



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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MISSION

The Steel Yard's historic campus is a platform for professional artists, makers and the community to practice and learn the industrial arts. The organization fosters creative and economic opportunities by providing workspace, tools, training, and education, while forging lasting links to a local tradition of craftsmanship.



Photo Credit: Phoebe Neel

WHO WE ARE

The Steel Yard is a non-profit industrial arts organization in Providence, RI. Our professional workspace enables community access to welding, blacksmithing, jewelry, ceramics and the foundry arts. We believe in a world made by hand, where individuals, neighbors, businesses, institutions, municipalities and communities come together to enrich our private lives and public spaces through creative work.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Carnevale | *Chair*

Frank Previti | *Treasurer*

Megan Boyaval | *Secretary*

Damian Ewens

Karen Harris

Colin Murphy

Delia Rodriguez-Masjoan

Lee Wesley

STAFF

Howie Sneider | *Executive Director*

Islay Taylor | *Associate Director*

Sally Turner | *Development Director*

Tim Ferland | *Public Projects Director*

Ben Filchak | *Studio Director*

Jenny Sparks | *Client Relations Manager*

Chris Dalpe | *Communication & Events Manager*

David Allyn | *Event Coordinator*

Adam Chuong | *Course Coordinator*

John Nguyen | *Art Production Coordinator*

Michelle Raccone | *Studio Assistant*



HI YARDIES,

Looking back at 2019 I'm absolutely astonished. It's hard not to romanticize a time before COVID, but last year was truly exceptional. It will be remembered as the year that we renovated the studio and adapted our programs to a year-round cycle. Its lasting impact carried us into a new decade, flush with opportunity and possibility for the arts, economic, environmental and social justice.

Most importantly our values are reflected in every action we took. Public Projects kept artists and fabricators working, installing custom bike racks, fitness equipment and fences across the State. The renovations added accessibility throughout our shop and we welcomed thousands of people to tours and the Halloween Iron Pour. We awarded an incredible number of scholarships; increasing opportunities for learning and welcoming new students into the shop.

We established the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee to explore opportunities for justice in all of our programs and promote equitable practices and learning across the organization. And, by operating year-round we were finally able to provide winter-time wages for our instructors and teaching-assistants, and an ongoing studio for everyone.

Today we are socially-distanced at the Yard, and are developing dedicated outdoor workspaces. We're providing food for everyone who visits or accesses our resources, and we have expanded safety kits for resident artists, students and the community. All of this is made possible by the deep investments of 2019.

Thank you again for contributing your resources, volunteerism and professionalism to this great success. We welcome you all with a shared vision for a more collaborative, inclusive, equitable and sustainable Yard.

Stay Safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Howie', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Howie



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

The Steel Yard acknowledges that continual learning and action are needed to make our campus and programs safe, inclusive, equitable, and just. We commit to reimagine, rebuild and develop programs and systems to counteract the harm caused by structural racism and oppression of all forms. To embrace this ongoing mission we have created a standing committee of Board and Staff members to explore opportunities for justice in all of our programs and promote equitable practices and learning across the organization. We invite feedback and participation.

At the Steel Yard we believe everyone deserves access to the education, skills and equipment needed to directly improve their conditions and community regardless of their race, color, religion, national origin, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation or gender identity, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sex, age or previous experience.



Photo Credit: Phoebe Neel | Sculpture by Alaina Mahoney

SUPER STUDIO

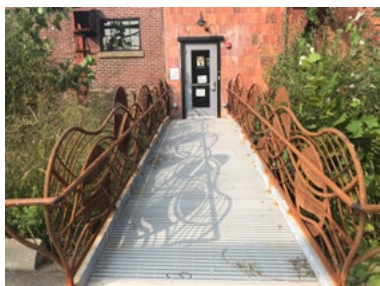
In 2016, we recieved our first Cultural Facilities grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. This funding kicked-off our ensuing capital campaign.

On Tuesday, September 17th 2019, The Steel Yard completed our super studio renovations! The community was welcomed back into our renovated and upgraded 12,000 square foot historic building which is now open year-round, heated, ventilated, restored and more accessible.

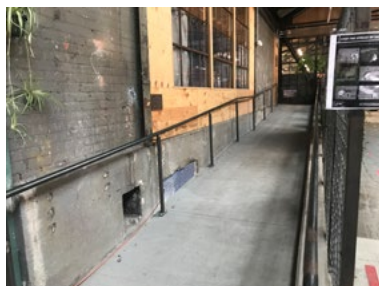
Designed by the award-winning KITE Architects, with building and construction by TRAC Builders, renovations to the facility are directly addressing community needs.

STUDIO UPDATES

ACCESSIBILITY



NEW LOBBY



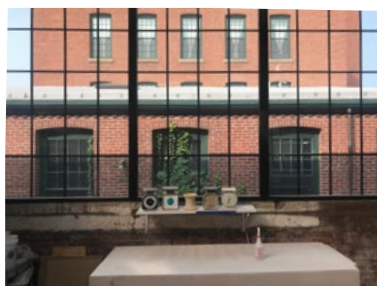
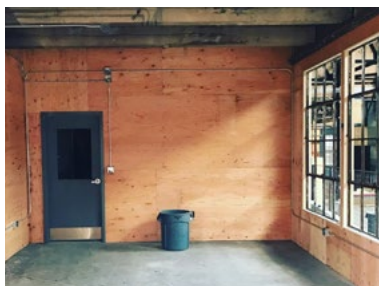
NEW POWER & HEAT



STUDIO OFFICE



WINDOWS



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

MAKE OVERS



We released a hot new brand and saved the pagoda!

NEW YARDIES



We welcomed John Nguyen, Art Production Coordinator, and Adam Chuong, Course Coordinator, to the team. Karen Harris, Steve Offiler, Lee Wesley and Delia Rodriguez-Masjoan joined the Board of Directors.

CREATIVE ECONOMY AWARD



The Steel Yard was awarded NEFA's 2019 Creative Economy Award.

CARBORUNDUM
GRINDING WHEEL CO.
LOUISVILLE, OHIO

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DS8501 . 190



ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

"The best thing about the Steel Yard is it brings everyone together, especially between mediums."

-Bri Larson, 2019

The Steel Yard's Residency Program assists artists in growing and strengthening their art practice in a supportive, cooperative environment through access to our studios, tools, resources, and support.

Residents work alongside a cohort of artists and makers, take part in events and sales and are creative leaders in our vibrant community shop. Every Resident receives an all-access pass to our 12,000 square foot industrial art studio.

In 2019, the residency program shifted from an 8 month to a 12 month program - that's 25% more art making! Artist residents came together to fire the soda kiln, light up the furnace, host art talks, and hold critique nights.

2019 RESIDENTS IN METALS, CERAMICS AND JEWELRY

Emily Baker
Aja Blanc
Erica Compton
Topher Gent
Tom Hubbard | Fellow
David Karoff

Scott Keeley
Brianna Larson | Alloy Fellow
Benjamin Levine
Danika Notar | Fellow
Henry Robinson
Ellen Rogers

DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In 2019 donors invested in our artist residency program by providing work-stations along with new tools & equipment for ceramics & jewelry.



TEACHING & LEARNING THE INDUSTRIAL ARTS

"The Steel Yard is a low pressure and inclusive place to try new things while receiving support from instructors. It was very easy to let go and make whatever I wanted."

-Liz Welch, 2020

The Steel Yard offers unique courses in the industrial arts for students of all skill levels. Students receive hands-on experience working with the tools of the trade in a safe and creative environment, and walk away with something they made by hand.

Regardless of past experience- there is something here for everyone. Every course is instructed by working artists and tradespeople who are deeply invested in their craft. We work hard to keep courses affordable and small, with available scholarships, and an average of five to eight students per course.

Due to capital improvements in 2019, Open Enrollment Courses were limited to two seasons; Fall & our first ever Winter session. In those seasons we had 212 students, 146 of those being new students. We were able to hire 18 artist instructors and teaching assistants (7 of whom are new instructors at the Yard).

DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Donor support provided eight full scholarships - a record number for only two seasons of educational programming.



Photo Credit: Jenny Sparks

PUBLIC PROJECTS

"I was able to work with other experienced makers and taught people new to making about design leading into fabrication."

-Topher Gent, 2019

Public Projects designs, fabricates and installs custom artwork for the public realm. We're project managers and we'll work with our partners every step of the way from creative concept to final installation.

We specialize in making functional and artistic street amenities (trashcans, bike racks, benches, fences, etc). We also create and manage fine art installations.

When you hire Public Projects, you get more than a custom piece; we beautify neighborhoods, build community, pay local artists and craftspeople, and support training for Rhode Islanders aimed to promote economic equity.

We saw more than a 30% increase in the number of commissions in our Public Projects department and hired more than 20 independent artists to fulfill those requests in 2019.

DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Because of your support we were able to continue to commission artists to create public-art at a temporary location during studio renovations.



JOB TRAINING

" I love to work on creative projects that take figuring out!
The Challenge is fun!"
-Cortney MacNeil, 2019

The Steel Yard is dedicated to providing Rhode Islanders who have experienced barriers to financial stability with access to education, training and facilities to learn and practice the industrial arts. We offer paid job-readiness programs that provide the technical skills necessary to make participants more employable in livable-wage jobs.

Programs are facilitated by highly-skilled artists and fabricators with industry experience, who teach participants to proficiently use the tools common to the industrial arts. The creative curriculum includes safety, creative problem solving, confidence building, teamwork, apprenticeship opportunities, and active community engagement.

In 2019, we hosted 24 people in our 30-hour introductory Welding Training class, 6 people in the follow-up 4 week program, and 6 people in a 30 hour OSHA safety training. Participants learned basic metalworking skills, fabricated public projects that were installed locally, and got paid to participate.

DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Donor investment in job training allowed us the flexibility to innovate our programming to better meet both participant & employer needs.



Photo credit: Phoebe Neel

PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

"This was so fun!!! I had never been to the Iron Pour before but now I think I have to go every year!"

-Alison Blackwell, 2019

The Yard is a community resource to create, incubate, experiment, and bring people together. We partner with local businesses, non-profits, community groups, and individuals to organize and host live music, theatrical performances, food festivals, weddings, conferences, workshops, and more.

We attended Pride Fest with our own float, provided Blacksmithing demonstrations all over Rhode Island, held a Yardie party at Rathbone Studios and a Donor Recognition party at Nicholson File in 2019. In September we held a Grand Re-Opening Party that was open to the public and a smashing success. We finished the year up strong with the Halloween Iron Pour in October and a brisk RISCA partnership in December!

DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to our sponsors, partners and community members the 2019 Iron Pour broke attendance records (again) as we welcomed everyone back to our restored and renovated site.



VOLUNTEERS

As a community and shared studio we are frequently in need of help with cleaning, organizing, building, painting, etc. We also facilitate a ton of creative projects throughout the year that are only made possible thanks to our volunteers.

Our volunteers built our Pride Float, designed and built Iron Pour props, packed up the entire studio in preparation for renovations, then unpacked the entire studio when construction was done! Special shout out and thanks to Dassault Systemes/SIMULIA and Rhode Island School of Design's P.O.S.E for organizing phenomenal teams for these projects in 2019.

DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In 2019, 200 individuals volunteered over 2,000 hours at The Steel Yard.

BUDGET REPORT

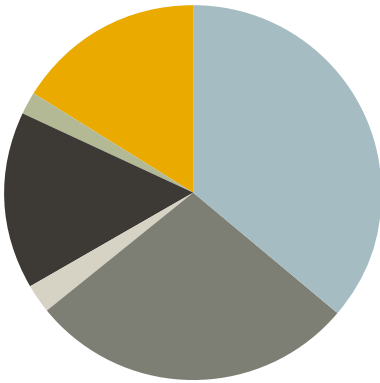
"2019 was defined by the transformative effects and unprecedented scale of donor support for our work. The community collectively invested more than \$1.5 million dollars in the Steel Yard's infrastructure and programs.

Including the utilization of capital reserves built up in 2018, we spent over \$2 million, almost entirely with local businesses, contractors and suppliers."

-Frank Previti, Board Treasurer

2019 INCOME

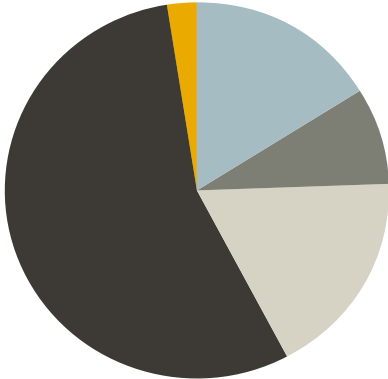
\$713,725



- CORPORATE FOUNDATION & BUSINESS SUPPORT \$258,573
- INDIVIDUAL DONORS & FUNDRAISERS \$199,756
- STATE GRANTS \$18,450
- TUITION & STUDIO USE \$109,706
- RENTS FROM SITE & OFFICE \$13,300
- PUBLIC PROJECT COMMISSIONS \$113,940

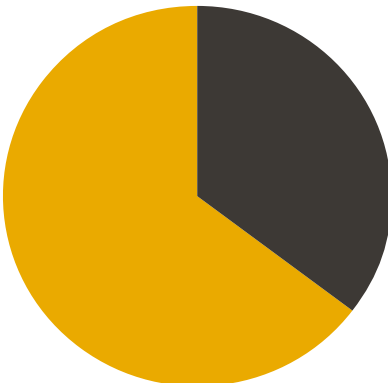
2019 EXPENSE

\$983,856



- COURSES/EDUCATION \$160,988
- JOB TRAINING \$81,605
- PUBLIC PROJECTS \$174,504
- ADMINISTRATION \$542,352
- OPERATIONS & FACILITY \$24,407

2019 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



- GIFTS \$1,161,559
- EXPENSES \$2,109,762

OUR DEDICATED AND INVALUABLE DONORS

"We're thrilled to be able to help with the upgrades of the Steel Yard. We loved visiting and seeing the amazing artists and ongoing education."

-Tim and Dolce Heffield, 2019

THE STEEL YARD WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE THAT SUPPORTED OUR PROGRAMS WITH A GIFT IN 2019

\$5,000 +

Bauta Family Donor Advised Fund

Peter & Lucia Gill Case

Heather G. & Ronald Florence

State of RI General Assembly - Maryellen Goodwin

Nancy Anderson & Dale Gowen

October Hill Foundation

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Polaris MEP

Clay Rockefeller & Manya Rubinstein

Textron Charitable Trust

Windgate Foundation

Special Thanks to our sustaining donors who have pledged monthly gifts in support of the Yard and to all of the Yardies who helped design, build, and set up the super studio!

\$500 - \$4,999

Erik Bright
Jennifer Carnevale
Candita Clayton
Jim Cournoyer
Geni Ferro
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Islay Taylor
Erika Tazberik
Tatyana Yanishevsky
Michael Yefko
Emily & Owen Zaengle

SUPER STUDIO

"You've rebuilt a legend, and left a lasting legacy for Providence."
-Wendy Lawton, 2019

SUPER STUDIO CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Howie Sneider, Executive Director
Jennifer Carnevale, Board Chair
Clay Rockefeller, Committee Chair
Nicolas Bauta
Joseph A. Chazan, MD
Peter & Lucia Gill Case
Nat Harris
Dan Levinson
Manya K. Rubinstein

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Peter Gill Case
Nick Depace
Steve Offiler
Melvin Wesley
Colin Murphy

SPECIAL THANKS TO

The City of Providence
KITE Architects
Building Enclosure Science
TRAC Builders and all of their subcontractors

2019 SUPER STUDIO DONORS

Charles Antone
RI State Council on the Arts
Janessa Bentley
Marybeth Blanchette
Aja Blanc
Tim Blankenship
Robert Bowen
Megan & Rob Boyaval
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Vicky Milne	Thomas Sparks
Mark Klopfer & Cindy Moore	Matt Stanton
Tara Morris	Jenn Steinfeld
Gordon & Laura Moss	Timothy Stenovitch
Nikki Munroe	Abbot Stranahan
Colin Murphy	David Tarrant
Elinor Nacheman	Islay Taylor
Nicole Nguyen	Kelly Taylor
Ashley Nutini	Eric & Catherine Taylor
Mark Oribello	Brian Terrien
Thomas Orvosh	Micah Thanhauser
Cindy Pierce	Daniel Schleifer & Johanna Walczak
Diane Postoian	Ron Wellman
City of Providence	Korinna Winkes
Marian Purviance	Connie Worthington
The Rhode Island Foundation	Joan Wyand
Peter Rogers	Tatyana Yanishevsky
Ellen Rogers	Bill Yoder

Please contact Sally Turner, sally@thesteelyard.org, if there are any omissions in this document. Thank you!

INKIND DONORS

We couldn't do our work without the support of our in-kind partners and businesses who recognize the Steel Yard's contributions to the local community and economy. Every year these donors give us thousands of dollars worth of talent, time, tools, materials and equipment. Thank you.

Bullard Abraisives
Campus Fine Wine
Megan Costello
RI Welding & Fabricating
Holliston Sand
Rob Houllahan
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Mid-City Steel
David Morsilli
Nicholson File
Oster Pewter
Pizza J
Tina Tryforos & David Reville
J Schatz
TRAC Builders

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Bentley Foundation
Club Fete
High Spirits Liquors
Holliston Sand
Orange Square
Revival Brewing
Robincrest Funding LLC
Thirsty Music

MEMORIAM

Gone. Not forgotten.

Our thoughts are with those in our community
who have lost loved ones this past year.





The Steel Yard is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, an initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major funding from the federal CARES Act from the National Endowment for the Arts



The Steel Yard's work is made possible through a combination of program-related earned income, private and government grants, corporate giving and individual philanthropy. 2019 operations are provided in part by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through appropriation by the Rhode Island Assembly, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and private funders.



**CLICK HERE
TO DONATE**

**SUPPORT THE STEEL YARD
BY MAKING A GIFT TODAY!**

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