Inside out
Jiemei Lin
Digital, Collage
2021
2020

ARTIST TRUST ANNUAL REPORT
A YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION

WE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO MEET ARTISTS’ NEEDS IN THE VOLATILE LANDSCAPE OF COVID-19, WORKING WITH DONORS TO MOVE RESOURCES AND CREATE A RELIEF FUND AND PROGRAMMING THAT SERVED THOUSANDS STATEWIDE. THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF ARTISTS, WE BEGAN TO SHIFT OUR ORGANIZATION TOWARDS DEEPER EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY, EXAMINING PROCESSES, STRUCTURE, CULTURE, AND MORE, AND BECAME BETTER FOR IT.

THROUGHOUT IT ALL, WE WERE INSPIRED BY UNPRECEDENTED SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY – DONORS WHO DUG DEEP AND GAVE WHEN IT WAS MOST NEEDED, ARTISTS WHO ADVISED US AND HELD US TO TASK, AND PARTNERS WHO MADE OUR PROGRAMS POSSIBLE. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL THAT WE GET TO LEARN AND GROW WITH YOU AS OUR GUIDE.

SERVING ARTISTS IN A PANDEMIC

$683,500
IN RELIEF FUNDING REACHED

434 ARTISTS
ARTISTS IN FINANCIAL NEED

OVER 1,000 ARTISTS
SERVED THROUGH COVID-19 RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

OVER 600 DONORS TO OUR RELIEF FUND

THANK YOU!

67% OF RELIEF FUND RECIPIENTS WERE BIPOC

FUNDING REACHED
22 WASHINGTON STATE COUNTIES

16,000 ARTISTS
CONNECTED THROUGH ONLINE RESOURCES

JANUARY
All staff retreat to plan for the year ahead

FEBRUARY
Delivers professional development programs throughout the State

MARCH
Surveys artists statewide - 75% report severe income loss from COVID-19
Pivots core focus to helping artists face the COVID-19 pandemic
Launches the COVID-19 Artist Trust Relief Fund (March 16)

APRIL
Shifts all programs online
Creates comprehensive list of COVID-19 artist resources
Presents our first COVID-19 responsive programs: Unemployment for Artists and Creatives, and Tenants’ Rights for Artists

MAY
Introduces artist social media takeovers and spotlights
COVID-19 responsive programming and Relief Funding continue to serve hundreds of artists

JUNE
Launches monthly online COVID-19 resource digest
Pivots Relief Fund to prioritize funding for Black artists

JULY
Receives our community’s call for deeper accountability, transparency, and equity, and gets to work
Begins evaluating leadership and organizational structures

AUGUST
Undergoes leadership transition
Begins deep analysis of grants processes
Removes barriers to artist compensation
Etsuko Ichikawa and artist-partners Haruko Crow Nishimura and Joshua Kohl receive the Arts Innovator Award

SEPTEMBER
Introduces Racial Equity Committee to center anti-racist work
Introduces annual Anti-racist Commitment for board and staff
Begins AIA workgroup

OCTOBER
Ross Palmer Beecher receives the Twining Humber Award; Carol Gouthro, Susan Bennerstrom, and Barbara Sternberger receive SOLA awards.
Launches open application for Artist Trust Board of Trustees
Launches Mental Health Mondays program

NOVEMBER
Begins public search for a racial equity audit consultant
Holds first Community Conversation with artists Remelisa Cullitan, Christopher Icasiano, Natasha Martin, and Matthew Offenbacher, Paul Sucker
Reaches a total of 440 artists with over $750,000 in Relief Funding and merit-based grants – the most in our history

DECEMBER
Serves over 1,000 artists statewide through responsive programming and connects over 16,000 artists with resources by year end
Artist Trust recognizes the 2020 recipients and panelists of our merit-based grant programs. During a year of turmoil, it felt especially important to support these exceptional artists. In particular, we thank the 2020 AIA panelists, finalists, and awardees for their patience and perseverance with a significantly delayed award process. A workgroup consisting of members of the AIA cohort, Artist Trust board, and staff met five times from October to December to discuss the 2020 grants process and recommend change. Due to shifts in scheduling to allow us to focus on pandemic response, the 2020 Fellowship Awards were announced in early 2021.

**THE ARTS INNOVATOR AWARD (AIA)**

Two $25,000 awards funded by the Dale and Leslie Chihuly Foundation recognizing artists who are originating new work, experimenting with new ideas, and pushing the boundaries in their respective fields.

Recipients: Haruko Crow Nishimura and Joshua Kohl (Degenerate Art Ensemble) (King County), Etsuko Ichikawa (King County)

Finalists: Priscilla Dobler (Pierce County), Lori Goldston (King County), Tessa Hulis (Jefferson County), Wes Hurley (King County), Casandra Lopez (Whatcom County), Barbara Earl Thomas (King County)

Panelists: John Feodorov (King County), Shin Yu Pai (King County), Chicko Phillips (King County), Kryston Skinner (Spokane County), Anida Yoeu Ali (Pierce County)

**THE SUPPORT OLD LADY ARTISTS AWARDS (SOLA)**

Three unrestricted awards of $3,000 founded by artist Ginny Ruffner to honor and reward women artists over the age of 60 for their energy, vision, persistence, and dedication to maintaining creative momentum over the long haul.

Recipients: Carol Gouthro (King County), Susan Bennerstrom (Whatcom County), Barbara Sternberger (Whatcom County)

**THE TWINING HUMBER AWARD (THA)**

A $10,000 award recognizing a Washington State female-identified visual artist, age 60 or over, made possible through legacy support from Yvonne Twining Humber.

Recipient: Ross Palmer Beecher (King County)

**FELLOWSHIP AWARDS**

Merit-based unrestricted awards of $10,000 providing support for Washington State artists of exceptional talent and ability

Recipients: Dan Friday (King County), Tatiana Garmentia (Snohomish County), Benjamin Hunter (King County), Jaleesa Johnston (Skamania County), Mary Ann Peters (King County), Rena Priest* (Whatcom County), Sharma Shields (Spokane County), Chris E. Vargas (Whatcom County), Anthony White (King County)

Panelists: Dawn Barron (Thurston County), Ginger Ewing (Spokane County), David Dinnell (Pierce County), Johnaye Kendrick (Pierce County), Juan Alonso-Rodriguez (King County)

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* Vadon Foundation Fellowship for Native Artists Recipient

**TWINING HUMBER & SOLA AWARDS PANELISTS**

Barbara De Pirro (Mason County), Deborah Lawrence (King County), Pamela Awana Lee (Whitman County)

**“THE ARTS INNOVATOR AWARD GIVES ME THE CONFIDENCE TO PURSUE MY OWN ORIGINAL VISION AND CONTINUE CREATING WORK. TO RECEIVE SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD IS AN HONOR.”**

- Etsuko Ichikawa

**“RECEIVING THIS AWARD AT THIS STAGE IN MY LIFE IS A HAPPY REMINDER OF WHY I GO IN THE STUDIO EVERY DAY IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING.”**

- Susan Bennerstrom

**“WITH THE FELLOWSHIP AWARD, I CAN MATERIALIZE IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN SITTING IN MY SKETCHBOOK OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.”**

- Jaleesa Johnston
2020 BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Mark Olthoff

VICE PRESIDENT
Cezanne Garcia

TREASURER
Subhadra Terhanian

SECRETARY
Mariella Luz

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Sarah Traver

2020 ARTIST TRUST TEAM

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Nadia Ahmed

PROGRAM MANAGER
Lydia Boss

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
Elizabeth Colzani

ANNUAL FUND & EVENTS MANAGER
Justine Deacon

AUCTION INTERN
Gina Dodge

COMMUNICATIONS INTERN
Maria Durish

PROGRAM COORDINATOR (THROUGH FEBRUARY)
Zach Frimmel

FINANCE & OPERATIONS MANAGER
Gems

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (BEGINNING IN AUGUST), DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR (THROUGH JULY)
Kristina Goetz

CEO (THROUGH AUGUST)
Shannon Halberstadt

PROGRAM MANAGER (BEGINNING IN MARCH), OPERATIONS COORDINATOR (THROUGH FEBRUARY)
Luther Hughes

PROGRAMS INTERN
Grace Nakahara

THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 PROGRAM PARTNERS. WE ARE HUMBLED TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT ARTISTS ALONGSIDE YOU.

CITY OF AUBURN; GAGE ACADEMY; CITY OF EDMONDS; WA NA WARI; WHIPSMART; WASHINGTON FILMWORKS; TENANTS UNION OF WASHINGTON STATE; ASE ASANA; LOVE LIGHT ENERGY ART THERAPY

2020 FUNDING & PROGRAM PARTNERS
Thank you, 2020 donors!

We are grateful to the many individuals, businesses, and philanthropic partners that made our important work possible in 2020, just a portion of whom are listed here. Their incredible generosity inspires us and fuels us forward.

*Gift included support for COVID-19 Relief

$50,000+


$1,000-$9,999


$500-$999

2020 INCOME & EXPENSES

**2020 INCOME & EXPENSES**

**EXPENSES**
- **TOTAL:** $1,678,172
- **GRANTS TO ARTISTS:** $759,610
- **PROGRAMS:** $433,599
- **FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL EVENTS:** $290,330
- **MANAGEMENT & GENERAL:** $194,633

**CASH AT YEAR-END**
A cash surplus at year-end allowed us to seed a second round of COVID-19 relief funding in early 2021, create a restricted fund for 2021’s core grant programs, and fund a finalist honorarium for the 2021 Arts Innovator Award, in response to community feedback and need.

**INCOME**
- **TOTAL:** $1,904,511
- **INDIVIDUAL:** $1,035,380
- **FOUNDATIONS:** $300,773
- **CORPORATE:** $129,454
- **GOVERNMENT:** $238,027
- **SPECIAL EVENTS:** $126,735
- **INVESTMENT INCOME:** $67,101
- **EARNED INCOME:** $2,127

**Based on pre-audited financials. 990 and audited financial statements will be available in May 2021.**

We experienced unprecedented support from the community from all sources, our individual donors most especially. We also received a federal PPP loan, 100% forgiven, which is part of our government revenue.

Special events including our Auction typically provide over 40% of the funding we use to pay for core grants, programs, and operations. In 2020, we relied on direct support from individuals to power our programs instead.

Artist Trust is able to draw up to 4.5% of our endowment income each year to support our core programs. The market crash in 2020 almost prevented this when our endowment fell below the required $2 M investment limit. When the market rebounded, our payout provided 3.5% of our revenue for the year.

We moved our workshops online and made them 100% free to attend, decreasing our earned income for the year.