



Year In Review 2024

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section i

Introduction



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Last year, our community outlined a vision for our future. This year, we began to put that vision into place.



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image credits

1. previous page; permanent installation by thad kollstadt on the print shack with orange daylilies, photo by john niekrasz

2. cold creek, session 2 2024, photo by john niekrasz

3. resident isra rene's prints drying outside the print shack, session 2 2024, photo by john niekrasz

4. staff chatting outside the kitchen before dinner, summer strategy sessions 2023, photo by kate bowen

5. resident prena's aluminum casting made in high fire workshop, session 2 2024, photo by john niekrasz

6. many hands holding ruby que's cast aluminum worry stones, summer strategy sessions 2023, photo by kate bowen

* That vision includes:



7

1 Program Access

Expand access to the residency by reducing structural and financial barriers.

In 2024, we shifted our application timeline to allow more time to work with participants to generate funding and resources for their participation and set up flexible payment plans.



8

2 Strategic Relationships

Cultivate strategic relationships in Southwest Wisconsin.

To increase our impact beyond the residency program, we are offering our space to fellow organizations to enhance and supplement their programs, and to uplift both.



9

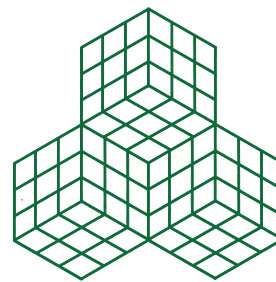
3 Program Development

Transition the Chicago Arts Census from a project to a program.

The Arts Census has grown from a grassroots project to engage a broad coalition of input and support. A full-time director now oversees the delivery of data and programming alongside the transition into a permanent program aligned with our strategic goal.

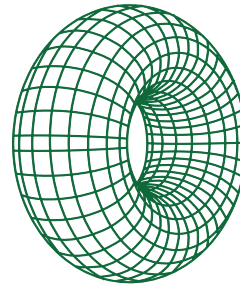
We also focused on building our capacity and resilience by making a capital investment in people and operations, with an emphasis on cooperative leadership, board and staff expansion, fundraising, and resource allocation to support our priorities.

These goals include:



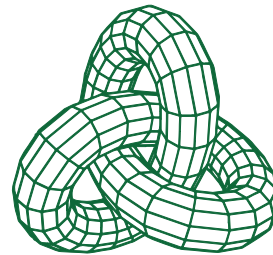
1 Investment in Labor

Invest in paid labor and build operational capacity



2 Knowledge Sharing

Document processes and systems to support sharing organizational knowledge and enhancing cooperative capacity.



3 Network Engagement

Invest in active network keeping and alumni engagement for longevity, economic development, and effective organizing.

“I’m so grateful for the group of colleagues and collaborators that I found through ACRE. The expansive nature of this residency—encouraging artists to explore in a variety of mediums and to try new things—has really expanded how I think about my practice and how it works in a community.”

— Millicent Kennedy

7. residents waiting for a performance to start on the stage, session 2 2024, photo by john niekrasz

8. staff members yej yoon and aki takebayashi posing with a cake made for wild yams residents in 2023, photo by kate bowen

9. residents walking down the road to the lodge, session 2 2024, photo by kate bowen



10.



11.



12.

section ii

Summer Residency



13.

Over three sessions in the summer of 2024, the Residency Program hosted 53 visual artists, performers, musicians, and writers at our community in Steuben, WI.

image credits

10. session 2 group photo, the silly one, photo by kate bowen

11. maggie wong and alden burke hug after running their first fire pour, photo by farah salem

12. facilities manager aki takebayashi working in session 2 2024, photo by kate bowen

13. vanessa virvet in the wood shop during high fire workshop, summer strategy sessions 2023, photo by kate bowen



During their residency, participants had access to:

a variety of materials, equipment, expert guidance, conscientiously sourced food, and numerous opportunities to share their work.



image credits

14. session 2 staff paul erschen and olivia zubko pour aluminum during high fire workshop, photo by john niekrasz

15. session 2 residents harvest clay with ceramics tech olivia zubko, photo by john niekrasz

16. resident tommy bruce in the fibers studio, session 2 2024, photo by john niekrasz

17. resident armando roman in the studios, session 2 2024, photo by john niekrasz

18. next page: session 2 staff member zach nicol performs in thom romero's weaving during the stuebliennale, an end-of-session open studio tradition, photo by john niekrasz



*** The Role of Alumni Artists at ACRE**

Alumni artists also play a crucial role at ACRE, returning as staff mentors to lead studios, offer demos and workshops, and help shape the residency experience.





✱ Workshops and presentations included:



19

1. Screenprinting
2. Wild Clay Foraging
3. Mosaics
4. Aluminum Casting
5. Bio-plastic Making
6. Moldmaking
7. Patternmaking
8. Natural Dyeing
9. Movement and Dance Performances
10. Screenings of time-based work

Our 8 Studio Areas

Ceramics

Fibers

Woodshop

High Fire

Screen Printing

A/V Tech

Sound

Performance Stage



20.



21.



22.



24.

“ACRE is such an affirming space. *Toiling away on your practice can feel isolating.*



23.

Having the opportunity to meet and work alongside so many artists who are just as passionate about their own practice was invaluable and so instructive. ACRE felt like *a glimpse of an ideal artist life*, setting aside the noise of regular life so that I

could give my art practice the time and energy it needs to *grow.*”

— 2024 Resident

19. staff member anna cataldo leads a leather making workshop, session 3 2024, photo by zachary hutchinson

20. ici curator in residence cheyenne wyzard-jones weaves in the fibers studio, photo by farah salem

21. resident nicolei gupit building a sand mold, session 1 2024, photo by farah salem

22. resident marco quagnelli gonzalez prepares for a performance on the stage, session 3 2024, photo by zachary hutchinson

23. session 1 ceramics tech clue quilala works in the studio, photo by farah salem

24. the acreettes band performs their hit "there's a bat in the av room" at the steubiennale, session 1 2024, photo by farah salem



PRINT SHACK

FARM

Blue Bird Ice
100% Pure Water
100% Pure Homemade

ACRE section iii Kitchen



26.



27.

image credits

- 28. pizza fresh out of the oven courtesy of tony paterra, photo by kate bowen
- 29. residency kitchen director kelly carr and kitchen manager tony paterra prepping pizzas, session 2 2024, photo by john niekrasz
- 30. next page: dinner at sunset, session 2 2024, photo by john niekrasz



28.

* 150 Locally-Sourced Meals Served

The ACRE Kitchen provides healthy and creative meals while supporting sustainable food producers in the Driftless region of Wisconsin.

- 25. previous page: resident jaemin romero hanging freshly dyed fabric on the print shack porch, session 1 2024, photo by farah salem
- 26. resident isra rene's bread for ploughman's dinner, session 2 2024, photo by john niekrasz
- 27. kimchi made by upj yoon, session 4 2023, photo by kate bowen



29.



deliciously
ting

section iv

Exhibitions



31

The Exhibitions Program provides artists opportunities to expand their practice, develop professionally, and build community with a thriving nationwide network of peers and arts professionals.



32

* About Our Exhibitions Program

In early 2024, we opened ACRE Projects in Lakeview, a new home for alumni and our extended arts community.

It serves as a hub for exhibitions, talks, screenings, gatherings, and workshops and offers studio space for alumni. An open call process invites our artist community to propose programming and offers our alumni a rotating studio residency.

- * We also presented solo and group exhibitions at partner galleries **Blanc Gallery** and **The University of Illinois Springfield**.

image credits

31 documentation of zachary hutchinson's exhibition beauty, beauty, look at you, i wish to god i had it, too, acre projects, 2024, photo by nathan florsheim

32 documentation of zachary hutchinson's exhibition beauty, beauty, look at you, i wish to god i had it, too, acre projects, 2024, photo by nathan florsheim



34.

image credits

- 33. documentation of d rosen's exhibition elemental impressions of interspecies care, of violence, acre projects, 2024, photo by levi shand
- 34. the jewish museum chicago's artists for palestine fundraiser auction, acre projects, 2024, photo by brittany sowack



35.



36.

- 35. documentation of d rosen's exhibition elemental impressions of interspecies care, of violence at acre projects, 2024, photo by levi shand
- 36. the jewish museum chicago's artists for palestine fundraiser auction, acre projects, 2024, photo by brittany sowack
- 37. next page: supporters gathered at hearth, acre's annual benefit, villanelle, 2024, photo by ryan bach



section v Events



38.

* Highlights From Our Community Gatherings

We kicked off the summer and our 15th residency season with **Summer Daze**, featuring DJ sets, artist vendors, and an ACRE Kitchen meal.

image credits

38. staff member stella brown entertains guests at a brunch event, january 2023, photo by kate bowen

39. supporters gathered at hearth, acre's annual benefit, villanelle, 2024, photo by ryan bach

40. next page: the jewish museum chicago's artists for palestine fundraiser auction, acre projects, 2024, photo by brittany sowack



39.

We hosted our third annual **Friends + Family Weekend** up at the farm and residency in Steuben. ACRE supporters witnessed the beauty of the Driftless landscape, enjoyed delicious farm-to-table dining, and experienced firsthand our multifaceted residency environment.

* Annual Benefit

We brought back the annual **Hearth Benefit** at new venue Villanelle. Countless artists contributed their work and talents to creating a special evening evoking the spirit of our collective organization. With the help of our dedicated supporters, we raised \$60k at the event.



Chicago Arts section vi Census

* About the Chicago Arts Census

The Chicago Arts Census is a cross-discipline data collection effort created by and with the art workers of Chicago. The Arts Census was built to amplify our voices as art workers in Chicago, serve as an advocacy tool fighting for better working, living, and making conditions, and create opportunities for coalition-building across art sectors.

* Upcoming Launch of the Arts Census Data Dashboard

In 2024, the Arts Census underwent a round of user testing to prepare the final version of the data dashboard before launching to the public. The dashboard will be launched in early 2025 alongside a written report, notes on the methodology, and data-driven educational initiatives and public programs that will facilitate the reach and legibility of the survey results.



image credits

41 next page: fibers tech
whitney hinojosa marquez
tours incoming residents
through the studio,
session 2 2024, photo
by john nickrasz



section vii

Partnerships

1

**Mother Earth
Green Center**

Mother Earth Green Center hosts ACRE's residency every year at the farm in Steuben, WI. They have partnered with us to improve facilities, add buildings and expansions, and allow more access to the property to suit our specific needs.

2

Wild Yams

The Wild Yams residency collaboration hosts artist Black mothers and caretakers for a week-long residency. For Wild Yams, this collaboration provides a valuable new opportunity that enriches the services and programming available to their residents. For ACRE, this partnership expands our mission to provide accessible and equitable programming for artists who need it most and deepens our commitment to bridging rural and urban communities.

3

**Independent Curators
International**

Independent Curators International partnered with ACRE in 2024 to offer 3 residencies to their curatorial fellows to collaboratively research and create discourse around regional contemporary art in the Mississippi River Basin, which ACRE's residency sits within. By bringing together curators, artists, and art spaces, the project seeks to bridge cultural divides and re-imagine US identity through the river and its connected lands.

4

**The Arts of Club of
Chicago Fellowship**

The Arts of Club of Chicago Fellowship offers a 2-year scholarship and membership to the Arts Club to an ACRE alumni. It uniquely affords fellows at a critical juncture in their career the opportunity to interact with artists and arts professionals across media/specialties in Chicago. This is one of four fellowships offered in the program and is supported by the Holly Palmer Foundation as well as individual donors to The Arts Club of Chicago.

5

**Supera
Properties**

Supera Properties has made a 5-year in-kind donation of a storefront space in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago, which ACRE will use for its Chicago operations and programs.

6

**CAPE
(Chicago Arts Partners in Education)**

ACRE and CAPE (Chicago Arts Partners in Education) began the research and development phase for a Teaching Artist Intensive this summer. This initial pilot builds off of and responds to the prompt of 'Site As Curriculum.'

7

Chrysalis Project

ACRE supported Chrysalis Project as Field Advisors from 2021-2024 as they developed a national advocacy organization for artists, helping support their work, livelihoods, and access to professional services, and to advocate on their behalf in public dialogues.

8

**The School of
the Art Institute
of Chicago**

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago provides 2 scholarships per year for graduate alumni and promotes the residency to their student and alumni network through digital marketing and info sessions.

9

**Northeastern
Illinois University**

Northeastern Illinois University offers a scholarship to one accepted resident per year who is an alumni of the NEIU Art Department.



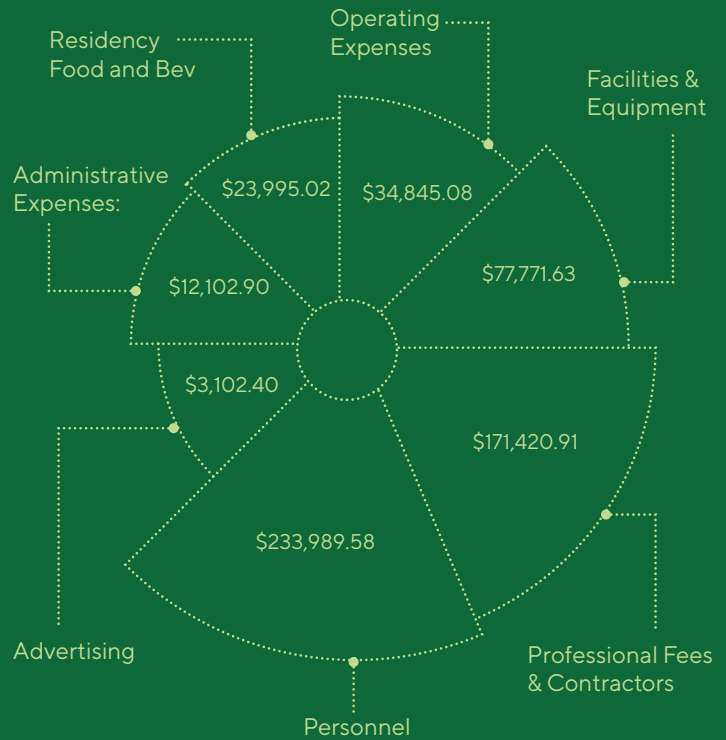
section viii

Income and Expenses

* **2024 Income** ▾
Total: \$613,195.18



* **2024 Expenses** ▾
Total: \$557,227.52



2024 Program Funders

1. Arts Work Fund
2. Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events
3. Field Foundation
4. Funding Good Chaos
5. Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
6. Illinois Arts Council Agency

Sponsors

LEAD SPONSORS

1. Ann Meisinger and Chris Woodbury
2. Julia and Larry Antonatos
3. Patti Gilford
4. Valerie Carberry and Richard Wright
5. Jay Dandy and Melissa Weber

EVENT SPONSORS

1. DOCUMENT
2. OtherPeoplesPixels
3. Driehaus Museum
4. ARTPOWER
5. Marz Brewing
6. Citadelle Gin
7. Planteray Rum
8. Vineyard Brands
9. Apologue Liqueurs
10. Exfolia Botanical
11. Schlep

section ix

Staff, Board, and Supporters

Staff

1. **Kate Bowen**
{Executive Director}
2. **Erin Nixon**
{Development Director}
3. **Anthony Stepter**
{Program Director, Chicago Arts Census}
4. **Chelsea Flowers**
{Residency Manager}
5. **Lauren Leving**
{Exhibitions Director}
6. **Maggie Wong**
{Volunteer Coordinator}
7. **Yejin Yoon**
{Events and Rentals Coordinator}
8. **Kelly Carr**
{Residency Kitchen Director}
9. **Anthony E. Pattera**
{Residency Operations Manager, Kitchen}
10. **Aki Takebayashi**
{Residency Operations Manager, Facilities}

Board of Directors

1. **Aron Gent**
2. **Jenny Kendler**
3. **Charles Long**
{Treasurer}
4. **Lynnette Miranda**
{Co-Chair}
5. **Raven Munsell**
{Co-Secretary}
6. **Lena Singer**
{Co-Secretary}
7. **Latham Zearfoss**
{Co-Chair}

Thank You to Our Supporters ♥

Silvia Abisaab
alea adigweme
Elizabeth Amundsen
Claire Arctander
Betty Avila
Juliet Barrett
Rebecca Beltran
Lois Bielefeld
Elisabeth Blair
Paige Boehmcke
Grace Brandt
Tom Brandt
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Gabriel Chalfin-Piney
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Liz Roberts
Amina Ross
Wil Ruggerio
Michael Russo
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Jorge Silva
Lena Singer
Morlen Sinoway
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Kate Staiger
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Anthony Stepter
Deborah Stratman
Dan Sullivan
John Supera
Sally Szwed
Leila Tamari
Kristin Taylor
Rae Taylor
katz tepper
Anastasia and GP Tinari
Fereshteh Toosi
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Nayeon Yang
Jess Yeats
Latham Zearfoss





**Artists' Cooperative
Residency & Exhibitions**

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year in review, 2024

