

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a paintbrush over a palette. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the thumb and index finger gripping the black handle of the brush. The brush's bristles are resting on a palette that is covered in a variety of colors of paint, including red, blue, yellow, and white. The background is blurred, showing a person's torso in a grey shirt.

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2020—JUNE 30, 2021

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

Despite the challenges of fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021), the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey is stronger than ever and continues to deliver on its vision of creating an inclusive and welcoming community where lives are transformed and enriched through the shared experience of art.

Our success was due in large part to the Art Center staff, who worked tirelessly to open our Studio School and museum and offer community programs safely, with joy and a sense of optimism. Through daily cleanings, erecting tents, moving exhibits, creating art supply bags, and holding some programs online, everyone worked hard to keep our Studio School, programs and exhibitions running while following strict protocols.

We began last fiscal year with our summer camp program, which began July 6, 2020. In order to keep campers safe, summer camp was held mainly outdoors, kids were assigned to pods of a small number of campers, and social distancing and masking were in place. For many kids, it was their first social activities with children their own age since the lock-down had begun in March. Smiles were on every face and it was truly one of our most special summer camp seasons ever.

Our Fall 2020 season allowed us to open in-person Studio School classes and workshops for both adults and kids, while also offering online options. As we entered 2021, we saw a steady increase in the number of Studio School students returning as vaccinations increased. By June 2021, the Art Center's summer numbers were better than ever and we were able to hold a record-breaking summer camp season with over 1,012 children in person at the Art Center. Throughout the entire year, our students and teachers were incredibly happy to be back in the studio and making art.

Our museum exhibitions re-opened in the fall of 2020 after being closed for over 5 months because of the pandemic. We continued our exhibitions *Hillerbrand + Magsamen: The Devices Project* and *Yvette Molina: Big Bang Votive*, which had closed shortly after opening in March 2020. In February 2021 we opened *(de)coding*, *Spandita Malik: Threads of Identity*, *Scaffold: Equity of Treatment—A Project by Elan Cadiz*, and *Rasika Reddy: 108 Hummingbirds*. And in the spring we opened *Nancy Cohen: Atlas of Impermanence* and *Katrina Bello: Knowable Earth*. During this time, our exhibition-related programs remained online, and we were able to share films, artists talks, and other programs with 300 participants virtually. In addition, the Art Center's "Cabin Fever" videos featuring local artists sharing their work and studio practice reached over 12,000 viewers.

In April, we were able to hold a hybrid Spring Gala, with two options, online or in "gala pods," small, in-person parties held outdoors and hosted by some of the Art Center's board members. We raised over \$182,000 and also recognized several long-term champions of the Art Center. Betse Gump, Sally Abbot and Millie Cooper are long-standing supporters whose involvement with the Art Center has made a tremendous difference in our ability to deliver excellence in arts education, programming and therapy to so many and we were thrilled to be able to honor them at this event.

In addition, we received generous emergency pandemic support including a federal PPP loan and grants from the New Jersey Arts and Culture Recovery Fund, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Summit Foundation, and the Wilf Family Foundation.

At this year's annual meeting, we are delighted to add 6 new members to the Board of Trustees. This group brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in fundraising,

nonprofit management and the arts and strengthens our ability to provide strong leadership and stewardship to the Visual Arts Center. The Board continues to focus on implementing our Strategic Plan which was finalized in the spring of 2019 and focuses on using the strengths of our Studio School and exhibitions to support an expansion of our in-community programs which bring the arts to underserved communities.

We would like to thank everyone—from staff to students,

Anne Grissinger



Chair of the Board of Trustees

teachers, volunteers, trustees and generous supporters—for making it possible for the Visual Arts Center to come through these challenging times in a position of strength, ready to take advantage of opportunities and realize our mission of nurturing the capacity for personal expression, expanding the creative experience, and fostering stronger communities by empowering people to see, make, and learn about art.

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 exhibitions, 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 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 to promote our vision and values.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Membership

MEMBERSHIPS (AS OF 6/30/21) 599

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (AS OF 6/30/21) 890

Studio School

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED 15

(4 Summer Art Camp, 8 Fall Semester, 3 Winter Semester, 0 Spring Semester)

ART CAMPS

2020 Summer Art Camp for Kids, Tweens & Teens
..... 805 students; 52 camps

2020 Winter Break Art Camp for Kids
..... 82 students; 12 camps

2021 Spring Break Art Camp for Kids
..... 33 students; 2 camps

SUMMER SEMESTER 2020

Adult Classes 14 classes, 72 students

Adult Workshops 2 workshops, 7 students

Teen Classes 2 classes, 8 students

FALL SEMESTER 2020

Adult Classes 57 classes, 373 students

Adult Workshops 13 workshops, 66 students

Teen Classes 12 classes, 102 students

Kid Classes 28 classes, 185 students

Kid Workshops 2 workshops, 16 students

WINTER SEMESTER 2021

Adult Classes 55 classes, 327 students

Adult Workshops 13 workshops, 71 students

Teen Classes 14 classes, 89 students

Kid Classes 43 classes, 319 students

Kid Workshops 5 workshops, 37 students

SPRING SEMESTER 2021

Adult Classes 63 classes, 383 students

Adult Workshops 7 workshops, 35 students

Teen Classes 14 classes, 107 students

Kid Classes 33 classes, 242 students

Kid Workshops 3 workshops, 22 students

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

ECLC PRIDE PROGRAM
10–12 adults with special needs (virtual, March 1–June 30, 2021)

SAGE ELDERCARE
36 participants (mailed supply packages, March 3, 2021)

VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAM

- Veterans Haven North, 3–5 participants per session, 12 served (December 24, 2020–April 30, 2021)
- Veterans Haven South, 3–6 participants per session, 12 served (July 20, 2020–April 30, 2021)
- Vineland, 9 participants (virtual, February 14, 2021–April 30, 2021)

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

- Empowering Kids Organization, 10 students (July 1, 2020–August 15, 2020)
- Empowering Kids Organization, 10 students (October 1, 2020–November 15, 2020)
- Empowering Kids Organization, 10 students (March 26, 2021–May 14, 2021)

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

- Jefferson Arts Academy, 35–40 students (October 1, 2020–November 1, 2020)
- Jefferson Arts Academy, 35–40 students (February 16, 2021–March 5, 2021)
- Elizabeth Public Schools 8th-Grade Program, 400 students (January 2, 2021–March 30, 2021)
- NJ Seeds, 17 students (February 1, 2021–April 20, 2021)
- CALTA21, 125 students, 7 teachers (January 6, 2021–June 30, 2021)

COMMUNITY EXHIBITIONS

ONSITE COMMUNITY GALLERIES

October 3–November 30, 2020

- *Lisa Dworkin: Suburban Vernacular*
Marité & Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery II
- *What Is Revolutionary? A Project by Students of the Morris County School of Technology*
Ann’s Place Gallery

December 4, 2020–January 24, 2021

- *Susan Horn: Corona Dreams*
Marité & Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery II
- *Jennifer Markovitz: Torn Visions*
Ann’s Place Gallery

February 6–April 4, 2021

- *Barbara Beeman: Nature’s Mirror*
Marité & Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery II
- *Janice Patrignani: Inspired Resilience*
Ann’s Place Gallery

April 17–June 13, 2021

- *Irene Rousseau: Stretching the Space*
Marité & Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery II
- *Trish Classe Gianakis: Elements of Emotion*
Ann’s Place Gallery

June 26–September 13, 2021

- *Wendy Robinson: My Kingdom of Animals*
Ann’s Place Gallery

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

ANNUAL SPRING GALA: PAINT THE TOWN VIRTUAL EVENT

May 22, 2021	
Total Participants	132
In-Person Pods	58
Virtual	47
Auction Participants	27

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all galleries were closed and exhibitions were virtual until Oct. 3, 2020.

JULY 16 731 social media interactions
From the Archives: Renee Stout

JULY 30 886 social media interactions
From the Archives: Lisa Ficarelli Halpern

JULY 10–AUGUST 30, 2020
Focus Forward, a virtual exhibition of work by members of the NJ Photography Forum

OCTOBER 20–JANUARY 21, 2021 244 visitors

- *Hillerbrand + Magsamen: The Devices Project*
Main Gallery
Artists: Stephan Hillerbrand and Mary Magsamen
- *Yvette Molina: Big Bang Votive*
Mitzi & Warren Eisenberg Gallery
- *Elisabeth Smolarz: The Encyclopedia of Things*
Marité & Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery I
- *Adrienne Wheeler: White Dress Narratives*
Stair-gazing

FEBRUARY 6–APRIL 26 366 visitors

- *(de)coding*
Main Gallery
Artists: Gina Adams, DARNstudio, Elizabeth Duffy, Ghost of a Dream, Shanti Grumbine, Kwesi Kwarteng, Debra Ramsay, Leslie Roberts, and Viviane Rombaldi-Seppey
- *Spandita Malik: Threads of Identity*
Mitzi & Warren Eisenberg Gallery
- *Scaffold: Equity of Treatment*
Marité & Joe Robinson Strolling Gallery I
Artist: Elan Cadiz
- *Rasika Reddy: 108 Hummingbirds*
Stair-gazing

MAY 8–JUNE 13 215 visitors

- *Nancy Cohen: Atlas of Impermanence*
Main Gallery
- *Katrina Bello: Knowable Earth*
Mitzi & Warren Eisenberg Gallery

EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMS

2020

Sip and Cinema: Art Edition: The Gates (Digital/Zoom Webinar, October 16, 2020) Attendees	28
Artist Talk: Adrienne Wheeler (Digital/Zoom Webinar, October 20, 2020) Attendees	3
The Adjacent Possible (Digital/Zoom Program, October 22, 2020) Attendees	12
Sol LeWitt: Radical LeWitt (Digital/Zoom Webinar, December 4, 2020) Attendees	49
On Collaborative Practice (Digital/Zoom Webinar, December 8, 2020) Attendees	13

2021

Artist Talk: Community Storytelling through Art (Digital/Zoom Webinar, January 12, 2021) Attendees	36
Winter/Spring Exhibitions Opening (February 2, 2021) Attendees	45
Spandita Malik Embroidery Workshop (February 20, 2021) Attendees	6
International Women's Day Webinar (Digital/Zoom Webinar, March 8, 2021) Attendees	62
Spandita Malik Embroidery Workshop (March 13, 2021) Attendees	6
Virtual Road Trip: 2021 Exhibitions (Digital/Zoom Webinar, March 24, 2021) Attendees	29
<i>(de)coding</i> Artist Talk (Digital/Zoom Webinar, April 20, 2021) Attendees	68

ONLINE REACH

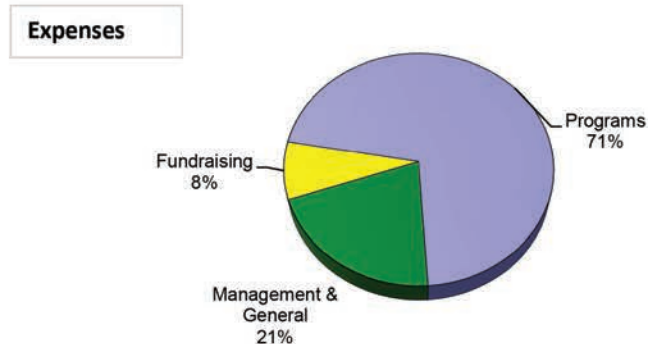
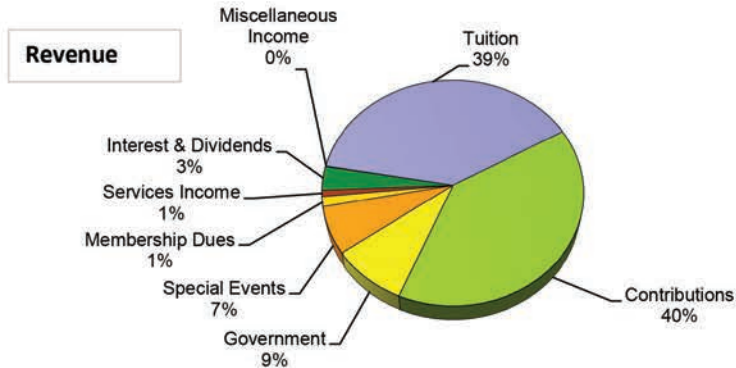
Cabin Fever Artist Talks	12,405 Social Media Interactions
Jefferson Arts Academy	381 Social Media Interactions

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Visual Arts Center of New Jersey A view of Fiscal Year 2021

Statement of Activities

Revenue:	
Tuition	\$1,216,480
Contributions	1,233,244
Government	277,172
Special Events	213,076
Membership Dues	43,732
Services Income	28,575
Interest & Dividends	105,264
Miscellaneous Income	2,754
Total Support & Revenue	\$3,120,297
Expenses:	
Programs	\$1,719,126
Management & General	503,619
Fundraising	192,748
Total Expenses	\$2,415,493
Change in Net Assets from Operations	\$704,804
Non operation Activity:	
Loss Swap Agreement	(\$17,736)
Net Invest Gain (Loss)	841,943
Non operation Activity	824,207
Total Change in Net Assets	\$1,529,011



Statement of Financial Position

<u>Assets:</u>	<u>FY 21</u>	<u>FY 20</u>	<u>Liabilities:</u>	<u>FY 21</u>	<u>FY 20</u>
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,941,523	\$554,738	Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$99,724	\$128,605
Government Grants & Accts. Receivables	78,282	28,910	Deferred Tuition	486,010	418,046
Contributions Receivable	521,228	143,410	Line of Credit	0	140,000
Pre Paid Expenses & Oither Assets	43,066	24,164	Current Liabilities	585,734	686,651
Current Assets	2,584,099	751,222	PPP Loan	621,395	325,000
Investments (Market Value)	4,147,274	3,312,276	Interest Rate Swap Agreement	17,736	0
Fixed Assets	3,831,064	3,999,813	Long Term Mortgage	1,337,644	580,743
Total Assets	\$10,562,437	\$8,063,311	Total Liabilities	\$2,562,509	\$1,592,394
			Net Assets:		
			Unrestricted	\$3,151,389	\$2,977,755
			Restricted	4,848,539	3,493,162
			Total Net Assets	\$7,999,928	\$6,470,917
			Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$10,562,437	\$8,063,311

Data provided is from unaudited financials FY 2021

\$50,000 & Above

The Estate of Pamela W. Hauptfleisch
The Nicholson Foundation
NJ State Council on the Arts
Wilf Family Foundations

\$20,000 to \$49,999

Lisa Butler & Bob Kelly
Anne & RJ Grissinger
Elizabeth & Frank Gump
Institute of Museum and Library Services
J.C. Kellogg Foundation
Peter R. & Cynthia K. Kellogg Foundation
National Endowments for the Arts
New Jersey Arts & Culture
Recovery Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
The Nicholson Foundation
Rasika & Girish Reddy
Marité & Joe Robinson
The Walter V. & Judith L. Shipley Family Foundation

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Patricia A. Bell
Susan & Mike Cagnassola
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
New Jersey Council for the Humanities
Alison & David O'Neill
Stacy & Adam Selig
The Summit Foundation

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Marie & Roy Alan Cohen
Siobhan Creem
Pamela Shipley & Clay Turner
Mary & Norbert Weldon
Union Foundation

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Sally & Thomas Abbott
Katherine & John Buchanan
Karen & Mark Caplan
Millie & Jack Cooper
County of Union
Patricia & Kevin Cummings
Kelly Deere & Lee Shavel
EJ Grassmann Trust

Valerie & Michael Grant
Laura & David G. Hardin
Investors Foundation
Amy Knight
Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.
Elena & Roger Matthews
Kayla & Richard Pechter
Hadley & Clark Peterson
Neela Pushparaj
Sara & Tyler Reeder
Isabel Ribeiro & Diego Rotsztain
Deborah & Fred Schwarzmann

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Rolande Borno
Heather & Elliot Braun
Joanne & Reid Bundonis
Lori & Andrew Bush
Patti & Paul Ciraulo
Melanie & Stuart Cohn
Elks Club of Summit Lodge No 1246
Terri & Mark Friedman
Christine & Andy Gottesman
Amy & Clint Harris
Suzanne & Dean Henry
Nancy & Willis King
Amy Liss
Leslie & Stuart Milsten
Haruka Mori & William Menard
NJ Photography Forum
Laura & John Overdeck
Peapack Private Wealth Management
Susan & Douglas Present
Jane & Kevin Quinn
Nora & Robert Radest
Amy & Mitchell Radin
Theresa & TJ Scallon
Ann & Mel Schaffer
Kristen & Martin Segal
Ruth Steck
TD Bank
Tea & Oranges
Claire Toth & David Dietze
Susan & Stephen Yarad

Corporate Matching Gifts

Bank of America
Pfizer Foundation

\$250 & Above Membership

Albert Cook, Jr.
Elizabeth Cox
Karen & Richard Furst
Lynn & Tom Keffer
Samantha Pozner & Andrew Hickman
Patrick & Deirdre Quinn
Maxine & Robert Schwartz
Lucy Marks & Scott Sprinzen
Pamela Zave

Board of Trustees 2020–2021

Anne Grissinger, Chair
David Hardin, Vice Chair
Diego Rotsztain, Vice Chair
Paul Ciraulo, Secretary
David O'Neill, Treasurer
Dylan Baker
Katherine Buchanan
Lori Bush
Lisa Butler
Susan Cagnassola
Siobhan Creem
Amy Mahoney Harris
Suzanne Henry
Neela Pushparaj
Debi Schwarzmann
Jess Van Nostrand

Honorary Trustees

Sally Abbott
Virginia Fabbri Butera
Marie Cohen
Millie Cooper
Estelle Fournier
Elizabeth Gump
Joseph Robinson
Roland Weiser

Members Committee

Sally Abbott
Chandra Aquilina
Michelle Auerbacher
Sarah Bass Aspe
Ruth Boroshok
Lori Duva
Trish Gianakis
Jill Joseph
Lenore Knoller
Jennifer Markovitz
Corinne Nallet

Laurie Rando
Lori Riseman
Lori Rosenberg
Heidi SanFilippo
Jeanne Shottland
Nandini Sinha
Heidi Sussman

2020–2021 Staff

Denise Banaag, Studio School Manager
Mary Birmingham, Curator
Mike Byrnes, Facilities Manager
Melanie Cohn, Executive Director
Alicia Flynn Cotter, Summer Camp Manager
Emily Cross, Customer Relations Associate
Stephanie D'Souza, Grants Writer
Cassandra Demski, Director of Studio School
Jen Doninger, Studio School Coordinator
Jay Dougherty, Customer Relations Manager
Heather Ferguson, Accounting
Kimberly Fisher, Exhibitions Manager
Dorothy Lee, Assistant Director of Development
Jessica Lituchy, Assistant Director of Development
Stephen Maico, Director of Finance
Leon Norris, Custodian
Mara Norris, Custodian
Noelle Park, Customer Relations Associate
Brian Riley, Communications Manager
Eva Sienkiewicz, Customer Relations Associate
Chai Evaline Silva, Customer Relations Associate
Stella Sormani, Online Art Camp Manager
Chloe Thomas, Customer Relations Associate
Aliese Andersen Volk, Exhibitions Manager
Sarah Walko, Director of Education & Community Engagement
Susan Yarad, Director of Development and Communications

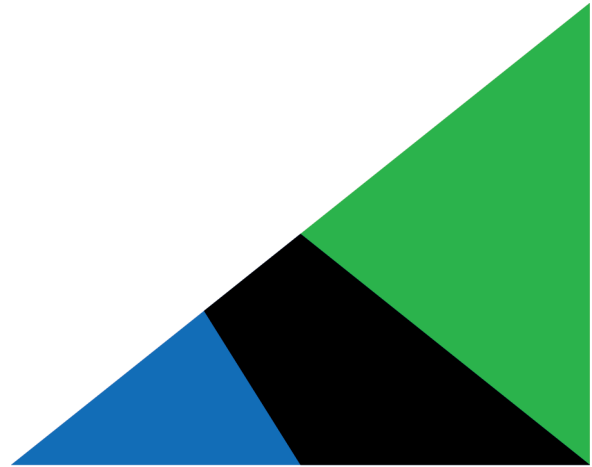
2020–2021 Faculty

Dustin Adamson
James Adkins
Danielle Austen
Francesca Azzara
Ninalynn Barbieri
Doug Baron
Carolyn Bednar
Lisette Bedoya
Susan Beodeker
Kat Block
Sarah Canfield
Kathy Cantwell
Mary Jean Canziani
Kailyn Cavaluzzo
Beatrice (Jao-O) Chang
Alicia Cotter
Emily Cross
Mark de Mos
David DiMarchi
Andrea Gianchiglia
Allison Gildea
Anita Gladstone
Kelly Green Grady
Ellen Hess
Gerry Heydt
Chevon Hopkins
Judith Hugentobler
Catie James
Lauren Kaiser
Melissa Krishnamurthy
Diana Hsu Kung
Matthew Langley
Valeri Larko
Debra Livingston
Vanessa Lopez
Stephanie Maddalena
Drew Maillard
Sarah Maxwell
Martha McDonald
Moriah Mylod
Jeannette Mullarkey
Mansa Mussa
Dawn Noonan
Nancy Ori
Juli Platt
Donald Polzo
Shari Quinones
Donna Read
Shelley Rosen Howard
Sue Sachs

Mark Saenger
Kit Sailer
Heidi SanFilippo
Stella Sormani
Russ Spitkovsky
Victoria Starger
Heidi Sussman
Peter Syak
Emma Tabachnick
Joel Tidey
Elizabeth Tokoly
Katie Truk
Michelle Truskowski
Megan Tuttle
Aliese Andersen Volk
Emi Winter
Cecilia Wolf
Carole Wong Chesek
Stephen Yavorski
Traci Zaretska

2020-2021 Volunteers

Chandra Aquilina
Michelle Auerbacher
Bill Austin
Catie Carter
Melissa Fiorentino
Trish Gianakis
Graham Hynes
Charlie Hynes
Lenore Knoller
Sara Messenbrink
Paige Morton
Noelle Park
Laurie Rando
James Reinke
Sasha Rtishchev
Heidi SanFilippo
Lena Schulz
Nandini Sinha
Heidi Sussman



VISUAL ARTS CENTER OF NEW JERSEY



**VISUAL
ARTS
CENTER**
OF NEW JERSEY

68 Elm Street
Summit, New Jersey 07901
P 908.273.9121
artcenternj.org