

Annual Report 2019

# Cultivating Craft Ecologies

American **Craft** Council

## Cultivating craft ecologies

Craft has never felt so essential as it does today. In our sometimes overwhelming contemporary moment, the act of making reveals itself as a powerful catalyst and source of renewal. With your partnership in 2019, we reimagined the ways we can carry this spirit forward into the work of the American Craft Council.

We started by transforming our mission statement into a call to action to connect, galvanize, and grow craft's impact. A measure of our success will be seeing craft ecologies – the collaborative, creative networks that form around making – thrive across the country. These ecosystems have real economic impact for artists as well as intellectual underpinnings and social consequences. We worked to bolster all three.

With a long history of supporting makers in the marketplace, we are working to evolve our shows into public forums that energize regional craft communities. Prompting attendees to engage with making through hands-on experiences, our shows appeal to the creative, entrepreneurial spirit in all of us – the life force by which craft ecologies flourish.

Writing and publishing about craft works to grow our collective understanding

and appreciation for making, and the ACC Library and Archives and *American Craft* magazine uniquely position our organization to connect people to opportunities and resources. Wherever we share artists' stories or prompt discussion, we are growing the number of lives that craft has touched.

Just as making opens us to a deeper engagement with our communities, we are working toward greater diversity,

**The American Craft Council connects and galvanizes diverse craft communities to advance craft's impact in contemporary American life.**

inclusiveness, and equity in our field. Our programming has helped us embrace craft in a broader sense and affirm both the tangible and intangible rewards and impacts of

our material practices and knowledge.

As a highlight of the year, our "Present Tense: 2019" conference investigated what goes into cultivating craft ecologies, taking Philadelphia as a case study. Our collective learnings from this weekend are already guiding us as we work to make craft embedded and durable within our communities, societies, and individual lives.

This charge calls for the help of many hands, and above all we thank you – members, donors, program partners, artists, volunteers, and so many more – for your generous support of our work. Together, we create a craft ecology worth celebrating.



*Sarah*

Sarah Schultz  
Executive Director



*Chuck*

Charles E. Duddingston  
Chair, Board of Trustees

# You helped invigorate creative economies

**American Craft Shows - supporting artists' work**

**40,000** show attendees

**1,306** exhibiting artists

**\$9 million** in transactions going directly to artists

American Craft Shows are vibrant marketplaces through which we're investing in the future of craft. Not only do show purchases directly support artist livelihoods, but every customer interaction seeds an ongoing relationship.

Craft Bash 2019, our festive market event in Minneapolis, activated the local craft community, bringing more than 70 Minnesota makers and 2,700 shoppers together to celebrate all things handmade.



We welcomed 113 emerging artists into a community of exhibitors through Hip Pop, gave students from 9 different programs invaluable marketplace experience through School-to-Market, and introduced attendees to 31 local craft organizations via hands-on, Let's Make opportunities.

Jenny Fong, Hip Pop Graduate



**"I just finished my fifth and final year in the American Craft Council's Hip Pop Emerging Artists Program. I can't say enough about how this program helped me grow as an artist. I learned how to do wholesale, how to work with galleries and buyers, and how to just present my work in a better manner. It really pushed me to grow and change at a faster pace, and the American Craft Council provided amazing resources and mentors for us. The best thing, though, was getting to know the other Hip Pop artists, many of whom have become dear friends to me."**

"Present Tense: 2019" drew upon the spirit of Philadelphia as a craft capital, with participants exploring the city via walking and bus tours and celebrating the local craft ecosystem at after-hours events.



# You helped grow craft knowledge

**The ACC Library - a rich craft resource**

**20,000** books and exhibition catalogues

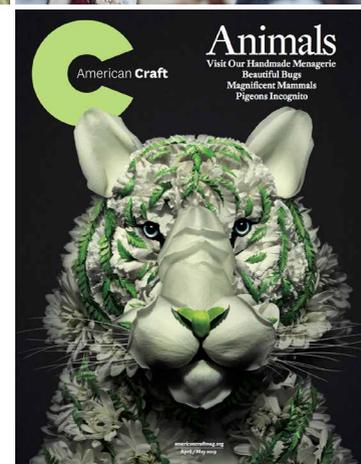
**3,000** individual artist files

**100** periodicals on making, and more

A three-month exhibition at the Minnesota Museum of American Art called "The Good Making of Good Things" brought the history of our magazine to life and exposed the ACC Library to new audiences.

"Present Tense: 2019" raised up the ideas and experiences of 42 main stage speakers with various relationships to craft. Panels, presentations, personal object stories, and hands-on workshops at craft organizations across Philadelphia challenged convention and explored the ways making can transform our lives.

ACC added to the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts' conference, too, leading a panel on Minnesota's ceramics scene and welcoming more than 300 attendees to a reception in our library.



**American Craft magazine - connecting readers to craft**

**180,000** readers of print and online content

**118** articles in **6** issues

**185** artists and maker communities highlighted

**79** exhibitions previewed

**34** writers commissioned (**16** new to the magazine)

**3** awards for design

**The only US publication** devoted to craft in all its mediums

# You affirmed the impact of making

## ACC Programs - making craft catalytic for communities

6 craft artists and 1 scholar recognized as Emerging Voices Award winners

22 future craft leaders recognized as Equity Award winners

88 project partners nationwide

400 attendees at our national conference

The ACC Library also provided a hub for communities to gather, discuss, and collaborate. We're proud to have hosted a textile group for an object storytelling session, a Wikipedia edit-a-thon in conjunction with the Art + Feminism project, and a range of other local and national organizations for various meet-ups and programs.



Sarah Darro, 2019 Emerging Voices scholar and "Tense Present" curator

"'Tense Present,' staged exactly fifty years after 'OBJECTS: USA,' could be classified as 'post-object.' It is less about the final result and more about the work's conceptual basis as informed by process."



Gary J. Smith, attorney, collector, and ACC trustee, on "Present Tense: 2019"

"This was a conference that dealt with big ideas, hard questions, and sensitive topics. [ACC] put together panels that were diverse in race, gender, age, and sexual identity. The speakers, almost without exception, were articulate, interesting, and substantive. The conference confronted important issues to our society, seen through the lens of the craft community. I came away from the experience feeling educated, enlightened, entertained, and hopeful."



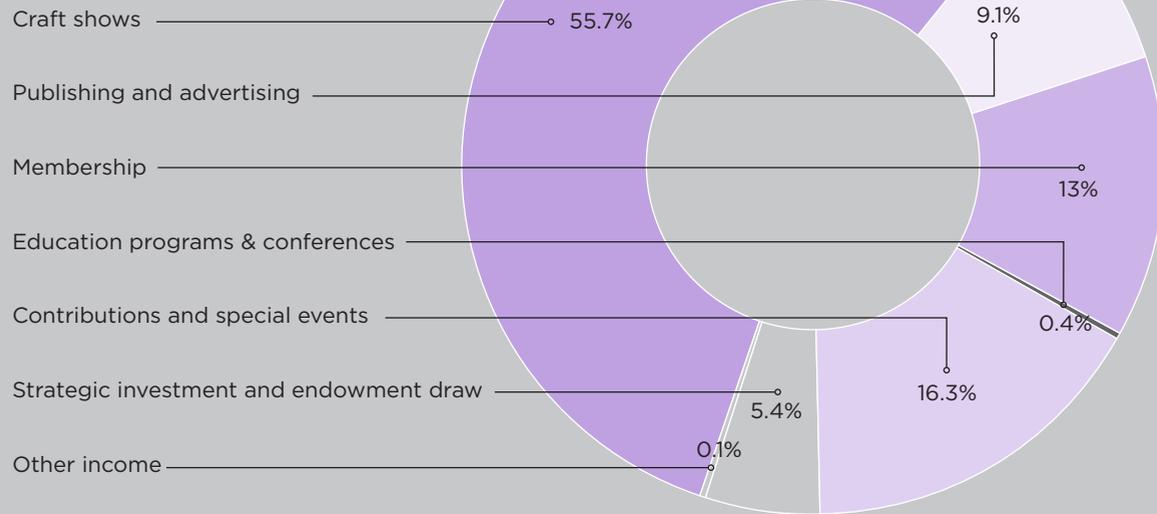
Our biennial Emerging Voices Awards celebrated a diverse cohort of up-and-coming makers and thinkers. A multifaceted exhibition called "Tense Present" brought their work and object stories to Philadelphia in conjunction with our conference, with a limited edition catalogue beautifully capturing their impact in the field.



## Revenue/expenses

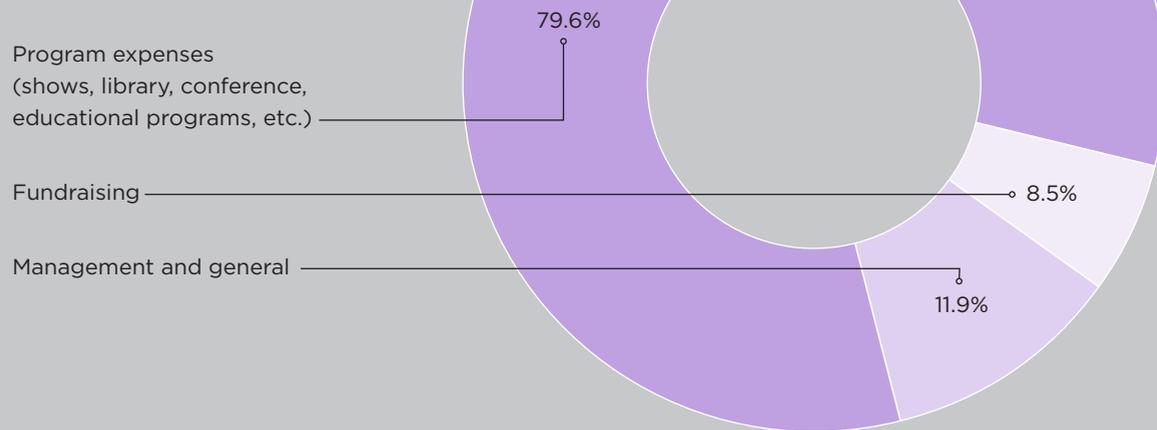
### FY2019 Operating Revenue

**\$5.40**  
million



### FY2019 Operating Expenses

**\$5.45**  
million



ACC's financial statements are audited annually by certified public accountants CliftonLarsonAllen. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

## Together we can keep craft vibrant

**22,476 ACC** members in 50 states and 34 countries

More than **2,000** donors, program partners, artists, volunteers, and so many more

All invested in growing craft's impact

As a national nonprofit organization, we rely on the support of members, donors, community partners, and more to make a difference in the lives of makers across the country. Our mission, just like craft, calls for the help of many hands.

The people and organizations on these pages have been generous partners in our efforts. We thank them deeply for their commitment to the continued vitality and growth of the craft field. This report recognizes those who donated to ACC between October 1, 2018, and September 30, 2019, for any purpose, including annual giving, project support, and event sponsorship. Every gift is important, and all of our supporters have our heartfelt thanks.

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ACC has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please contact Andrea Satter, director of development, at (612) 206-3125 or [asatter@craftcouncil.org](mailto:asatter@craftcouncil.org) if you find an omission or error.



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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

This activity is supported, in part, by the City of Saint Paul Cultural Sales Tax Revitalization Program.

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## 2019 ACC Award Winners

### Emerging Voices Awards

#### *Emerging Artist:*

Diedrick Brackens

#### *Emerging Scholar:*

Sarah Darro

#### *Shortlist Artists:*

Marisa Finos, Raven Halfmoon,  
Aram Han Sifuentes, Luci Jockel,  
and Bukola Koiki

### Awards of Excellence

#### *Baltimore*

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Craig Johnson  
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#### *San Francisco*

Karyn Gabriel  
Terry Holzgreen  
Amy Nguyen  
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### “Present Tense: 2019” Equity Awards

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Ramona Cliff  
Alison Croney Moses  
Samantha De Tillio  
Marissa Del Toro  
Aruni Dharmakirthi  
Erika Diamond  
Alicia Dietz  
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Lariel Joy  
Josephine Lee  
Matthew Limb  
Cheyenne McClain  
Andres Payan Estrada  
Jacquinn Sinclair  
Joy Ude  
Sarah Whyte  
Carmela Wilkins

### ACC at the Minnesota State Fair

#### *Deep Roots Award:*

Anita Lovelace

#### *People’s Choice Award:*

Karen Sukut

#### *People’s Choice Nominees:*

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Lynette Hanzal, Moo Hser,  
Chris Korolchuk, Michelle Price

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## Staff

### Gregory Allen

Director of Finance and Administration

### Kayla Backus

Marketing Communications Coordinator

### Jenna Brace

Executive Assistant

### Oliver Chapoy

Show Operations Coordinator

### Pamela Diamond

Director of Show Marketing

### Kristine Goldy

Show Operations Manager

### Beth Goodrich

Librarian

### Megan Guerber

Editor, *American Craft*

### Sarah Kass

Development Associate

### Melanie Little

Show Director

### Rachel Messerich

Education Manager

### Lindsay Noble

Engagement Manager

### Christian Novak

Membership Manager

### Roseanne Pereira

Associate Editor, *American Craft*

### Scott Pollock

Senior Director of Programs and Public Engagement

### Lizzette Rodriguez

Show Operations Assistant

### Jason Samuels

IT Operations Manager

### Andrea M. Satter

Director of Development

### Sarah Schultz

Executive Director

### Joanne Smith

Advertising Sales Manager

### Peter Tolly

Marketing Communications Manager

### Keona Tranby

Director of Marketing and Communications

### Nsay Yang

Bookkeeper/Accountant

## Interns and Residents

John D'Ignazio,  
University of South Carolina  
Jenean Gilmer,  
University of Minnesota  
Kai Gottschalk,  
St. Catherine University

## Volunteers

### Library volunteers

Maureen Bell  
Anne Burgeson  
Jan DeSirey  
Denise Dian  
Fahimeh Ghorbani  
Debbie Hager  
Dulcey Heller  
Sylvia Mohn  
Katelyn Morken  
Honor Murphy  
Emilie Plauche Flink  
Karen Rajcic  
Rick Scarlett  
Claire Selkurt  
Kate Stolpman  
Ross Sussman  
Betsy Tapper  
Susan Weir

### “Present Tense: 2019”

#### volunteers

Maria Albornoz  
Teresa Audet  
Olivia Boyer  
Anne Irving  
Robertta Massuch  
Constance McBride  
Clive Muir  
Kathryn Narrow  
Sarah Nassif  
Scott Newman  
Dominique Ostuni  
Veronica Ramirez Martel  
Mark Shafer  
Penny Wyatt



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