Excellence, Equity, and Education
The American Craft Council’s work in 2017 centered on investing in the future of craft. This goal is a natural one for the Council, as honoring the history and present of the field has always gone hand in hand with shaping the time to come.

The world is changing, and craft must change with it. This is a challenge, but also an opportunity. To thrive, ACC must actively move forward, embracing the new, even as we preserve the best of the old.

Through two of our award programs, we honored the up-and-coming artists who will come to be the field’s lifeblood. The 2017 Emerging Voices Award winners and shortlist artists represent the best of the coming generation. The Rare Craft Fellowship Award, presented in association with The Balvenie, maker of fine Scotch whisky, recognizes masters of time-honored traditions, but those makers, too, are blazing new trails in their areas of expertise.

2017 also saw the debut of American Craft Inquiry, a journal dedicated to exploring craft ideas and issues. With two issues so far and two more on the way in 2018, the journal features long-form writing by a range of artists, craft thinkers, historians, curators, and essayists. Edited by ACC director of education Michael Radyk and beautifully designed by Moon Jung Jang, the journal presents essential thoughts from leaders in the field and fulfills ACC’s goal to advocate for craft as a cultural resource.

ACC is also becoming a leader among arts organizations in the area of equity and inclusion. In June, the board approved an equity statement proclaiming that “the Council will work to create opportunities for creative people from all walks of life.”

For its August/September issue, American Craft magazine examined the access various communities have to craft, along with ways to improve that access. At the end of the year, ACC began working with Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson of Imagine Deliver, who will lead staff in inclusion training over the first few months of 2018.

The way forward for craft involves growing, welcoming, incorporating, and celebrating. We are proud to work at those tasks, and we thank you for your continued support of our mission to champion craft!
We were delighted to honor so many talented makers from across the country this year through two of our awards programs.

**Rare Craft Fellowship Award in association with The Balvenie**

Each year, the ACC and The Balvenie, a heritage whisky brand, team up to honor craftspeople committed to the maintenance and revival of traditional or rare crafts in the United States.

This year’s finalists were shoemaker Amara Hark-Weber (St. Paul, Minnesota), furniture makers Abir Ali and Andre Sandifer of Ali Sandifer (Detroit), fiber artist Janice Arnold (Olympia, Washington), Sandra and Wence Martinez of Martinez Studio (Jacksonport, Wisconsin), and glass and installation artist Emily Nachison (Portland, Oregon).

The finalists were recognized in a ceremony in April in New York, where Hark-Weber was named the 2017 Rare Craft Fellowship Award winner. She journeyed to Scotland in the fall for her Fellowship trip, which included a stop at The Balvenie distillery as well as visits with other shoemakers and craftspeople in the UK.

“Receiving the Rare Craft award has made a tremendous impact on my work as a shoemaker. I reinvested the monetary award back into my shop to create a workspace that is among the best that I have worked in. The new machines and revamped hand tools will last the rest of my life as a shoemaker. Traveling to Scotland and London reaffirmed my commitment to craft by reminding me of the beauty of the handmade and the many ways of being a craftsman and running a workshop. The work itself is often difficult, but the life surrounding the work is infinitely inspiring, and to be reminded of this was a gift that I will continue to unpack for a long time to come.”

— Amara Hark-Weber

**Emerging Voices Awards**

ACC’s biennial Emerging Voices Awards recognize and support the next generation of makers and thinkers in contemporary craft. This year we were pleased to honor Jennifer Ling Datchuk (San Antonio, Texas) as the Emerging Artist and Sarah Parrish (Boston) as the Emerging Scholar.

Also recognized were shortlist artists Hannah Batsel (Chicago), Ted Lott (Cooperstown, New York), Anna Mlasowsky (Seattle), and Gerardo Monterrubio (Los Angeles).

We published a limited-edition print catalogue featuring the work of the nominees and essays by Parrish. You can find an interactive version of the catalogue online.

“As an artist/craftsperson, I always critically examine new work both for design and for content. I look to identify trends within the field, and to explore why certain artists’ voices shine above the others. Our two winners, Jennifer Ling Datchuk and Sarah Parrish, did just that. Datchuk’s work takes porcelain and uses it as a decorative body adornment to address the internal struggles she wages every day as a bicultural clay artist. Parrish, a scholar, uses feminist-based historical research and visual documentation to provide a critical lens on the predominantly female-based field of textiles.”

— Karen Hampton, Emerging Voices juror
Equity and Inclusion

The world is changing, and the United States is growing more diverse. This year, the ACC Board of Trustees decided, after much research and discussion, to demonstrate our commitment to a future that welcomes everyone. In June, the Board unanimously approved this statement:

The American Craft Council is committed to justice, inclusiveness, and equity. Drawing on craft’s rich legacy of openness and its deep roots in all cultures, the Council will work to create opportunities for creative people from all walks of life.

This statement is just the beginning. In the coming year, it will be our touchstone as we make it an integral part of our mission and all of our programs.

“ACC’s work in this area is more important than ever. There are too many issues today that drive people apart. The work of creative communities helps all of us see what we have in common.”

— Stuart Kestenbaum, ACC Board Chair, 2015 – 2017
Your Support Matters

The American Craft Council’s mission – “We champion craft” – 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 craft collectors and enthusiasts to our library and scholarly publication, ACC works tirelessly to connect individuals and communities to craft. We couldn’t do this without the support and generosity of our 24,930 members and donors. These are just a few of the ways that your financial support has sustained our work in 2017:

- 65 number of scholarships for students and emerging professionals to attend ACC’s national conference in Omaha
- 120 number of emerging artists who participate in the Hip Pop program
- 637 number of copies of *American Craft Inquiry* donated to students and academic institutions
- 525 number of items added to the ACC Library
- 7,400 number of people who participated in ACC’s education programs
- $12.5m total value of transactions at the 2017 American Craft Shows – money that goes directly to artists

The American Craft Council’s financial statements are audited annually by certified public accountants CliftonLarsonAllen. Audited financial statements are available upon request.
I have learned so much—Megan Nadeau, development intern

ACC was pleased to host four Windgate Internships. This internship program was created to provide hands-on work experience for emerging craft professionals and to strengthen the field through improved economic opportunities for students. The internships allowed ACC to move forward on projects, and each intern gained new skills and connections.

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 initiatives and partnerships, and recognize the lasting contributions of established artists.

The people and organizations on these pages have been generous partners in this effort. We owe them a debt of deep gratitude for their commitment to the continued vitality and growth of the craft field. This annual report recognizes those who made donations to ACC between October 1, 2016, and September 30, 2017. 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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Windgate Internships

ACC was pleased to host four interns this past summer with funding from the Windgate Charitable Foundation. This internship program was created to provide hands-on work experience for emerging craft professionals and to strengthen the field through improved economic opportunities for students. The internships allowed ACC to move forward on projects, and each intern gained new skills and connections.

“I have learned so much about the nonprofit world and how essential development is to the success of an organization. [ACC] gave me opportunities to help with major solicitations and projects and spent hours educating me on the inner workings of the stages of an organization’s development. I have always been included in the conversation and feel that my professional abilities have been greatly enhanced as well. I truly feel that I became a part of the development team.”

— Megan Nadeau, development intern
I’ve heard nothing but positive feedback about our Step Away from the Screen panel discussion. Working with all of you at ACC was a delight. A big shout-out to everyone on your staff for their exceptional expertise. Every detail was perfect. We are grateful.”

— Kolean Pitner, AIGA Fellow, associate director of archives, AIGA Minnesota

The Intersection of Craft and Design

ACC partnered with AIGA Minnesota to host a discussion and exhibition in our library in conjunction with AIGA’s national conference in Minneapolis this fall. The result was a lively panel of graphic designers who shared thoughts about the value of working in three dimensions, the importance of the tangible as part of the design process, and the creative boost that comes from picking up a tool as a method of creative expression and problem-solving.

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American Craft Council
The organization is fantastic. It allows me to express myself as an artist myself, I would enjoy crafts, and as an artist I would encourage you to join us. We encourage you to join us to celebrate this communal heritage.

The value of our organization and preserving, cultivating, and celebrating this communal heritage. For individuals and communities – the difference that craft makes is as deeply invested in craft as we are. We encourage you to join us at craftcouncil.org/membership.

— Polly Panceo, ACC member
American Craft Council

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ACC has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please contact rmerill@craftcouncil.org if you find an omission or error.

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It's not every day you get a call from the American Craft Council asking if you want to be on their Board of Trustees. For me, that moment was the start of an exciting journey.

As a ceramic artist, I know firsthand the importance of craft education and the impact it can have on individuals and communities. The American Craft Council is dedicated to supporting those who embrace the craft tradition, and I am honored to be a part of their efforts.

The Board of Trustees is an integral part of ACC’s success. They bring a diverse range of expertise and perspectives to the table, ensuring that ACC continues to thrive and innovate.

Being on the Board of Trustees means being committed to the mission of ACC, which is to advance the relevance, vitality, and impact of craft in today’s world. It also means being a mentor and resource for emerging artists and leaders.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to ACC’s mission and look forward to the journey ahead.
Life Trustees

In 2016, ACC created a new distinction to honor the work of past trustees. It is with deep gratitude that we recognize Life Trustees for their extraordinary service, inspirational leadership, and commitment to the American Craft Council.

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