Annual Report 2018

A Tradition of Reinvention

American Craft Council

A Tradition of Reinvention

2018 was a year of change at the American Craft Council. It was a thrill for me to become ACC's new executive director in April and to become a part of its rich legacy.

Periods of transition inspire big questions - namely, what is our organization's role in the larger craft community, and how can we best fulfill that role? For guidance, we turned to craft's essential characteristics and roots. It is a time-honored tradition, but it is also one that is always reinventing itself, responding to the demands of the time. ACC's work this year highlights a vibrant present and a road map for an even brighter future.

With our programming and publications, ACC supported innovative and quality work, asserting craft's standing as a place for new ideas. The 2018 Awards of Excellence at the American Craft Shows in Baltimore, Atlanta, St. Paul, and San Francisco recognized masterful work, creative booth design, and emerging artists from our Hip Pop program. The makers and supporters recognized with the ACC Awards, meanwhile, have spent their lives dedicating themselves to craft. Our salon series, held in the ACC Library, brought appreciators face-toface with artists; American Craft - for your support, but also for magazine profiled inventive artists from coast to coast; and American Craft Inquiry, our journal, presented insights on a range of subjects by some of the field's preeminent thinkers.

our already strong community. The Holiday Craft Hop, held in the historic Grain Belt Brew House building where we have our Minneapolis office, provided a way for local makers to present their wares to eager customers during the year's prime shopping season. With a pop-up event at Jenny Lemons in San Francisco coinciding with our show there, makers and aficionados could meet and network over embroidery and local beer. As ever, volunteers were crucial to our operations: To the craft lovers who share their time and knowledge, we can't thank you enough.

ACC also worked to strengthen

Finally, ACC worked to grow the future of the field and provide new and better opportunities for emerging artists. The Hip Pop program, started in 2015, saw its first full class of makers transition from shared booths to their own full booths at our shows. The School-to-Market program continues to bridge the gap between craft studies and the business world, offering free show space for students and recent graduates.

We are proud of our accomplishments in 2018, but we realize that nothing lasting is ever accomplished alone. We thank you - members, volunteers, artists, appreciators your ideas and passion. You make the craft community what it is, and we are proud to work on your behalf.



Jarak Sarah Schultz



Charles E. Duddingston Chair, Board of Trustees

Executive Director

A Space for Ideas

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In 2018, ACC recognized and honored not only accomplished makers but also distinguished craft thinkers. Jun Kaneko, renowned for his dazzling large-scale ceramic pieces, was named the latest ACC Gold Medalist, and the College of Fellows inductees – whose work included weaving, jewelry, and institutional support for artists – showcased the breadth of craft's possibilities.



American Craft continued its work profiling leading figures and exciting newcomers, and unpacking trends and developments in the field. In November, it won Magazine of the Year at the Minnesota Media + Publishing Association, and continued to win national recognition with the prestigious Eddie and Ozzie awards. In its second year, American Craft *Inquiry* published two issues, covering topics such as the rise of women in woodworking and the history of quilting.



ACC Award recipients (back row, from left): Beth Lipman, Kate Lydon (Contemporary Craft), Mark Burns, Susan Cummins, Yoshiko Iwamoto Wada, Janet McCall (Contemporary Craft), Thomas Gentille; (front row, from left): Marlin Miller, Consuelo Jimenez Underwood, Thomas Hucker, Mary Jackson. Not pictured: Jun Kaneko, Gold Medalist.

"The ACC staff was incredibly organized, enthusiastic, and extremely accommodating to my needs before and during the award ceremonies. The most special aspect was having my work recognized by my peers, colleagues, and heroes, Gracias,"

 Consuelo Jimenez Underwood, 2018 Fellow never thought others were seeing me. I was just the conduit, so it was a bit of a shock to realize that the American Craft Council was in fact seeing my actions and that the panel of Fellows wanted to point me out to a larger audience. Thank you, ACC."

"I have seen it all, but I

Susan Cummins,
2018 Honorary Fellow



ACC executive director Sarah Schultz presents Marlin Miller with the Aileen Osborn Webb Award for Philanthropy.

Collaboration and Community

Partnership is at the core of all art, and especially of craft. In this spirit, ACC continued to bring together makers, appreciators, and new artists in environments that encouraged mutual inspiration and exchange of ideas.

The Holiday Craft Hop, held in the historic Grain Belt Brew House building where ACC has its Minneapolis office, gathered local makers in an expansive range of mediums, from jewelry and ceramics to cocktail bitters and small-batch honey. Reaching an enthusiastic customer base during peak shopping season was only one positive outcome; makers also met new colleagues and learned about each other's work.

In the Let's Make section at the American Craft Shows, visitors could try their hand at projects of their own. In St. Paul, guests could take a lesson from local glass center Foci and leave with a bead they made. In conjunction with the San Francisco show, ACC presented a free popup event at the clothing shop Jenny Lemons, where craft fans mingled with makers and sampled local snacks and beer. They left with tickets to the show and a new understanding of the community.





"Urban Boatbuilders benefits greatly from partnering with the American Craft Council. Every year, as a Let's Make partner, our youth apprentices have the opportunity to teach the public the skills they have learned and be recognized for the outstanding work they're doing in the community."

– Michael Wurth, development manager, Urban Boatbuilders

"The ACC have been great partners to us. We're a small nonprofit, and they have helped us better connect to our local community through the Let's Make partnership, as well as hosting artist talks at our facility."

 Kelly Nezworski, director of administrative operations, Foci - Minnesota Center for Glass Arts



"I loved collaborating with ACC for a community craft night in my San Francisco storefront! It was so refreshing to connect the emerging craft scene in the Bay Area with ACC's audience in a fun and participatory way."

- Jennie Lennick, owner, Jenny Lemons

Investing in the Future

Helping to grow the future of craft is a key part of ACC's mission, and in 2018 we advanced existing programs and created new ones.

The Hip Pop program, which helps emerging artists present their work at shows, saw its first class of makers transition from shared group booths to their own booths. "Joining the ACC Hip Pop program has opened possibilities and my mind to creative work and opportunities I never thought possible. The program put me on a fast track to learning how to truly run my business and how to pitch wholesale to galleries and stores."

— Amy Sun Ah





The School-to-Market program gives student artists and recent graduates a chance to develop marketplace skills in the professional setting of our shows, with support from the Council. ACC provided booths, logistical support, and marketing; our partner schools provided transportation and lodging and handled sales. "What an amazing opportunity the ACC Schoolto-Market was for the students of UW-River Falls art department. The time planning, making, setting up, collaborating, marketing, and selling at ACC St. Paul was simply priceless."

- Mary Rohl, instructor of design, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

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Your Support Matters

The American Craft Council's mission to build and strengthen the craft community informs every aspect of our work and drives every decision. From our award-winning magazine, American Craft, to our shows, attended by tens of thousands of collectors and enthusiasts, to our library, ACC works tirelessly to connect individuals and communities to craft. We couldn't do this without the support and generosity of our members and donors. These are just a few of the ways that your financial support has sustained our work in 2018:



Artists who participated in American Craft Shows in Baltimore, Atlanta, St. Paul, and San Francisco.

212 Emerging artists who participated in the Hip Pop program.

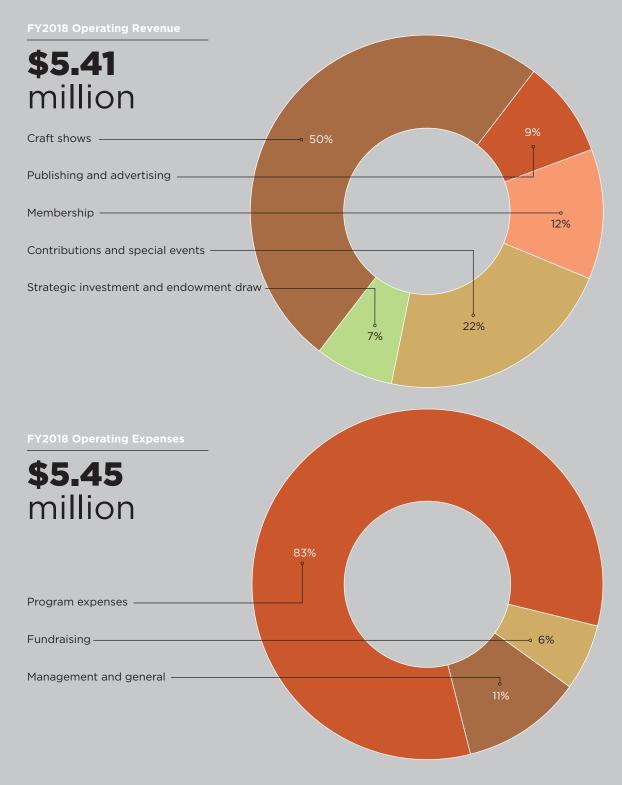
100,000 People who read American Craft magazine.

43,000 People who attended American Craft Shows.

6,223 New ACC members.

\$12 million Total value of transactions at the 2018 American Craft Shows - money that goes directly to artists.





Together, we're investing in the future of craft.

As a nonprofit organization, the Council is fueled by your philanthropic support. Your gifts enable us to promote economic opportunities for artists, create one-of-a-kind learning opportunities for students and emerging makers, introduce new audiences to craft through outreach and partnerships, and recognize the significant contributions of established artists.

The people and organizations on these pages have been generous partners in this effort. 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, 2017, and September 30, 2018. This list includes donations for all purposes, including annual giving, project support, and event sponsorship. Every gift is important, and all of our supporters have our heartfelt thanks. Together, we are making a difference.

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Programs and Partners

Artist Talk & Reception: Jiseon Lee Isbara with Textile Center and Jiseon Lee Isbara

Automatic Creativity with *Buckley* with MAKE TRIBE

Fermentation 101 with GYST Fermentation Bar

Holiday Craft Hop with RSP Architects, Minnesota Jewelry Arts Guild (MNJAG), A Conspiracy of Strange Girls, The Draft Horse, Dangerous Man Brewing Company, Young Joni, and Whole Foods Market

In Conversation with Cynthia Bringle and Jason Busch with Cynthia Bringle and Jason Busch

Knitting and Reading Group with LitKnit

Let's Make Inspiration Stations with American Association of Woodturners American Visionary Art Museum Baltimore Area Turners Baltimore Jewelry Center Callanwolde Fine Arts Center Dirty Beauty Egg|Plant Urban Farm Supply Foci - Minnesota Center for Glass Arts Food Building Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore Georgia Association of Woodturners Just Bakery of Atlanta Mark Melonas MudFire Northern Clay Center Open Works Baltimore Rev Coffee Roasters Salazon Chocolate Co. Sebastian Martorana Serious Jam Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance Textile Center The Balvenie The Beez Kneez Towson University Urban Boatbuilders

Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore Wet Paint

Library Salon Series with Ani Kasten AIGA Minnesota. Teri Kwant. Jennifer Merchant. Brent Stickels, Lynn Tanaka, and Sharon Werner Heather Akou Northeast Bank, Abir Ali, and Andre Sandifer Northeast Bank and Amara Hark Weber Anna Mlasowsky

"On View at ACC: Jiseon Lee Isbara" with Jiseon Lee Isbara

"Step Away from the Screen" panel co-sponsored with AIGA at the AIGA conference

Summer Pop-up Library with American Swedish Institute

Winter Pop-up Library with American Swedish Institute

2018 ACC **Award Winners**

Gold Medal for Consummate Craftsmanship Jun Kaneko

Thomas Hucker Mary Jackson Beth Lipman Consuelo Jimenez Underwood

Award of Distinction

for Philanthropy Marlin Miller

College of Fellows Mark Burns Thomas Gentille

Honorary Fellows Susan Cummins Yoshiko Iwamoto Wada

Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh

Aileen Osborn Webb Award

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