BEHIND THE SCENES

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

WATERSHED
center for the ceramic arts

Cover: Maddy inspects work before it goes into the wood kiln at Maine Craft Weekend 2024. (Photo: Amber Veilleux) **Above:** Clouds form over Cochran Rd. **All the photographs in this volume** were taken by Watershed staff unless otherwise noted. **Designed by** Callie Jacks.

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A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Trustees, Friends, and Supporters,

Together, we shape what's next. As you read Watershed's 2024 Annual Report, you'll see how our shared commitment has built a strong foundation for growth, creativity, and new opportunities in the years ahead.

This year marked new beginnings for me personally and for Watershed as a whole. Moving to Maine to serve as Executive Director has been both a privilege and a homecoming. Since my first summer here in 1995, when I cooked in the kitchen for a season, through multiple residencies as an artist and work with the board, to now lead this extraordinary place is both humbling and energizing.

2024 also brought the full activation of our Commons building. More than just a replacement for Thompson Hall, the Commons has transformed the heart of Watershed's campus—welcoming artists to gather, share meals, and spark ideas. When I first visited during the final construction phase, it was still a worksite. Today, it is a thriving hub that embodies our mission.

As a result, we were able to expand workshops, launch new public programs, and prepare for our first winter residency in many years—a program that welcomes smaller groups of artists for longer, more immersive sessions to create, connect, and devote themselves to their craft. These initiatives reflect our vision to be not only a creative sanctuary for artists but also a vibrant cultural resource for the public.

We move forward from a position of strength, thanks to our dedicated board, founders, generous supporters like you, and the leadership of those who came before, especially Fran Rudoff and Sadie Bliss. Your belief in our mission fuels our work and inspires us to dream bigger.

The future of ceramic arts is bright—and together, we're building it.

With gratitude,

David S. East
Executive Director

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful and full year we had at Watershed!

We welcomed several exceptional year-round staff members whose contributions, combined with the commitment of our artists, board, and volunteers, are positioning Watershed for continued growth.

This includes bringing on a fabulous new director, David S. East. David completed his first year with us in outstanding fashion! His connections to Watershed run deep—more than twenty years ago, he first worked in our kitchen and participated as a resident artist. This long-standing relationship, paired with decades of leadership in ceramics education, gives him a unique understanding of our mission and community. Under his guidance, we are entering an exciting new chapter. He's the right guy at the right time. Welcome, David!

We also started a new initiative to honor our history, a garden and a gathering place, Founders Hill. Without Peg Griggs, Chris Gustin, Lynn Duryea, and George Mason's tireless efforts to keep Watershed afloat and prospering, we would be just another good intention, unfulfilled. Founders Hill holds up the new Commons and gives us a beautiful place to sit and contemplate how very fortunate we are, and have been. I also want to thank our tireless former director Fran Rudoff for her help in designing and organizing the planting of the hill, and our interim director Sadie Bliss for helping us through all that we accomplished in 2024.

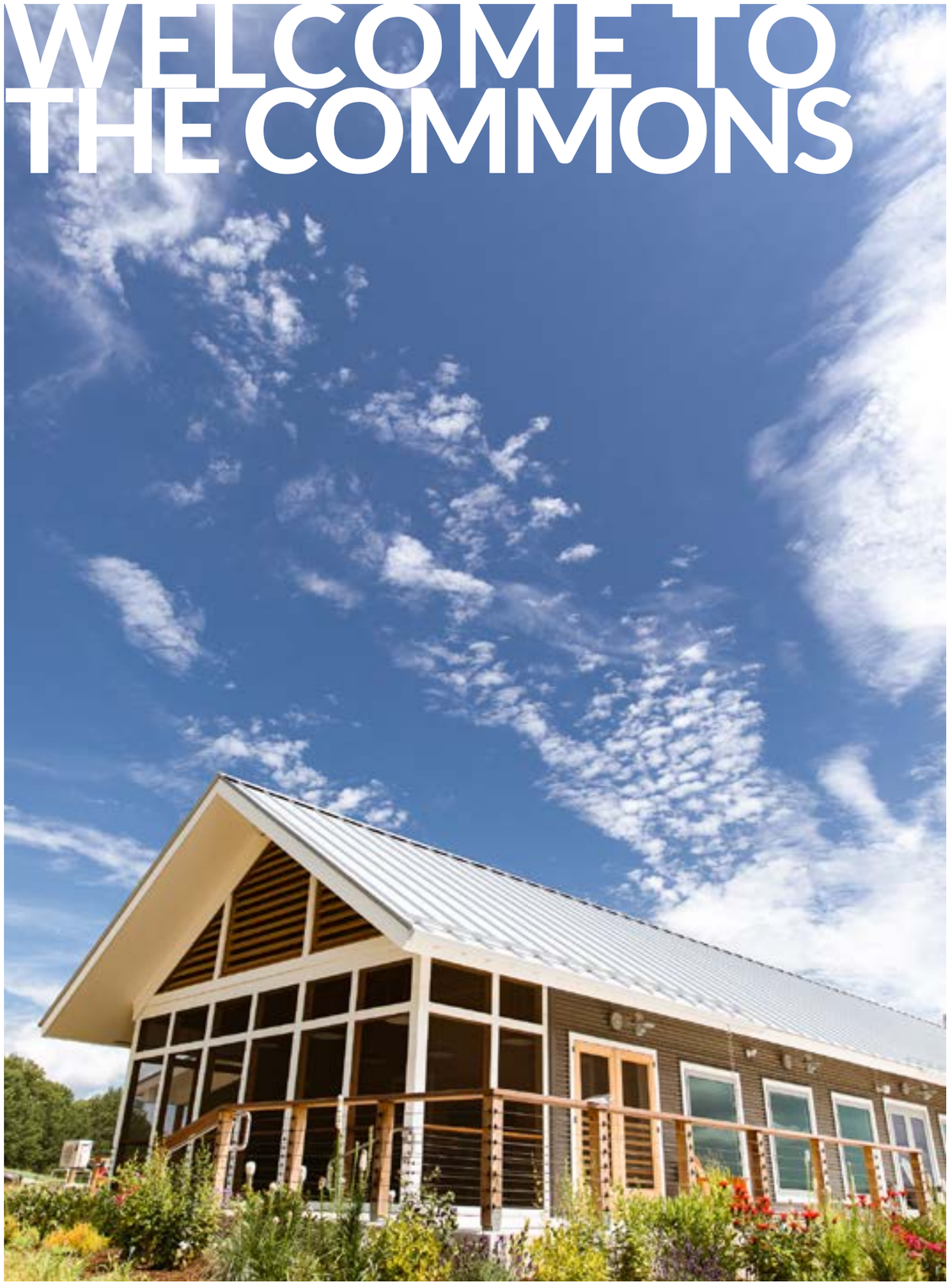
Of course, none of this would be possible without you—our Watershed community. Your generosity, whether through financial contributions, participation in programs and events, or volunteer efforts, sustains the work we do. Together, we are ensuring that Watershed remains a vibrant and inspiring place for clay enthusiasts everywhere

As I close this reflection—and my final year as board president—I do so with deep gratitude. Serving Watershed in this role has been a privilege, and I look forward to continuing as supporter, artist, and advocate. Change brings growth, and the progress we share today lays the foundation for an extraordinary future. Thanks for being a part of it.

Onward,

Bernie Toale
President of the Board of Trustees

WELCOME TO THE COMMONS



In 2024, Watershed's artists-in-residence were the inaugural cohort to break bread in our new Commons building.

Designed by architect Jane Gleason and built by the incredible team at JF Scott Construction, Watershed's resident-life building boasts a large, open-concept communal dining/living room and a screened-in porch perfect for enjoying food, coffee, and conversation; an ADA-accessible artist's suite which houses, among others, our annual Salad Days artist for seven months of the year; and a commercial kitchen named in honor of our beloved former executive director, Fran Rudoff.

Facing: Southwest exterior of the Commons, including the screened-in porch and back patio. **Top:** The Commons interior during Salad Days 2024. (Photo: Lindsay Becker) **Middle:** The sitting room serves as a cozy setting for resident artist slide nights. **Bottom:** The Commons at dusk.

BIG BLUE

Arnold “Arnie” Zimmerman
1954, Poughkeepsie, NY — 2021, Hudson, NY

Right: Arnie Zimmerman working in the Factory at Watershed during the 25th anniversary season in 2012.

At the entrance to the Commons is *Big Blue,* a large, deeply carved, architectonic sculpture created in 1984 by artist Arnie Zimmerman and generously donated by his wife, Ann Rosenthal.

Arnie passed away in 2021, and, as Watershed cofounder Chris Gustin writes, Ann’s generosity “celebrates Arnie’s early residencies at Watershed in the ‘80s, when he helped pass the word that there was this incredible place in Maine where artists could come together and make work amongst peers. It is fitting that his energy and spirit will live on to all who visit. … Arnie will be forever missed.”

In 2024, Watershed welcomed 123 artists from 34 different countries and states to our 54-acre campus in rural Maine.

SUMMER @ WATERSHED

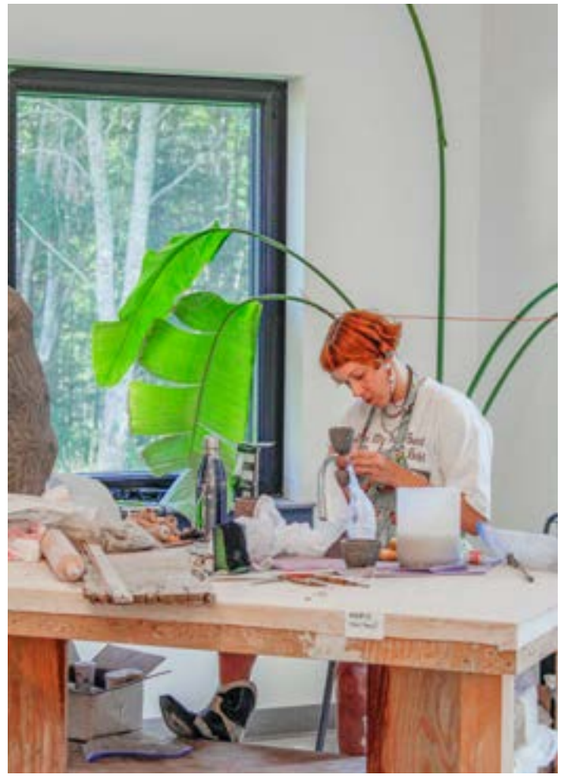
We follow a unique model for artist residencies: organizing artists develop themes and invite a small group of artists to anchor two-week sessions; additional artists with similar interests then apply to join. When the group of twelve to eighteen artists converge at Watershed, they are given uninterrupted time to focus on their creative practice in our state-of-the-art Windgate Studio.

PRE-SESSION
SESSION I Embodied Perception, organized by Marilyn Perry & Bonita Klyne
SESSION II Digital Clay, organized by Tasha Lewis
SESSION III Red-Handed, organized by Jeremiah Ibarra & Tom Doyle
SESSION IV Beautiful Community, organized by Trisha Kyner
SESSION V Cross-Pollination, organized by Martha Grover
SESSION VI Queering Mud, organized by Etty Anderson

Below: Session V: Cross-Pollination artists unload the atmospheric kilns.

Left: Amber playing guitar on the kiln deck. (Photo: Amber Veilleux) **Right:** Pre-session attendees sit on the porch of the Lower Suite and watch the sun set.

During their residencies, artists are nourished with delicious, chef-prepared communal meals featuring local ingredients. They relish in the bucolic nature of our space, surrounded by farms, fields, and woods; swimming in lakes and the ocean; and soaking up the starry skies.



Left: Marie Foxall works at their studio table during Session VI. **RIght:** Session V residents gather round to share ideas & techniques.

In this way—artists driving the content, with no requirement put upon them during their stay—Watershed provides a place where artists are free to play, explore, and ideate. It is process over product; it is genuine connection over “connection.” Over and over, we hear experiencing this freedom and being in community simultaneously results in a transformation. New ideas and directions are built, lifelong networks are created, and the most pressing concerns of the ceramics field are given voice.

Wes Brown (**Left**) and Morel Doucet (**Right**) work in Windgate Studio during their residencies.
(Photos: Wes Brown)

"It gave me time to make work and push new ideas that I would otherwise be unable to pursue. As a result I was able to solidify certain aspects of my making process, leading to a better understanding of how I need to approach new ideas in the future."

—WES BROWN, 2024 artist-in-residence

"[Watershed's] residency offers a unique and enriching environment for artistic growth and exploration. The access to advanced ceramic facilities, the supportive community of fellow artists, and the opportunity to engage with innovative techniques and firing processes make it an exceptional experience."

—MOREL DOUCET, 2024 artist-in-residence

SCHOLARSHIPS

Watershed's mission is to provide artists with time and space to explore ideas with clay. Our aim is to make this available to all artists. **Forty percent of every artist's residency is subsidized by our generous supporters.**

In 2024, with your support, we furthered that commitment and gave 13 full scholarships and 4 partial scholarships to artists, for a total of $35,200 in awards. Of these 17 recipients, 8 identified as artists of color and 6 were from other underrepresented and/or queer communities.

Watershed wants to make residency experiences accessible to all artists! Together, we can change the future of the field. To see how you can support expanding the possibilities for all artists and shifting power to individuals from marginalized groups to enrich the diversity of the community, **please contact Every Leclair at development@watershedceramics.org.**

Below: Session VI: Queering Mud stands outside the studio with their work.

"The Watershed residency serves as a medium that not only connects people on-site but also fosters connections beyond it. I enjoyed seeing posts from others who visited the same place and believe we created an indirect connection through our shared experience at Watershed. The journey as an artist is long, and I am excited to see how Watershed continues to thrive by building even more connections."

—HAYUN SURL, 2024 artist-in-residence and Archipelago Foundation Ceramic Residency Award recipient

"I have learned invaluable techniques during this residency. Being a self-taught ceramicist there was so much I didn't know or had no practice with. My practice has benefited greatly by being in such a fantastic facility and around so many inspiring people."

—BEATRIZ CHACHAMOVITS (right), 2024 artist-in-residence and Scholarship for Change recipient

"This experience was incredible and I'm so thankful I received a scholarship that made it feasible for me."

—KNAIDE ROSENBERG, 2024 artist-in-residence and scholarship recipient

SALAD DAYS

Saturday, July 11, 2024

More than five hundred people attended Salad Days, Watershed's beloved annual arts festival. Ceramic plates by our 2024 Salad Days artist-in-residence, Jeremiah Ibarra, featured hand-drawn dogs (and a few cats!) in a nostaligic American illustration style.

Previous: Guests gather around the Reverse Raffle to choose their prizes. **Left:** 2024 Salad Days Artist-in-Residence Jeremiah Ibarra poses with one of his plates, which depicts a Birman cat. **Top:** Jeremiah's Dalmation plate. **Bottom:** Salad Days attendees select their plates. (Photos: Lindsay Becker)

Guests selected their favorite plate and enjoyed an invitational pottery sale with work from celebrated contemporary ceramicists; artist demonstrations by Tom Doyle, Alex Ferrante, Meg Howton, and Meg Walsh; a reverse raffle; studio tours; scrumptious salads; and plenty of fun.

Salad Days was graciously sponsored by Bailey Pottery Equipment, DeBlois Electric, First National Wealth Management, Hay Runner, oUTSKIRT Studios, J. Edward Knight Insurance, JF Scott Construction, Lucy Lacoste Gallery, MainEx, Mid-Coast Energy, One River CPAs, Peapod Jewelry, Reny's, Rising Tide Co-op, and Tara Walker. Our in-kind sponsors included Laguna Clay, Little Chair Printing, Longfellow's Greenhouses, Maine Root, Orange Bike Brewing Co., Tin Top Cider, and Tributary Brewing.

Below: Attendees prepare for the resverse raffle. **Right Top:** Guests enjoy conversation over lunch. **Right Bottom:** Alex Ferrante leads an artist demonstration. (Photos: Lindsay Becker)

K–12 & PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Workshops are a core program at Watershed, offering small group lessons concentrated on a specific ceramic subject in an exceptional studio with equally exceptional teaching artists.

As a nonprofit steeped in the core value of diversity, we actively pursue multigenerational, multicultural teaching artists, fostering an environment in which different perspectives—from across cultures, identities, and experiences—flourish. Our intention is to connect the public to the contemporary practices of artists working in clay, inspiring creativity, craftsmanship, and appreciation of the arts.

Facing: Unloading the kiln during *Narrative Maiolica Painting* with Michelle Im. **Top:** Looking at final work in *Found, Foraged, & Multi-Fired* with Matthew Dercole. **Bottom:** *Clay Weaving & Coil Building* with YoonJee Kwak.

Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to subsidize workshops with up to a 79% discount for any K–12 staff working in Maine. Watershed's K–12 workshops served 60+ educators from 40+ schools across Maine in 2024.

These teachers' participation in our hands-on workshops goes on to impact thousands of students in our state annually, strengthening their ceramics knowledge and crafting the next generation of clay-based artists.

Watershed offered a record twelve workshops this year.

SPRING
- **PRINTING ON CLAY w/ Hope Rovelto**
- ***COLORED CLAY w/ Karen Orsillo**
- **BUILDING ANIMALS w/ Natalia Arbelaez**
- CREATING MODULAR SCULPTURES w/ Natalia Arbelaez

SUMMER
- **RAKU w/ Matthew Dercole**

FALL
- **RAKU w/ Matthew Dercole**
- CLAY WEAVING & COIL BUILDING w/ YoonJee Kwak
- EXPAND YOUR GLAZE PALETTE w/ Matthew Dercole
- ***COLOR BLOCKING & WAX RESIST w/ Kyle Scott Lee**
- NARRATIVE MAIOLICA PAINTING w/ Michelle Im
- **DESIGN AN ANIMATED BUTTER DISH w/ Michelle Im**
- ***FOUND, FORAGED, & MULTI-FIRED w/ Matthew Dercole**

Maine-based K-12 educator workshops.
***Workshops opened to K-12 educators.

Left: Natalia Arbelez during her public workshop, *Creating Modular Sculptures.*

"The whole design of the center is conducive to thinking about and creating ceramics—it's wonderful!"

—ANN MCLELLAN, 2024 workshop participant

"It was wonderful to give myself a few days to fully immerse myself in a work without interruption."

—TERRY GOLSON, 2024 workshop participant

"The Watershed K–12 workshops are an incredible value and are energizing and enriching."

—ELLEN HODGKIN, K–12 teacher and workshop participant

EXHIBITIONS

Fifty–nine artists were represented through three exhibitions at Watershed's Barkan Gallery in 2024.

The exhibitions included:

— **Taking Shape:** A MECA&D Ceramics Exhibition
— **A Second Look,** 2024 Pottery Invitational
— **2024 Maine Craft Apprenticeship Program Capstone**

Left: Olivia Propeck with work at *Taking Shape.* **Top:** Work by MECA&D alumni in the *Taking Shape: A MECA&D Exhibition*. **Bottom:** Guests enjoying the porch at the Barkan Gallery.

PARTNERSHIPS

Left: Aidan Fraser & Minda Gould at the wood kiln unloading during Maine Craft Weekend activites hosted by Watershed.

Partnerships are an essential strategic component of our work—and to creating a welcoming community in which creativity blossoms. With such a long history of operating collaboratively and with integrity to our values, Watershed is well-known for authentic partnerships, which then channels even more collaboration and bridge-building.

Here is just a small sample of our partnership work in 2024:

— Collaborating with the **Maine Department of Education, Maine Art Education Association,** and the **Maine Arts Commission** to connect with K–12 art educators in Maine
— Strengthening ties to the national K–12 Clay organization
— Serving as the year-round fiscal sponsor for **The Color Network**
— Partnering with ceramics faculty at **Maine College of Art and Design**: sharing visiting teaching artists, having Associate Professor Patrick Coughlin on our board, and exhibiting the work of MECA&D alumni, faculty, and current ceramics students
— Donating ceramic artwork to an auction benefit for **Veggies to Table,** a local, organic, nonprofit farm; and secondhand cabin equipment to **Maine Audubon's Hog Island** camp and **Habitat for Humanity's ReStore**
— Working with **Maine Association of Nonprofits, Cultural Alliance of Maine,** and others on advocacy
— Continuing to play a part in **Maine Craft Association's Maine Craft Weekend** and hosting the 2024 Maine Craft Apprenticeship Program Capstone exhibition

THE COLOR NETWORK RESIDENCY

Left: Resident artist Emily Woo during The Color Network Residency raku firing.

In September, twelve artists from The Color Network (TCN) gathered at Watershed for a two-and-a-half-week residency to work in clay and build connections through a mentorship program. TCN supports and advances ceramic artists of color by creating opportunities for dialogue, networking, professional development, visibility, and resources via an international network among experienced and emerging ceramicists.

With TCN mentors and mentees scattered geographically, their residency at Watershed offers time to connect in person and foster deeper connections, building both community and creative practices.

The Color Network's residency was supported in part by the Maxwell/ Hanrahan Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

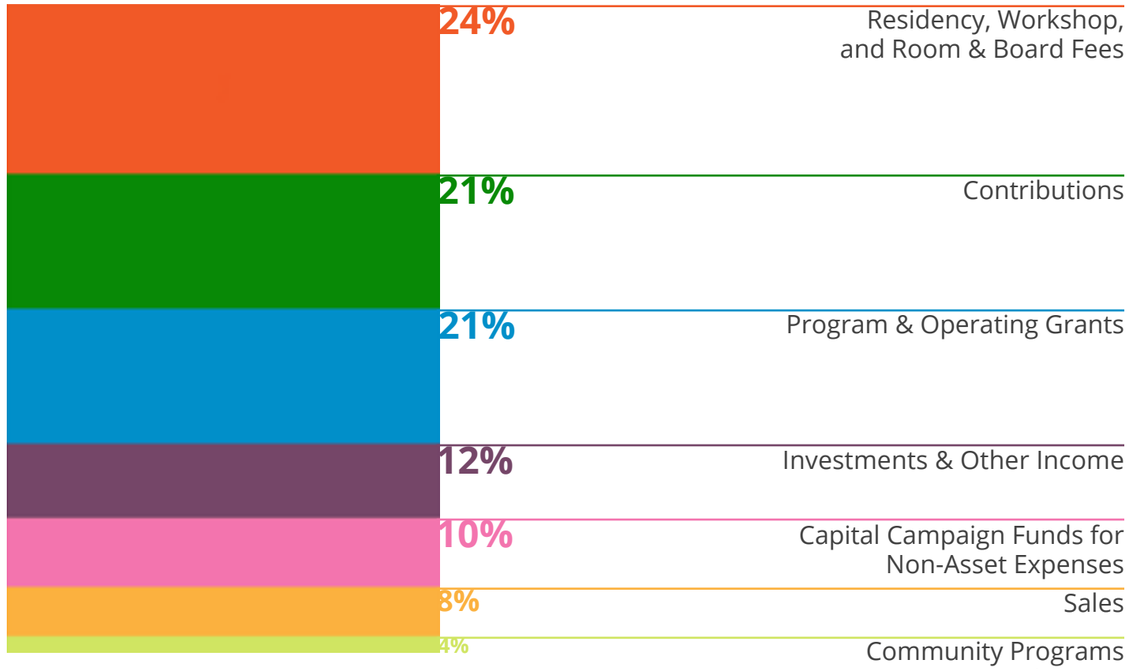
Left: Isaac Scott holding finished work. **Top:** Work by Kai Cho after raku. **Bottom:** Members of TCN residency sitting on the kiln deck.

"Ceramics is a pretty small community and often we as artists of color are the only POC in our local ceramics communities. Having access to a space where you can experiment and focus on your craft and share that space with people who may be going through a lot of the same life or cultural experiences that you have can be transformative for an artist at all stages of their career. In order for ceramics to grow into the diverse and talented field we want it to be, programs like The Color Network and its residency at Watershed need to continue."

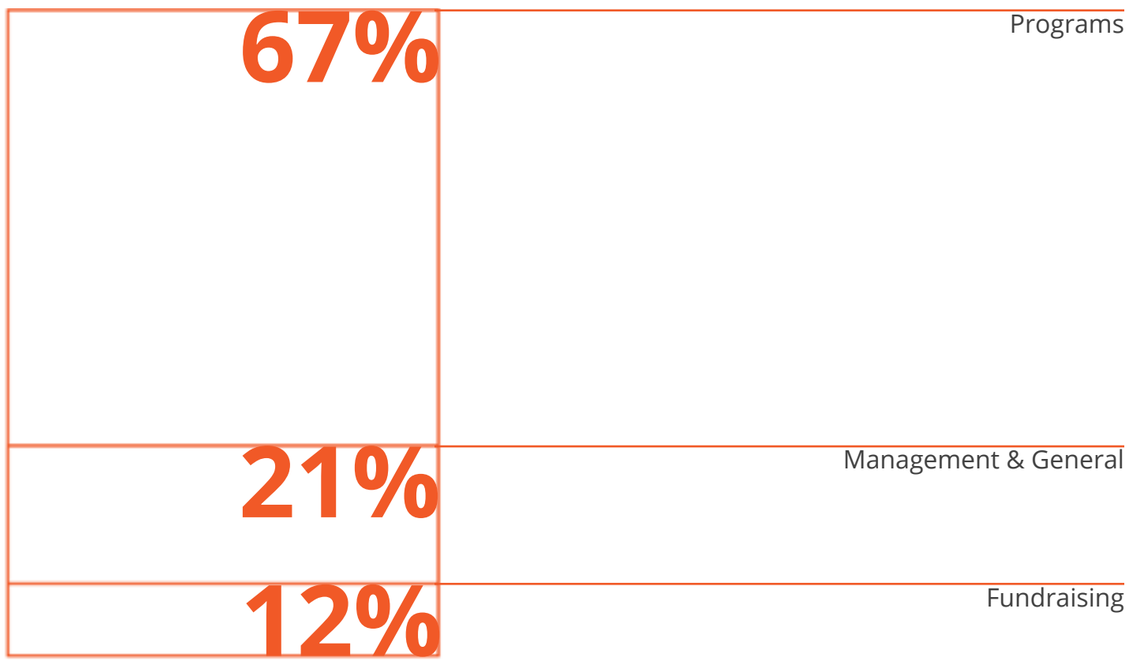
—ISAAC SCOTT, 2024 residency facilitator

FINANCES

OPERATING REVENUE — $ 969,224.44



OPERATING EXPENSES — $ 969,224.44



BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2023	2024
Current assets		
Cash & cash equivalents	$47, 865	$449,260
Restricted cash for programs	$158, 671	-
Restricted cash for capital improvements	$1,409, 628	-
Inventory & prepaid expenses	$2,157	$2,643
Promises to give	$95,639	$50,825
Investments	$1,769,837	$360,529
Subtotal	**$3,483,797**	**$863,257**
Property: buildings, land, & equipment	**$5,437,943**	**$7,649,965**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$8,921,740**	**$8,513,222**
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Line of credit	$30,000	-
Accounts payable	$313,373	$25,037
Deferred revenue	$3,635	$14,504
Long-term liabilities	$196,824	$177,548
Accrued expenses	$133,718	$8,000
Total liabilities	**$677,550**	**$225,089**
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	$5,465,268	$7,714,311
With donor restrictions	$2,778,922	$573,822
Total net assets	**$8,244,190**	**$8,288,133**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	**$8,921,740**	**$8,513,122**

OUR SUPPORTERS

Watershed values all types of support and strives to dismantle harmful systems of inequity. Accordingly, we have decided to list our donors in alphabetical order by last name this year, rather than the more-traditional convention of denoting by giving level. We will continue to bold donors who are Watershed alum, to underscore our pride in being deeply connected to the community we serve. We hope you appreciate this new progressive philanthropy practice, which aligns with our core values and all our efforts to create a truly inclusive space that welcomes everyone. Here is to a more just and equitable world!

Norman Abram and Elise Hauenstein
Heather Abt
In honor of Carmen
John Adams
In memory of Thomas B. Fontaine
William W. Alcorn
Normandy Alden
Merry Alexander
Pamela Alexander
Renee Altman
Alvord Family Foundation
Caroline Anderson
The Anonimo Foundation
Anonymous (9)
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Arkansas Community Foundation
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Perry Duryea
Barbara East
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Hollis Engley and Kim Sheeren
Brenda Erickson
Evan and Kressa Evans
Balbina Fernandes
In honor of Gretchen Keyworth
Christopher Ferreira
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First National Wealth Management
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In honor of Sarah Jenkins
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Natalie and John Garfield
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Rosette Gault
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JoAnn and Steve Ginter
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James Gleason
Jane and Bob Gleason
Ken and Mary Gleason
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In honor of Don Ridley
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Claudia Olds Goldie
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Maxwell Holden
Pamela and Stephen Hootkin
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Lissa Ann Hunter and Kirby Pilcher
Sara and Jeff Hyland
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David and Diane Jenkins
Sarah Yardly Jenkins
Scott and Yardly Jenkins
In honor of Sarah Yardly Jenkins
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In honor of John Bullard
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Jennifer Morrison and Dick Marks
Meredith Morten
Hugh and Diana Morton
In memory of Bruce Dawson
John Mullaney
Steve Murphy and Sarah Wakabayashi
In honor of Chris Gustin
Sana Musasama
In honor of peace
Theodore and Mary Gene Myer
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Matt Nolen
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John Ollman
One River CPAs
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Winnie Owens-Hart
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Wendy Shattuck and Samuel Plimpton
Joan Shafran and Rob Haimes
Lorraine Shemesh
Stephanie Shields
In honor of Maia Sampson Michael
Marylin Silverman
In honor of Sophie Adler
Daniel Sipe
Malcolm Mobutu Smith
Nan Smith
Rosanne Sniderman and Ren Croteau
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In honor of Rose Esson Dawson
Arlene Snyder and Paul Rabin
Ruth and Rick Snyderman
Joan Sorensen
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Nancy Train Smith
Catherine Burns Tremaine
Greg Triggs
Mr. Richard G. Trub
James Alan Turnbull, Jr.
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UK Online Giving Foundation
Joy Vaughan
Rebecca May Verrill
Eloise Vitelli
Lansing Wagner
Tara Walker
Michaelene Walsh
In honor of Lisa Elwell
Lynn Warner
In honor of Tamsen Warner
Tamsen Brooke Warner
Jane Weigel
Theodor Weinberg
Judith Weisman
Jerome Weiss
Gayle Wells Mandle
Catherine White and Warren Frederick
Susan Whitehead
Nancy Wiener
Windgate Foundation
Susan Winton
Mary Wood
Kristine Woods
Patricia Young
Tim Zajac
Scott Zimmer
Joe Zina
Justin Zonay

OUR TEAM

Five incredible Watershed trustees completed their service in 2024: Jeanne Baker Driscoll, Sarah Yardly Jenkins, Linda Lopez, Jyoti Puri, and Amy Santeferraro. Bernie Toale also transitioned to a past president role. We are so grateful for their leadership, and especially want to recognize Jeanne Baker Driscoll for her decades-long board commitment to Watershed. Jeanne saw us through so many changes and will continue to serve in an advisory role.

TRUSTEES

Bernie Toale, President, Boston, MA
Don Ridley, Vice President, Scottsdale, AZ
Jeanne Baker Driscoll, Treasurer, New York, NY
Paul Donnelly, Secretary, Kansas City, MO
Sharon Townshend, Past President, Pownal, ME
Patrick Coughlin, Portland, ME
Lauren Dombrowiak, Philadelphia, PA
Lenny Dowhie, Evansville, IN
Sin-ying Ho, Flushing, NY
Sarah Yardly Jenkins, Libertyville, IA
Jyoti Puri, Lexington, MA
Stephanie Rozene, Oneonta, NY
Nancy Selvin, Berkeley, CA
Malcolm Mobutu Smith, Bloomington, IN
Greg Triggs, Narrowsburg, NY

FOUNDERS

Lynn Duryea, Deer Isle, ME
Margaret Griggs+, Newcastle, ME
Chris Gustin, South Dartmouth, MA
George Mason, Nobleboro, ME

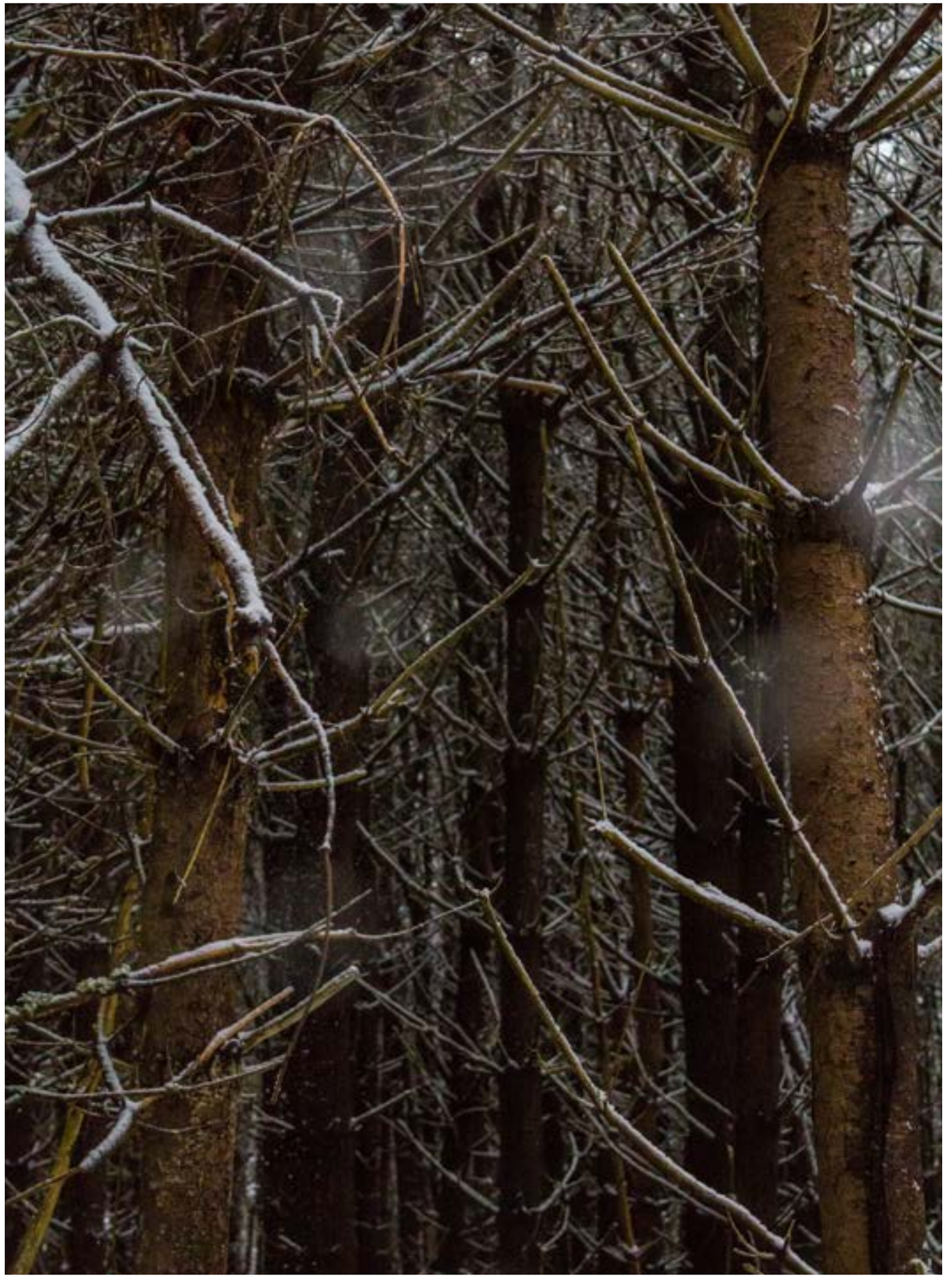
YEAR-ROUND STAFF

Sadie Bliss, Interim Executive Director
Matthew Dercole, Studio & Facilities Manager
David S. East, Executive Director
Aidan Fraser, Program Coordinator
Georgia Howe, Communications Coordinator
Koala Largess, Studio Coordinator
Every Leclair, Senior Development Manager
Tamsen Brooke Warner, Finance & Operations Manager

SEASONAL STAFF

Josephine Diehl, Residency Liaison
Emmett Jorgensen, Assistant Cook
Melissa Lindner, Head Cook
Chris "Mitch" Mitchel, Studio Assistant
Olivia Propeck, Housing Coordinator
Shannon Renner, Dining Coordinator

+ Deceased



WATERSHED
center for the ceramic arts

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