



FY25 ANNUAL REPORT

About Us

Vision and Mission

Vision:

Art is an integral part of diverse communities, a healthy economy, and a rich educational environment. For communities to thrive, the artists and arts organizations within them must be sustainable, viable, safe, and supported. We believe deeply in the value of a thriving creative sector and the importance of investing in the creative workforce that powers it. From legal services and human resources support to real estate programs and creative placemaking, our initiatives are aimed at maintaining and bolstering the vibrancy and diversity of the region.

Mission:

The Arts and Business Council empowers artists and organizations by providing the tools and services they need to grow their practices, gain influence, seek justice, and thrive.

DEIA Statement:

We want to create an inclusive culture that embodies the values, policies, and practices that ensure that all people, including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented based on race/ethnicity, indigenous heritage, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, or religion, experience equal access to the Arts & Business Council's programs, resources, and opportunities.

Program Highlights

01

LEGAL SERVICES (VLA)

Direct service, workshops, and legacy planning for artists and cultural organizations

02

ARTISTS PRACTICE

Artist fellowship programs and professional practice workshops and partnerships

03

BUSINESS ON BOARD

Board cultivation, training, and development

04

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Fiduciary oversight, financial management, and legal tax-exempt status for individual artists and projects

05

CREATIVE LAND TRUST

The permanent protection and stewardship of cultural buildings and land



Solstice Canvas by MASARY Studios, an ongoing artwork series created for Bigelow Chapel at Mount Auburn Cemetery

FY 2025 VLA

In FY 2025 VLA fielded over 387 applications and inquiries this past year and provided more than \$2.5 million in donated legal services.

Top 3 areas of law:

- Copyright
- Contract
- Nonprofit

Top tech disciplines:

- Mechanical
- Materials
- Life Sciences



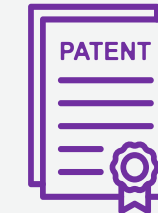
177

Total Applications Matched



61

Art Law Referrals



10

Patent Referrals



116

In-House Cases & Consultations

VLA Workshops and Seminars

We delivered 41 educational programs and presentations in fiscal year 2025. Workshop highlights include:

- **“Art, Life, + Money”** at MassArt
- **“Entrepreneurship, Graduate Seminar”** at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts
- **“Careers in Visual Art”** at Bristol Community College
- **“Advocacy 301: Nonprofit Dos & Don’ts”** for MassCreative
- **“Community Conversations: Shifts in Federal Funding”** for the Network of Arts Administrators of Color



Luke Blackadar teaching a legal workshop at the Boston Public Library.
Photo credit: Lennon Lennon Hernandez Wolcott

Workshops and Seminars

We facilitated, led, or participated in 39 professional practice workshops and one-on-one coaching sessions for artists through our Fellowship programs.

Topics Included:

- Taxes and Bookkeeping
- Financial Wellbeing
- Social Media Strategy
- Storytelling for Authentic Connection
- Legal Issues in the Arts
- Grant Evaluation



CREATIVE ENTREPRENEUR FELLOWSHIP

We supported 10 creative entrepreneurs with coaching, workshops, and a stipend. Monthly meetings included training on Taxes, Financial Planning, Social Media, Legal Issues, and Community Engagement. CEF alumni were hired again this year to provide artwork and event photography to previous and current cohorts, and alumni were also invited to many workshops for this year's cohort of fellows.



Catherine LeComte, CEF '25



LJ-Baptiste, CEF '25

Success Story: Catherine LeComte Lecce



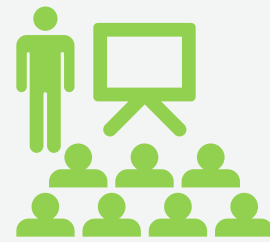
Catherine LeComte Lecce is a Burlington, MA–based interdisciplinary artist and curator exploring motherhood, identity, and feminist perspectives through photography and mixed media.

Catherine founded The Burlington Micro Gallery is a groundbreaking mobile art space designed to make art accessible to everyone, anytime. Featuring a large viewing window, the gallery allows exhibitions to be enjoyed 24/7, free of charge, bringing creativity into everyday spaces.

“The Creative Entrepreneur Fellowship gave me the tools and confidence to grow both as an artist and as a leader. Having access to resources like Lawyers for the Arts, financial consulting, and marketing support helped me build a stronger foundation for my creative work. It also gave me the chance to step back from the day-to-day and really think about the bigger picture, how to make my projects sustainable and impactful in the long run.”

FY 2025 Business on Board

In FY 2025 we attempted an income-based ticketing model for Get on Board! programs. We have not seen an increase post-covid in individuals interested in attending. However, the need of nonprofits for more engaged Board Members has only grown. Blue Cross Blue Shield was our only client to request an in-house workshop in 2025.



1

Custom
Engagement



14

Open
Enrollments



37

Individuals
Served

FY 2025 Fiscal Sponsorship

The Fiscal Sponsorship program supported over 31 client organizations through administrative services and financial management supporting programs, and small businesses so that they can build on the capacity of their charitable projects. A&BC sponsors programs in Greater Boston focused on inspiring social change and creating a more equitable and accessible arts and culture sector.



31

Clients
Served



7

New Clients
in 2025



\$192,538

Revenue Received



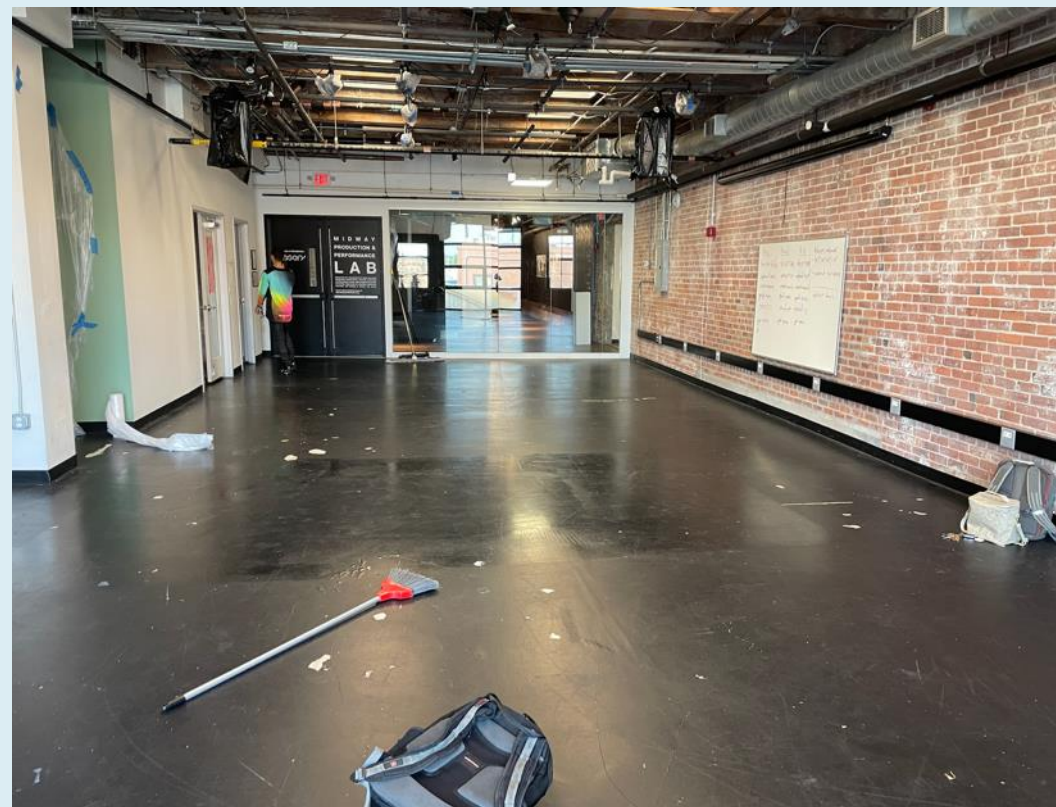
Success Story: MASARY

Masary Studios is transdisciplinary artist collective reconsidering environments through site-specific installations using sound, light, interactivity, and performance. As a fiscal sponsoree of the A&BC, they received \$25,000 from the Channel Center Community Benefits Fund, which they used to renovate their studio space.

“We were able to successfully complete our floor-refinishing work and address the remaining studio upkeep needs. We have already had several renters utilize the space since the work is completed. The funds we received help to improve our studio space and make it more accessible to the community.”



BEFORE



DURING



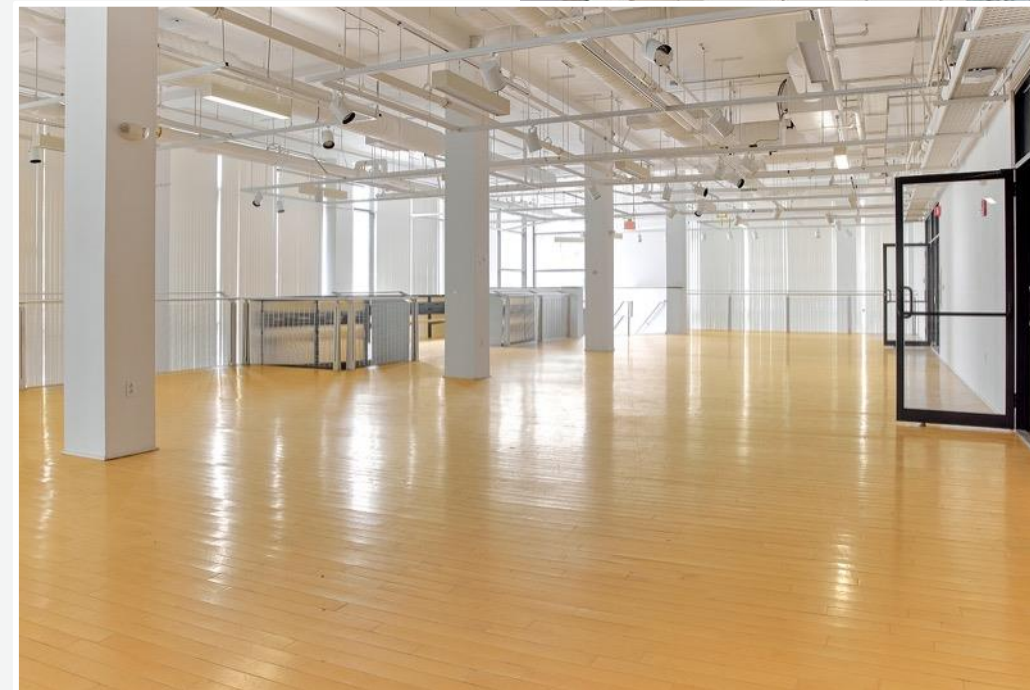
AFTER

Star Store

In May of 2025, the A&BC acquired the Star Store in downtown New Bedford for the purpose of reimagining and reactivating the building as a public resource to benefit artists, makers, creators, and small creative businesses. We envision a vibrant and inspiring building full of shared space, equipment, and resources to keep the creators of New Bedford creating.

About the Star Store:

- Historic 125,000 sq. ft. building in downtown New Bedford, surrounded by a vibrant arts and business district
- Building donated May 2025; appraised value \$10.6M
- Formerly home to the UMass Dartmouth College of Visual and Performing Arts
- Capital improvements (\$5-6M) required within first two-five years of ownership



Western Avenue | Studios & Lofts



In FY 2025, Western Avenue | Studios & Lofts maintained full occupancy with 371 artist tenants. They held 12 professional development workshops for the community and 15 open studios events, which welcomed more than 4600 visitors.



Our Team



James Grace
Executive Director



Luke Blackadar
Deputy Director



**Lennon Hernandez
Wolcott**
*Manager of Development
and Programs*



John Korbas
*Legal Services Program
Coordinator*



Eleanor Egan
*Fiscal Sponsorship
Coordinator*



Carmen Rodas
Carmen Rodas



Matt McArthur
*Director of Real Estate &
Fundraising*



Hope Green
Executive Director, WACA



Yahira Torres
Operations Manager, WACA



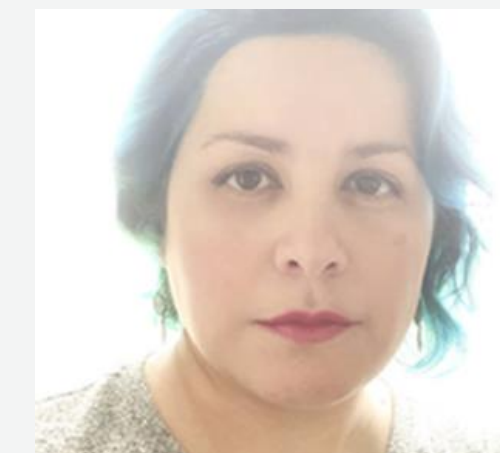
Lee Viliesis
Event Manager, WACA



Maritza Lezama
*Facilities and Operations
Assistant*



4 Nichols
Property Manager, WACA



Ileana Doble Hernandez
CEF Program Coordinator



Almitra Stanley
*Professional development
consultant to artists*

Our Board

Bithyah Israel - Chair
Founder, City Strings United

Alex Gavis
SVP & Deputy General Counsel,
Fidelity Investments

Marisa Murtagh
Managing Director &
Managing Counsel,
State Street

Ruxandra Tentis
CEO, SolArt Inc, CEO, Yelo Software,
Former Partner, McKinsey &
Company

Jim Buza - Treasurer
Director of Wealth Management
Product, Fidelity Investments

Kathleen Gondek
VP of Global Health Economics
Outcomes Research and Epidemiology,
Takeda

Lisa Nickerson
CEO & Founder of
Nickerson PR

Cheryl Tougias
Partner, Spalding Tougias
Architects, Inc.

David Guerra - Clerk
Founder and Director,
A R E A Gallery

Awilda Irizarry
Senior Business Advisor, Salem State
University Small Business Development
Center

Minerva Pinto
Art & Collectibles Strategist and a
Trust Officer in the Goldman
Sachs Family Office

Kristin D'Ambrosio
Partner, PwC

Anastasia Daou
Vice President, Policy and Public Affairs
NAIOP Massachusetts,

Joanne Kaliontzis
Art Director, Studio51
Design

Glenn Pudelka
Senior Counsel, Co-chair Trademark,
Copyright and Advertising Group at Locke
Lord LLP

Sean P. Newth
Corporate Controller,
MassMutual

Amanda Eckhoff
Partner, Robinson &
Cole

Ayana Mack
Founder, Ayana Mack
Design

Dayla Arabella Santurri
Media Strategist and
Event Architect, Dayla
Arabella Inc

Stacy Reed
Project Manager,
Coastal Cloud

Financial Review

Revenue & Expenses

	A&BC FY 2025	WACA FY 2025	FY 2025 COMBINED
REVENUE	\$1,105,623	\$2,443,780	\$3,549,403
DONATED SERVICES	\$2,303,595		\$2,303,595
EXPENSES	\$1,033,720	\$2,530,821	\$5,868,136
NET INCOME	\$71,903	\$(87,041)	\$(15,138)