



AMERICAN
CRAFT
COUNCIL



Photo courtesy of Robert Patterson.

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Friends,

Making by hand is a powerful act—connecting us to one another, to tradition and innovation, and to a more meaningful way of living. This conviction guided the American Craft Council’s work in 2024 as we aligned programs and activities with our restated mission and strategic plan.

Throughout the year, we remained grounded in what matters most: supporting the people who are the connective tissue of our field. From professional development workshops and grants for early career artists to marketplace opportunities and our nationally recognized awards, ACC’s programs reached craftspeople at all stages of their creative lives and helped connect them to audiences who care deeply about their work. Through inspired editorial content and live events, we fostered conversations between makers and appreciators and brought the spirit of American craft into real time and real space.

We took significant steps to expand our reach and welcome all who share our vision for a world where objects matter, makers thrive, and craft connects. We debuted two new events – American Craft Fest St. Paul and Object Stories – and evolved our storytelling to reflect the diversity of today’s craft practices. Our expanding constituency includes studio artists, small creative businesses, and fellow nonprofits working at the intersections of craft, design, and social impact.

ACC launched a new website and visual identity in 2024—our first major refresh in nearly a decade. These changes are more than cosmetic: the new site improves access to *American Craft* content, simplifies event registration, and includes our first-ever member portal. The updated language and design reflect a more inclusive, resonant way of communicating our mission, values, and impact to a wider audience.

For more than 80 years, ACC has championed craftspeople and advocated for craft as a vital creative expression and enduring cultural force. We take inspiration from this legacy as we build a future where more Americans choose the handcrafted and craft is central to how we live. To you – our fellow makers, appreciators, educators, and advocates – thank you for being a vital part of ACC’s journey.

With great appreciation,



Andrea Specht
Executive Director




Preeti Gopinath
Board Chair



FY 2024 Highlights

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024



Photo by Max Franz.



Exhilarating events

Craft is best experienced in person, in all its texture, detail, and richness. ACC continues to refresh our events to engage multigenerational makers and audiences from a broad cross-section of the craft ecosystem. In addition to providing a vital sales opportunity for participating artists, our events create space for discovery and connection, bringing artists, appreciators, and community partners together to experience craft in ways that are deeply human.



Photos by Max Franz (top and middle) and Carina Lofgren (bottom).

American Craft Made Baltimore

- 385 artists
- \$2.8 million in artist sales
- 9,083 attendees
- 10 local partners
- 3 School-to-Market partners

Exhilarating
events



Photo by Max Franz.

American Craft Made Baltimore is ACC's largest place-based program and the largest juried craft fair on the East Coast. In its 48th year of showcasing excellence in craft, our 2024 Baltimore fair drew the highest number of participating artists and attendees since the start of the pandemic. More than 380 craftspeople working in ceramics, glass, textiles, wood, and more shared their work with more than 11,000 engaged visitors in a vibrant, dynamic setting. Based on post-event surveys, total estimated artists' sales topped \$2.8 million.

American Craft Made Baltimore visitors relished the opportunity to experience a hands-on, family-friendly activity space created in partnership with 13 local arts organizations. In this space, curious attendees of all ages could try their hand at a variety of craft practices, helping them develop a deeper appreciation for the work they saw throughout the fair.

American Craft Fest St. Paul

Exhilarating
events

- 38 artists
- \$85,500 in artist sales
- 2,698 attendees
- 16 activity / demonstration partners



Photo by Carina Lofgren.

"I really appreciate how thoughtful the entire event was. It was free to attend and had skill-sharing booths such as screen printing, broom making and shoe making. This made it feel very family friendly and not only about selling product but also about demonstrating skills, sharing knowledge and inspiration."

– American Craft Fest 2024 participating artist

In June 2024, ACC launched our inaugural American Craft Fest St. Paul, a new kind of gathering held at the city's historic Union Depot. Nearly 2,700 people of all ages attended. Featuring 38 emerging artists from around the region, 6 artists providing activities or demonstrations, 10 organizational partners, and 12 food vendors, this family-friendly event was part marketplace, part workshop, and part celebration of Minnesota's regional craft culture. Based on post-event surveys, total estimated artist and vendor sales topped \$85,000.

ACC's community partners offered live demonstrations and creative, hands-on activities ranging from broom-making to botanical arts, creating a festival atmosphere that celebrated making as a shared cultural practice. With no commissions and low participation fees, the event removed participation barriers for artists and encouraged authentic exchange between makers and the public.



Aiding artists

ACC fosters craft-centered livelihoods through a range of programs and resources for artists from across the United States. The makers we serve and champion represent a broad diversity of cultural backgrounds, practice types, and pathways into craft.



Photos top to bottom by Azuree Holloway, Katy Anderson, Danielle Sykes Frank.



Photo courtesy of Kelvin Bullock.

Online Artists Directory

ACC's Online Artists Directory (OAD) served 250 artists, providing national exposure and connection to craft consumers and appreciators through two pop-up online marketplaces last year. These two pop-ups together featured more than 300 artists, engaged nearly 22,000 visitors, and generated nearly \$89,000 in artist sales. We are excited to take what we learned from the OAD and apply it to our future e-commerce platform.

- **250 participating artists**
- **21,766 online pop-up visitors**
- **\$88,700 in artist sales**

Early Career Artist Support

"The [subsidized booth] has allowed me, at low cost, to enter the marketplace. The second year my booth is better because I took a lot of notes from the first year. I feel the third year will be even better!"

– American Craft Made Baltimore 2024 participating artist

Early career artists received tailored support to access and make the most of our in-person marketplace events. Subsidized booths at American Craft Made Baltimore and the inaugural American Craft Fest St. Paul allowed 86 emerging artists to take part in these career-advancing events by mitigating the financial barriers to participation. Additionally, we paired 24 artists with seasoned ACC marketplace artists for valuable mentorship, and 54 artists received free show guide listings to boost their visibility.

- **86 subsidized booths at in-person marketplaces**
- **24 artists mentored**



Photo by Max Franz.



Photo by Max Franz.

"I enjoyed Kim [Robinson]'s marketing workshop so much. It made me refocus my thinking to the crux of who I am as an artist and what others might value in my art. I have a Masters in Business Administration, so I am familiar with the concepts of marketing. But Kim turned my traditional knowledge on its head. Loved it!"

– Craft Lab attendee

Craft Lab Workshop Series

ACC's Craft Lab Workshop Series launched in October 2023, helping more than 500 craftspeople develop their business acumen. We offered eight Craft Lab workshops taught by subject matter experts on topics ranging from photographing craft objects to marketing, setting goals, and accessing capital.

- **8 workshops**
- **505 attendees**

Emerging Artists Cohort

Our Emerging Artists Cohort (EAC) supported 11 early career artists through a three-month intensive of workshops, artist talks, and expert mentorship. At the end of the intensive, each participant received a \$10,000 grant to support their practice. Artists used the grants in a variety of ways. One paid for travel to study with a master silversmith while another established a home studio. One artist hired their first assistant to help create a body of work for a major exhibition opportunity.

The 11 cohort members described above joined 34 EAC alums from three prior years in accessing other resources such as facilitated monthly calls and 180 individual coaching sessions. ACC is building on the EAC with a new Early Career Artist Program launching in 2025 to serve more artists with diverse, flexible resources.

- **11 new EAC members and 34 alums**
- **75% of EAC artists identify as BIPOC**
- **\$110,000 in accelerator grants to artists**
- **180 coaching sessions provided to artists**

Biennial ACC Awards

The longstanding, prestigious ACC Awards program recognized 17 artists, advocates, and philanthropists in 2024. Through editorial features, videos, and a virtual celebration, ACC amplified the voices and fostered the legacies of this dynamic group. In addition, 2024 marked the first year that ACC was able to provide cash awards for artists selected for certain honors: each Gold Medal recipient received \$20,000, and each ACC Fellow received \$5,000.

Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship

This award is bestowed upon ACC Fellows to recognize the extraordinary among a field of elite craftspeople for a lifetime of achievements.

Nick Cave
Wendy Maruyama
Anne Wilson

Honorary Fellows

This distinction recognizes curators, writers, and scholars who have made a remarkable contribution to the craft field.

Diana Baird N'Diaye
Cindi Strauss

Award of Distinction

This award recognizes an organization, institution, corporation, or individual who has made significant contributions to the field of craft with a minimum of 25 years of service.

JoAnn Edwards
Carol Sauvion

"I would say it's one of the most significant awards that I have received, because I have so much respect for my peers and the colleagues who have received it. [...] I really feel great to be considered among that company."

– Diana Baird N'Daiye, Fellow

College of Fellows

Since 1975, ACC has recognized artists who have made an outstanding contribution to the crafts in America by awarding the distinction of Fellow of the Council.

Syd Carpenter
Michael A. Cummings
Einar and Jamex de la Torre
Yuri Kobayashi
Mark Newport
Michael Puryear
Diego Romero
Lynda Watson

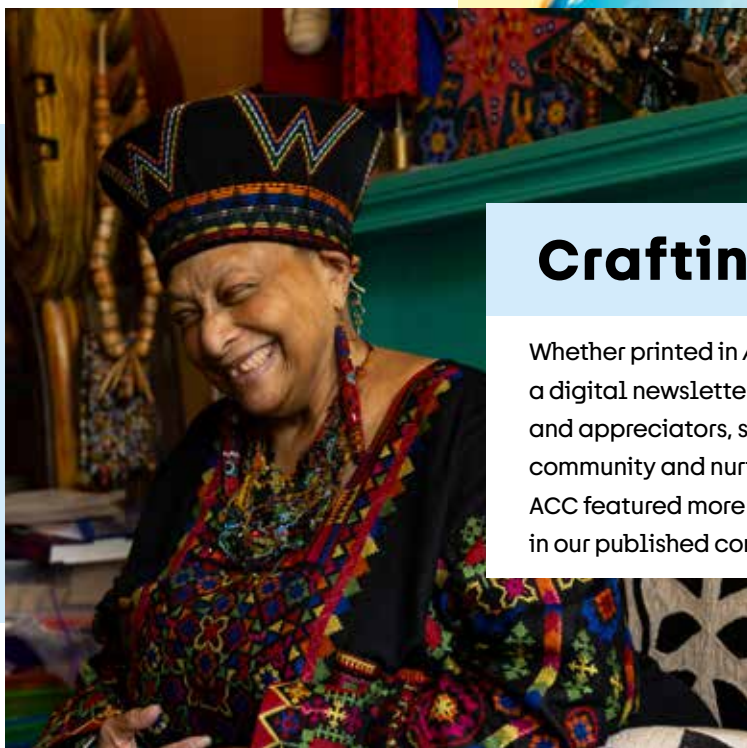
Aileen Osborn Webb Award for Philanthropy

Named after ACC's founder, this award recognizes exceptional contributions in support of the Council and the field of contemporary craft.

Charles Duddingston



Photo by Reginald Cunningham.



Crafting stories

Whether printed in *American Craft* magazine, published in a digital newsletter, or told aloud in a room full of makers and appreciators, stories are powerful vehicles for building community and nurturing a passionate audience for craft. ACC featured more than 600 artists and arts organizations in our published content.



Photos by Kevin Bullock (middle) and Gabriela Hasbun (bottom).



Photo by Nik Z Photo.

"Being included in these stories has my work and Japanese American history and community exposed to a broader audience. Its impact on me has validated my desire to continue to create and grow as an artist. I am humbled, honored, and grateful to have been included. Artists have powerful stories and American Craft magazine helps them to be told."

– Suzye Ogawa

Artist-Crafted Content

Through our Artist-Crafted Content initiative, artists contribute writing, photography, and video to ACC's editorial platforms, offering meaningful exposure and paid opportunities to shape public understanding of craft in all its diversity.

In 2024, ACC engaged 64 artists to provide original content for American Craft magazine, our digital platforms, and The Queue, a weekly newsletter that connects thousands of readers to the latest work in craft. Each print issue of the magazine reached an estimated 51,000 readers, while digital stories drew 3,500 weekly views. With an eye toward multi-platform expansion—particularly in video—this initiative continues to evolve as a cornerstone of ACC's commitment to centering artist voices.

- **64 artist contributors to editorial content**
- **51,000 American Craft readers per issue**
- **3,500 weekly views of digital content**

Object Stories

In September, storytelling moved off the page and into real life with Object Stories, a live event hosted in Minneapolis and inspired by “The Scene: Twin Cities” in American Craft. Seven artists—including a shoemaker, a furniture maker, and a clothing designer—shared personal narratives centered on meaningful objects from their lives and practices. From a set of rare, mimeographed shoemaking notes passed down by a mentor to a hand-built tool, each object opened a window into the lived experience of making. The event fostered connection between artists and audience and brought the personal side of craft into a space filled with warmth, curiosity, and community.

- **7 artist storytellers and 37 attendees**



Photo by Dina Kantor.

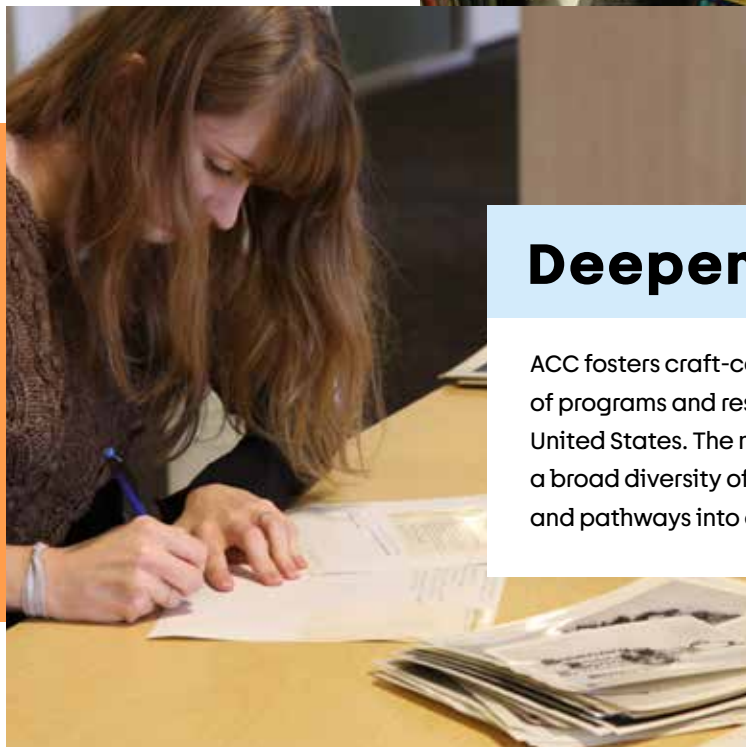


Staff photo.

American Craft Forums

ACC’s quarterly American Craft Forums are a dynamic series of programs, presented in conjunction with American Craft magazine, that brings together the past, present, and future of craft through artist spotlights, deep dives into creative practices, archival explorations, and timely conversations that connect contemporary issues with the handmade world. Each Forum ties into the themes of each issue of American Craft, with discussions that featured 37 presenters and 385 attendees, working in community to move the craft field forward. Themes of the magazine and Forums throughout last year were: Light, Ritual, Savor, and Weave.

- **37 presenters and 385 attendees**



Deepening knowledge

ACC fosters craft-centered livelihoods through a range of programs and resources for craft artists from across the United States. The makers we serve and champion represent a broad diversity of cultural backgrounds, practice types, and pathways into craft.

Staff photos.



Library & Archives



Staff photo.

"I'm particularly impressed with your American Craft Council archives, finding aids, and references to other art periodicals and organizations. Your newly-designed website is attractive and easy to use; I especially liked the podcast explaining how to use the archives!"

– Linda Running Bentley,
textile artist

The ACC Library & Archives provided a wealth of resources for scholars, students, publishers, curators, artists, collectors, and craft enthusiasts in 2024, serving more than 10,000 through in-person and online services. Our Library & Archives received support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Council on Library and Information Resources to support the digitization of historic publications and the preservation of audio and visual archives.

- **10,000 patrons served**
- **79 in-person visits**



Our Supporters

Photos by Max Franz.

Thank you to our supporters

The American Craft Council relies on vital operating and project support provided by members and donors at all levels, as well as our community partners. This report recognizes all supporters who made contributions for any purpose between **October 1, 2023 and November 30, 2024**. Every contribution is important, and we are deeply grateful to the following individuals, corporations, foundations, and public funders.

ACC makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of our supporter listings. To request a correction, please contact Rachel Kollar at rkollar@craftcouncil.org.

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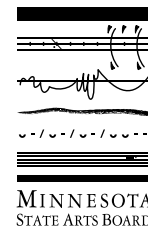
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