



2022 Annual Report

What do you do at ArtWaves? In 2022 we painted, danced, printed, worked with glass, meditated, carved, drew, learned, batiked, made jewelry, spray painted, exhibited, made wreaths, tried things out, cleaned things up and **celebrated!**



Our Vision: Connecting our community with the power of art.

Our Mission: Our mission is to provide residents and visitors of Mount Desert Island, and the surrounding area, with accessible, affordable, and dynamic art and movement experiences.

ArtWaves Board of Directors

Executive Director (ex officio): Nikki Moser

President: Julie Meltzer

Vice President: Donna Domiano

Secretary: Jenna Jandreau

Treasurer: David Lamon

Member-at-Large: Liz Cutler

Member-at-Large: Lisa Murray



YOUR 501c3 Community Art Center. You can reach us at www.artwavesmdi.org or by calling 207-266-0100 or by emailing office@artwavesmdi.org. We are located at 1345A State Highway 102 next to the Town Hill Market. Our mailing address is: ArtWaves, 1345A State Hwy 102, Bar Harbor, ME 04609.

We hope to see you soon!

2022 at a glance

There were many successful “firsts” at ArtWaves in 2022...a new Artist in Residence program...a new Guest Artist program...the first ArtWaves Summer Masquerade Birthday Party and Fundraiser...the first Fall Handworks Festival (in collaboration with the Wendell Gilley Museum)...our first Member Salons and Dessert Potlucks



We also continued to offer signature ArtWaves programming such as Figure Drawing on Thursdays; printing, felting, batik and stained glass mosaics...Artists and Poets...custom workshops for families, friends and visitors...children’s programming...and meditation, zumba, dance and movement classes.

ArtWaves turned 5 in 2022...and we threw a party!

2013

Liz Cutler has the idea for ArtWaves and runs community classes out of her studio in Bar Harbor

2015

ArtWaves moves to 329 Main Street in Bar Harbor

2017

ArtWaves becomes a nonprofit and moves to the campus in Town Hill

2019

ArtWaves purchases the Town Hill campus

2020 and 2021

The pandemic hits and ArtWaves, like many other arts organizations, closes down/goes remote

2022

The pandemic begins to lift and in-person programming is back in full swing



July 2022: Masquerade Birthday Party and Fundraiser





2022 by the numbers...

175+ classes, workshops and events took place at ArtWaves in 2022

1100+ people participated in ArtWaves programming on campus in 2022 and more than 250 participated in off-campus programming (at the Wendell Gilley Museum, at area libraries, at community events, at local schools)

\$237,000 = amount that ArtWaves took in from all sources in 2022

70+ individual donors made contributions to ArtWaves in 2022

57 people participated in the first annual Fall Handworks Festival co-hosted with the Wendell Gilley Museum in November, 2022

62% increase in membership between January and December, 2022

50+ individual volunteers contributed valuable time and effort

42 different artist instructors taught classes at ArtWaves this past year

14+ exhibition opportunities for ArtWaves Artist Members at area libraries, MDI Hospital, the Muniseum, Reel Pizza, and other community venues



2022

what people said about us



Posted on TripAdvisor, August 2022: Surpassed Expectations! Even for me, a left side thinker, ArtWaves brought out a creativity in me I didn't know existed. Working with colored glass to make a mosaic offered a tactile experience I enjoyed and the end result surpassed my expectations. I highly recommend signing up for an extended class or attending a workshop and becoming a member offers privileges as well as discounts.

Feedback from participants in the 2022 Fall Handworks Festival:

- *I'm new to the community - taking Fall Handworks classes was a fun way to meet people - it can be hard for grownups to find friends!*
- *We were able to learn a craft that we never thought we were capable of doing. It was the perfect way to spend a day with a local craftsman and gain some knowledge. We had a blast and can't wait to do more workshops like this one!*
- *Thanks to the sponsors! You've enabled a senior on a fixed income to get out of the house and explore a new craft. I am still very much a beginner, but this old dog did love learning a new trick.*
- *The fall HandWorks festival was a wonderful opportunity to learn from outstanding artisans in their field and a real gift to all who attended. Thank you to Artwaves and the Wendell Gilley Museum!*

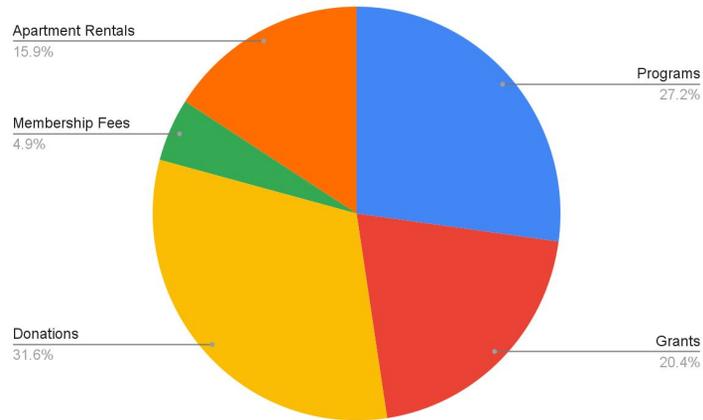
Recent participant in an ArtWaves class: ArtWaves is in a great location, the space is good for everything that I have attended. Art is more necessary now than ever before as it is a chance to not only learn something new and be creative, but to be social after so much isolation and art is relaxing too which is good for stress and is a healthy outlet. More art and music are definitely needed now more than ever before. We are fortunate to have a place like ArtWaves to go to when we choose.

From a new member's blog: While on that jaunt, I also found the [ArtWaves](#) Community Art Center, which I had joined earlier this year. I happened in on their figure drawing session, an art activity that I feel is an indicator of the sophistication of the artists in an area, figure drawing being such a difficult and humbling practice. I met [Liz Cutler](#), prior Executive Director for this nonprofit, who was very welcoming and offered me supplies and a drawing board if I wanted to join them. I had dressed for outdoor weather, so I will join them another week. But I instantly felt at home, and Liz's welcome confirmed my expectation that wherever I move, when I find artists, I immediately have community.

Goal 1: Become financially sustainable

Good progress was made!

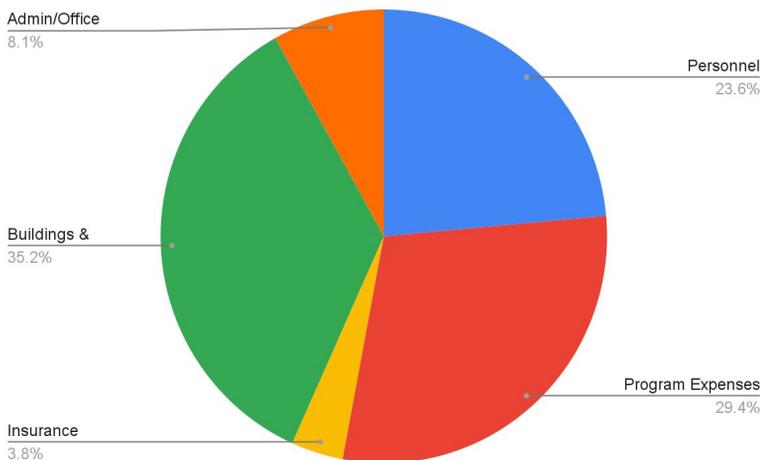
Where the money comes from...



2022 Highlights:

- Increased membership by 62%
- Exceeded grant funding goal by 50%
- Developed sustainable programming plan
- Held successful summer fundraiser
- Captured 60% of matching grant

Many thanks to the Onion Foundation, Davis Foundation, Maine Community Foundation and their donor advised funds, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Machias Savings Bank, Lynam Trust, Belvedere Traditional Handcrafts, Artemis Gallery, Argosy Gallery, the Cutler Family and all of our wonderful donors for their generous financial support in 2022.



Where the money goes...

Goal 2: Increase organizational capacity

Getting there!

ArtWaves is going into 2023 with:

- More staff (in addition to paid part-time Program Coordinator, paid part-time Volunteer Coordinator and paid Bookkeeper, paid part-time Executive Director)
- Increased number of volunteers to 50+
- Key partnerships including with the MDI Regional School System and the Wendell Gilley Museum
- A growing community of local artist instructors
- Two years of successful summer teaching interns from College of the Atlantic



Goal 3: Improve governance

Made strides!

ArtWaves is entering 2023 with:

- New board members (and plans to invite others to serve)
- An active Strategic Plan
- Revised and approved By-Laws
- Policies and procedures in place or in development
- A dedicated Governance and Policy Committee

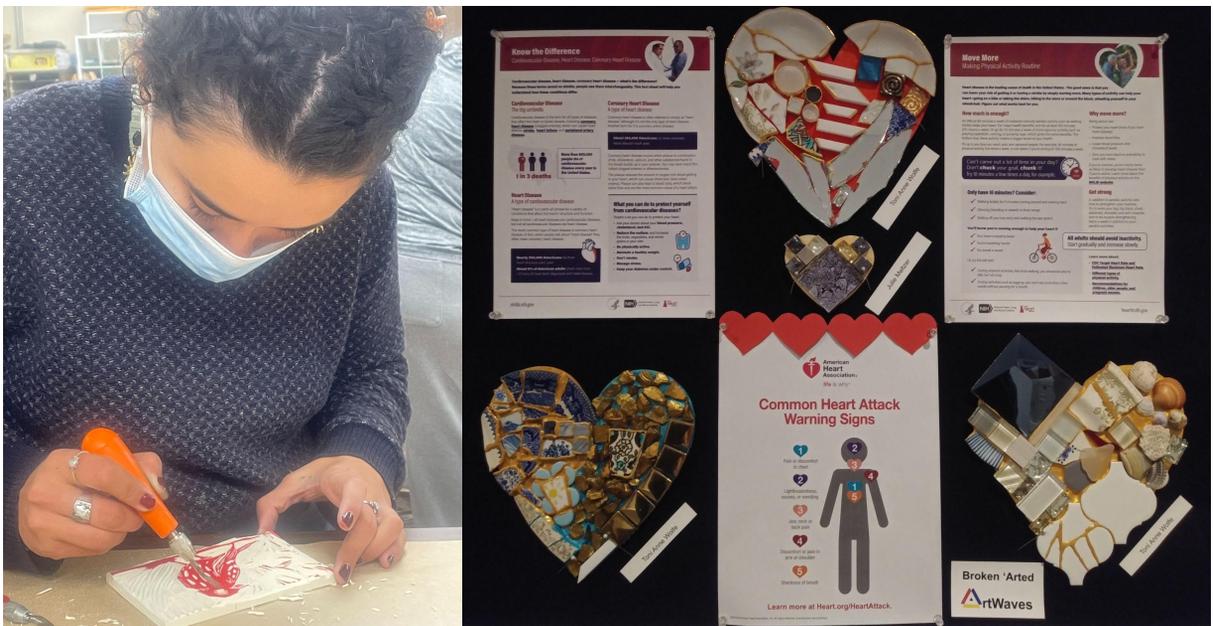


Goal 4: Develop a plan of care for the buildings and grounds

Still needs work!

ArtWaves is going into 2023 with:

- A new grant-funded boiler in the Dance Studio
- Campus upgrades built into the 2023 budget including parking lot lighting and expansion and window replacements in Kaleidoscope
- A Campus Planning Committee



Goal 5: Promote awareness of ArtWaves as a resource

It is happening!

ArtWaves is entering 2023 with:

- Invitations to partner on a number of projects with area nonprofits
- Grant funding for next year's Handworks Festival and a new artist mentoring program
- Lots of ideas for programming including expansion of our Artist-in-Residence and Guest Artist programs

exciting plans for 2023 include...

- New Guest Artists and Artists in Residence
 - Jewelry classes
 - New member events
 - Community art projects
 - Artist Mentor Program
 - Member Exhibits
 - Halloween in July Fundraiser
 - Second Annual Fall Handworks Festival
- ...and more!



How You Can Help:

- *Give us in-kind or monetary assistance to make **campus upgrades and repairs**. Outside, we need additional paths, better lighting, more signage and parking lot expansion. Inside, our wishlist includes a better heating/ventilation system in the art studios, running water in Kaleidoscope and the Garret, and new windows and venting in the Kaleidoscope Studio*
- **Volunteer!** *We need studio monitors along with assistants to hang shows, share publicity, and help with campus maintenance. Volunteering can lead to class/workshop discounts and a great feeling of providing key assistance to a worthy organization.*
- **Spread the word about ArtWaves!** *We are aiming for 200+ active members by the end of 2023. Know someone who might be interested in joining? Please send them the link to the ArtWaves website: www.artwavesmdi.org or share the monthly Newsletter.*
- **Financial contributions** *to support ongoing operations costs are critical as we expand our offerings and respond to community needs and interests. We must be able to pay staff for the hours needed to run things responsibly and consistently.*
- **Participate!** *We are YOUR 501c3 Community Art Center. Try something new. Refine existing skills. Be part of a community art project. Come to Figure Drawing. Exhibit with us. Teach a class. Make new friends.*