



RESIDENCE ARTS

143

JUNE 12, 2024
ANNUAL REPORT

AGENDA &
COMMITTEE REPORTS



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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
1925 John S. Sargent
1938 Albert H. Whitin
1944 G. Richmond Parsons
1947 Alfred L. Lustig
1956 Arthur N. Peaslee
1956 Florence Brevoort Kane
1961 Charles A. McDonald
1962 William E. Brigham
1970 C. Prescott Knight, Jr
1971 J. Banigan Sullivan
1971 Mrs. Austin Levy
1973 Bertha B. Harris
1974 Loraine J. Swan
1974 William A. Heath
1975 Ruth Ely
1978 Dr. Roland Hammond
1978 Bradford F. Swan
1979 Eleanor Parker
Anderson

1979 Elizabeth M. Farnsworth
1980 Exene R. Meyersahn
1980 Dana Rice
1985 Rachel B. Adams
1985 Helen T. Batchelder
1986 Sarah Minchin Barker
1986 Antonio Cirino
1990 Mrs. John Carter Brown
Washburn
1994 Mrs. Dorothy Ferguson
Humphrey
97–98 Stella Hait
1999 Louise B. Mackenzie
2001 Ruth W. Findley
2003 David Aldrich
2003 W. Chesley
Worthington
2004 Marjorie Bradshaw
2006 Barbara Kerr Calder
2007 Mary M. Campbell

2007 Charlotte Wetherell
2007 Edith Erlenmeyer
2011 Allen M. Johnson
2013 Frederick R. Griffiths
2014 Arlene I. Wilson
15–17 Frank & Mary
Castelnovo
2016 Milton P. Hannah
2019 Barnet Fain
2019 Dr. Alfredo R. Esparza
Castelnovo
2016 Milton P. Hannah
2019 Barnet Fain
2019 Dr. Alfredo R. Esparza
2023 Eunice B Claflin

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.



AGENDA

The Board of Managers is pleased to return to the in-person Annual Meeting; however, all voting will be conducted remotely by electronic ballot only. Prior to the Annual Meeting, certain reports not included herein will be available on the members' portal for review.

Please click on the following Link, which will include additional reports not included herein (when available), the Ballot, and biographies for the candidates for the Board of Managers.

Please remember to vote prior to Tuesday, June 11, 2024, deadline. There will be no inperson voting on the day of the Annual meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

President's Greetings – Shawn Kenney

Approval of MINUTES of the June 14, 2023 Annual Meeting.

[Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting – June 14, 2023 – Judy Vilmain, Secretary \(Link\)](#)

COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICES:

None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: (Click the link to access reports)

Treasurer's Report – Carl Helmetag [report](#)

Secretary's Report – Judy Vilmain [report](#)

Nomination Report – Carl Helmetag [report](#)

Membership – Judy Vilmain [report](#)

General Manager – Seb Borges [report](#)

The following additional reports will not be read at the Annual meeting but will be available on the members portal prior to the meeting.

Archive Committee: Chris Ratcliffe, Archivist

Art Committee: Carol S. FitzSimonds, Chair and Ann Thacher, Vice-Chair

Arts Qualifications Committee: Merle Poulton and David Witbeck, Co-Chairs

Bannister Committee: Nancy Gaucher-Thomas and Jennifer Davis-Allison, Co-Chairs

Café Committee: W. Bruce Tillinghast, Chair



AGENDA

- Collections Committee:** Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Chair
- Development Committee:** Gail A. Ginnetty, Chair
- Education Committee:** Nick Miles, Chair and Angel Dean, Vice Chair
- Engagement Committee:** Bill Lane, Chair
- Entertainment Committee:** David DePetrillo, Chair
- Finance Committee:** Charles Wharton, Chair
- Galleries:** Michael Rose, Gallery Manager
- Governance Committee:** Susan Aitcheson and Caroline Reed, Co-Chairs
- House Committee:** Tom Monahan, Chair
- Investment Committee:** Frederick R. Mattis, Chair
- Membership Committee:** Judy Vilmain, Chair; Joan McConaghy, Vice-Chair
- Property Committee:** Clark Schoettle, Chair
- Travel Committee:** Nancy Springett and Anne Carty, Co-Chairs

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Dues Increase – Voting Results (Ballot Question)

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, 2024. The results for this ballot question will be announced at the Annual meeting.

Type	Current Monthly Dues	Proposed Monthly Dues	\$ Increase
Exhibiting Artist/Arts Professional, Resident	\$98.25	\$110.00	\$11.75
Exhibiting Artist/Arts Professional, Non-Resident	\$49.25	\$56.00	\$6.75
Patron, Resident	\$128.75	\$138.00	\$9.25
Patron, Non-Resident	\$64.25	\$70.00	\$5.75

All assessments will remain the same.



AGENDA

2. Elections of Board Members – Voting Results

The Board of Managers and Governance Committee are pleased to nominate the following individuals in accordance with Article III Section 3.03, Nominations and Elections, of the Constitution of the Providence Art Club. The results for the election of Managers will be announced at the Annual meeting.

For three-year terms to the Board of Managers, expiring in 2027:

Second term:

Michael Manni (AR 2012)
Nickerson B. Miles (AR 2015)

New Managers:

Peter D'Amico (NA 2019)
Lynne Sykes Larson (NA 2020)
Anne Wert (AR 2016)

3. Life Membership Announcement

4. Presentation of Art Club Medal

QUESTION / RESPONSES:

Please submit questions for the Board of Managers, if any, by Monday, May 27, 2024, by sending them to Julia Johnstone at julia@providenceartclub.org. The responses will be read at the Annual meeting.

PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS

Shawn Kenney

ADJOURNMENT

Please don't forget to make your reservations for the Strawberry Festival following the Annual meeting by contacting [**reservations@providenceartclub.org**](mailto:reservations@providenceartclub.org). You may bring one guest, only, and must make a reservation for that guest at the time that you make your own reservation.



Providence Art Club

143rd Annual Meeting — June 12, 2024

President's Greeting

Shawn Kenney, President

On behalf of the Providence Art Club, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 143rd Annual Meeting.

This past year (by any stretch in the 18 years I've had the honor to serve on the board) has been extraordinary – so let's start by raising a glass in appreciation (for as I've said before, while America may run on Dunkin', the Art Club runs on people) to our collective co-stewardship as members and staff working to keep this place not only alive but vibrant and well prepared for the future – Cheers!

A short June-to-June highlight reel might include: our first annual PRIDE Thirsty Thursday; a terrific National BIPOC show (recognized with attendance by Senator Jack Reed, RISD President Crystal Williams, and NEA Chair Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson); the extension of a long-term lease agreement for our lower parking lot; the kick-off of our strategic planning work; another Rhode Island Monthly magazine Readers' Poll award for "Best Gallery, Providence"; a gift of \$315k from the Clafin Estate; the truly remarkable Edward Mitchell Bannister Project partnerships, programming, and events; a Holiday Block Party and our third straight Little Pictures show with sales in excess of \$170; monthly brunches; a Founders night "Seance"; education programming (welcome aboard, Saman!) that saw over 1000 people enrolled in more than 90 class offerings; the "Artistry of Jacques Pépin" benefit dinner and show in our Founders room; and – thanks to the diligence of our Finance Committee – the trifecta of a significant reduction in debt associated with our Club's mortgage, a third annual clean bill of health on our Audit, and the establishment of an 'in-house' PAC endowment fund. Cheers!

I could go on and on – but I'll refer you instead to the little addendum at the bottom here* and encourage you to read about the amazing work our committees are doing in their individual reports. (Perhaps even more extraordinary is that all of these things are in addition to the exemplary experience that GM Seb Borges and his INCREDIBLE staff provide day-in, day-out!) Thank you all for your contributions – either as planners or executors or attendees. (And if you see something that interests you, I'd also encourage you to get involved.) Cheers!

While we are being mindful of creating day-to-day opportunities for members to engage and connect, we're also looking ahead – the Board of Managers, as you might've heard, has been working on a strategic plan – with BOM, members, and staff working to alignment on areas for focus and development to give shape to our future. Incoming President Hynes will be speaking more to this in the coming months, but at the highest level we aligned on making sure that everything we do increases awareness, increases engagement, and increases revenues – while being true to the founding spirit of the Club, and by adding to our collective experience.

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Providence Art Club
143rd Annual Meeting — June 12, 2024

President's Greeting
Shawn Kenney, President

We are all stewards of this Club. Stewardship, as we discussed in our ongoing strategic retreat and planning, implies not only the cultivation of what is currently in our care – from our buildings to our history and collections to our cultural contributions – but also in making sure it's well cared for in perpetuity. It's about increasing awareness, increasing engagement, and increasing revenue. That we can do what we do best, but by partnering with our like-minded cultural neighbors, we can also be a catalyst for conversation. A catalyst for collaboration. A catalyst for community.

So, here's to stewardship, and the Art of Camaraderie! Thank you all for your continued support – through your gifts of time and financial donations, taking classes, supporting both our Café and galleries, and introducing new members. As our good friend Tom Sgouros would've said, "For God's sake, take care of yourselves!"

Shawn Kenney,
48th President, Providence Art Club



Providence Art Club

143rd Annual Meeting — June 12, 2024

President's Greeting

Shawn Kenney, President

* JUNE- Members' Miniatures exhibit, new traditions at strawberry festival (flower bouquet in lieu of ice sculpture, frozen lemonade!), packed National Open Juried exhibit, PRIDE Thirsty Thursday (huge attendance, colorful décor, food, cocktails)

JULY- strategic planning team begins to meet

AUGUST- RI Monthly Award for "Best Art Gallery, Providence" in the 2023 Best of Rhode Island Readers' Poll, loaned parking lot to film crew of "Hocus Pocus 2", August shows return: In Memoriam, Diptych & Triptych, Mystic Art Museum, gallery night PVD returns,

SEPT- Bannister statue installation with cocktail reception, unveiling celebration (during PVDfest, postponed due to crazy lightning storms!) and Joseph Norman lecture, Block Party with great attendance for Fall Members' exhibit (Senor Scott's Food Truck, Rhode Island Spirits, DJ Chachi), return of Grill Night, strategic planning focus groups meeting frequently behind the scenes!, Michael hosts Harvard Art Museums group for tour

OCT- Club recognizes Indigenous People's Day in conjunction with Columbus Day, Annual Fall Concert – return of Malcom Halliday, Michael hosts IA National Gathering for tour, Spooky Tapas & Treats for Halloween Thirsty Thursday, Michael hosts tours for Decorative Arts Trust groups, Michael provides lecture for RISD Seminar, the Fleur de Lys building featured in RI Monthly's "16 Real-Life Haunted Places in Rhode Island"

NOV- Club hosts Historic New England for Annual Summit, record Little Pictures year for participants, Club hosts first ever Sunday "a la carte" Brunch

DEC- 3rd Annual Holiday Block Party (Senor Scott's Food Truck, South County Distillers & Grey Sail Brewing, DJ Chachi), Reception to thank Committee Members, holiday parties galore!, annual Holiday Gala and lunch buffet, almost-record little pictures sales

JAN- new traditions of Casual Thursday Night Dinner, recurring Sunday a la carte Brunch (creating a stacked Sunday of brunch, classes, and openings!), David Lee Black brings laid-back photography workshop to the Club

FEB- Michael hosts Providence Public Schools tours, engaging Founders Day Program & Dinner

MAR- return of Portuguese Dinner, Michael hosts Hamilton House group for tour

APR- Club open late for SGCI Printmaker's conference in conjunction with Boston Printmaker's exhibit, Conservation Law Foundation Fundraiser, Ballet RI press event for Cinderella, The Artistry of Jacques Pépin exhibit with VIP opening reception and packed 4-course dinner with guest chefs, Michael hosts JWU Art History Class, Willbury Theater Group Fundraiser, Muse on the Move returns

MAY- Michael hosts Brown Art Review tour, Judge McConnell hosts panel of RI Black Women Lawyers & Judges, Isaac C. Bates legacy event hosted by Development Committee with RISD curators, PAC Travel Committee returns to Italy, PAC All Stars Talent Show hosted by Kelly McCullough



Providence Art Club
143rd Annual Meeting — June 12, 2024

Archive Committee Report

Christopher Ratcliffe, Archivist

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>

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Ratcliffe
Archive Committee Chair



Art Committee Report

Carol FitzSimonds, Chair

Flexibility and creativity continue to be the watchwords for the Art Committee in working with gallery staff to adjust exhibit guidelines as needed, to accommodate member demand and to host community, scholarship and innovative exhibits that enrich the gallery experience for our members as well as attract the public.

The Art Committee is always on the search for alternative exhibit opportunities and welcomes suggestions from the membership. The August 2023 Mystic Museum Member Exhibit in the Maxwell Mays Gallery was part of the first reciprocal exhibit agreement between our organizations.

The successful 2023-2024 Exhibit Schedule included: the 2023 National Open Juried Exhibit focused on the BIPOC experience as part of the celebration for the life of founding member Edward Bannister. The Art Club and this dynamic national exhibit received praise from Senator Jack Reed, RISD President Crystal Williams, and NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson. Another nod to the Bannister celebration was the Courtyard Show featuring the sculpture of local artist Shawndavid Berry.

The Committee continues to generate member-focused exhibitions; included in these offerings were the two Prized Members' Exhibits, the Instructor/Student Show, the New Members' Exhibit, the Diptychs/Triptychs Member themed exhibit, the Arts Professionals Show and the first Memorial Exhibit that honored six deceased artist members. The list of Community, Scholarship and Innovative Exhibits included the 2024 Community Invitational, Selections from the Boston Printmakers 2023 Biennial, the Chef Jacques Pépin Founders Room Exhibit and the College 2024 Biennial Exhibit sponsored by the Dr. Glucksman Fund, which brought in record attendance with one of the busiest openings the galleries have seen in years.

The Club's 119th Little Pictures Show was another success with near record sales slowed only by the Washington Bridge fiasco. The winning formula for this exhibit's success continues to be strategic marketing, planned special events, promotion by participating artists on social platforms, replenishment of artwork and most importantly - the tremendous job of our gallery staff.

You, our members, truly make our best exhibit ambassadors; the Art Committee thanks each of you and asks that you please continue spreading the word about our wonderful galleries, events and artists.

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Art Committee Report [from previous page]

Carol FitzSimonds, Chair

The Art Committee's membership purposely represents the wide range of art mediums practiced by our members. The committee members are: Elizabeth Goddard, Phil Gruppuso, Marguerite Delucia Hall, Warren Jagger, Bill Lane (chair) Elizabeth Crane Swartz, Ann Thacher (vice-chair), Anne Wert, Karin Forde Whittemore, and David Witbeck. Kendra Bidwell Ferriera will be joining the committee fall of 2024. The committee wishes to thank Elena Obelenus, Alice Gebhart and Carol FitzSimonds for their creative and thoughtful input during their many years of service on the committee. The committee also wishes to thank Michael Rose and his staff for their outstanding work! And our final thanks goes to Seb and his great crew including Rui, Maria and others essential in keeping our gallery spaces so beautifully maintained.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol FitzSimonds
Outgoing Chair

Bill Lane
Incoming Chair

Michael Rose
Gallery Manager



Arts Qualifications Committee Report

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Chair

The Art Qualifications Committee met from June 2023 to June 2024

The committee is comprised of Del Bouree Bach, Sandra Basile, Alice Benive Gebhart (2024), David Lee Black (2024), Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Chair, Claudia Iannuccilli, Craig Masten, Merle Mainelli Poulton, Mimo Gordon Riley, Gretchen Dow Simpson, 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.

During the 2023 - 2024 PAC season, the committee approved the portfolios of:

2024

MAY 2024

Kim Salerno Arts Professional

MARCH 2024

Sara Bernstein Arts Professional
Tsugumi Maki Arts Professional
Sarah Wheaton Exhibiting Artist

2023

JANUARY 2023

Daniel Kertzner Arts Professional
Transfer of status Vanessa Weiner Arts Professional

NOVEMBER 2023

Carla Thomson Exhibiting Artist
Kate Liberman Arts Professional

OCTOBER 2023

Bridget Jourgensen Exhibiting Artist
Adam Silverman Exhibiting Artist

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Arts Qualifications Committee Report [from previous page]
Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Chair

SEPTEMBER 2023

Dodi Mahoney	Exhibiting Artist
Mimi Read	Arts Professional

AUGUST 2023

David Lee Black	Exhibiting Artist
Kathy Weber	Exhibiting Artist

JULY 2023

Alan Blazar	Arts Professional
Anika Marsh	Exhibiting Artist
Kristin Street	Exhibiting Artist

JUNE 2023

Lyn Malone	Arts Professional
Ernesto Regus	Exhibiting Artist

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 Johnstone for coordinating the materials reviewed and offering their support of the Arts Qualifications Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas
Chair



Bannister Committee Report

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS FINAL REPORT – JANUARY 2024

In 2021 the Providence Art Club embarked on an exciting project titled, the Bannister Community Art Project (BCAP) that celebrates the life and legacy of one of PAC's founders, Edward Mitchell Bannister. Gage Prentiss, sculptor set out to create a life-size sculpture of the artist he so admired. The sculpture became the impetus for community outreach and it was with that goal in mind that the steering committee came together to create a broader platform for community engagement, expand the Providence Art Club's vision and mission and engage in public dialog that would 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, the vision for the sculpture and public engagement became a reality. A weekend-long celebration and sculpture unveiling took place September 8th through the 10th in collaboration with PVDfest. A parade hosted by Mayor Smiley was to take place at the Michael Van Leesten Bridge winding its way through the park to Market Square however, the celebration was curtailed by unexpected hurricane winds and rain. The guests and crowd were told to shelter in place. The crowd was moved to the RISD auditorium where guests were greeted with music by Exult Choir, remarks were given by the Mayor, Senator Reed and several other community leaders. The statue of PAC founder Edward Bannister is permanently installed along the river in Market Square welcoming passersby to sit and reflect about the artist and his life in Rhode Island. The celebration concluded with a lecture by Internationally known artist, Joseph Norman.

During this past 2 years, 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.

The steering committee and five workgroups, Education, Exhibitions, Engagement, Celebration, and Development, worked as a team toward building and executing a plan that speaks to the Bannister project mission of community engagement.

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Bannister Committee Report [from previous page]

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

The Education Working Group, completed a project in the Ethnic Studies program at the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA). This project became a reality through a collaboration between teachers at TAPA, 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 Carteaux 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 Edward 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 with sculptor Gage Prentiss, it's casting at the foundry, and the installation as part of the recording of the Project.

Mike McGuigan, Ethnic Studies teacher from Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts was instrumental in the creation of the 400+ page bibliography on Edward and Christiana Bannister as well as a website. Bannister.info

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. Please read more in the Education report linked at the end of this document.

The Edward Mitchell Bannister National Exhibition was a first for the Providence Art Club 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 in 2025/26 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

The Engagement Workgroup was active in engaging the public through a series of outreach programs with various churches, synagogues, and other non-profit organizations. The program included a powerpoint presentation and history of Edward and Christiana Bannister.

In addition, 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. Please read more in the Engagement report linked at the end of this document.

PR and marketing efforts for the Bannister Community Art Project launched in April 2023 with a press release to local, regional, and national media (print, online, and broadcast). These are a few highlights from the PR report:

- 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.

Please view the extensive PR report and social media reports linked at the end of this document.

The Celebration Workgroup and members were instrumental in the planning and execution of the celebration weekend, Sept. 8th through the 10th including a special cocktail party to meet the artist Gage Prentiss and guest of honor, Professor Joseph Norman. A block party was held on Saturday, Sept. 9th in celebration of the special weekend and a parade and unveiling ceremony were held on Sept. 10th. Post events included: a day of service where volunteers from the Steering Committee, volunteered their time with a non-profit of their choice. In addition, a panel discussion titled "Building Bannister" was held at the RISD Museum.

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Bannister Committee Report [from previous page]

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

Bannister Community Art Project's financials: total funds raised were \$205,655 from 110 PAC members and from 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. Grant funding and additional donations helped to fund exhibitions, education programs, video documentation and a permanent plaque after the installation of the statue. Please read more in the Development report linked at the end of this document.

In closing, the Bannister Community Art Project has been a catalyst for change. As stewards of the Providence Art Club the project has become an opportunity and a responsibility to move the needle and to be an anchor within the community for that change if the Providence Art Club wants a seat at the table with other community leaders. This project has set its roots, it is now up to the Providence Art Club 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Gaucher-Thomas
Jennifer Davis-Allison
Co-chairs of the Bannister Community Art Project

[LINK TO FULL REPORT HERE](#)



Café Committee Report

W. Bruce Tillinghast, Chair

Committee Members: W. Bruce Tillinghast, Chair; Roberta Wexler Ehrlich, Vice-chair; Michael Manni, Steve Davenport, Lisa Browning.

Staff: GM Seb Borges and Executive Chef Scott King

During the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year the Providence Art Club has seen the activity in the Café return to a normal pace. Private functions have also picked up once again. Despite this upturn from the previous few years with Covid restraints, there is still a challenge to keep abreast of the inflation in costs for goods and services related to the Café operation.

We have managed to keep the costs of Café meals at a reasonable price that are often below general restaurant prices. As a private club, the lunches and dinners are a perk for our members and barely cover the cost of food, beverages and service staff. It is not a revenue stream as the private parties are.

This winter we did have to cancel several member dinner events, usually on a Saturday night. Members cancelled their reservations at the last minute leaving the Café staff with perishable goods to hold over or serving dinners to a small number of guests. We ask that members who do book reservations for these dinner events be judicious and alert the Club of cancellations with sufficient notice. In the restaurant business there would often be a charge for untimely cancellations or “no-shows” and the Providence Art Club doesn’t want to have to do this. We appreciate your cooperation in addressing this problem.

The Café Committee was involved in an exciting event this spring. Culinary icon and noted Chef/ Educator, Jacques Pépin, has been painting regularly for over 40 years and has developed a whimsical style all his own. Through several connections with his daughter, Claudine Pépin and her husband, Rollie Wesen who live in Barrington; we asked if Jacques might be interested in an exhibit of his original works at the Providence Art Club and following a visit this past summer he agreed. The exhibit was hung in the Founders Room and was up from April 19th to Mother’s Day, May 12th. PAC held two events. An Opening Reception on Friday, April 19th and a 5-course dinner on Saturday, April 20th with guest chefs Champe Speidel (Persimmon) and Ben Suple (Oberlin & Gift Horse) along with our Executive Chef, Scott King and Julia Johnstone, our former Pastry Chef. Both events were fun, elegant, delicious and well attended.

The Café will show a small profit to report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year end (April 30th) of \$17,094.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Bruce Tillinghast, Chair
Café Committee



Collections Committee Report

Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Chair

The Collections Committee met in person in May and October 2023 and January 2024. The Committee consists of Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Chair, Patrick Anthony Caffrey, Claudia Iannuccilli, Ted Mattis, Alice Miles, Dan Mechnig, 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 day 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.

Committee member Claudia Iannuccilli continued working on applying professional conservation standards to the Collections area, for instance layering glassine into the pages of the Sydney Burleigh sketchbooks and surface cleaning and making condition notes on the presidential portraits.

A major conservation project for the year was the professional restoration of the Bannister award certificate by the Northeast Document Conservation Center in time for the Bannister celebrations in September. It was installed in a corner of Angell's Lane adjacent to the Club's other Bannister works.

After a search for a new painting conservator, due to the retirement of Peter Williams, Nancy Grinnell invited Ellie Kim, an American Institute of Conservation member, newly moved to Providence, to look at some work in the collection. She has conserved a wonderful painting by PAC historic member Huseyin Halit and has also committed to some other work.

Providence Picture Frame has matted and framed a number of PAC works on paper that needed archival mats and new frames. These have been installed in the lower corridor. Longtime PAC artists represented include Bradford Swan, Bannigan Sullivan, Gladys Wilkins Murphy, Renee Kahn and Albert Gold.

The Committee Chair Nancy Grinnell has accommodated several visitors to the Archives and Collections during the year and answered multiple online requests for information. Grinnell also wrote columns for the PAC newsletter highlighting works in the collection by Robert Stephens, Marian Dunlop, Anne Kolb Henry and William Cushing Loring's portrait of early PAC steward Charlie Harry.

(Continued on next page)



Collections Committee Report [from previous page]

Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Chair

Committee member Ted Mattis led a very successful Members Night on March 15 with members of the Collections Committee selecting works from our private collections to highlight in short talks. Further acquainting PAC members with the Collections Committee is one of our goals. Members of the Collections Committee were also featured in the Rhode Island PBS show “Treasures Inside the Museum.”

At its January meeting the Committee agreed to go forward with an auction to raise money for the Club’s endowment and collection needs. The Board approved this idea; work will commence in 2024 for an auction at a later date.

During 2023-2024 the Collections Committee gratefully accepted the following into the collection:

1.) Donor: Craig Masten

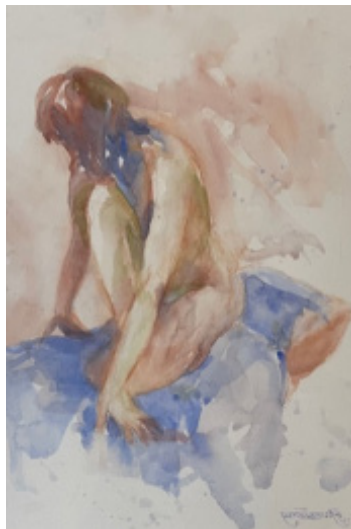
Artist: Gail Armstrong (1950-2019)

“Crouching Figure”

Watercolor on paper, 13 x 9 in.

“Last Lotus”

Watercolor on paper, 17 x 23 in.



2.) Donor: JoAnne Shatkin

Artist: Pauline Ladd (1915-2009)

End of Day, 1949

Watercolor on paper

Pauline Ladd was a RISD grad, Professor Emerita at RIC and longtime PAC member. She has not been represented in the collection. This wonderful watercolor was acquired by the donor’s parents from a PAC exhibition in 1949.

(Continued on next page)



Collections Committee Report [from previous page]

Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Chair

3.) Donor: Ronald J. Onorato and Elisabeth Marchi

Artist: Ben Anderson
Blue Crab, 2019
Glazed earthenware, 16 in. d.

Ben Anderson is Chair of the Art Department at URI, taking over from Ron Onorato. He is a RISD grad, award-winning ceramicist, who lives in Barrington. Blue Crab “reads like a marine still life and clearly has strong ties to the historical tradition of ceramics like Bernard Palissy’s French work although it also represents a lot of contemporary work and experimentation with glazes.”



4.) Donor: Quinlan Kingman Eddy through Mixie Kingman Eddy

Artist: Eugene Kingman (1909-1975)
Jaffrey Farm, 1929
Oil on canvas, 16 x 20 in.

This classic New England farmhouse snow scene won the Providence Art Club prize in 1929. Eugene Kingman, born in Rhode Island, was a longtime PAC member, an awardwinning Regionalist painter, an instructor at RISD and finally a museum administrator, serving as director of the Philbrook Art Museum in Oklahoma and the Joslyn Art Museum in Nebraska.



5.) Donor: Alice Miles in memory of Burr Sebring

Artist: Henry C. Field (19th c.)
Barbizon Landscape, 1880s
Oil on canvas, 10 x 14 in.

Henry Field was a little known founder of the Providence Art Club. This small Barbizoninspired landscape is typical of many PAC artists of his day; Field’s paintings are rare and it will be good to have him represented in the collection, especially as the work was originally acquired in a shop in the Dodge house and exhibited in several PAC shows.



(Continued on next page)



Collections Committee Report [from previous page]

Nancy Whipple Grinnell, Chair

6.) Donor: Dr. James Goff

Artist: Stowell Sherman (1886-1973)
“Timber; or Let the Chips Fall Where They May,” 1962,
Gouache, pastel on paper, 25 x 20 in.

This is a stage set model for the 1962 Friday Knights theatrical production at the PAC. Stowell Sherman often did the scenery and stage sets and was a longtime artist member.



7.) Artist: Gayle Wells Mandle

Speaker of the House, c. 2015
Mixed media collage; 24 x 70 in.

This art work is part of the artist’s House series, with her characteristic references to politics of the day. Mandle is a longtime PAC artist member.



Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Whipple Grinnell
Collections Chair



Development Committee Report

Gail A. Ginnetty, Chair

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 Vera Gierke, Exhibiting Artist and PAC member since 2007 to our Development Committee.
- The Committee continues to refine and update the messages on the Support pages of the PAC website.
- This will be the second year that our committee included a report in the yearbook summarizing gifts made to PAC. In 2023 PAC received just over \$372,000 from 44 members with donations made for operations, our endowment, for celebration of birthdays, for the mortgage retirement fund and the Bannister Community Art Project. The largest gift of \$315,500 was from the estate of Eunice B. Clafin. This total does not reflect the year end generosity of so many members who supported the employee Holiday Fund.
- In February, the Committee received the final fundraising report for the Bannister Community Art Project. Since the Fall of 2021, over \$219,000 was raised from 134 donors, along with grants from the Papitto Opportunity Connection, the Providence Foundation, the City of Providence Arts Culture and Tourism Department, the RI Foundation and the RI Council for the Humanities.
- One of the main missions of our committee is to encourage members to think about legacy giving. One of the ways we do that is to tell the personal stories of those members who have chosen to remember PAC in their estate plans. Such a story was told about Eunice B. Clafin in the March 2024 newsletter.

(Continued on next page)



Development Committee Report [from previous page]

Gail A. Ginnetty, Chair

- Another example of how we celebrate and highlight the generosity of our members is to hold events. At the May 9th presentation we learned about early PAC member and philanthropist Isaac C. Bates. He was the first member recorded to name PAC as a beneficiary in his estate plan. And he is the first to be listed as a member of the Florence B. Kane Legacy Society.

As of 3/31/24, the mortgage retirement fund had a balance of \$89,130 vs last year's balance of \$709,531. The BOM, with the recommendation of the Finance Committee, made a substantial loan payment to the outstanding mortgage. Gifts to this fund are still encouraged as there is still a remaining mortgage balance which comes due in May 2028.

Our endowment at the RI Foundation had a balance of \$245,109, as of March 31st. Last year a number of members donated \$25,123 to be added to this fund.

A reminder for us all. There's something that **everyone** can create – and that's your 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, Vera Gierke, Ann Gralnek, Ted Mattis, Wells Pile, Lynne Sykes Larson, Betsy Zimmerman, and Julia Johnstone, Staff



*The Spirit of
Philanthropy*



Education Committee Report

Nickerson Miles, Chair

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

During the past year, the following people have served on the Education Committee: Anne Carty*, Angel Dean*, Alice Benvie-Gebhart*, Anne Maree Healey, Michael Manni, Nickerson Miles*, Karen Murtha, Kirsten Sue Sorensen*, and Susan Sward*. Club staff include Saman Sajasi*, Seb Borges*, and Michael Rose*. Those marked with an asterisk are current committee members.

This past year has been particularly busy for the committee. Saman Sajasi succeeded Maya Stern as the Club's Education Coordinator—a job that includes recruiting and working with 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—not just in the number of courses but in their variety.

Fall Term: 365 enrolled in 29 courses and one workshop

Winter Term: 346 enrolled in 28 courses and one workshop

Spring Term: 340 enrolled in 26 courses

The upcoming summer offerings include 17 workshops, a regular class, and open studios

New offerings during the past year (designed to appeal to a greater number of members) included: an abstract painting class on Sundays; several offerings around electronic art creation using the application Procreate and iPhone photography; beginners' courses on drawing and portraiture; seaweed pressing; an art history course on Vermeer; and "the art of collecting." Evening classes also have been particularly successful this year.

The committee is indebted to its stellar faculty of art instructors, but also to the Club's staff who maintain the studios and enable students to park easily. Saman has particularly earned the respect of the committee for embracing her new position with considerable skill and grace.

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Providence Art Club
143rd Annual Meeting — June 12, 2024

Education Committee Report [from previous page]

Nickerson Miles, Chair

Our “Muse on the Move” series of curated tours of regional museums and points of interest included trips to Harvard’s Fogg Museum in November and, more recently, the Attleboro Art Museum.

Respectfully submitted,

Nickerson Miles, Chair
Education Committee



Entertainment Committee Report

David C. DePetrillo, Chair

Our 2023/2024 season of Members' Nights opened on October 20 with "Mario DeFlorio Discovers our Steinway ". About 75 members and guests enjoyed a post dinner program that was arranged in an informal "cafe" style in the Maxwell Mays Gallery. It was designed to "recreate" the time when Mario DeFlorio, a Brown Research Associate and native of Italy, started to play our historic Steinway at an Art Club event and quickly drew a gathering of admirers. Nancy Gaucher-Thomas and Seb Borges provided cameo appearances. Mario charmed the audience with his amazing piano skills by playing a selection of classical and contemporary pieces by memory. He received an enthusiastic standing ovation.

The Maxwell Mays Gallery had a full house for Founders Night on February 16, 2024. President Shawn Kenney and David DePetrillo opened the program with a traditional toast to our Founders. The audience was then treated to a performance by the Angell's Lane Players of an original play "Madam O'Leary: A Spirited Seance 1919". The play enlightened our members about our Club's history and Founders through a seance that conjured up two of our Club's Founders, Marie Louise Chapin (Audrey Monahan) and Robert Hallworth (Seb Borges). Sydney Burleigh (Tom Monahan), Tom Crosby (Chris Ratcliffe) and Angela O'Leary (Kelly McCullough) received considerable applause and laughter as they conducted the seance and gave solo performances of period songs. Technical assistance was skillfully provided by Mindy Ratcliffe.

The Maxwell Mays Gallery was filled for the inaugural "Ted's Fascinating Finds: Prized Personal Possessions" on Member's Night, Friday, March 15, 2024. Host Ted Mattis chose to have his fellow members of the Club's Collections Committee bring in one of their prized possessions and tell a story about it. It was a very successful event judging by the enthusiastic reception the audience gave to each presenter. The items they brought and the stories behind them were fascinating indeed, and the audience unanimously called for the event to return in the future. It will be part of the 2024/2025 Members' Nights series.

The next Members' Night was on May 17, 2024 when "A Night of Songs and Shenanigans" filled the Maxwell Mays Gallery with music and fun. With an abundance of talent emcee Kelly McCullough arranged a lineup that was a hit with members. In addition to Kelly the Art Club spotlight was on performances by Tom Monahan, Nancy Gaucher-Thomas, Hollybeth Runco and Mary Ann Rossoni. It was a memorable way to close out the 2023/2024 Members' Nights season.

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



Finance Committee Report

Charles Wharton, Chair

Committee Membership:

Charles Wharton, Chair
Carl Helmtag, PAC Treasurer and Chair of the Audit Committee
Patti Cerilli, CPA
Susan Aitcheson, Assistant Treasurer
Fredrick Mattis, Chair of the Investment Committee
Gail Ginnetty, Chair of the Development Committee
David DePetrillo, past PAC President
Anthony Bucci, Member
Peter D'Amico, Member

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 Committee with the able assistance of our Bookkeeper prepares monthly 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 the independent audit, and filing tax reports as prepared by our independent accountant, PKF O'Connor Davies. The Finance Committee is one of PAC's three standing committees and has two sub committees, the Investment Committee and the Development Committee all of which work for the stewardship of the Club's well being and longevity.

Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024

The Fiscal Year ending 04/30/2024 has been a challenging one. We continue to experience an operational deficit, before extraordinary items. The past two years have have seen the Club impacted by inflation across the board. Compensation, utilities and maintenance costs have all increased in this environment. That said, we are committed to the quality of service and excellence that our members experience daily.

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Finance Committee Report [from previous page]

Charles Wharton, Chair

This past year we have been the beneficiary of a bequest from the Clafin family which, by accounting standards, is recognized as income. This generous gift has more than offset our operating deficit. The bequest will be allocated over several areas including the Mortgage Reduction Fund, capital repairs to the front of the Fleur de Lys studio building, enhancing our endowment, and general operations in accordance with the Boards of Managers policies.

The Committee is very pleased to have worked with your Board of Managers to reduce the balloon payment due in 2028 by \$750,000.00. This milestone has been achieved through funding of the Mortgage Reduction Fund. We anticipate the full payment of the outstanding debt at maturity, moving the Club closer to the goal of financial stability.

Calendar year 2023 and the first part of 2024 have resulted in solid investment returns which also aid in reducing debt and being able to continue our going capital improvements to our four historically important buildings. We also look forward to the ongoing work in developing the Club's endowment, which will greatly add to our financial stability.

We continue to work closely with our independent accountants to file forms 990 and 990T and to the completion of this year's audit for the period ending 04/30/2024. I'm pleased to say that all the previously filed audit reports have been successful and 'clean'.

In closing, I wish to thank the committee for its work and dedication. I especially want to thank Brenda for working so diligently to come up to speed with the reporting. As always, we also want to recognize Seb for his overall contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Wharton, Chair
Finance Committee



Galleries Report

Michael Rose, Gallery Manager

The galleries of the Providence Art Club displayed the work of more than 150 artists during the more than 30 exhibitions of the 2023 - 2024 season. The galleries of the Art Club continue to be a source of public and member engagement.

In November and December of 2023, the Club hosted the **119th 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
- **Edward Bannister National Exhibition 2023** - juried by gallerist Krista Scenn
- **Fall Members Exhibition**, juried for prizes by Paige Roehrig of the Boston Arts and Business Council
- **Class and Instructor Show** – celebrating work made in over 70 classes and workshops.
- **New Year, New Members' Show** – featuring the work of over a dozen new artists.
- **Winter Members' Show**, juried for prizes by Ashley Occhino, MFA of the Fall River Arts and Culture Coalition
- **Third Annual Community Invitational Exhibition** – sharing the work of prominent non-member artists from our community.
- Hosted a selection of work from the **Boston Printmakers North American Print Biennial** as part of the Southern Graphics Council International.
- Hosted a special pop up show of works by **famed chef, writer, and educator Jacques Pepin**.

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Galleries Report [from previous page]

Michael Rose, Gallery Manager

Looking forward, in June the Club will host our National Open Juried Show in June and July. Juried by Michelle Millar Fisher of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, this show received nearly 1,000 entries, making it one of the most popular in our history.

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 PBS “Treasures Inside the Museum.” 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 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. I am grateful to our whole gallery team with special thanks to current assistants and helpers Kannetha Brown, Aja Delgado, Paloma Dobski, Rhiannon Landry, and Leyana Simone. Other support was provided by Miranda Klein, Hannah Bashkow, and additional helpers.

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



Governance Committee

Susan Aitcheson & Caroline Reed, Co-Chair

The Governance Committee is charged in the Constitution with assisting the BOM in developing and implementing policies and processes for effective and efficient governance, as well as performing other duties as designated by the Board. Additionally, a Nominating Subcommittee of Governance supports the Board of Managers in identifying suitable candidates to serve as Managers and Officers.

Our work continues to benefit from the clarity of PAC's amended Constitution (December 2020), which provides clear guidance and structure for 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 January of 2023 our recommendation for a facilitator for strategic long-range planning 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 its work regarding this important effort. In the ensuing year more than 40 PAC Members, artists and patrons alike, as well as our General Manager and administrative staff, worked to identify topics and projects to consider and shape PAC's direction in the coming years, emphasizing both our history as a venerable and respected institution, and taking into consideration the rapidly-changing community around us. With these insights in hand, and recognizing the challenges inherent in retaining our identity while embracing change, we look forward to continuing this work in the coming year.

Accomplishments this year:

- Drafted and received Board approval for updates and revisions for the 2024 Year Book, including revised "House Rules" and PAC Medal information, as well as addition of a list of PAC-observed holidays
- Participation in the work of long-range planning
- Submission of our first grant application to the RI Foundation for long-range planning; although the application was not funded, the process was a valuable experience for future

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Governance Committee [from previous page]

Susan Aitcheson & Caroline Reed, Co-Chair

grant submissions

- Introduction and use of our first on-boarding manual for new Board members
- With feedback from Members in mind, drafted plans for an in-person Annual Meeting to complement electronic voting. The in-person meeting will provide Members the opportunity to hear key reports, ask questions, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Members.
- For the fifth year, we supported the Nominating Committee as it worked to identify and recommend PAC Members for future Board vacancies, and a slate of Officers for the upcoming year. This Committee is chaired by a current Board member and includes two at large PAC members - one Artist and one Patron. The full BOM reviews and approves the committee's recommendations. The committee included Carl Helmetag (Chair), Pamela Stanton (Artist), and Wayne Franklin (Patron). Susan Aitcheson provided Governance support, as did prior Nominating Chair Carol FitzSimonds.
- Update and reformat the timeline and directions for next year's Annual Meeting, for review by PAC staff and submission to counsel for approval

Governance Committee this year: Susan Aitcheson and Caroline Reed (Co-Chairs), Lorraine Hynes, and Rebecca Riley. President Shawn Kenney is Ex-Officio, and General Manager Seb Borges is invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

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



House Committee Report

Tom Monahan, Chair

A Light Year -

The past year has been mostly uneventful beyond our routine activities, which can be a good thing.

Decorating the Club -

We're sure you've seen winter holiday decorating bring color and spirit to our most active rooms; from the lobby and the dining rooms, to Angell's Lane, even the restrooms. We challenge ourselves to bring a fresh look to many areas each year, while maintaining a consistent look, simpatico with the interior architecture of our period rooms. Beyond that important season, our committee has started doing seasonal decorating in high-visibility areas during the Spring and Autumn. Patti Wagner-Miller, who brings vast decorating experience and expertise leads these initiatives.

Faking it -

Over the past few years we have been decorating with more and more artificial flowers and greens. As the cost of fresh, real greens and flowers has skyrocketed in recent years, the quality and look of their artificial counterparts keeps getting better. We are now nearly through that transition. The reusable nature of these items will cut back our annual budget considerably.

Acknowledgements -

We'd like to thank our fellow House committee members for their time, dedication, resourcefulness; Patti Wagner-Miller, Linda McDermott and Karen Rand Anderson. We appreciate your spirit, energy and creativeness, which shows in the work you do to enliven the atmosphere of our beloved Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Monahan and Audrey Monahan, Co-Chairs
House Committee



Investment Committee Report

Frederick Mattis, Chair

Providence Art Club Investment Report for the Fiscal Year April 30th, 2023 thru April 30th, 2024.

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
Charles Wharton



Membership Committee Report

Judy Vilmain, Chair

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 **45 new members**. This year, it is my pleasure to report the membership numbers total **675 members**. Our membership is robust and thriving, with a steady stream of new applicants.

The Committee plans two types of events: those that encourage members to invite potential new members, as well as events to welcome our brand-new members. We have decided to try to piggyback onto existing Club events such as Thirsty Thursdays and exhibition openings. We recently sponsored an Art Trivia contest during a Thirsty Thursday event, and members who brought potential new members as guests were eligible to win some fabulous prizes.

This Committee also vets potential new members who are new to the area and do not know any Club members to sponsor them. We have given dozens of tours of the Club and have sponsored quite a few new members this past year.

Our next calendar year will be focused on hosting events during the hour before the openings of our Members Exhibitions and piggybacking onto more Thirsty Thursdays. We will also make a concerted effort to reach out to nonmembers who are taking classes and workshops at the Club and encourage them to apply for membership.

We welcomed several new members to the Committee this past year – Kate Wilson, Leslie Gernt, Suzanne O’Shea, and Alison Dale. They joined Dawn Robertson, Paige Magratten, Kathy Tirrell, Susie Reeves, Vice-Chair Joan McConaghy, and me.

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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Membership Committee Report [from previous page]

Judy Vilmain, Chair

In closing, Joan and I would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the committee, to our General Manager, Seb Borges, and a special shout out to Julia Johnstone for all her hard work and attention to detail; she is a crucial component to this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Vilmain, Chair
Membership Committee



Nominating Committee Report

Carl Helmetag, Chair

Attendees:

Carl Helmetag – Chair
Susan Aitcheson by Zoom
Carol FitzSimonds by Zoom
Wayne Franklin
Pamela Stanton

The meeting was convened at 12:10 PM March 14, 2024 in Angell's Lane at the Providence Art Club.

The Committee discussed a list of individuals interested in participation on committees or at the Board level. The Committee then discussed the Board members whose terms are expiring June 2024. They are: Nick Miles (three year term expiring), Michael Manni (three year term expiring), Carol FitzSimonds (three year term expiring), Shawn Kenny (due to second three year term expiring has reached term limit), Judy Vilmain (due to second three year term expiring has reached term limit).

Nick Miles has expressed an interest to serve an additional three-year term as has Michael Manni. Carol FitzSimonds does not wish to stand for re-election to a second three year term.

The Committee then discussed the backgrounds of three individuals to fill open Board slots.

Carol FitzSimonds made a motion that the Nominating Committee recommend the following individuals for nomination to the Board of Managers for a three year term : Peter D'Amico, Lynne Sykes Larson, Michael Manni, Nick Miles and Anne Wert. Motion seconded by Carl Helmetag. There being no further discussion the motion was voted and passed unanimously. CV of these individuals attached.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Helmetag, Chair
Nominating Committee



Bios - Nominees and Board Members with New Terms

MICHAEL MANNI

PAC Exhibiting Artist Member since 2012.
3 years on BOM.
Serves on Education and Café Committees.

BA in art from Rhode Island College. Past owner and operator with his wife of the LaSalle Bakery in Providence, now currently retired. Mr. Manni was the past president of the Massachusetts Retail Bakers Assn., and past president of Board of St. Mary's Home for Children in North Providence. His favored medium as an artist is oil painting.

NICKERSON MILES

PAC Exhibiting Artist Member since 2015.
4 years on BOM.
Serves as Chair of Education Committee since 2023 and PAC instructor in Photography.

BA from Marietta; MA in communication from U of Maryland. Earned a career in communication and marketing, spanning a variety of industries (from computers to financial services) and locations, including two expatriate assignments in Italy. Also active in the Lifelong Learning Collaborative. Mr. Miles favored media as an artist is photography, encaustic, and mosaic.

ANNE P. WERT

Exhibiting Artist Member since 2016.
0 years served on BOM.
Serves on Art Committee since 2022.

Ms. Wert conveys leadership experience in community organizations, teaching experience including in person, online, asynchronous, and is a Professional Artist concentrating in watercolor and oil painting. She has exhibited in more than 50 regional and national juried and group shows in the last 7 years, has paintings in private collections worldwide, including commissioned work and has served as juror for local art organizations.

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Bios - Nominees and Board Members with New Terms [from previous page]

LYNNE SYKES LARSON

PAC Patron Member since 2020.
0 pervious years served on BOM.
Serves on Development Committee since 2019.

Strategic thinker with 23 years' experience in science writing/editing, sponsored research, foundation relations, and grant writing at top academic and research institutions. Accomplished leader whose enthusiasm and bigpicture thinking maximizes success. Proven ability to foresee opportunities, embrace challenges, transform programs, and translate complex ideas for diverse audiences in life sciences communication. Ms. Larson Founded Sykes Grant Strategies, a consulting practice that helps university and nonprofit clients develop strategies and polish grant applications that convey the power, significance, and innovation of their work. They helped biomedical clients such as Yale Cancer Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Harvard, and Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center secure more than \$250 million in competitive funding.

PETER P. D'AMICO

PAC Patron Member since 2019.
0 pervious years served on BOM.
Serves on Finance Committee since 2024.

Presently retired after practicing law in Rhode Island for 50 years. In the 1970's, Mr. D'Amico was a law instructor at both Providence College and for a short time at Johnson & Wales teaching law related topics. Joined the Art Club in 2019 and has taken numerous classes and developed painting skills and enjoyed the activities of the Club. In addition to being a member of the Art Club, Mr. D'Amico is also a member of the Wickford Art Association and the South County Art Association and participate in their events, classes and activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol FitzSimonds, Chair



Property Committee Report

Clark Schoettle, Chair

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. We work closely with Seb Borges to maintain and 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 2023-2024 fiscal year three significant projects were completed totaling approximately \$70,000, including the following:

- 1) Dodge House and Brick Club House: The flat roofs over the Classroom and Angell's Lane were replaced with a new rubber membrane roof. It was particularly difficult due to the number of HVAC units placed on those two roofs.
- 2) Deacon Taylor House: A new roof was installed and gutters adjusted on the Deacon Taylor House while the flat-roofs were replaced on the Dodge House and Club House. Chaffee Industrial Roofing did the work on all three buildings at a cost of \$56,492.
- 3) Dodge House Storage: Seb and our carpenter, Paul Dooley, created a new storage room in the hallway next to the elevator in the basement of Seril Dodge House. This "found" space provides much needed storage for chairs and tables used at functions.
- 4) Dodge House Sprinklers: A new compressor was installed on the sprinkler system at a cost of \$3,200.
- 5) Upper and Lower Parking Lots: New security lighting was installed in the parking lots, including 3 new lights at the upper lot and 19 lights at the lower lot. The work was done by M&M Electric for \$8,700.

During the winter we applied for a grant from the 1772 Foundation and Preserve Rhode Island for the Fleur de Lys Studios. We received a \$9,000 grant which will go towards the exterior carpentry and painting of the Fleur de Lys. Work will start this summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Schoettle, Chair
Property Committee



Secretary's Report

Judy Vilmain, Secretary

STATISTICS as of April 30, 2024

Artists	338
Patrons	326
Life Members	43
Total Membership	664 (455 women; 209 men)

April 30, 2023: 661 (451 women; 210 men)
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)

NECROLOGY (9)

Ms. Barbara Link

Patron Member 2022
Passed 6/21/2023

Mrs. Marie Baylis

President's List Member 1985
Passed 9/29/2023

Mrs. Diane Aeschliman

Exhibiting Artist Life Member 1969
Passed 10/15/2023

Mrs. Mary Staples

President's List Member 2008
Passed 10/15/2023

Mrs. Joan Arnaud

President's List Member 1974
Passed 11/21/2023

Ms. Althea Baker Crowley

President's List Member 1986
Passed 2/5/2024

Ms. Charlotte P. Sudduth

President's List Member 2004
Passed 2/10/2024

Mr. Robert M. Schacht

Patron Life Member 1972
Passed 5/3/2024

Mr. Richard S. Harrington

President's List Member 1992
Passed 5/24/2024

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Secretary's Report [from previous page]

Judy Vilmain, Secretary

52 NEW & REINSTATED MEMBERS

May 2023 – April 2024

29 PATRONS

Steven Lunt
Betty Robson
William Brennan
John Conway
James Grosvenor
Jacqueline Kelley
Joshua Kennedy
Kenna Richard
Daniel Procaccini
Jodi Anthony
Kristine Pasto
Dan Silverburg
Nancy Elizabeth
Vera Old
Kathleen Hannan
Alexandra Arnold
Susan Ryerson
Linda Stoll
Noriko Tsutsui
Kelly O'Connor-DiBenardini
Sharon D. Eisman
Kristin McKee
Ian Barnacle
Samantha Becker
Donna Templeton
Diane Worthen-Hirsch
Susan Kelly
Anne Mayer
Joseph Roch

12 EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Sarah Wheaton

Carla Thompson
Bridget Jourgensen
Adam Silverman
Exhibiting Artist
David Lee Black
Kathy Weber
Anika Marsh
Kristin Street
Ernesto Regus
Izzy Rodriguez
Christa Stricklin

8 ARTS PROFESSIONALS

Sara Bernstein
Tsugumi Maki
Daniel Kertzner
Kate Liberman
Mimi Read
Alan Blazar
Lyn Malone
Sari Camlot Litwin

1 Member Transferred their Status to Arts Professional Membership:

Vanessa Weiner

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Providence Art Club
143rd Annual Meeting — June 12, 2024

Secretary's Report [from previous page]
Judy Vilmain, Secretary

PAST PRESIDENTS

Harley Bartlett
Anthony Carcieri
David DePetrillo
Robert Emlen
Daniel Mechnig
Alice Miles
Thomas Reilly
Robert Venditto
Nancy Gaucher-Thomas
Angela Brown Fischer
W. Bruce Tillinghast

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Dr. Philip McMaster
Mr. Daniel Shedd
Mr. William Vareika

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Vilmain, Secretary



Treasurer's Report

Carl Helmetag, Treasurer

I have been approached by several of our members over the past year with questions related to the costs of maintaining our wonderful Art Club with its four historic buildings dating from the 1700's. Therefore, prior to delving into the 2024 results and my outlook for 2025, I would like to summarize the investments that we have made over the past few years.

Fiscal Year ended April 30, 2021

Boiler/ heater -\$20,000
Takach Press- \$9,000
Fleur de Lys Windows and Siding - \$53,000
Exterior painting- \$10,000
Total - \$92,000

Fiscal Year ended April 30, 2022

Tankless hot water heaters -\$26,000
HVAC- Angell's Lane, 2nd & 3rd floors, roof top units \$73,000
Roof repairs- \$28,000
Total - \$127,000

Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2023

Server Replacement -\$4,000
Sound System- \$10,000
Kitchen Equipment - \$22,000
Parking lots - \$7,000
Deacon Taylor Heating - \$20,000
Total- \$63,000

Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2024

Kitchen Equipment - \$11,000
Parking lot lighting - \$8,000
New laptops- \$4,000
New roof Clubhouse - \$56,000
Fire sprinkler Compressor - \$3,000
Total- \$82,000

As you can see, your Board of Managers has invested almost \$100,000 a year to maintain, and improve, our amazing properties. Additionally, and importantly, we made a payment of \$750,000 this past year to reduce our outstanding mortgage.

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Treasurer's Report [from previous page]

Carl Helmetag, Treasurer

You may rightly ask how your Club has accomplished all the above in the face of operating deficits that I have reported to you. The answer is that your Club has been the beneficiary of a significantly rising stock market, significant COVID grants and bequests from members. These cash inflows have enabled us to invest in the infrastructure and debt reduction while growing our investment portfolio.

Revenues grew a modest 4% in 2024, but the Club experienced continued cost pressures. Your Board of Managers continues to invest in making the Providence Art Club an exceptional experience for our members. We have not only invested in our facilities, but in our exceptional staff. These investments are not only for direct compensation, but in ancillary costs such as payroll expenses, health insurance and retirement benefit. Similarly, our costs of food, supplies, bank fees and maintenance jumped significantly.

Knowing the environment we would be facing, your Board of Managers approved an operating budget for fiscal year ending April 30, 2024 with an operating loss and a breakeven net profit number after considering expansion income, interest income, depreciation, and interest expense. Our fiscal year is not yet complete as I write this, but we expect the operating results for this fiscal year to be in line with budget and the net profit number to be quite positive due to a large bequest and lower than anticipated interest expense as a result of the significant mortgage paydown.

Recognizing that our operating deficit must be reduced, continuing to provide the magical experience that is the Providence Art Club and knowing that inflation will remain an issue that will impact wages and benefits, energy, insurance and maintenance, the Board of Managers has made the extremely difficult decision to recommend an increase of dues by approximately 7% for patron members and the dues for artist members be pegged at 80% of patron members. These changes will result in monthly dues of \$110.00 for resident exhibiting artist members and \$138.00 for resident patron members.

Despite the operating loss this past year, your Club has a strong balance sheet. Your Board of Managers in concert with the finance and investment committees monitor the Club's financial performance on a continuing basis. We will continue to make the adjustments necessary to maintain our financial strength while delivering the exceptional experience that is the Providence Art Club.

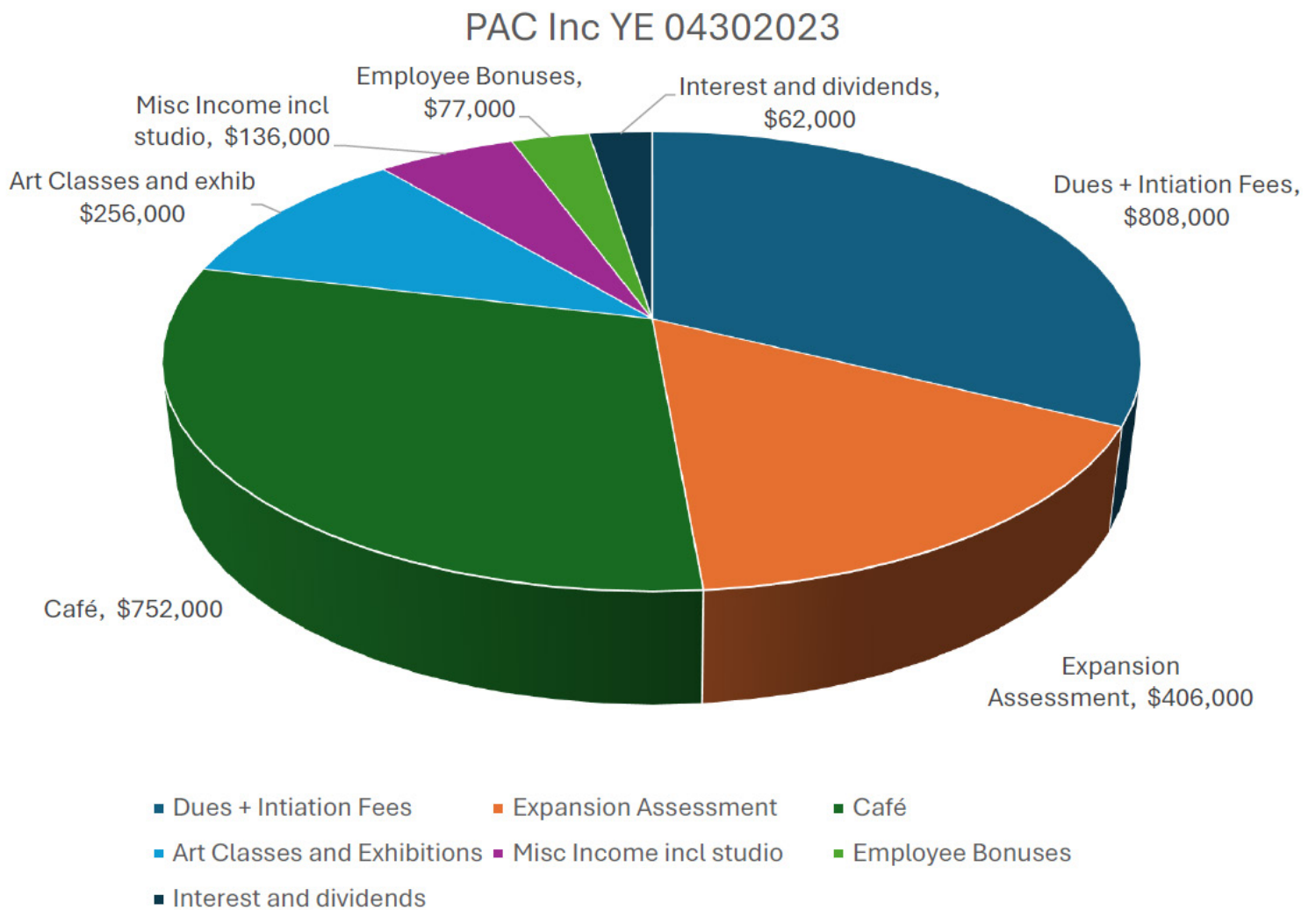
I wish to thank Brenda Kercz for her continued excellent work in keeping the Art Club's books and answering finance-related questions from our members.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Helmetag, Treasurer



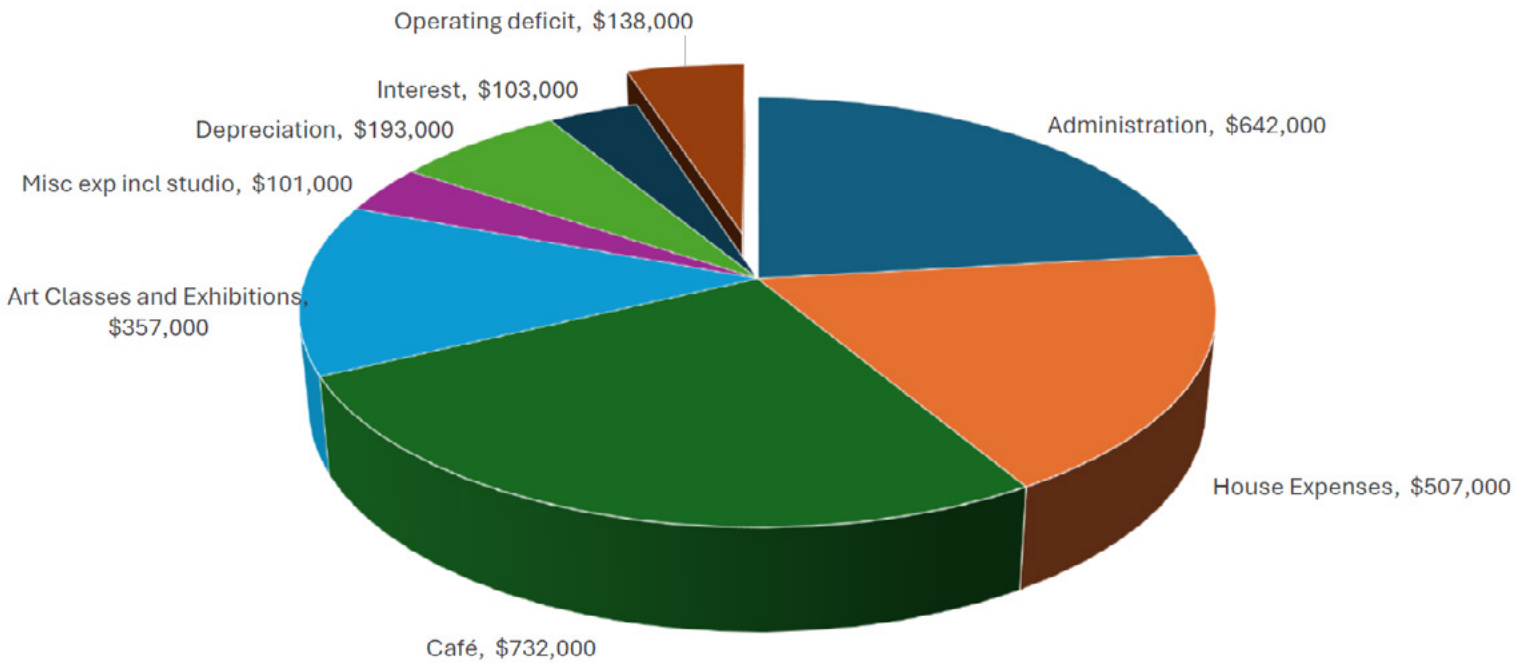
Treasurer's Report [from previous page]
Carl Helmetag, Treasurer





Treasurer's Report [from previous page]
Carl Helmetag, Treasurer

Expenses PAC YE 043023



■ Administration ■ House Expenses ■ Café ■ Art Classes and Exhibitions ■ Misc exp incl studio ■ Depreciation ■ Interest ■ Operating deficit



ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATION

*FOR GOD'S SAKE,
TAKE CARE OF
YOURSELVES!*

"Strawberry Times" by Lorraine Hynes