



2023 - 2024

Annual Report



McConnell
ArtsCenter

CURIOSITY *SPARKED.*
CREATIVITY *UNLEASHED.*
COMMUNITY *ENGAGED.*

WELCOME TO THE MAC!

The Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center (MAC) experienced a remarkable year in 2024, filled with accolades and growth. We were proud to be recognized by *Columbus Monthly* as one of the “**Top 10 Cultural Institutions**” and by *CityScene* magazine as the #2 “**Best Suburban Festival**” and #2 “**Best Art Gallery**.”

In the summer of 2023, the MAC continued to offer a dynamic range of summer camps, including the ever-popular Camp Creativity. This program gave students the opportunity to explore various forms of art—such as dance, creative writing, visual arts, and theater—fostering creativity and expression.

Our partnerships have flourished during the 2023-2024 season, bringing diverse and captivating performances to our stage. The Worthington Chorus, Worthington Community Theater, Worthington Chamber Orchestra, Songs at the Center, and the Dhvani India Performing Arts Society of Central Ohio all delivered remarkable shows, ensuring that Worthington remains a vibrant hub for the arts. Additionally, the MAC provided temporary space for the Thomas Worthington High School theater department’s rehearsals and workshops, supporting their ongoing activities during construction.

July 2023 saw the successful reinstatement of our Membership program, which offers early registration for classes, discounted performing arts tickets, and invitations to exclusive events. The program has already engaged over 100 households and continues to expand.

The 2023-2024 Performing Arts season ON STAGE brought standout performances, including Cuban pianist Aldo López-Gavilán as part of the Cultural Connections series, a comedy show by Ohio native Matt Starr, and continued collaboration with Cinema Columbus. The Visual Arts ON VIEW were equally compelling, with *Conjuring Roots*, featuring AJ Vanderelli, Marcus Blackwell, and Rob Jones, standing out as one of our most attended exhibitions in recent years, earning recognition from Clintonville Spotlight and Columbus Underground. We also saw a significant increase in educational offerings IN CLASS, with many popular classes—especially in painting and ceramics—selling out quickly.

As we reflect on the past fiscal year, we are filled with gratitude. We are deeply thankful for the continued support of the City of Worthington, the Columbus Foundation, and the Ohio Arts Council. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated volunteers who give thousands of hours of their time, as well as to our individual donors, whose generosity sustains and uplifts us.

Thank you,


Adrienne Schmoll
President, Board of Trustees


Kimberlee Goodman
Executive Director

Operating support provided by:   

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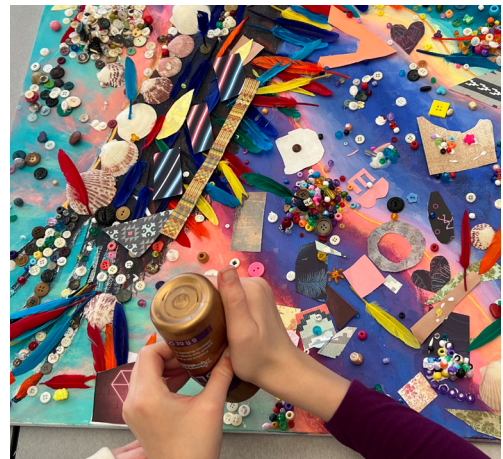
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BUILDING PATHWAYS BY...



REMOVING BARRIERS

Folks from **Goodwill Art Studios** came to explore our studio space and new mediums of air dried clay and Zentangle (a meditative art form that involves drawing abstract patterns on small pieces of paper to create a sense of calm.) MAC artist-educators Yani Sheng and Lee Ann Lander guided participants in these new areas of artistic exploration.

The MAC participated in the **YWCA Women's Empowerment** event by donating high-quality art kits. Teaching artist Angela Gage also returned to the YWCA to provide small group drawing instruction classes on site on three different occasions.

In 2024, the **Kate Carney Scholarship** provided a total of four full Camp Creativity scholarships for campers in our three mini camps and one full-day camp.

The MAC staff was thrilled to be awarded an **Arts Midwest GIG**

Grant, which allowed us to offer extended programs around April Sunami's ***I Am Because You/We Are*** exhibition, including a resin workshop as well as an artist roundtable featuring Creative Women of Color. These programs were no cost to participants.

We are dedicated to increasing access to MAC for local schools and to that end, we had **809 school tour attendees** in FY24. Evening Street Elementary toured and created work based on April Sunami's exhibition, students from Thomas Worthing High School also toured the Sunami show, Gahanna Lincoln High School's art class came for the ***Conjuring Roots*** exhibition as well as the ***Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition***, and Centerburg High School also came to the Governor's exhibition.

The McConnell Arts Center continues to fulfill its mission of "**Building Pathways to Experience the Joy and Wonder of the Arts**" by bringing community members to the MAC who might otherwise not be able to participate in our programming, as well as taking our artists out to engage with traditionally underserved communities.

ON VIEW

Number of Gallery Exhibitions in FY24

9

Number of Professional Artists Featured in FY24

31

Number of MAC Gallery Visitors in FY24

2609

Number of Gallery Tours/ Artist Talks in FY24

11



Leah Wong's +/- Perspectives exhibition

Fiscal Year 2024 set a record for art sales from our exhibitions. We sold **over \$20,000** in artwork with 70% of that going directly to the exhibiting artists. Along with increased coverage from local media, we have seen an increase in attendance for show openings and other exhibition events.

This past year, our exhibition schedule continued to highlight diverse and influential voices from the Columbus-area art scene and beyond. **Visual Healing** combined the talents of Dan Gerdeman and Cyrus Fire into a profound exploration of grief, loss and eventual healing, while in our lower corridor, father-daughter team Jeremy and Ella Rosario displayed posters of the artwork from their book **ABCs of Encouragement for Girls**, inviting an important conversation about how young girls in our society can build resilience and positivity.

In their combined exhibition **Conjuring Roots**, AJ Vanderelli, Marcus Blackwell and Rob Jones filled all three levels of the MAC with an examination, celebration, and interrogation of the three spaces of Time as it is generally perceived by the collective of human consciousness: The Past, The Present, and The Future. The well-attended opening for this show broke our record for the largest number of pieces sold at an exhibition opening.

Temporary Passenger brought the work of Catherine Bell Smith and Mabi Ponce de León to the MAC and explored the desire to acknowledge more fully where we come from, where we belong, and how we are shaped by place. In addition to the main inventory of work for the show, the artists brought small works available for the taking to gallery visitors for a small



Conjuring Roots

donation to the Ohio Environmental Council, creating a new accessibility for patrons wanting to collect their art.

It was a thrill to bring **I Am Because You/We Are**—showcasing April Sunami's latest body of work, a poignant celebration of her mother and the resilient women who have influenced her life, as well as the work of the Creative Women of Color—beyond the gallery walls thanks to a grant from the Arts Midwest GIG Fund. The grant allowed us to host a panel discussion as well as a resin workshop by Sunami free of charge to participants.

We rounded out the year with **+/- Perspectives**, featuring Leah Wong's drawings and cutouts that create see-through dimensions, giving viewers visual spaces to occupy their imaginations. In the lower corridor, Karin Dahl's **How Does Color Sound?** presented a conversation between art and music and included abstract paintings about specific colors paired with recorded original music about each color. Dahl's gallery tour, **Fusing the Arts: A Night of Music and Art**, gave attendees the opportunity to hear live performances by musicians who participated in the project.



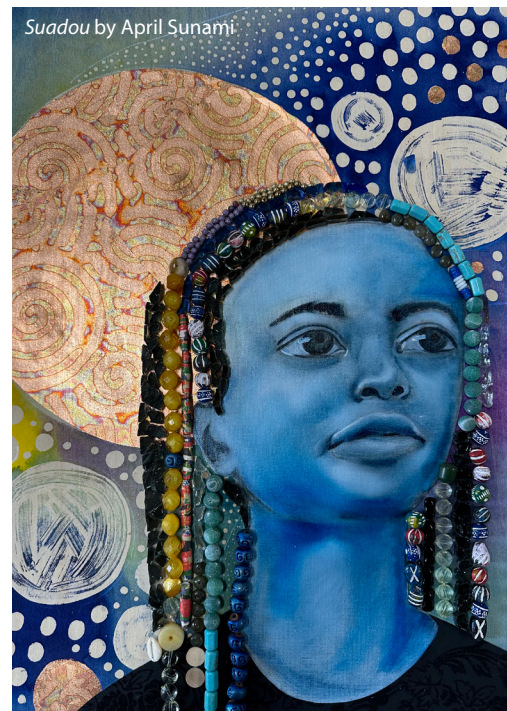
Temporary Passenger



A Year of Crow by Dan Gerdeman



Red by Karin Dahl



Suadou by April Sunami

ON STAGE

Number of
MAC On Stage
presentations
including film in FY24

26

Number of On Stage
Arts Partner Events
in FY24

36

Number of On Stage Arts
Rental Events in FY24

28

Number of Student
admissions in FY24

618



Griseta Damas-Roche performs Flamenco as part of our *Cultural Connections* series.

ON STAGE

This past year, in addition to our MAC performing arts schedule, we shifted our priorities to focus on scheduling our art partners as well as arts-centric renters, resulting in an **increase of more than 30%** in those performances over FY 2023.

We kicked off the 2023-2024 season with pianist Aldo Lopez-Gavilan, who along with the Bobby Floyd Trio, GOREE Drum and Dance, Hua Yun Dance Group, and Isaya Oleporuo rounded out the year's **Cultural Connections series**. The season schedule also included perennial favorites like FLIPPO, Hard Days Night, and Mad Mad Men. Other season highlights included Tronee Threat, Lightning Express (Everly Brothers tribute band), as well as Laura Camara and the Jake Reed Trio.

The On Stage offerings were expanded to include two comedy shows with both improv group Affimative Distraction and Matthew Starr's *Dark Matter* comedy show bringing the laughs to the Bronwynn Theatre.

Our **Family Series** really found its audience with appreciative crowds for both *Dance and Sing with Miss Marlene* and the "You Gotta Meet Mr. Pierce" book reading and signing.



HuaYun Dance Group



Aldo Lopez-Gavilan (Jose V Gavilondo)



Miss Marlene



Hard Days Night



Bobby Floyd Trio

IN CLASS

Number of Adult Classes & Workshops in FY24

104

Number of Adult Students in FY24

1011

Number of Youth Classes & Workshops in FY24

43

Number of Youth Students in FY24

434

Number of MAC Instructors in FY24

24

A student in Joe Lombardo's *Limited Palette* class.





IN CLASS

As the number of class offerings and students continues to rise, we have been able to increase staff with the hire of a new **Education Coordinator and Ceramic Studio Tech** to accommodate an increase of 32 classes in FY 24 over the previous year. This class increase resulted in an almost **40% growth in revenue**.

The McConnell Arts Center's educational offerings continue to be a draw for community members engaging with the MAC, with many of our students returning again and again to take classes, while every term also sees new participants creating with our talented teaching artists. This year we added 5 new instructors, and along with perennial class favorites like ceramics, oil painting, and drawing, we added new classes in photography and natural dyes.

As an organization, the MAC is committed to supporting working artists, and as such, this past year we proactively raised long-term instructor wages from a total of \$62,000 to \$93,000. We recognize that their talent and dedication to the McConnell Arts Center is vital to keeping our students coming back and sharing in the joy of creating.



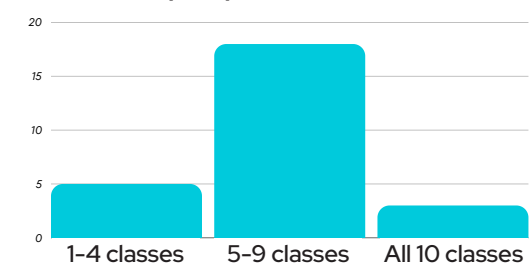
LIFELONG LEARNING AT THE MAC



In FY 2024, the MAC offered its first two **Lifelong Learning Institute** speaker series, each featuring eight weeks of engaging presentations with speakers from the Central Ohio community. Sponsored by *Worthington Spotlight*, the series covered a wide range of topics and prompted lively discussions. In our inaugural year, we welcomed **39 season subscribers** and **88 total attendees**.



Number of presentations attended per patron:



For the first time, the McConnell Arts Center offered a Lifelong Learning Institute series of speakers to the Worthington community, sponsored by *Worthington Spotlight*. The Fall 2023 session of Lifelong learning at the MAC featured topics from American history facts and trivia to composing music to learning about the Maasai culture and traditions from a gentleman who is an actual Maasai warrior. Attendees were even treated to a behind-the-scenes look at *Songs at the Center*, a program with a national audience that's filmed right here at the MAC.

The Spring 2024 series had topics as close to home as the history of Worthington and the potential impact of computer chip manufacturing on the Central Ohio community, as well as talks with wider implications, including potential outcomes for the 2024 election. Luckily, participants could balance those out with a presentation on breathing and mindfulness! The series proved to be an invaluable opportunity to connect the community to people generous enough to share their passions and expertise.



Arts Enchanted Evening is the McConnell Arts Center's annual fundraiser. This year, guests were treated to delicious food from Steven's Catering and, with a "Four Seasons" theme, the evening **raised over \$63,000** to support the MAC's educational and increased outreach programs.

The rooms of the McConnell Arts Center were transformed with the help of our dedicated staff of volunteers into a winter wonderland, a summer scene, a spring garden, a tapestry of autumn leaves, and and "Vivaldi's Lounge," which paid tribute to the famed composer. The guests did not disappoint in their creative attire, embracing the theme in all manner of innovative, colorful and whimsical ways.

The highlight of the evening occurred as guests filled the Bronwynn Theatre and Master of Ceremonies **Krista Stauffer** invited distinguished guests to come speak about the impact



of the MAC on the community and the importance of supporting the programming.

Guests were able to immerse themselves in the elevated art experience of renowned violinist **Siwoo Kim** and accompanist **Suzanne Newcomb**. The pair performed a mini-concert of selections from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and other works inspired by seasonal change.

The evening concluded with an entertaining live auction, a champagne toast, and a renewed commitment to **building pathways to experience to joy and wonder of the arts** within the Worthington community and beyond.





Worthington ARTS FESTIVAL

presented by the McConnell Arts Center

The 2024 Worthington Arts Festival continued to set sales and attendance records and even was included in *Sunshine Artist's 200 Best 2024* in the "Fine Art and Design" category. We look forward to the 2025 festival where we will continue to **buid pathways to the joy and wonder of the arts** out in our community!



The 2024 Worthington Arts Festival was produced by the McConnell Arts Center in cooperation with the City of Worthington and located on the Village Green. Featured on all four quadrants of the park, the festival drew more than 23,000 visitors with many from Worthington, but also patrons from the surrounding community who came specifically for this event. Once again, the shops and restaurants of historic Old Worthington enjoyed arts festival attendees patronizing their businesses, while the festival benefitted from the Worthington Farmers Market shoppers.

This year saw the introduction of the well-received VIP Breakfast at the Griswold Center. Patrons were treated to priority parking, delicious food from Steven's Catering as well as mimosas, and access to the Griswold all day for snacks and water.

The McConnell Arts Center would like to thank our generous sponsors who made the amazing 2024 event possible, and we look forward to bringing our community together to celebrate creative arts experiences during the 2025 Worthington Arts Festival.



With support from:



Number of Attendees
at 2024 Festival

22,000+

Number of Exhibiting
Artists at 2024 Festival

116

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

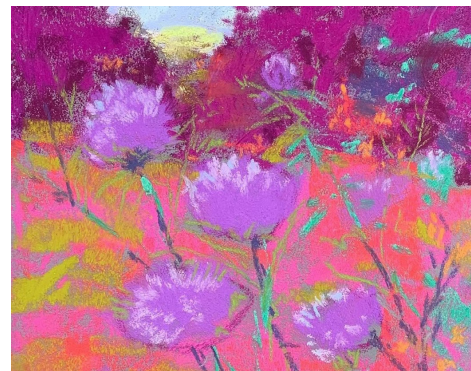
FY24 saw the return of memberships to the McConnell Arts Center after a hiatus. Patrons responded enthusiastically, and we continue to see new member registrations at a weekly—and sometimes daily—rate. Members enjoy early registration for classes, a 10% discount on ticket purchases, and invitations to exclusive member-only events such as engaging presentaions by artists **Juliette Montague**, **April Sunami**, and **Angela Gage**.



Juliette Montague



April Sunami



Angela Gage

McCONNELL ARTS CENTER MEMBERS | FY24

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Diane and Theodore Armbruster
Jeanie Auseon
Susan Bass
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Gerald Brown
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2023-2024 SUPPORTERS

The Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center is grateful to its loyal supporters, members, and friends for their ongoing support of the arts in our community. Donors listed below reflect gifts or pledges of \$250 or more received during the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

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\$25,000-\$50,000
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\$100,000 and up
City of Worthington

\$50,000 - \$99,999
Ohio Department of Development

\$25,000-\$49,999
Ohio Arts Council

\$10,000, \$24,999
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Songs at the Center
The Columbus Foundation
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Huntington National Bank
Worthington Spotlight
Able Roof
Be Aligned Health
FC Bank
Huntington National Bank
Leaf Filter

ArtsMidwest
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Safelite AutoGlass
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Division
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CityScene Media Group

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our dedicated team of more than 70 volunteers, known collectively as **The MAC Pack**, is the backbone of the McConnell Arts Center and supports our staff in all areas of programming. The MAC Pack meets on the first Wednesday of every month from September through June!

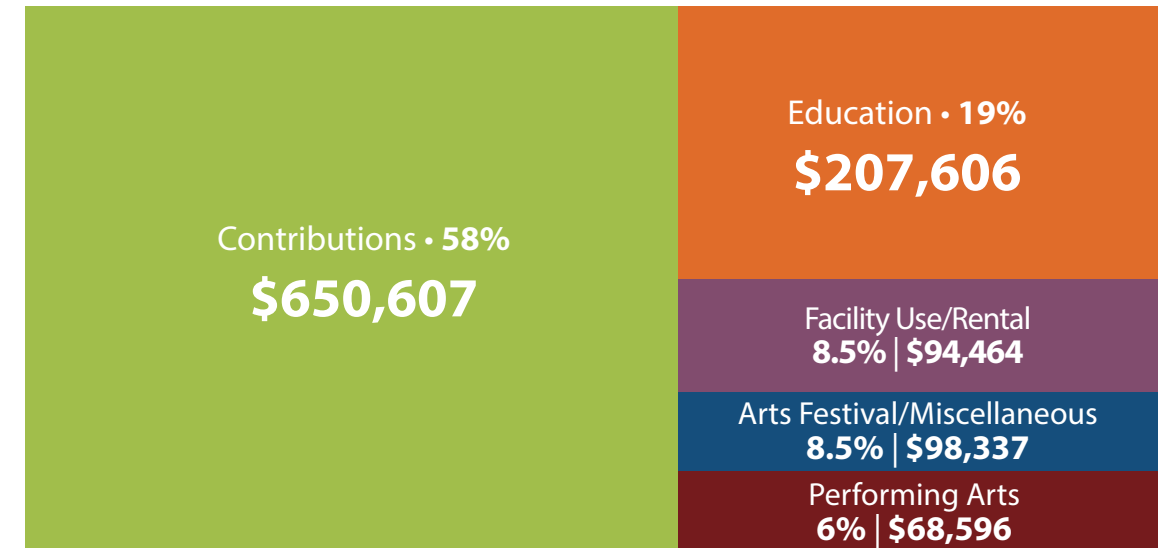
Volunteers work in the following areas and others, depending on their areas of interest and expertise:

- Front Desk
- Worthington Arts Festival
- Arts Enchanted Evening
- Other special events
- Performing arts events
- Concerts
- Cultural Connections
- Exhibition on Screen
- The MAC Family Series
- Arts partner performances
- Visual Arts/Gallery events
- Gallery installation team
- Openings & Tours
- Weeding Warriors
- Maintenance Days
- Worthington Market Days
- Annual campaign mailing



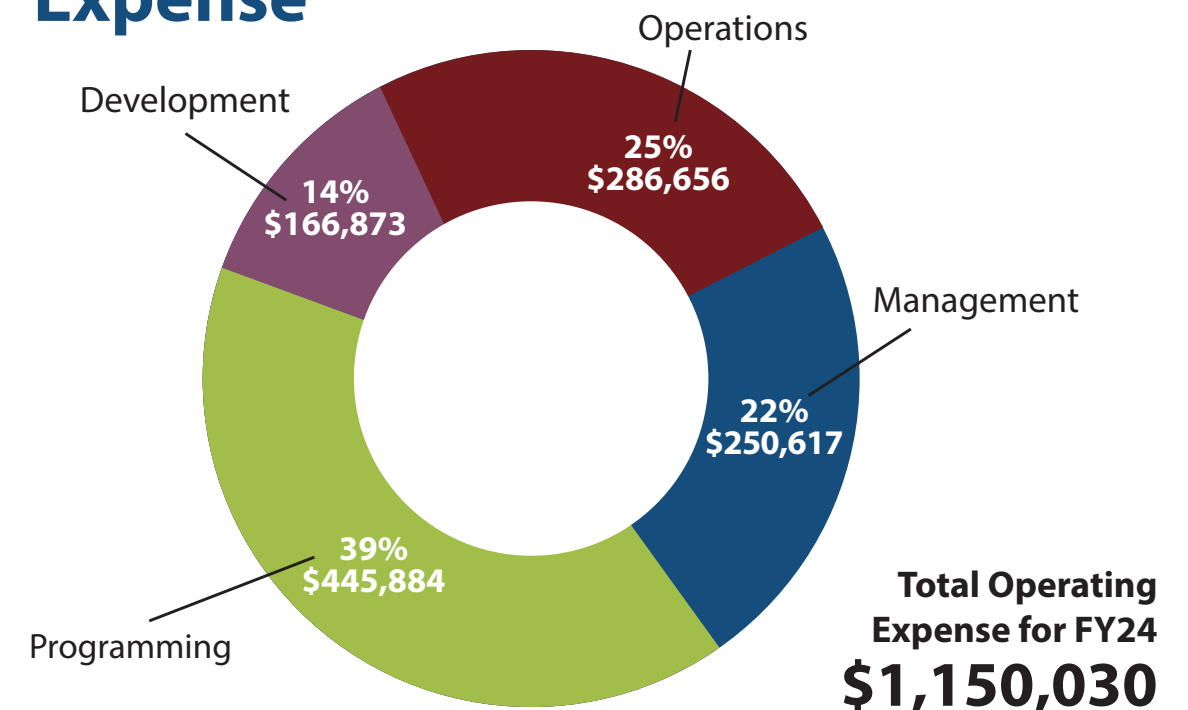
FINANCIALS

Income



Total Operating Income for FY24
\$1,119,610

Expense



Total Operating Expense for FY24
\$1,150,030



McConnell ArtsCenter



MISSION:

Building Pathways to Experience
the Joy and Wonder of the Arts

VISION:

The Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center of Worthington
brings people together through experiences that spark
learning and explore creative conversations.

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www.mcconnellarts.org