

2025

www.cvART.org

Annual Report

Cuyahoga Valley Art Center



CUYAHOGA VALLEY
ART CENTER

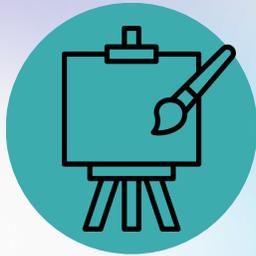
Mission: To foster an appreciation of visual art through education, exhibition, and community enrichment opportunities.

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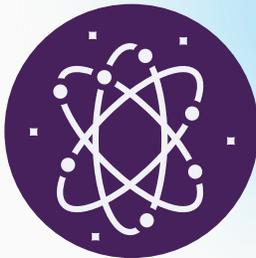
Mission, Vision, Core Values
Letter From The Executive
Key Staff & Board Members
Faculty



Part 1: Program Report

PROGRAMMING IS THE HEART OF CUYAHOGA VALLEY ART CENTER

Through classes, workshops, and exhibitions, we create accessible pathways for learning, creative growth, and professional opportunity. Each program is intentionally designed to serve artists at every stage while maintaining affordability and sustainability. The following pages highlight how these core offerings strengthened our community in 2025.



Part 2: Community Impact

CREATIVITY HAS RIPPLE EFFECTS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

In 2025, CVAC's programs generated measurable cultural value for Summit County through free exhibitions, scholarships, public art, and community partnerships. Operating on a modest budget, we continued to return more to our community than we receive in annual funding. The following pages highlight the broader reach and lasting impact of our work.



Part 3: Financial Stewardship

STRONG COMMUNITY IMPACT REQUIRES RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

CVAC operates with transparency, discipline, and a balanced funding model that combines earned revenue, grants, membership, and community support. Every dollar is carefully allocated to maintain affordability while sustaining long-term stability. The following section provides a clear snapshot of our 2025 financial performance.

Mission

Our mission is to foster an appreciation of visual art through education, exhibition, and community enrichment opportunities.

Vision

We envision a community where everyone has access to visual art opportunities.

Core Values

Commitment to the learning community of practicing artists:

CVAC is committed to serving the learning community of practicing artists by providing diverse educational programs tailored to the unique needs of artists at all skill levels.

Commitment to visual art enrichment opportunities:

CVAC is committed to serving the local community by creating pathways to accessible visual art.

Commitment to networking and learning opportunities:

CVAC is committed to supporting networking and learning opportunities for the visual artist community.

Letter from the Executive Director



“When we look back on 2025, one word rises to the surface: growth – thoughtful, steady, community-centered growth.”

Dear Friends,

This year, Cuyahoga Valley Art Center served more than 1,300 students through classes and workshops, welcomed 636 artists to exhibit their work, and closed the year with 554 members supporting our mission. Across eight exhibitions, 1,354 works of art were submitted, reflecting not only regional participation but a growing confidence in CVAC as a place where artists are supported and seen.

With an annual operating budget of just under \$290,000, CVAC generated an estimated \$405,700 in measurable cultural value for Summit County. That impact includes free exhibitions, affordable classes priced intentionally below market rates, scholarship support, school and library partnerships, and public art that reaches tens of thousands of people each day.

We continue to operate as a grassroots organization rooted in accessibility. We believe art education should be welcoming. Exhibitions should be attainable. Community spaces should be safe and vibrant. Every decision we make – from keeping entry fees low to modernizing our systems responsibly – reflects that commitment.

None of this happens in isolation. It happens because artists teach here. Students return session after session. Members renew their support. Donors invest. Volunteers give their time. Together, we are building something durable and meaningful.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on sustainability – strengthening infrastructure, maintaining affordability, and ensuring that CVAC remains a place where creativity thrives for years to come.

Yours in Art,
Danielle M. Dieterich, M.A.



Key Staff



Kayla Billings,
Programs Manager

In 2025, Kayla Billings served as CVAC's Programs Manager, playing a key role in coordinating our classes, workshops, exhibitions, and scholarship initiatives while helping ensure that our programming remained accessible, welcoming, and responsive to the needs of our creative community. Her leadership, compassion, and ability to connect with artists and students strengthened the overall experience for those we serve and contributed meaningfully to CVAC's continued growth. In recognition of her impact and expanding leadership, Kayla was promoted to Director of Programming & Community Relations effective January 1, 2026, reflecting both her dedication and CVAC's ongoing investment in strong organizational leadership and community engagement.

In 2025, Kit Palencar continued to serve as CVAC's Exhibitions Manager, bringing exceptional leadership, artistic expertise, and vision to one of the most visible and impactful areas of our organization. Kit oversees the coordination and presentation of our eight annual exhibitions, supporting hundreds of artists each year and ensuring that every exhibition is presented with professionalism, care, and respect for the artists we serve. Kit teaches drawing and watercolor at CVAC, sharing his deep technical knowledge and thoughtful approach with students at all levels. His ability to support artists, whether exhibiting their work for the first time or advancing their technical skills in the classroom, strengthens the artistic excellence and welcoming spirit that define CVAC.



Kit Palencar,
Exhibitions Manager

2025 Board Members

Noreen Molek, President

Marcia Stauffer, Vice President

Leora Cohen, Secretary

Tom Baldwin, Treasurer

Cris Drugan

Joe Locala

Chris Kaboth

Ed Monaco

FACULTY



Amanda Bacon,
Ceramics
Clay Studio Assistant



Tom Baldwin,
Bird Carving



Deanna Clucas,
Drawing



Mark Giangaspero,
Open Studio
Portriature



Amy Gibson,
Oil Painting



Sally Heston,
Watercolor Painting



Linda Hutchinson,
Oil Painting
Watercolor Painting



Jack Liberman,
Oil Painting



Beth Lindenberger,
Ceramics
Clay Studio Manager



Susan Mencini,
Fluid Acrylic Painting



Mo Mosyjowski,
Mixed Media
Watercolor Painting



Kit Palencar,
Acrylic Painting
Drawing



Jamie Stewart-Coley,
Kids Classes

CVAC's faculty are the foundation of our programming and a vital part of our mission. We intentionally employ practicing artists from within our community – individuals who are actively creating, exhibiting, and contributing to the regional arts landscape. By investing directly in working artists, we strengthen both artistic education and the local creative economy. Our faculty bring technical skill, lived experience, and creative leadership into every classroom, ensuring that students learn not only techniques, but what it means to sustain an artistic practice.

Part 1: Program Report

Classes & Workshops

Classes and workshops are the foundation of CVAC's mission. In 2025, we delivered more than 2,400 hours of art instruction through small, personalized classes designed to support beginners and practicing artists alike. More than 1,300 students participated in over 150 classes and workshops, with enrollment consistently exceeding our sustainability benchmarks. By intentionally pricing classes approximately 30% below regional market rates and maintaining small class sizes (averaging 10 students, capped at 14), we ensure that high-quality arts education remains accessible, personal, and community-centered.

1,300+
students

150+
classes &
workshops

54
scholarships



Part 1: Program Report

Classes & Workshops

Access alone, however, is not enough — sustainability matters. In 2025, 54 scholarships valued at over \$6,500 were awarded to reduce financial barriers, while \$60,000+ was invested directly into 15 local practicing artists employed as faculty. A 2024 student survey showed that 79% of respondents took more than one class, and 70% were returning students — clear evidence that participants are not only enrolling, but staying engaged. This balance of affordability, retention, and reinvestment into local artists strengthens both our creative community and the long-term health of the organization.

30%
Below Comparable
Regional Class Rates

15
Local Practicing
Artists Employed

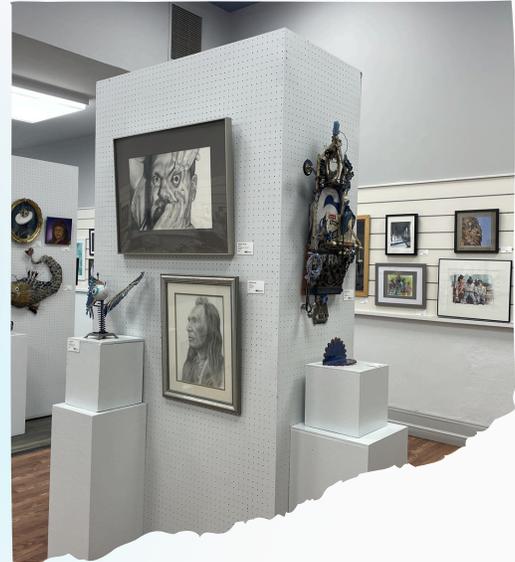
\$60,000+
Invested in Teaching
Artists in 2025



Part 1: Program Report

Gallery Exhibitions

CVAC's exhibition program provides one of the most accessible and consistent professional exhibition opportunities in the region. In 2025, 636 artists submitted 1,354 works across eight annual exhibitions. From those submissions, 751 pieces were displayed, and 102 awards totaling \$4,400 were distributed in recognition of artistic excellence. Participation spanned 14 counties and 71 cities across Ohio. Entry fees are intentionally kept low to remove financial barriers and ensure that artists at all stages can participate in a professional juried setting.



636
Artists Entered
in 2025

1,354
Works
Submitted

459
Artists Displayed



Part 1: Program Report

Gallery Exhibitions

Beyond numbers, our exhibitions serve as an educational gateway into the professional art world. Unlike institutions that rely solely on digital platforms and juried decisions based on photographs, CVAC maintains an in-person submission model. Artists learn how to read and follow a prospectus, prepare their work for exhibition, and navigate the full lifecycle of professional display. We provide flexibility in drop-off and pick-up because we understand that artists are balancing careers, families, and creative practice. This approach strengthens not only participation, but professional development — helping artists build experience, confidence, and résumé credentials within a supportive community environment.



751
Works Displayed
Across 8 Exhibitions

102
Awards
Distributed

Submissions
from 14 Counties
& 71 Cities



Part 2: Community Impact

Impact Report

In 2025, CVAC generated an estimated **\$305,700 in direct cultural value** through free exhibitions, subsidized classes, scholarships, public art, and community partnerships. When including the visibility impact of our public art installations and measurable outreach efforts, total community impact reached approximately **\$405,700**. With an annual operating budget of just under \$290,000, this represents a return of **\$1.45 in direct value for every \$1 invested** in the organization.



Estimated Direct Cultural Value: \$305,700 Community Access & Public Engagement

- All City Art Walk Cultural Access: \$100,000
- Free Public Exhibitions: \$80,000

Education & Youth Investment

- Library Children's Programming: \$32,000
- Public School Support: \$20,700

Affordability & Financial Access

- Subsidized Class Pricing: \$54,500
- Scholarships Awarded: \$6,500

Community Outreach

- Community Events & Cultural Outreach: \$12,000



Part 2: Community Impact

Impact Report

This calculation reflects only direct cultural value. According to Americans for the Arts' Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) model, nonprofit arts organizations typically generate an additional 2:1 return in indirect economic and social benefits – including local spending, increased foot traffic, and strengthened community wellbeing. When applying this nationally recognized multiplier, **CVAC's broader community impact is estimated at nearly \$2.86 in value for every dollar invested**, demonstrating how grassroots arts infrastructure strengthens the social and economic fabric of Summit County.

\$305,700
Direct Cultural
Value Generated

\$405,700
Total Community
Impact

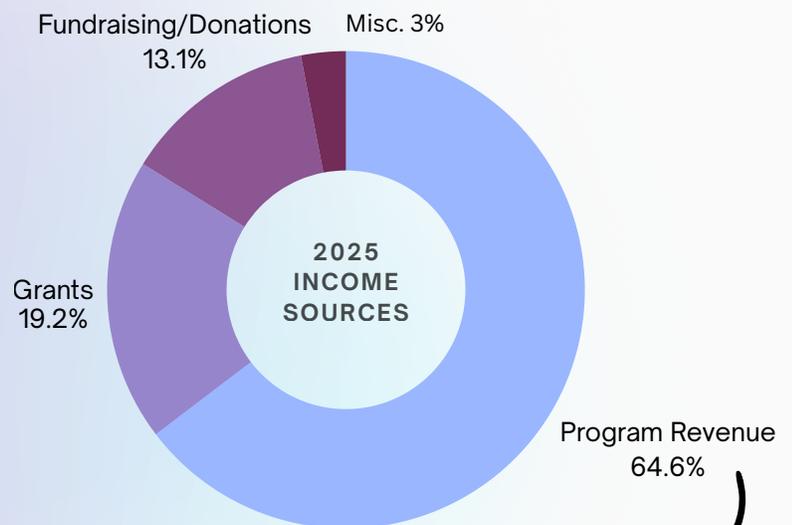
\$1.45
Returned for Every
\$1 Invested



Part 3: Financial Stewardship

2025 Income Report

In 2025, CVAC generated 64% of its revenue through earned program income — primarily from classes, workshops, and exhibitions — reflecting a disciplined and entrepreneurial operating model. At the same time, grants and charitable contributions provided critical support, accounting for 32% of total revenue. While earned income sustains day-to-day programming, contributed support allows us to intentionally keep class tuition approximately 30% below regional market rates, provide scholarships, host free public exhibitions, and invest in equipment and facilities. CVAC works hard to earn its revenue — but **community investment ensures that access, affordability, and mission impact remain at the center of everything we do.**



Program Revenue Distribution

Classes & Workshops

87%

Exhibitions

13%

Earned revenue sustains programming operations, but contributed support ensures affordability, scholarships, equipment renewal, and free public access remain possible.

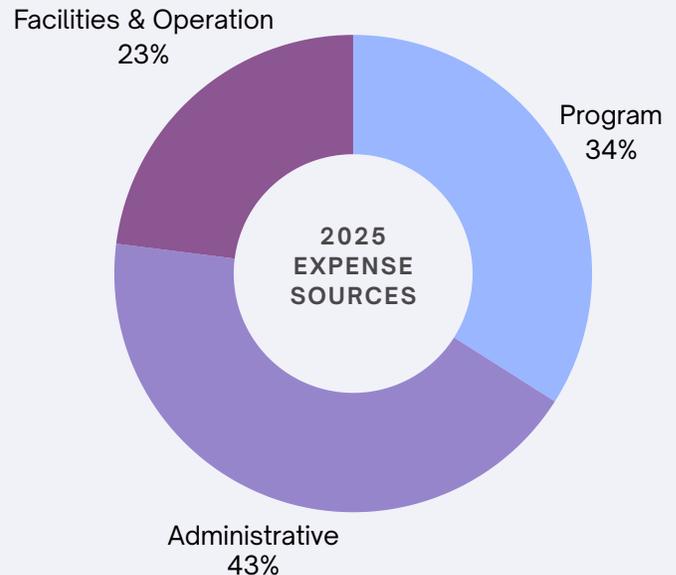


Part 3: Financial Stewardship

2025 Expense Report

In 2025, CVAC invested the majority of its expenses directly into program delivery and the people who make that programming possible. Approximately 34% of total expenses supported direct program services — including instructional programming, exhibitions, scholarships, and grant-funded initiatives — with an additional 23% allocated to facilities and operations necessary to maintain a safe and accessible learning environment.

Administrative expenses primarily reflect staffing required for financial management, fundraising, compliance, and daily oversight. As a community-based arts organization, our largest investment is in people — particularly practicing artists and staff who deliver high-quality programming to more than 1,300 students and thousands of annual visitors each year. **This expense structure reflects a mission-driven organization prioritizing sustainability, access, and long-term community impact.**



Program + Facilities Costs

56%

Mission Aligned Expenses

A significant portion of administrative payroll supports program oversight, fundraising, compliance, and financial management necessary to sustain and grow programming.



Part 3: Financial Stewardship

2025 Financial Snapshot

Total Revenue
\$332,400

Total Expense
\$332,144

Operating Net
+\$296

In 2025, CVAC operated in alignment with budget projections, generating \$332,440 in revenue against \$332,144 in expenses. The year-end adjustment reflects a one-time boiler replacement expense of \$13,766 — an extraordinary capital repair that was not part of the operating forecast. Excluding this unexpected infrastructure cost, the organization maintained a balanced operating position.

Reserves and designated funds remained intact, and no transfers were required to absorb the boiler replacement. This reflects disciplined financial management and long-term planning.



\$230,315
Year-End Cash Position

\$141,782
Designated Funds in
Money Markey

One-Time Capital Expense
\$13,766, Boiler Replacement
Restricted Project Funding
(Not Operating Revenue)
\$25,000, Public Art Grant



Invest in Creativity. Strengthen Community.

For nearly a decade, Cuyahoga Valley Art Center has grown intentionally by expanding access, supporting practicing artists, and strengthening cultural life in our community while operating with discipline and care.

From 1,300 students served and 636 artists exhibiting, to more than \$400,000 in measurable annual community impact, **CVAC continues to prove that grassroots arts infrastructure matters.**

Our work is sustained through a balanced model of earned income and community support. While tuition and exhibition participation generate a strong foundation, **charitable contributions make accessibility possible** — keeping class costs affordable, funding scholarships, maintaining safe facilities, and ensuring free public exhibitions remain available to all.

An investment in CVAC is an investment in working artists, young learners, creative adults, and the cultural vitality of Summit County. Every dollar contributed strengthens programming, deepens impact, and ensures that art remains accessible for generations to come. **We invite you to join us in this work.**

How to Show Your Support

**Make A
Donation**

**Become A
Member**

**Take A
Class**

**Share Our
Work**

Visit **www.cvART.org** to learn how you can make a difference.

Make a gift today. Support creativity. Sustain community.