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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

### BEQUESTS AND GIFTS

#### FLORENCE B. KANE LEGACY SOCIETY

*The Providence Art Club recognizes the following Legacy Society members who have made provisions in their estate plans to provide a gift for the benefit of our beloved Club to carry out its mission "For Art Culture"*

1914 Isaac C. Bates Estate	1978 Dr. Roland Hammond Estate	2001 Ruth W. Findley Estate
1925 John S. Sargent Estate	1978* Bradford F. Swan Estate	2003 David Aldrich Estate
1938 Albert H. Whitin Estate	1979* Eleanor Parker	2003 W. Chesley
1944 G. Richmond Parsons	Anderson Estate	Worthington Estate
1947 Alfred L. Lustig	1979 Elizabeth M. Farnsworth Estate	2004 Marjorie Bradshaw Estate
1956 Arthur N. Peaslee	1980 Exene R. Meyersahn Estate	2006 Barbara Kerr Calder Estate
1956 Florence Brevoort Kane Estate	1980 Dana Rice Estate	2007 Mary M. Campbell Estate
1961 Charles A.. McDonald Estate	1985 Rachel B. Adams Estate	2007 Charlotte Wetherell Estate
1962 William E. Brigham Estate	1985 Helen T. Batchelder Estate	2007 Edith Erlenmeyer Estate
1970 C. Prescott Knight, Jr. Estate	1986 Sarah Minchin Barker Estate	2011 Allen M. Johnson Estate
1971 J. Banigan Sullivan	1986 Antonio Cirino Estate	2013 Frederick R. Griffiths Estate
Memorial Fund	1990 Mrs. John Carter Brown	2014 Arlene I. Wilson Estate
1971 Mrs. Austin Levy Estate	Washburn Estate	15-17 Frank & Mary
1973 Bertha B. Harris Estate	1994 Mrs. Dorothy Ferguson	Castelnovo Estate
1974 Loraine J. Swan Estate	Humphrey Estate	2016 Milton P. Hannah Estate
1974 William A. Heath Estate	97-98 Stella Halit Estate	2019 Barnet Fain Estate
1975 Ruth Ely Estate	1999 Louise B. Mackenzie Estate	2019 Dr. Alfredo R. Esparza Estate

Your Club has maintained an active program in the visual arts, through wars and depressions, for over a century. We are continually grateful to those members whose thoughtful generosity has made it possible for the Club to increase both its programs and membership. With the ever increasing costs and growing burden of maintaining our delightful but ancient buildings, the need for additional income becomes imperative.

Because the Providence Art Club is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit institution under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal

Revenue Code, donations to the Club of cash or property can be regarded as charitable gifts. These donations are vitally important to the Art Club, which supports its yearly operations with the income from its endowment.

Yearly giving, as well as wills and bequests, can be considered a charitable gift. The Club Treasurer can supply further information concerning tax advantages for donations to the Club. Gifts of property to be retained by the Club should be directed to the attention of the Collections Committee.

#### SUGGESTED FORM OF BEQUESTS AND GIFTS

I give and bequeath to the Providence Art Club, incorporated by the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island at its January Session, 1880, located in the City of Providence, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ to be applied to the uses and purposes of said Corporation.

*The Providence Art Club is a 501(c)3 non profit corporation. It is suggested that you discuss with your financial advisor the relative tax advantages of bequests, gifts of cash, securities, etc., for the present and ultimate benefit of the Providence Art Club.*



## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA

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This is the fourth year the Annual Meeting has been conducted virtually. The Board of Managers recognized the increase in membership participation and voted to continue the virtual annual meeting (including agenda, reports, and ballots materials to vote etc.) The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Providence Art Club will be available virtually from **Wednesday, June 14th, 2023, at 12 noon through Friday, June 16th, 2023, 6:30pm.**

#### **Call to Order:**

President's Greetings – Shawn Kenney

#### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

#### **Communications and Notices:**

None

#### **Reports of Committee Chairperson:**

**Secretary's Report – Judy Vilmain**

**Treasurer's Report – Carl Helmetag**

**Membership – Joan McConaghy**

**General Manager, Seb Borges**

**Nomination Report – Carl Helmetag**

#### **Old Business:**

None

#### **New Business:**

**Dues Increase – Voting Results**



## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA / OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS - DUES

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The following proposed matter has been properly presented to and duly acted upon by the Board of Managers for action at the Annual meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

As per **Article II, Section 2.04 Dues and Fees** of the Providence Art Club Constitution, the following dues increase will be effective at the beginning of the new month, July 1, 2023:

To raise the monthly dues	From	To	Increase
Artist/Arts Professional, resident members	\$93.50	\$98.25	\$4.75
Artist/Arts Professional, non-resident members	\$46.75	\$49.25	\$2.50
Patron, resident members	\$122.50	\$128.75	\$6.25
Patron, non-resident members	\$61.25	\$64.25	\$3.00

**All assessments will remain the same.**

#### **Elections of Board Members – Voting Results (graphic)**

The Nominating Committee: Carl Helmetag (Chairperson), Wayne Franklin, Anne Wert and Carol S. FitzSimonds(Ex Officio 2022) are pleased to nominate the following individuals as directed by Article III Section 3.03 Nominations and Elections Article VI Section 6.06 Standing Committee of the Constitution of the Providence Art Club.

For three-year terms to the Board of Managers, expiring in 2026:

Lorraine Hynes (AR 2015)

Bill Lane (AR 2016)

Caroline Reed (PA 1999)

Rebecca Riley (PA 2016)

#### **Life Membership Announcement**

#### **Presentation of Art Club Medal**

#### **Question / Responses:**

**None**

#### **President's Closing Remarks – Shawn Kenney**

#### **Adjournment**



## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### PRESIDENT'S GREETING

Shawn Kenney, President

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To my fellow stewards – members and staff alike – of the Providence Art Club, thank you for your passionate support over this past year and welcome to the 2023 annual meeting.

We've found that this separate meeting and Strawberry Festival format consistently allows for more engagement – with the flexibility to watch the meeting on your own time, and to cast your ballots in advance (either online or through snail mail.) As with previous years, more members have voted than ever.

For the recorded meeting, we've chosen to supplement the Club's required business with a highlight of select committee reports for brevity – but all of our committee members and chairs should be thanked for their significant contributions to our Club and our culture. So in addition to extending thanks to them when you see them, I'd encourage you to read all of the reports that follow.

Thank you -

Shawn Kenney,  
48th President, Providence Art Club



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## ARCHIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Christopher Ratcliffe, Archivist

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The Providence Art Club archives is a repository for the Club's historical records dating back to 1880. It is comprised of exhibition catalogs, letters, governance documents, PAC board meeting minutes, photographs, and other records. You can access our "still in progress" digital archives here: <https://archives.providenceartclub.org/>

### A little Club History...

Charles Walter Stetson, a founding member of the Providence Art Club, married Charlotte Anna Perkins on May 2, 1884 in a home on the corner of Manning and Ives in Providence. One year later, their child Katharine was born. Charles and Charlotte's relationship was quite tumultuous to say the least, mostly due to Charlotte's post-partum depression and her outright disdain for the male dominated society within which Victorian-era women were forced to conform. One year into their marriage, Charlotte suggested that Charles pay her for her "services".

Charlotte left Charles in 1888, settling in Pasadena, California with Katharine, where she began to write voraciously. There she wrote her most famous story, *The Yellow Wallpaper*, along with a dozen books and hundreds of short stories.

Charlotte and Charles finally divorced in 1894 and he moved to Boston with his new wife, Grace Ellery Channing. Back in Pasadena, Charlotte's national reputation grew, and she began touring the country as a much-admired public speaker on women's rights, some branding her as a radical feminist. However, touring the country did not fit within the traditional role of being a mother. One day, Charlotte put Katharine on a train, telling her she was going to "visit" her father in Boston, never telling her that she was actually going to live with him and Grace permanently, and that she would not be returning home to Pasadena. This devastated Katharine and later in life she told people that "my mother abandoned me".



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### ARCHIVE COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Christopher Ratcliffe, Archivist

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Charlotte married her cousin, George Houghton Gilman, eventually writing under the name Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Charlotte took her own life in 1935 after being diagnosed with inoperable breast cancer. She wrote her own obituary and had it published upon her death. The title was “I Chose Chloroform Over Cancer”.

Charles moved with Grace and Katharine to Rome where he died at the age of 52. His ashes were scattered late one night from the bow of a ship somewhere in the Mediterranean, by Grace and Katharine, on their voyage back to America. Seven of his paintings are in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Museum of American Art in Washington DC.



Respectfully submitted,

Chris Ratcliffe  
Archive Committee Chair





## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### ART COMMITTEE REPORT

Carol FitzSimonds, Chair

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Flexibility, creativity and hard work continue to be the watchwords for the Art Committee and galleries staff. The Art Committee, working with gallery staff, adjust gallery guidelines as needed to accommodate member demand and to host community, scholarship, and innovative exhibits to enrich the gallery experience for our members but also to attract the public to our gallery spaces.

The Art Committee and gallery staff are continually on the lookout for alternative spaces to exhibit members' artwork. Exhibiting at Blithewold Mansion gallery was resumed in the fall of 2022 with strong sales. The Club paired with the Mystic Museum of Art in 2022 to exhibit the Hot Type Portfolio and will be hosting a reciprocal show by their artists this August. The committee hopes to continue these partnerships and find others.

The Club's 118th Little Pictures Show was truly a landmark event and the most successful one setting yet another sales record. Strategic marketing, block parties, "Thirsty Thursdays" and other holiday events combined with participating artists continually replenishing their artwork throughout the duration of the show combined with the tremendous job of our gallery staff was the winning formula. The gallery staff, Board and committee members will continue to brainstorm, plan and innovate to keep Little Pictures such a success. The visitor/buyer survey conducted during Little Pictures showed again that the Club's membership was instrumental in bringing the public into the galleries. You, our members, truly make our best ambassadors; the Art Committee thanks each of you and asks that you please continue spreading the word about our wonderful galleries, events and artists.

The Art Committee, in order to facilitate our enrichment goal and to celebrate the life of founding member Edward Bannister, planned the National Juried Exhibition to focus on the BIPOC experience as expressed by artists of color. The juror for the National Exhibition is Krista Scenna, an independent Brooklyn curator and gallery owner. The 3rd Summer Courtyard Sculpture show will focus on the work of local artist of color Shawndavid Berry, who was juried into last year's exhibition and is a member of DeBlois Gallery.

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### ART COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Carol FitzSimonds, Chair

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The Club has also made space for special member-focused exhibitions. Our first-ever Arts Professionals Showcase was well-received and highlighted artworks made by some of our talented 67 Arts Professional Members. In May, the Club will also host another installment of our Members' Miniatures Show, which celebrates small works sized 10" x 10" or less by Exhibiting Artist Members.

This summer, the Art Committee will be initiating the first biennial exhibit to honor our deceased artist members. Because of the Covid pandemic, this first exhibit will cover the last four years. The families of deceased members from this time period will be invited to bring in at least one artwork by their loved one. The number of artworks exhibited will depend on the number of families wishing to participate. The Art Committee hopes this show will become a tradition, a tribute and way to remember these members.

Art Committee members are: Carol FitzSimonds (Chair), Ann Thacher (Vice-Chair), Alice Gebhart, Elizabeth Goddard, Warren Jagger, Elena Obelenus, David Witbeck, Karin Forde Whittemore, Elizabeth Crane Swartz, and Anne Wert.

The committee wishes to thank Michael Rose and his staff for their outstanding work! The last thanks goes to Seb and his great crew including Rui, Maria, and others essential in keeping our gallery spaces beautifully maintained.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol FitzSimonds – Chair

Michael Rose - Gallery Manager



## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### ARTS QUALIFICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Chair

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The Arts Qualifications Committee met from May 2022 through May 2023.

The committee is comprised of Del-Bourree Bach, Sandra Basille, Claudia Iannucci, Craig Masten, MIMO Gordon Riley, Gretchen Dow Simpson, Nancy Gaucher-Thomas (chair) David Witbeck, and Michael Rose (staff).

The committee met monthly to review applications seeking membership in the Providence Art Club for Exhibiting Artist and Arts Professional membership (as well as member applications seeking transfer of status), to determine acceptance and status. Decisions were based on portfolio, resume, and membership application submissions.

This year the committee worked on clarifying and simplifying some of the wording in the application for Exhibiting Artist and Arts Professionals. The committee is currently working on providing guidelines for those who wish to become sponsors of potential applicants.

During the 2022-23 PAC season, the committee approved the portfolios of:

#### **MAY 2023**

Sari Camlot Litwin	Arts Professional
Izzy Rodriguez	Exhibiting Artist
Christa Stricklin	Exhibiting Artist

#### **APRIL 2023**

Jeff Fischer	Exhibiting Artist
Kate Wilson	Exhibiting Artist

#### **MARCH 2023**

Wayne Jacques	Arts Professional
Susan Sward	Exhibiting Artist

#### **FEBRUARY 2023**

Sandra Liotus	Arts Professional
Ann McKee	Exhibiting Artist

#### **JANUARY 2023**

Jonathan McPhillips	Exhibiting Artist
Mark Rabinowitz	Arts Professional
Jane Robbins	Exhibiting Artist

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### ARTS QUALIFICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Chair

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## 2022

### DECEMBER 2022

Kim Barry	Exhibiting Artist
Phyllis Pesaturo	Exhibiting Artist

### NOVEMBER 2022

Nancy Vignola	Exhibiting Artist
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### OCTOBER 2022

Debby Krim	Exhibiting Artist
Monique Rolle-Johnson	Exhibiting Artist

### SEPTEMBER 2022

Jeanne Cardarelli Raimondi	Exhibiting Artist
Robert Rustermier	Exhibiting Artist
Sallie Strand	Exhibiting Artist
Patricia Warwick	Exhibiting Artist

### AUGUST 2022

Virginia Branch	Arts Professional
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### JULY 2022

Linda Behar	Exhibiting Artist
Wendy Berube	Exhibiting Artist
Anne Maree Healey	Exhibiting Artist

### JUNE 2022

Kathy Hodge	Exhibiting Artist
Tyler Dixon, Jr.	Exhibiting Artist

### MAY 2022

Ellen Mayer	Exhibiting Artist
Richard Petrocelli	Exhibiting Artist
Anya Sirota	Arts Professional

### Transfer of Status

Ruth Davis (December 2022)	Arts Professional
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Sarah Verardo (November 2022)	Exhibiting Artist
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Jens Retlev (July 2022)	Exhibiting Artist
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In closing, I'd like to thank the members of the committee for their experience and thoughtful participation and review of each application that comes before us. I would also like to thank Michael Rose and Julia Hubbard for coordinating the materials reviewed and offering their support of the Arts Qualifications Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas  
Chair





## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### BANNISTER COMMITTEE REPORT

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas & Jennifer Davis Allison, Co-Chair

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**Steering Committee:** Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Co-Chair / Jennifer Davis Allison, Co-Chair, Claudeline Chery, Miriam Coleman, Ruth Davis, Wayne Franklin, Gail Ginnetty, Washawn Jones, Lorraine Maloney, Mike McGuigan, Jean Patiky, Rebecca Seimering, Sarah Summers, Nancy Springett, Betsy Zimmerman

**Advisory Committee:** Ted Mattis, Gail Ginnetty, Dan Mechnig, Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Jennifer Davis-Allison, Gage Prentiss, Ray Rickman, Robb Dimmick

Last year, the Providence Art Club embarked on an exciting project titled, the **Bannister Community Art Project or BCAP** that celebrates the life and legacy of one of PAC's founders, Edward Mitchell Bannister. Our goal was to create a broader platform for community engagement, expand the Providence Art Club's vision and mission and engage in public dialog that will encourage critical community partnerships while building and maintaining cross culture relationships. We do this by working with community leaders and organizations in promoting Bannister's historic role in building New England as a cultural center.

In the Fall of 2023 members of the Providence Art Club will be able to say, we made a difference within our community. The statue of PAC founder Edward Bannister will be seated along the river in Market Square welcoming passersby to sit and reflect about the artist and his life in Rhode Island. During this past year, many lasting relationships have been formed with those in the community that somehow had never stepped over the threshold of 11 Thomas Street and into what we know as a vibrant, colorful and welcoming space where artists and patrons come together to create, socialize and enjoy that which Edward Bannister and the other founders of the PAC formed in 1880. A friend who just recently submitted application for Exhibiting Artist attended a Thirsty Thursday event, he said "I opened the big green door, never having been inside. It was like walking into Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." What a wonderful way to describe this spirited place that is so full of life.

The Bannister Community Art Project has been a catalyst for change. We have an opportunity and a responsibility to move the needle and to be an anchor within the community for that change if we want to have a seat at the table with other community leaders. This project has set its roots, it is now up to us as a community of makers and thinkers to assist in its growth and contributions to RI as a cultural center as Bannister had in his plan.

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## BANNISTER COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas & Jennifer Davis Allison, Co-Chair

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The five workgroups, Education, Exhibitions, Engagement, Celebration and Development have been working non stop toward building a plan that speaks to the Bannister project mission of community engagement. **The following are highlights of their work.**

Thanks to Betsy Zimmerman, Chair of the Education Working Group, they are excited about the completion of the Ethnic Studies project at TAPA. This project became a reality through a collaboration between teachers at the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, a professor at the University of Rhode Island, members of the RI Black Storytellers, The Providence Art Club, the Rhode Island Foundation, and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Centered in 8th-grade ethnic studies classes the project focused on how Edward Bannister, a successful artist, and Christiana Bannister, a hairdresser and entrepreneur, leveraged their resources to support freedom struggles and causes impacting the Black community. It explored the historic role that barber shops and hair salons have held as centers of communication within the Black community. It allowed students to connect that history with their experiences today.

The curriculum, student essays, and supporting background information are available and free for other educators to use to give relationship for younger generations to the statue of EM Bannister. There are video recordings of most of this project as well. The film company, Atomic Clock, has been engaged to do a film of the creation of the statue, it's casting at the foundry, and the installation as part of the recording of the Project.

Work is ongoing around creating programs for libraries, and other interested groups that will encourage and enrich visits to the statue, and Bannister's life and art, after the statue's installation in September.

As of this writing I am pleased to announce the first Edward Mitchell Bannister National Exhibition, Celebrating BIPOC artists. From a considerable pool of applicants, Brooklyn based gallerist and curator Krista Scenna selected an exciting array of artworks in a wide range of media. Chaired by Rebecca Seimering, the Exhibitions Workgroup is collectively working on additional venues to host exhibits that reference the spirit of Edward Bannister. In 2024, partnering with the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, an exhibit will be held in the Atrium Gallery and an exhibit is planned at the Edward Mitchell Bannister Gallery at Rhode Island College.

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## BANNISTER COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas & Jennifer Davis Allison, Co-Chair

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Washawn Jones, chair of the Celebration Workgroup and her team are instrumental in the planning and execution of the celebration weekend, Sept. 8th through the 10th as well as the post celebration events leading up to Bannister's 195th birthday, Nov. 2nd. The special events planned include: interviews and panel discussion with Gage Prentiss, sculptor of the Edward Bannister sculpture and art historian Anne Louise Avery; a community breakfast with Amos House; choir concert with RPM Voices of RI as well as a day of service.

The Engagement Workgroup continues to make great strides in engaging the public. Under the leadership of Wayne Franklin, they have created a series of outreach programs to various churches, synagogues, and other non-profit organizations. The program includes a powerpoint presentation and history of Edward and Christiana Bannister. Venues include Temple Emanu-El; St. Martin DePorres Center; St. Martin's Episcopal Church; Jewish Senior Café, at Temple Sinai; Central Congregational Church; RI State Council of Churches, at SouthSide Community Cultural Center, the Varnum Museum and an initial inquiry was made to the Boston International Fine Art Show to make a presentation during the show. A commitment was also received from Small State, Big History (online publication dedicated to RI history); the editor will have an RI historian write an article on Bannister for publication on the site. The editor's response was very enthusiastic.

Thanks to Gail Ginnetty and Brenda Kercz for tracking the Bannister Community Art Projects financials: total funds raised were \$205,655 from 110 PAC members and 15 members of the community who were inspired by the project. We also received a generous grant from the Papitto Opportunity Connection for \$100,000. We still welcome additional donations which will be used to support - exhibitions, education programs, etc after the statue is installed.

Under the professional direction and expertise of Ruth Davis, PR efforts for the Bannister Community Art Project launched in April with a press release to local, regional, and national media (print, online, and broadcast).

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### BANNISTER COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas & Jennifer Davis Allison, Co-Chair

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#### **Coverage thus far, includes:**

- Two public television special segments, both produced by RI PBS: one aired locally, and one aired nationally on the PBS NewsHour/Canvas in mid-April.
- Providence Media commitment to cover all events and include a feature article in the August print version of Providence Monthly.
- RI Monthly commitment to a feature in the September printed magazine and coverage of events leading up to the unveiling of the statue.
- Fine Art Connoisseur will cover the project in July.
- GoProvidence, Providence/Warwick Convention and Tourism, has committed to supporting the project in August via social media. Its PR staff is reaching out to the organization's New York PR firm.

In June, we will be pitching (gauging interest) about the statue and Gage Prentiss in specific art publications, and we will be working with TAPA to direct attention to education media including podcasts for middle school teachers. We will also promote the June national exhibition and the exhibition in August.

The project's full weekend schedule will be announced in July via an additional press release. We hope to garner interest in the weeks leading up to the unveiling of the statue, by announcing key speakers and additional information about the events during the weekend of September 8-10.

#### **Planned activities/programs to date include:**

- September 8-10, 2023 a life-size sculpture of Edward Mitchell Bannister will be unveiled during PVD Fest and full WaterFire. Coinciding celebratory events are planned that will take place at The Providence Art Club and throughout the city.
- Lecture by Internationally known artist, Joseph Norman on Sept. 10
- An Open Juried National BIPOC Exhibit will be held at the Providence Art Club June - July, 2023 and will include artist talks and programs.

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### BANNISTER COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas & Jennifer Davis Allison, Co-Chair

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- A One Person sculpture exhibit featuring the work of sculptor, Shawndavid Berry held in the Burleigh Courtyard at the Providence Art Club June - September 2023
- A Special Exhibit at the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Atrium Gallery 2024 season.
- A Special Exhibit at Rhode Island College's Bannister Gallery 2024/2025
- Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) have created a curriculum in collaboration with RI Black Storytellers for the 7th grade Ethnic Studies. The program connects the historical importance of Christiana Carteaux Bannister's successful career operating hair salons in the 1850-70's in Boston and in Providence with students' experiences today. The focus of this curriculum highlights how barbershops and hair salons have been centers for the transmission of information and culture and explores their importance in community communication over a century.
- Mike McGuigan, a teacher at Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) has created a 400+ page bibliography about the Bannisters' lives that include tools and resources for educators and scholars. Mr. McGuigan was asked by Sara M. Picard, Ph.D. at RIC's Department of Art to speak to her class about his work on the Bannister bibliography.
- An application was submitted to the US Postal Service by Dietrich Neumann, Brown professor for the history of Modern Architecture and Urban Studies to issue a postage stamp in honor of Edward Mitchell Bannister.
- February 2023 RIPBS feature story on the Providence Art Club and Edward Mitchell Bannister: <https://www.pbs.org/video/providence-art-club-ddg787/>
- April 2023 PBS NewsHour feature story on Edward Mitchell Bannister and Bannister Community Art Project:  
<https://www.pbs.org/video/painting-community-1681936911/>

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### BANNISTER COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas & Jennifer Davis Allison, Co-Chair

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#### **The list of community partners and outreach continues to grow that include:**

*City of Providence, Providence Preservation Society, Rhode Island School of Design, John Nicholas Brown Ctr. for Public Humanities, Rhode Island Council on the Arts, Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, Papitto Opportunity Connection, Providence Media Group, Downtown Providence Parks Network, Providence/Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau, The Providence Foundation, Rhode Island Council on the Humanities, Embrace Boston, Stages of Freedom, New Urban Arts, Providence Library, Trinity Academy for Performing Arts, Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence Athenaeum, Youth in Action RI, Haircuts and Heritage.*

Many thanks go to the Bannister Community Art Project steering committee for their energy, enthusiasm, dedication, and countless volunteer hours over the past two years working to make this project a reality. And particularly to Nancy Springett for her impressive administrative skills and Jennifer Davis-Allison, Co-Chair of the Bannister Community Art Project whose community development and strategic planning expertise were critical in the execution of this project. Thanks also to the Advisory Committee for their dedication and direction on this project. Thanks to General Manager, Seb Borges and his staff who always say yes with a smile. Thanks also to President, Shawn Kenney for his support of the project and the Board of Managers for 100% Board participation in donations and support.

You can learn more about the project and celebration weekend by visiting:

**[www.bannisterproject.org](http://www.bannisterproject.org)**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Co-chair  
Jennifer Davis Allison, Co-Chair  
Bannister Community Art Project Committee



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### CAFÉ COMMITTEE REPORT

W. Bruce Tillinghast, Chair

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**Committee Members:** Lisa Browning, Steve Davenport, Roberta Wexler Ehrlich (vice-chair), Michael Manni, W. Bruce Tillinghast (chair)

**Staff:** GM Seb Borges and Executive Chef Scott King

The Café Committee is pleased to report that with the resignation of our former Executive Chef, our stalwart Sous-Chef Scott King is now the Executive Chef. During the pandemic he kept members engaged with PAC's "Art of Take Out". It was Chef Scott who kept the pace going, providing the take-out lunches, nearly on a solo basis. Congratulations, Chef Scott!

Club membership in true "Camaraderie" fashion has once again embraced the social aspect of the Providence Art Club as we've moved on from the pandemic. The Café is busy for lunch daily and our requests for private events have returned. Figures show the Café will provide a profit for the Providence Art Club in 2022-2023.

The Café Committee addressed an issue this past year where we had increased requests for more plant-based menu items. In talking to Chef Scott, we found he was already attuned to this idea and was helpful. We hope members have enjoyed the subtle changes to our Café menu with items he has introduced like the Black Bean Burger and the occasional Buddha Bowl and more.

We are happy to report that the Café will show a small profit for the 2022-2023 fiscal year end (April 30th) of \$19,523.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Bruce Tillinghast, Chair  
Café Committee



## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Chair

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The Collections Committee met in person in June and October 2022 and January 2023.

The Committee consists of Patrick Anthony Caffrey, Nancy Whipple Grinnell (chair), Claudia Iannuccilli, Ted Mattis, Dan Mechnig, Alice Miles, Chris Ratcliffe, Jon Small, Alice Tingley, and Charles Wharton.

The focus of the Collections Committee continued to be inventorying, cataloguing, and refining several hundred works of fine art, as well as assessing their importance to the mission. To that end, Committee Chair Nancy Grinnell worked one or two days a week cataloguing, a job that entails examining the work, completing detailed entries in the collections database: assigning accession numbers, ascertaining correct titles, dates, donors and condition, and indicating locations.

The issue of art objects stored for many years in the Fleur de Lys basement has been deliberated. Many of these objects, some by important artists, have been retrieved from the basement. Some works had water damage, others had suffered from being in a damp, moldy space for so long. It was agreed that nothing should be stored there in the future. Paper conservator Sarah Dove visited, assessed and is working on six damaged works in the collection deemed important enough to be conserved.

Committee member Anthony Caffrey made a professional assessment of the considerable collection of prints that have been taking up room in the collection area. Many are items that did not sell at previous auctions.

Committee member Claudia Iannuccilli invited RISD objects conservator Ingrid Neumann to look at the many Florence B. Kane sculptures. She answered questions about materials, i.e. Kane often coated plaster with different kinds of paint in imitation of bronze. There are chips, including nicks in ears, noses, etc. in many works. Ingrid is willing to work with us on this project, targeting two works first.

Committee member Alice Tingley repaired the frame to the significant portrait of Charlie Harry, the second steward of the PAC, who served from 1911 until the late 1930s. He was African American and the portrait is by RISD professor and portraitist William Cushing Loring.

*(Continued on next page)*





## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Chair

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This process of inventorying the collection has resulted in the discovery of many works that variously 1.) have never been accessioned and are not of interest to the collection 2.) are in poor condition, particularly some that were stored in the Fleur de Lys basement for years 3.) are redundant or reproductions, etc. Committee members determined to offer our de-accessioned work and other work that is not part of the PAC collection to Bruneau & Co. Auctioneers. This was accomplished in February with a check for \$1,196 received in April. There was no pick up fee and their commission fee was 10%.

The \$5,000 budget for the year has been allotted. Eight works were matted and or framed at Providence Picture Frame. Six works on paper are being conserved. Supplies have been purchased including a small ultra-violet flashlight enabling a closer viewing of paintings and signatures. In addition, \$1,000 was raised from nine de-accessioned pieces in the Little Pictures exhibition.

Several requests for information about the collection and PAC history have been attended to by the Committee Chair. She gave a tour to Isaac Comstock Bates' great grandson and provided him information about his activities at the PAC. Professor Alan Braddock of William and Mary College, an award winning author on art and the environment visited, as he includes a chapter on Edward M. Bannister in an upcoming book published by Yale University Press.

Committee members Dan Mechnig, Ted Mattis and Chris Ratcliffe have re-installed the Founders Room and Angell's Lane. Dan Mechnig and Nancy Grinnell are alternating writing newsletter columns on the institution's history and collection.

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## COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Chair

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During 2022-2023 the Collections Committee gratefully accepted the following into the collection:

**1.) Donor: Mixie Kingman Eddy**

Artist: Eugene Kingman

*Jaffrey Farmhouse, 1927*

Oil on canvas; 16 x 20 in.

Eugene Kingman was a PAC artist member for many years in the late 1920s through the 1950s. Born in Providence, he went on to a successful career as a museum director in the Midwest, as well as an artist. He exhibited in many PAC shows and had two one-man exhibitions. This painting won the “50th Anniversary Prize” at the PAC 1929 Annual Exhibition.



**2.) Donor: Barton St. Armando**

***In honor of his great-great nephew Brody Henderson***

Artist: Walter Francis Brown, attri. to

*Mt. Etna from Taormina, c. 1890s*

Watercolor on paper; 12 x 15 in.

Walter Francis Brown, PAC member and the artist of the memorable painting “The Rope Walk”, spent much of his career in Italy, where he made this watercolor, likely a study for another work.



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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Chair

#### 3.) Donor: Claire Oliveira

Artist: Alfred G. Medeiros

*Sakonnet, 1953*

Oil on canvas; 19 x 24 in.

Alfred Medeiros was a mid-century painter who had an exhibition at the PAC in 1969. His charming oil of fishermen at the Sakonnet marina demonstrates a wonderful use of color and perspective, adds some diversity to our collection and documents an important way of life in Rhode Island.



#### 4.) Donor: Artists of the Providence Art Club

*Hot Type Portfolio, 2021*

Twenty-five original prints by Providence Art Club artists

This exceptional portfolio of a variety of prints by the dedicated group of PAC printmakers is already part of the Smithsonian and MOMA and should have a natural home at the PAC thanks to the generosity of the group that produced it, led by Carol FitzSimonds. Its acceptance as an important component of the PAC collection of art is strongly recommended. Further description is online. The portfolio is printed in an edition of twenty-eight. Introduction by Michael Rose.



Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Whipple Grinnell  
Collections Chair



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## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Gail A. Ginnetty, Chair

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The Development Committee was formed in late 2019 with the following purpose:

To support the Art Club's mission and assist in ensuring the Club has sufficient funding for its long-term financial sustainability by recognizing and encouraging the long-standing tradition of philanthropy among our members. Assist with the implementation and development of philanthropic opportunities and educate members on how to participate.

### Highlights of Past Year Activities

- We welcomed new PAC member Wells Pile to our Development Committee. Wells has extensive planned giving, grant writing, and fund raising experience having worked in the Development offices of many prominent local nonprofit organizations, including RISD.
- The Philanthropy rack card, which was finalized last Spring, is now included in the packet given to all new PAC members. It summarizes the various ways that members can support our Club with both financial and other gifts. It's available in the lobby along with the other PAC materials.
- The Committee continues to refine and update the messages on the Support pages of the PAC website. In addition, this year we updated our donor thank you letters.
- For the first time, the annual report summarizing the gifts made to PAC over the past year, was included in the yearbook. In 2022 PAC received just over \$114,000 from 132 members with donations made for operations, our endowment, for celebration of birthdays, for the mortgage retirement fund, and in memory of recently passed members. Approximately 59% of the dollars were designated for the Bannister project. This total does not reflect the year end generosity of so many members with their support of the employee holiday fund.
- During the year, the Committee continued to participate in the oversight of the fundraising efforts made on behalf of the Bannister Community Art Project. As of the end of March over \$205,000 has been raised. Since the Fall of 2021 just over \$100,000 has been generously donated by 110 PAC members including gifts from 100% of the Board of Managers along with \$6,000 given by 18 members of our local community. At the end of February 2022 a \$100,000 grant from the Papitto Opportunity Connection fund was received.

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Gail A. Ginnetty, Chair

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The mortgage retirement fund now has a balance of \$609,531 so we have reached 62% of our goal.

Our endowment at the RI Foundation had a balance of \$212,000 as of March 30th. Last year a number of members designated \$25,000 to be added to this fund.

A reminder for us all. There's something that **both** artists and patrons can create – and that's our legacy. Please feel free to contact any of our committee members if you would like to explore ideas on how you can support PAC today and in the future.

**Thank you to all members for the many ways you gave your financial support to the Club this past year.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gail A. Ginnetty

**Current Members: Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Ann Gralnek, Ted Mattis, Wells Pile, Lynne Sykes-Larson, Betsy Zimmerman, and Seb Borges, Julia Hubbard, Staff**



*The Spirit of  
Philanthropy*



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Nickerson Miles, Chair

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### **Members of the Board and Members of the Providence Art Club:**

During the past year, the following people have served on the Education Committee: Members Carol Beagan, Anne Carty\*, Angel Dean\*, Roberta Ehrlich, Alice Benvie-Gebhart\*, Anne Maree Healey\*, Bill Lane, Michael Manni, Nickerson Miles\*, Karen Murtha\*, Michele Poirier -Mozzone, Scott Simmons. Kirsten Sue Sorensen\*, and Susan Sward\*. Club staff include Maya Stern\*, Seb Borges\*, and Michael Rose\*. Those marked with an asterisk are current committee members.

This past year has been unusually busy for the committee. Maya Stern succeeded Abba Cudney as the Club's education coordinator—a job that includes contacting instructors, coordinating calendars, publishing course offerings, registering members for courses, and working with the committee to expand PAC's programming. And expand it we did. The number of courses for the Winter and Spring terms set new records and filled the Club's educational facilities.

To better understand the educational needs of the PAC's membership, we conducted a survey in October that generated an impressive 44% response rate. The survey confirmed that the members are generally well satisfied with the Club's offerings. Still, there's room for incremental improvements that the committee is currently pursuing. For example, we recently equipped the Masiello Studio with new, sturdier easels, and are drafting a new instructor orientation guide. The committee also will work on developing a more comprehensive curriculum of art-practice and academic offerings, including pop-ups.

On the travel front, the committee's travel team (composed of Anne Carty, Birch Coffey, Angel Dean, Frances Middendorf, Nickerson Miles, and Nancy Springett) recently completed a highly successful, 10-day, painting-oriented trip to Rome and Umbria. It was the Club's second venture abroad. Planning is already under way for a 2024 trip to the Netherlands and a potential reprisal of the trip to Italy. On the local front, the team inaugurated its "Muse on the Move" series of curated tours of regional museums and points of interest. Initial trips included the RISD Museum, the Cape Cod Modern House Trust, and the Mystic Seaport Museum's show, "Sargent, Whistler, and Venetian Glass."

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## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Nickerson Miles, Chair

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### **Classes:**

Summer 2022 – 3 classes, 35 students

Fall 2022 – 18 classes, 239 students

Winter 2023 – 26 classes, 336 students

Spring 2023 – 20 classes, 261 students

**67 total classes with 871 students**

### **Workshops:**

Summer 2022 – 16 workshops, 141 students

Fall 2022 – 2 workshops, 13 students

Spring 2023 – 1 workshop, 6 students

**19 total workshops with 160 students**

**86 total educational offerings with 1,031 students.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nickerson Miles, Chair  
Education Committee



Pictured: PAC members following a cooking class on the Rome/Umbria trip.



## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

David C. DePetrillo, Chair

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On Members' Night Friday, October 21, 2022, we were pleased to present our Annual PAC Fall Concert with pianist Malcolm Halliday. A PAC favorite, Mr. Halliday returned after five years with a program he arranged specifically for the Art Club. He made our historic Steinway come alive with selections that included Mozart's Piano Sonata No. 10 in C major, Brahms Klavierstücke Op. 118, and Chopin's Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52. Pianist, organist, and conductor, Mr. Halliday has performed in the United States, Mexico, and Europe, both as a soloist, conductor, and in collaboration with singers, instrumentalists, and orchestra. Our members gave him a standing ovation.

On Friday, February 17, we held our annual Founders Day Celebration that featured a play about Christiana Carteaux Bannister, wife of famed artist and Art Club Founder Edward Bannister. The play was written and directed by Art Club member Pam Lambert. Two young actors, Brianna Rosario and Jordan Smith gave great performances with cameos by Nancy Gaucher-Thomas and Seb Borges. The play's timing was aimed at highlighting the critical role Christiana played in Edward's life as we near the completion of the Bannister Project's life-size sculpture of the artist.

For our Members' Night on Friday, April 21, 2023, we presented "Broken: the Life and Art of Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Charles Walter Stetson". The play was part of the Entertainment Committee's continuing series of plays on the fascinating lives of our Club's early members. This play focused on two people who gained international acclaim in art and literature. The captivating stories of Walter and Charlotte were revealed in their own words, drawn from their diaries. Charlotte became an internationally prominent feminist and novelist and author of "The Yellow Wallpaper". Walter's works are exhibited in the galleries of the Smithsonian and other major museums. Chris and Mindy Ratcliffe wrote and acted in this play in a beautifully designed set in the Skylight Room. Hannah Ratcliffe, Tom and Audrey Monahan, and Ted Mattis completed the cast. Patti Wagner-Miller and Linda McDermott were of great help with set design and costuming. The audience responded with a standing ovation.

Our May 19 Members' Night saw a return of our popular Art Club Talent Show, coordinated and hosted by PAC artist member Kelly McCullough. On that night some of our very own Artist members performed in "PAC Talent Show: Sing & String". Members and their guests enjoyed the sounds of Kelly McCullough's songs and guitar strings. The "string" theme continued when Sam Allerton Green presented a Yo-Yo demonstration. Romance was in the air as Paul Kenney's marionettes enchanted the audience with a special love story. It was a fun and entertaining night for all.

As always, our GM Seb Borges and staff and Chef Scott's great cuisine helped make every Members' Night a success. We thank them for their extraordinary effort.

Respectfully submitted,

David C. DePetrillo, Chairman

Chris Ratcliffe, Kelly McCullough, Committee Members





## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Charles Wharton, Chair

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#### **Committee Membership:**

Charles Wharton, Chair

Carl Helmetag, PAC Treasurer and Chair of the Audit Committee

Patti Cerilli, Independent CPA

Susan Aitcheson, Member of the Board of Managers

Frederick Mattis, Chair of the Investment Committee, past Treasurer

Gail Ginnetty, Chair of the Development Committee

David DePetrillo, Past PAC President

#### **Staff:**

Seb Borges, PAC General Manager

Brenda Kercz, Bookkeeper

#### **Purpose:**

The Finance Committee is responsible for recommending financial policies and preparing budgets that support the financial integrity of our Club, its mission, and goals. The Finance committee prepares monthly or more often reports measuring the financial performance of the Club against its goals in accordance with the highest standards of accounting. It is responsible for creating the annual budget, oversight of its Audit, and filing of its tax reports.

The Finance Committee is a formal 'standing committee' and has two sub committees, the Investment Committee and the Development Committee, that work in stewardship for the Club's well being and longevity.

#### **Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023**

Once again, the Fiscal Year ending 04/30/2023 has been challenging. The Club continues to have a systemic operating deficit before extraordinary items including such non cash items as depreciation. The Club has continued to benefit from its strong increase in new members. Both the Investment Committee and the Development Committee continued with good results in a difficult environment.

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Charles Wharton, Chair

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During the Fiscal Year we once again filed IRS Forms 990 and 990T and we completed our third official independent audit by our accountant PKF O'Connor Davies, based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. We have already started our Fiscal Year ending 04/30/2023 audit. Consistent with prior results, we received a 'clean' Audit and Management Reports which are available to members upon request.

During the past year we once again funded substantial capital repairs, restoration and maintenance for our historical buildings with Board Of Managers approval. We also increased the funding of The Mortgage Reduction Fund to approximately 70% of the total balloon payment due in five years. I am very pleased to report these accomplishments.

In closing, I wish to thank all the committee members for their diligence and fiduciary responsibility in carrying out the committee's work. I also belatedly welcome Brenda Kercz to our finance department and want to thank her for her exceptional work. Finally, thanks to our own Seb Borges and Julia Hubbard for their unfailing help in all things PAC in support of this committee and our wonderful club.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Wharton, Chair  
Finance Committee



## GALLERIES REPORT

Michael Rose, Gallery Manager

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The galleries of the Providence Art Club displayed the work of more than 150 artists during the more than 30 exhibitions of the 2022 - 2023 season. The galleries of the Art Club continue to be a source of public and member engagement.

In November and December of 2022, the Club hosted the 118th Annual Little Pictures Show & Sale. The exhibition was a great success, with sales totaling over \$175,000. This represents a new record in the history of this important sale and is due in no small part to the enthusiasm of Club Members, artists, friends, and volunteers. The Club continued its new tradition of hosting Block Parties to welcome the public into our four historic buildings and began Thirsty Thursdays to add bonus monthly evening hours.

Below are highlights of just a few items we have worked on over the last year.

- The galleries hosted an average of 3 artists' talks, demos, and lectures each month with about 20 – 50 attendees at each event.
- **National Open Juried Exhibition 2022** - juried by Dr. Claire C. Whitner, head of Curatorial Affairs at the Worcester Art Museum.
- **Fall Members' Exhibition**, juried for prizes by painter Lee Ann Scotto Adams.
- Class and Instructor Show – celebrating work made in over 70 classes and workshops.
- **Winter Members' Show**, juried for prizes by printmaker and illustrator Michael Ezzell.
- Renewed collaboration with **Blithewold Mansion** in Bristol, RI.
- Hosted a special show highlighting the **Collection of Dr. Joseph Chazan**.
- Continued our **Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition**.

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### GALLERIES REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Michael Rose, Gallery Manager

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Looking forward, in June the Club will host a National Exhibition focused on BIPOC artists juried by Brooklyn-based gallerist Krista Scenna. In August the Club will host a collaborative show highlighting members of the Mystic Museum of Art.

The Galleries have been promoted through paid and free calendar listings and have earned features in print, on radio, and television. Most notably this year we were featured on Boston Chronicle and PBS Newshour. Gallery staff continue to diligently promote the work of Art Club artists on social media and we have grown our footprint in the digital realm, to the benefit of the Galleries and our exhibitions. Our Facebook now has over 4,800 followers and Instagram boasts over 5,800. We also maintain presences on Twitter and LinkedIn. Our total social media following exceeds 10,000 followers.

I would like to acknowledge the many contributions of those who have supported the Galleries during the last season. First, I cannot say enough about my dedicated coworkers. Brianna Turner is a reliable and thoughtful assistant with nearly eight years of service at the Art Club. Newer assistants Shannon Ferrari and Aja Delgado have brought new perspectives and fresh energy to the staff. We are also grateful to other temporary gallery assistants who have supported special shows and installations.

The continued success of our galleries would not be possible without the ongoing support and collaboration of our volunteers, artists, patrons, and other PAC staff. I would like to thank all the members of the Art Committee for their guidance and advice as well as to numerous other volunteers for the time and effort that they invest in supporting the mission of the Club and helping the Galleries to enjoy continued success. I would also like to thank all of the artist members for their dedication and acknowledge the high level of quality works seen in each exhibition.

In addition, I would like to thank all of my fellow staff for their continued support and help with gallery operations, in particular Seb, Julia, Rui, and Maria. These staff members help us to stay organized and to keep the galleries looking beautiful. Their support and professionalism is always appreciated.

In closing I would also like to thank our Board of Managers for all of their contributions to the Club and its galleries as well as their continued enthusiasm and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Rose  
Gallery Manager



## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Susan Aitcheson & Caroline Reed, Co-Chair

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It was a productive year! Our work continues to benefit from the clarity of PAC's amended Constitution (December 2020), which provides clear guidance and structure for our discussions in committee and subsequently, with the full Board.

Governance's work this year has included documenting practices and policies that have been the bedrock of our historic club. We have also worked with staff to produce job descriptions that reflect the growth of the Club, and the different, expanded, responsibilities for some employees.

In support of the BOM as it plans for the future, Governance committee members created and disseminated a Request for Proposals for strategic planning with DEI considerations, responded to questions, evaluated responses, and conducted on-line interviews. In January our recommendation for a facilitator went to the Board regarding the agency and individuals with deep expertise working in the arts who were the "best fit" for PAC... Management Consultants for the Arts (MCA), and their DEI partner, Diaz Inclusion Consulting. The Board approved and in March embarked on the Club's first formal strategic planning. We look forward to completing this process by the end of the calendar year.

#### **Accomplishments this year:**

- Update and Board approval of the Year Book "Rules and Bylaws" for the 2024 edition.
- Documentation and approval of working guidelines for PAC with the Bannister Community Project.
- Board adoption of a streamlined BOM meeting routine for discussion and votes relating to new member applications and approvals, membership transfers, acceptance of resignations and reinstatements so as to allow more time for deliberation on policy matters.
- Encouraged by our Vice-President (and member of Governance), a new Board meeting agenda format was adopted. Meeting materials are now in a single, paginated, PDF document, and items requiring a vote are labeled.
- Participation in an ad-hoc committee reviewing criteria for the PAC Medal.

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Susan Aitcheson & Caroline Reed, Co-Chair

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- Collaboration with Board member Nick Miles for a more comprehensive on-boarding manual for new Board members.
- Implementation of revised conflict of interest documents for the Board in an on-line format.
- For the fourth consecutive year, guidance was provided to the Nominating Committee as it recommended PAC members for future Board vacancies, as well as a slate of Officers for the upcoming year. This Committee is made up of one current Board member and two at large PAC members - one Artist and one Patron. The full BOM reviews and approves each step of Nominating's multi-month deliberations.
- Grant application for strategic planning submitted to the Rhode Island Foundation.

Governance Committee members this year were: Co-Chairs Susan Aitcheson and Caroline Reed, Norah Diedrich, and Lorraine Hynes. Our President Shawn Kenney is an Ex-Officio member, and General Manager Seb Borges is invited to attend.

This year's Nominating Committee work was completed by Carl Helmetag (Chair), Carol FitzSimonds (last year's Chair), Susan Aitcheson (of counsel), Artist Anne Wert, and Patron Wayne Franklin.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Aitcheson and Caroline Reed, Co-Chairs,  
Governance Committee



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## HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Tom Monahan, Chair

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The House Committee is responsible for keeping the important period rooms in our various historic buildings in original condition, both structurally and in decor. We are presently looking for a period eight panel interior door for the blue room. We prefer actual period architectural elements, whenever possible, as opposed to reproductions. We are also considering other decorative elements, simpatico with the various periods such as lamps, side tables, and more.

On the decorating front, the year-end holidays are our most active time, when our decorating team transforms the public common space into a winter wonderland, consistent with our interior architecture and the various early periods of the Club. During spring and fall, we decorate those spaces with a lighter seasonal touch.

Our committee also often plays a role with special events, such as our new highly successful Block Parties and occasional theatrical productions.

I'd like to thank our wonderful House decorating committee for their time, dedication, resourcefulness; Audrey Monahan - former chair, Patti Wagner-Miller, Linda McDermott and, Karen Rand Anderson. Karen Murtha played an important role last Christmas decorating for a very special event. And, as always, Alda and Rui provide in-house assistance to our committee whenever necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Monahan, Chair  
House Committee



## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### INVESTMENT FUND REPORT

Frederick Mattis, Chair

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#### **Providence Art Club Investment Report for the Fiscal Year April 30th, 2022 thru April 30th, 2023.**

The Providence Art Club's overall investment portfolio consists of Board designated funds of approximately \$2,569,533 and the temporarily restricted "Mortgage Reduction Fund", currently at \$614,685. For the fiscal year ending April 30th, 2023 the investment accounts had a combined market value of \$3,184,218. Last year, at the end of April 2022, the accounts combined market value was \$3,084,764. Currently, cash and cash equivalents stand at 21% and equity holdings represent 79% of the combined accounts value. These assets are held, as they have been for many years, with the local investment firm of Brown, Lisle & Cummings. Fees paid to the firm totaled \$7.00 for the fiscal year.

There were no new funds added and no withdrawals made to the accounts during the fiscal year. Although the markets experienced some volatility during the year they basically ended up where they had been a year prior. The total return on the accounts was \$99,454, for the fiscal year, or a bit more than 3%. The S&P 500 index, for the same period, returned a little more than 1%.

The Committee typically meets every two to three months and monitors the portfolio on an ongoing basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick Mattis, Chair

James Kavney

Peter Lisle

John Marginson

Ruth Mullen



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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Joan McConaghy, Chair

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The objective of the Membership Committee is two-fold: to encourage interest, participation and enthusiasm amongst members, and to increase overall memberships.

We welcomed a record number of **49** new members. This year, it is my pleasure to report the membership numbers total **678** members. Our membership is robust and thriving, with a steady stream of new applicants.

Our committee meets monthly in-person, and at times, via Zoom. Some of this year's accomplishments include:

**Planning and Hosting Events:** Two events planned for Members to bring potential members to showcase the Club. In October, our annual Madness Party called Manhattan Madness was well-attended and enjoyed by all. In April, we held our first ever **“Paint Your Cake and Eat it Too”** for Patron Members and their Guest led by Kathy Tirrell with help from Judy Vilmain. This was a popular, well-attended event we plan to repeat in the near future.

**Projects:** The committee sent an informational letter to all New Members, explaining the Club's Annual Employee Holiday Fund in the hopes to clarify the appeal.

**2023/24 Calendar:** Our next calendar year will be focused on looking at possibilities to bring younger people into the Club, possibly another Madness Party and a creative activity event for Patrons, as well as vetting potential members without sponsors.

We have encountered more and more individuals who are new to Rhode Island and interested in joining the Club, but who do not know any members for the two-year requirement. There is a vetting process available for those who do not have any sponsors. This year committee members have vetted dozens of such members.

We encourage **ALL** members to consider proposing a friend, colleague, or family member for membership. The process to propose a new member is simple. The proposer requests an application from Membership Services. All details, including membership fees, may be found in the brochure that is available in the lobby or on the website under the membership link. Please feel free to contact anyone on the committee if you have any questions or concerns regarding the membership or the application process.

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Joan McConaghy, Chair

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In closing, Judy and I would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the committee: Birch Coffey, Tripp Evans, Paige Magrattan, Suzanne Reeves, Dawn Robertson, Kathleen Tirrell, and new member Rodolpho Fidalgo. Thanks to our General Manager, Seb Borges, and a special shout out to Julia Hubbard for all her hard work and attention to detail; she is a crucial component to this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan McConaghy  
Chair, Membership Committee

Judy Vilmain  
Vice-Chair, Membership Committee





## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Carl Helmetag, Chair

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The Nominating Committee is pleased to Nominate the following individuals as directed by Article III Section 3.03 and Article VI Section 6.06(c) of the Constitution and Charter of the Providence Art Club.

**For 3 year terms to the Board of Managers expiring in 2026:**

Lorraine Hynes (AR 2015)

Bill Lane (AR 2016)

Caroline Reed (PA 1999)

Rebecca Riley (AR 2016)

**The Nominating Committee submits the following members for Officers of the Board of Managers for a one-year term ending in 2024:**

President – Shawn Kenney (AR 2005)

Vice President – Lorraine Hynes (AR 2015)

Secretary – Judy Vilmain (AR 2006)

Treasurer – Carl Helmetag (PA 2011)

Assistant Treasurer/Secretary – Susan Aitcheson (AR 2013)

Respectfully submitted – 2023 Nominating Committee:

Carl Helmetag- Chair

Carol S. FitzSimonds AR – Ex Officio 2022

Wayne Franklin – PA

Anne Wert – AR



## BIOS – NOMINEES AND BOARD MEMBERS WITH NEW TERMS

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### LORRAINE A. HYNES

**Exhibiting Artist member since 2015; on BOM since 2020**

*Club roles:* Vice President; member of Governance Committee; currently leading strategic planning effort

*Address:* 399 West Wrentham Road, Cumberland, RI 02864

*Phone:* H: 401-405-0722, C: 401-474-2317 | *Email:* lahynes1@cox.net

*Spouse:* Joseph; 1 child, 1 grandchild

*Background:* Education: AA from Johnson & Wales, certification from National Academy for Paralegal Studies. Work History: Retired as Purchasing Agent for the State of RI, including higher education and the Department of Transportation. As head of the RI Division of Purchases, she had responsibility to plan and direct all procurements statewide. Also served on the Cumberland Town Council for 12 years and as Council President managing town finances and operations. Currently Vice President of the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts (RISCA), and a volunteer consultant with Empower Success Corps (ESC) Boston, MA, offering strategic planning expertise to nonprofit organizations in RI.

*Favored medium as an artist:* Oil painting

### BILL LANE

**Exhibiting Artist member since 2016; elected to BOM in 2023**

*Club roles:* Former member of Education Committee; instructor in Plein Air and Intermediate/Advanced Watercolor

*Address:* 399 111 Anawan Road, North Attleboro, MA 02760

*Phone:* H: 508-699-8937, C: 401-529-3504 | *Email:* bill@billlanewatercolors.com

*Spouse:* Peggy; 2 children, 5 grandchildren

*Background:* Education: BFA from UMass Dartmouth. Work History: Graphic designer/creative director for several Boston firms before launching Lane Design in 1990. Now retired. Art affiliations include signature-artist member of the New England Watercolor Society and RI Watercolor Society, member of the Copley Society, former member of Spring Bull Gallery, and a variety of other museums and guilds. Award winner in numerous local and regional shows.

*Favored media as an artist:* Watercolor painting

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### BIOS – NOMINEES AND BOARD MEMBERS WITH NEW TERMS [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

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#### **CAROLINE F. REED**

**Patron member since 1999; on BOM since 2019**

*Club roles:* Co-chair, Governance Committee

*Address:* 483 Lloyd Ave., Providence, RI 02906

*Phone:* C: 401-301-9817 | *Email:* carolinereed1@cox.net

*Spouse:* Dan Lederer; 3 children, 5 grandchildren through marriage

*Background:* Education: BS in consumer services and business (interior design and art history) from Penn State, post-BA in art therapy and art education, certification to teach art; MHHA from U of Minnesota. Work history: Retired. Formerly administrator in non-profit hospitals and in community-based organizations providing residential and educational services for youth with intellectual and medical disabilities, autism and behavior disorders. Volunteer work for fundraisers for several medical-related organizations.

#### **REBECCA R. RILEY**

**Patron member since 2016; elected to BOM in 2023**

*Address:* 4100 Main Road, Tiverton, RI 02878

*Phone:* 914.844.1825 | *Email:* Rebecca.r.riley@me.com

*Spouse:* David Carden; 2 children, 1 granddaughter

*Background:* Education: BA from Ohio U., MA in Educational media/communication and MLS from Indiana U., MFA study at School of Art Institute of Chicago. Work history: Retired as vice-president of the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; previously Assistant to the Director of Chicago Public-Library/Cultural Center Programs. Former chair, Grantmakers in the Arts and Former Board Member of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and RI Council for the Humanities. Currently a Board Member for The Public's Radio and GrowSmart RI. Currently a reviewer for National Endowments for the Arts & Humanities. Served four years in Liberia as a US Peace Corps volunteer. Served three years in Jakarta Indonesia as spouse of US Ambassador to ASEAN. A member of Sakonnet Golf Club and Sakonnet Point Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol FitzSimonds, Chair



## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Clark Schoettle, Chair

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The Property Committee is responsible for all capital improvements including the buildings, infrastructure and grounds. It seeks to incorporate functionality without sacrificing the Club's historic character. It oversees the maintenance, rehabilitation and historic preservation of the interiors and exteriors of the Fleur de Lys Studios, Deacon Taylor Studios, Seril Dodge House and additions.

Capital improvement expenses are supported by the PAC Preservation Assessment and a portion of the rental income from the Fleur de Lys and Deacon Taylor Studios.

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year three significant projects were completed totaling approximately \$37,500, including the following:

- 1) Deacon Taylor Studios: The old oil boiler began to leak near the end of winter and it was time to replace it with a new gas boiler/water heater with multiple zones. Done Right Plumbing ran a gas pipe from the Dodge House to Deacon Taylor (\$3,685) and the gas boiler system was installed by Santoro Oil Company (\$20,387).
- 2) Dodge House and Brick Club House: The first-floor exterior of the Dodge House was freshened up with a coat paint and the windows, stairs and door on the east side of the Club House were painted by Jose Bento Painting (\$6,200).
- 3) Upper and Lower Parking lots: The parking lots were seal coated and striped by Young Paving and Micheal Johnson (\$7,100).

A lot of time was also spent finding a roofing company to replace EPDM flat roof on the Brick Club House and Classroom and the asphalt shingle roof on the Deacon Taylor House, as well as repair the skylight and gutter on the Fleur de Lys. Chaffee Industrial Roofing should start that project in FY 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Schoettle, Chair



## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

142ND ANNUAL MEETING — JUNE 14, 2023

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### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Judy Vilmain, Secretary

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#### STATISTICS as of April 30, 2023

<b>Artists</b>	<b>340</b>
<b>Patrons</b>	<b>321</b>
<b>Life Members</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>661 (451 women; 210 men)</b>

April 30, 2022: 648 (434 women; 214 men)  
April 30, 2021: 609 (402 women; 214 men)  
April 30, 2020: 617 (408 women; 209 men)  
April 30, 2019: 606 (402 women; 204 men)  
April 30, 2018: 608 (400 women; 208 men)

April 30, 2017: 614 (395 women; 219 men)  
April 30, 2016: 606 (374 women; 232 men)  
April 30, 2015: 617 (375 women; 242 men)  
April 30, 2014: 625 (382 women; 243 men)  
April 30, 2013: 604 (367 women; 237 men)  
April 30, 2012: 607 (366 women; 241 men)

#### NECROLOGY (14)

**Mr. Evald J. Albrektson**

Exhibiting Artist Life Member 2002  
Passed 6/7/2022

**Mr. Richard S. Chafee**

Arts Professional Member 1985  
Passed 6/29/2022

**Prof R Ross Holloway**

Arts Professional Member 1970  
Passed 6/30/2022

**Mr. Philip Lieberman**

Exhibiting Artist Life Member 1982  
Passed 7/12/2022

**Mrs. Carole Villucci**

Exhibiting Artist Member 2019  
Passed 7/13/2022

**Mrs. Judith Skoogfors-Prip**

Exhibiting Artist Member 2002  
Passed 9/4/2022

**Mr. Morris Nathanson**

Exhibiting Artist Life Member 1968  
Passed 9/17/2022

**Dr. Daniel S. Harrop**

Patron Member 2003  
Passed 9/29/2022

**Mr. Timothy Philbrick**

Exhibiting Artist 2002  
Passed 10/11/2022

**Mrs. Marian Sachs**

President's List Member 1981  
Passed 11/20/2022

**Mr. Roger H. King Jr.**

Arts Professional Member 1988  
Passed 12/11/2022

**Mr. Eugene Lee**

Arts Professional Member 1995  
Passed 2/6/2023

**Mr. Dennis James DeLomba**

Exhibiting Artist Member 2019  
Passed 3/23/2023

**Mrs. Elsie D. Buffum**

President's List Member 1986  
Passed 4/14/2023

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### SECRETARY'S REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Judy Vilmain, Secretary

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#### 54 NEW & REINSTATED MEMBERS

May 2022 – April 2023

##### 27 PATRONS

Lynn McCarthy  
Penny Carrier  
Peter Carson  
Suzanne O'Shea  
Rebecca Mayer  
Lyn Hayden (reinstated)  
Lisa Dworkin  
Wells M. Pile  
Frances Alexakos  
Carla Cook  
Dale DiNapoli  
Ruth Davis (reinstated)  
Joseph Tamburini (reinstated)  
Paula DeSano Santos  
Ellen Polansky  
Carmen Priolo  
Ann Biddle  
Madeline Kanter  
David Levin  
Jens Retlev (reinstated)  
William Chan  
Rodolpho Fidalgo  
Gail Solomon (reinstated)  
David Davies  
David Kennedy  
Kathryn Petrie  
Bettina Rounds

##### 22 EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Jeff Fischer  
Kate Wilson  
Susan Sward

Ann McKee  
Jonathan McPhillips  
Jane Robbins  
Kim Barry  
Phyllis Pesaturo  
Nancy Vignola  
Debby Krim  
Monique Rolle-Johnson  
Jeanne Cardarelli Raimondi  
Robert Rustermier  
Sallie Strand  
Patricia Warwick  
Linda Behar  
Wendy Berube  
Anne Maree Healey  
Kathy Hodge  
Tyler Dixon Jr.  
Ellen Mayer  
Richard Petrocelli

##### 5 ARTS PROFESSIONALS

Wayne Jacques  
Sandra Liotus  
Mark Rabinowitz  
Virginia Branch  
Anyia Sirota

##### 1 Member Transferred their Status to Exhibiting Artist Membership:

Sarah Verardo

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### SECRETARY'S REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Judy Vilmain, Secretary

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#### **1 Member Transferred their Status to Arts Professional Membership:**

Ruth Davis

#### **PAST PRESIDENTS**

Harley Bartlett

Anthony Carcieri

David DePetrillo

Robert Emlen

Daniel Mechnig

Alice Miles

Thomas Reilly

Robert Venditto

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas

#### **NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

Angela Brown Fischer

W. Bruce Tillinghast

In September, an Ad Hoc Committee - Joan McConaghy, Caroline Reed, Charles Wharton, Ted Mattis, Dan Mechnig and Chris Ratcliffe were tasked by the President to look at the eligibility criteria for members who receive the **Providence Art Club Medal** (PACM) benefit. After reviewing statistical data and considering the fiduciary responsibilities of each member, the committee recommended the criteria for PACM eligibility follow the same as **Art Club Life Membership** (ACLM) criteria 40 years. In addition, beginning in 2032 PACM/ACLM eligibility will increase one year for the next 5 years. As of 2036 the criterion to receive benefits for PACM/ACLM will be 45 years of membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Vilmain, Secretary



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Carl Helmetag, Treasurer

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Last year, I noted that the Club would face financial challenges in the year ahead. As predicted, we experienced inflationary increases in utility, operating, food and employee costs. The Art Club, like many businesses, was especially challenged to retain our fantastic and dedicated staff in an environment of employee shortages and wage pressures.

Recognizing this, your Board of Managers approved a budget for the year ending April 30, 2023 that had an operating loss of \$102,000 and a small net profit after factoring in depreciation, loan interest, expansion income and other non-operating items. While we are still waiting for our auditors to make final adjusting entries, the preliminary results for the fiscal year indicate that the Club will have an operating loss of about \$140,000 which is \$40,000 worse than budget. What happened? While clubhouse income was higher due to dues increased and continued addition of members, we experienced higher payroll, utilities, merchant fees and maintenance expenses than planned. Café income was significantly better than budget from both members and outside events. However, food costs and kitchen/ waitstaff costs jumped even more than the income. Similarly, while art class and art exhibition income rose, the cost of providing the fantastic gallery shows and classes which are a hallmark of the Art Club rose even faster.

While we had an operating loss, we could not sit still as continuous upgrades were needed to maintain the Art Club experience. This past year, we purchased new easels, installed a new backup server, a new sound system, replaced worn out kitchen equipment, installed a new point of sale order entry system, seal coated the parking lots, and installed a new boiler system in the Deacon Taylor House. These investments totaled approximately \$70,000.

Looking forward into 2024, there will be continued inflationary pressure although that seems to be somewhat abating. The Finance Committee and the Board of Managers recommend a 5% increase in monthly dues to defray the cost increases that we foresee. This increase will result in a monthly increase of \$4.75 for resident artist members and \$6.25 for resident patron members. The Club will also increase the quarterly meal minimum from \$75 to \$100 for artist and patron resident members and institute a \$200 annual meal minimum for non-resident and life members. This is the first increase in meal minimums in twenty years.

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## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### TREASURER'S REPORT [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Carl Helmetag, Treasurer

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Despite the operating loss this past year, I want to assure you that that your Club is in a very strong financial position. We weathered the COVID storm extremely well while retaining our wonderful staff. Your Board of Managers in concert with the finance and investment committees monitor the Club's financial performance on a continuing basis. We strive to make the adjustments necessary to maintain our financial strength while delivering the magical experience that is the Providence Art Club.

In closing, I wish to thank Brenda Kercz for her excellent work in keeping the Art Club's books and answering finance related questions from our members.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Helmetag, Treasurer



## PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

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### CLOSING REMARKS

Shawn Kenney, President

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To turn a phrase turned just before our own clubs founding - seven score and 4 years ago next year will mark the 144th anniversary of 16 men and women getting together with the idea of a shared space to show, to sell, to make, and to talk about art – a Club, and one of the original pop-ups in Providence (you may or may not know, it took us seven years to finally move into clubhouse here on Thomas Street) – arguably the oldest encouraging the community to BUY LOCAL ART.

I believe that our founders would be delighted to see that what they started is now surrounded by a thriving creative capital. I'm an unabashed fan of Providence – and was all the more proud as my RISD classmates returned this month for 30 year reunion – to see the city, and all of its crackling energy, through the eyes of those who have been away. It's the arts & cultural institutions and the amazing culinary scene. And the nascent district around the pedestrian bridge. And innovation both from our homegrowns looking to meet a need, along with external investors seeing opportunity. Any of those attributes would make us the envy of much larger cities. Combined, they enable us to punch well above our weight here in Lil Rhody.

I'm also proud that the Club is likewise growing, evolving, and investing in itself. We've made significant investment into a stellar club management staff. Education opportunities expanded to include a sold-out trip to Italy, our second successful program abroad. Our galleries have never been busier with member shows, or have represented a wider variety of art than ever before. They've been recognized by Rhode Island Monthly for the fourth consecutive year as best Gallery in Rhode Island, and our record-breaking Little Picture Show last year grossed just under \$180,000 - a figure beyond our wildest hopes and dreams.

We've invested in relationships with other neighboring organizations for our mutual benefit – after all, who travels to see banks? In addition to the ongoing Bannister Community Art Project, this past year we hosted the 25th anniversary gala for New Urban Arts, and are currently working with Waterfire Arts Center, Providence Preservation Society, The Steel Yard, and with Farm Fresh Rhode Island. We've featured local artisan beverage purveyors Anchor & Hope winery and ISCO spirits on our menu and at events. At a community dinner hosted by RISD's President Crystal Williams, I was proud to represent the Club, and to be a part of a conversation that included, among others, leadership from RISCA, Arts Culture Tourism, and AS220. The artists who founded the club saw the wisdom in partnering with patron members – I think they'd be pleased with the bridges that we are building.

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## CLOSING REMARKS [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Shawn Kenney, President

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But with the explosive growth and amazing opportunities, I don't want to be pollyanna about the challenges as well – when I came to school 30 years ago, it wasn't uncommon for instructors across the street at RISD to supplement their income by owning rental properties throughout the site – something that's almost unthinkable now. We're all faced with dramatically increased cost of living, and of doing business, and of competing resources. The Club mirrors those challenges, and as we continue to have to absorb these increased costs, and as we choose to reinvest in ourselves, it is out of necessity that we must make tough choices like the decision to increase dues this year, as we strive to not only provide an exceptional experience, but also keep the organization in a sound position for future stewards.

Another way of investing in The Club – as of this recording, we're about to start phase two of our strategic plan. So why then the strategic plan? It's about holding a mirror up to our organization, fine-tuning our core mission, vision, and values to ensure that we have the right mix of member services, and public engagement, and the private hospitality events (that both help keep costs down, as well as showcase our club for potential members.) But we'll hear more about that later this summer, as we dig deeper, and continue to work with staff & members - feel free to reach out if you'd like to know more or to be involved. The topline of initial phase one organizational assessment report provided by consultants MCA should be no surprise. (Well actually, there was a surprise – to the consultants, who thought there was a clerical error when looking over our demographics because we listed 27 members in their 90s and 3 over 100.)

But that's the charm of the Club, right? It shouldn't be a surprise to us that they also found a deeply committed stewardship. That at our core is a strong sense of being part of a community centered around the arts, and of history, and of traditions, and of being welcomed. It's the Art of Camaraderie extended to all who walk in through that big, green, heavy, intimidating door. It's for making sure that these values are cultivated for future generations. For our members - who may be either working in a profession that can be isolating, or coming off a successful career in entering a new phase of their life, or dealing with the loss of a loved one, or even coming to the city as a transplant, and looking to connect with others, to turn another turn of phrase, HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS.

As I've said, America may run on Dunkin, but the Providence Art Club runs on people – on our combined love and stewardship. In closing, let's raise the glass and toast. We've got good problems, not bad, and more public awareness ever regarding our history and mission (including recent features on both local and national television!)

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## CLOSING REMARKS [FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

Shawn Kenney, President

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Cheers to our staff – how many magical memories have we all enjoyed at 11 at Thomas Street, from Café to the Classrooms and Galleries, because of the extraordinary efforts and leadership of General Manager, Seb Borges and his team? We're so very fortunate to have a top-notch staff, and for Seb's stewardship for these past 25 years – Seb, it wouldn't be The Club without you.

Cheers to our Board and our volunteer committees, for your inspired vision and collective expertise – because of what you do, we've never been better positioned to imagine where we might want to go, and what we might want to pay forward. (Folks, you'd be delighted to know that our consultants noted what many of us have known all along, that we have an extraordinarily engaged membership, with the ability to function at a high level of discourse, and to be able to disagree and still get stuff done.) Special thanks here to Joan McConaghy and Anthony Tomaselli, for your years of service on the BOM – we know that you will continue to be outstanding ambassadors for the Club.

Cheers to those we've honored here today– including PAC Medal recipient Joe Chazan, and newly minted Lifetime Members Angela Brown Fisher and Bruce Tillinghast. Thank you for your dedication to our community.

Finally, cheers to you, our members, for all the ways you continue to show your support – through taking classes, enjoying hospitality in our Café and Angell's Lane, and coming out to Thirsty Thursdays. Through purchasing art, or through your generous gifts of time and financial donations, as well as for the introduction of new members to this special place. Thank you.

It's an honor to continue to serve you, and as our good friend Tom Sgouros would say, "For God's sake, take care of yourselves!"

Shawn Kenney,  
48th President, Providence Art Club



# ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATION



*“Mini Strawberry” by Tom Monahan*