

2021

Annual Report

FOCI MINNESOTA
CENTER FOR
GLASS ARTS



Our Mission Gather people to explore the creative potential of glass.

Our Vision A diverse community of dedicated makers, enthusiasts, seekers, and newcomers who feel welcomed and engaged at our center.

2021 was an extraordinary year at Foci Minnesota Center for Glass Arts. A year of uncertainty and loss, but also a year of growth and foundation building. In 2020, we completed the buildout of our new facility in the Seward Neighborhood. Fulfilling our capital campaign promise to become ADA compliant, serve and promote local artists, support the flame community with a new studio, and support students with a dedicated classroom space. We deepened our commitment to building the diversity, equity and inclusion in the pipeline of new glass talent. Every class we offer has a spot reserved for a scholarship student. Our emerging local artists can now take advantage of a residency that covers all costs.

We said goodbye to former Executive Director, Kelly Nezworski and welcomed incoming director, Anna Lehner. As we start to put down roots in our studio, much work remains. Covid-19 continues to impact earned and donated revenue while placing additional burdens on staff. As an organization that depends on earning 75% of its operating costs, this past year has been especially difficult. Our new location, the rise in inflation, cost of materials and utilities have made the transition to affording a new space difficult. We are surviving on support from the SBA, additional loan programs, program revenue, and grant/donor support.

We plan to continue to invest in new programming, in new partnerships like the Leap program through Project for Pride in Living. To invite in equipment that our new location and strategic plan call for in order to build a strong foundation for years to come. Your contribution to our studio, regardless of the amount, helps to build this foundation and reduces the financial burden on all artists that use our facilities.

If you value the role nonprofit community focused glass organizations have in creating equity and expanding access, please consider becoming a donor and give generously. This is a truly significant moment and your tax-deductible contribution to support our new facility will help keep Foci MCGA serving the community for years to come.

Cover: Detail of murrine bowl by Visiting Artist Corey Pemberton

Opposite page: Grand Opening party



We accomplished a lot these past 2 years..



In September 2020, we moved to our new location in the Seward Neighborhood

Our new studio is ADA accessible and has allowed for new additions such as a Flameworking Studio with a scientific lathe, semi-private studio spaces for artists to rent, and a designated classroom for kiln and stained glass classes.



In January 2021 we began the Scholarship Program

Foci MCGA is committed to buildout and support a diverse and inclusive arts community open to everyone who would like to work with glass. Foci MCGA recognizes that there are deep and persistent societal, cultural, economic, and racial barriers to making art, particularly the glass medium. One way Foci MCGA expresses this commitment to arts access is by removing financial barriers.

- 22 full-tuition BIPOC scholarships awarded
- 9 half-tuition financial need scholarships awarded

In Fall of 2021 we launched our Emerging Artist in Residency Program

Foci MCGA welcomes emerging glass artists from the greater Minnesota area to apply for a 3-month glass studio residency to explore, create, and experiment in glass processes. The resident artist has access to the primary studio of their choice in either kilnforming, hot glass working, flameworking, or neon, and additional access to our coldworking and mold making studios. Residency includes 24-hour studio access, access to an assistant, and a personal workspace and storage area. In 2021, Foci supported the work of Emma Wood, Megan Sutton, and Dante Germain.



Our partnership with PPL's Leap Program was established

In the fall of 2021, we started offering workshops to cohorts of young people in the Project for Pride in Living's (PPL) LEAP program. Leap works with young people from all over the Twin Cities metro area. Leap focuses on youth who are homeless or highly mobile, in juvenile justice systems, or foster care by integrating programming, content, and resources to more effectively support young people as they earn a secondary credential and explore career pathways.

3 cohorts of students participated in 3 workshops in the kiln studio, flame shop, and hot shop. Students were able to explore a new craft, be welcomed into our space, and take home a project that they designed and created. In 2022 and beyond we are working to secure financial support to continue to grow this programming.



Top Image: Flameworking and neon demonstrations
Bottom Image: Artist-in-residence Megan Sutton

Top Image: Lost Wax Casting demonstration
Bottom Image: LEAP Workshop

Studio Usage Hours

Hotshop: 6,015

Kiln Usage: 12,904

Moldmaking Studio: 512

Flame & Neon: 2,044

Classroom: 2,683

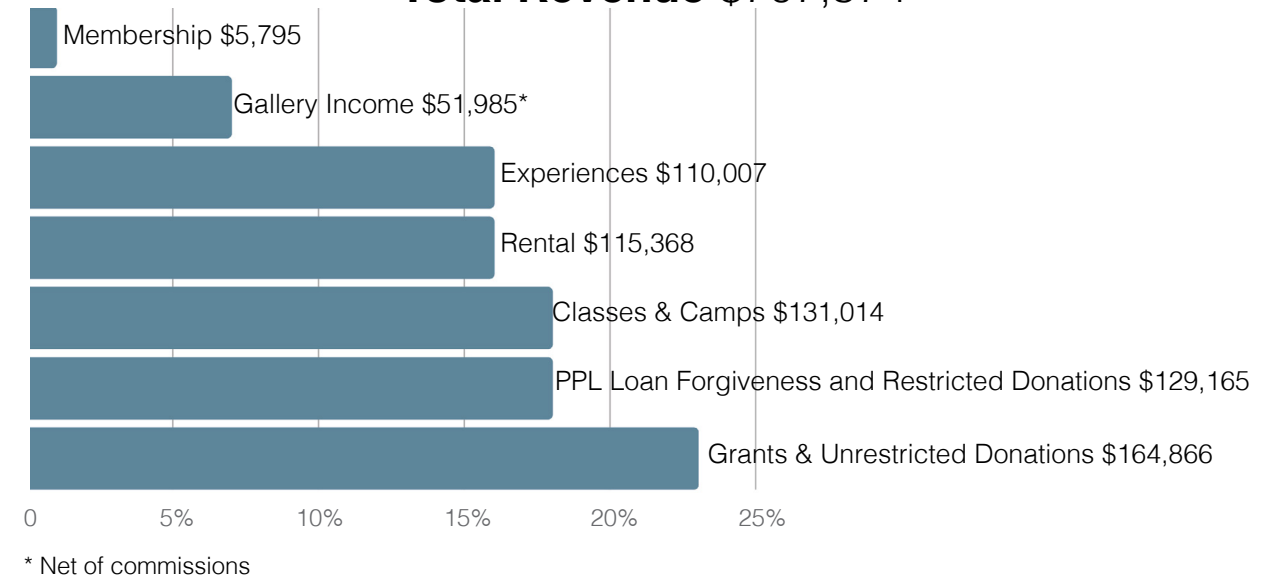
Coldshop: 793



And there were challenges...

In 2020-2021 Foci MCGA saw financial change due to relocating the studio, increased occupancy costs, growing staff, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic limiting class sizes and increasing cancellation of activities. While some of these deficits, like increased rent were expected as part of our move to a new location, the negative impacts of COVID-19 on our capital campaign and operations have set our financial plan back. We continue to evaluate and revise our financial plans to account for the still evolving economic landscape and move towards breaking even in the future years ahead.

Total Revenue \$707,574



Statistics

Members: 110 people

Experiences: 2,471 people

Number of Core Classes: 58

Number of Core Class Students: 475

Free Public Event Attendees: 476

State Fair Attendees: 1,301,584

Volunteers: 44 volunteers

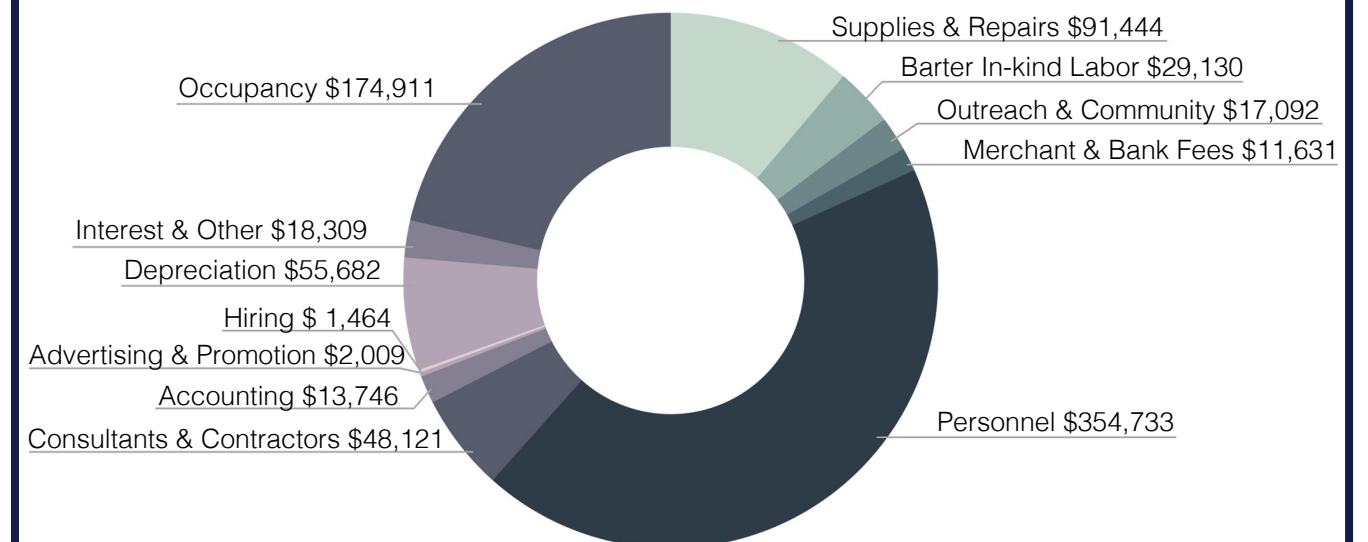
Volunteer Hours: 1,942

Exhibition Attendance: 400

Total Number of Web Visitors: 44K



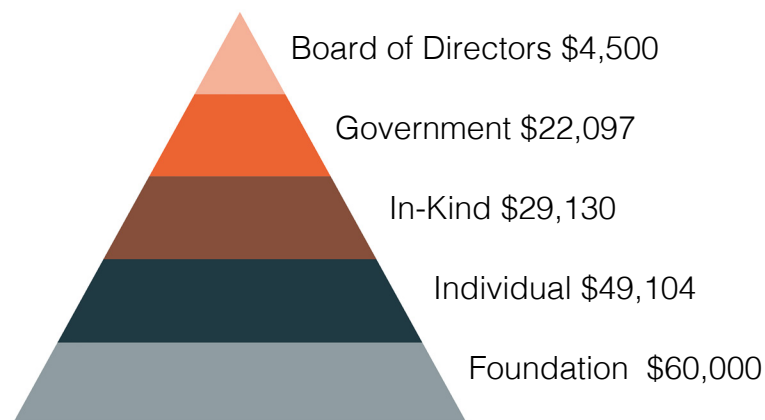
Expenditures \$827,109



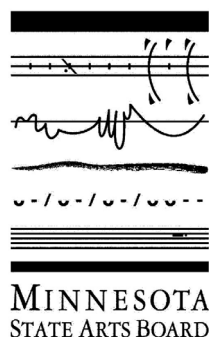
Top Image: Marketplace Gallery

Bottom Image: Building Bracelets by Najah Alboushi from *Lucent: An Exhibition in Glass Jewelry*

Grants and Donations \$164,866



Financial Partners



THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

2021 Board of Directors

Randilynn Christensen Senior Technical Supervisor at 3M
President

Patricia Punykova Self-employed studio glass artist
Secretary

Mel Zeller, Senior Director at UnitedHealth Group
Treasurer

Gordon Hage Staff Attorney at Securian

John Neerland Principal Branding and Marketing at Colle McVoy

Patrick Regan Principal architect at JDD Studio

Tynan Pratumwon Self-employed at OurGlass

Carrie Thornton Project Manager at Ingersoll-Rand, Inc

Robert K. Tom Department Chair at Augsburg University

2021 Donors

\$25,000+

Holly & Carl Jones

\$5,000-\$9,999

William Smale

\$1,000-\$4,999

2 Anonymous Donor

Gary Christensen

Randilynn Christensen

Helen Cleveland

Allan Ingenito

Carrie Thornton & John Huebsch

Mel Zeller

\$500-\$999

1 Anonymous Donor

Corina Guerra

\$1-\$499

Amazon Smile

Jane & Steve Anderson

26 Anonymous Donors

Nicole Bergeron

Jean-Marie Bergman

Westyn Bodell

Victoria Burns

Candis Carpenter

Bryan Ethier

Michael Finney

Jamey Flannery

Christopher & Dora Hart

Craig Hoffman

Matthew & Rachel Howell

In memory of

Bill Salk

Carolyn Johnston

Tassyln Magnusson

Barry McBride

Patricia & John Meegan

David Mulder

Daneil Neff

Bryce & Kelly Pier

Tynan Pratumwon & Rachel

Francescon Barroso

Claude Riedel

Steven Tallen

Robert K. Tom

Sandra Walk

William Watson

In-kind Donations

1 Anonymous Donor

Peggy & Lindsay Little

Kim Straub