chair Kate Buchanan. "We are thrilled with the evening's success and the important work that it will allow the Art Center to continue doing."

The Art Center's annual spring gala is critical to enabling its important work of transforming and enriching lives through the shared experience of art. Next year's gala will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

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