

**2024  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



WHIDBEY  
• ISLAND •  
**ARTS**  
COUNCIL

# OUR BOARD

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Whidbey Island Arts Council continues its mission to foster a community of culture by providing foundational support and advocacy for artists and arts organizations on Whidbey Island. Our core values include:

- **Relevance:** Promoting broad influence, leadership, and collaboration.
- **Community:** Building diverse and multidisciplinary connections.
- **Equity:** Prioritizing visibility for all groups.
- **Sustainability:** Fostering wise, impactful, and responsive growth.
- **Aesthetics:** Recognizing all art forms and artistic traditions that enable full and meaningful creative expression.

WIAC offers fiscal sponsorship to emerging arts organizations, providing them with 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. This allows these organizations to seek tax-deductible donations and grants. WIAC also offers monthly bookkeeping reports and annual tax preparation services.

WIAC is governed by an amazing and dedicated board of directors comprising local artists and community leaders. The board includes individuals with diverse backgrounds in visual arts, performing arts, and community development, all committed to the prosperity of Whidbey Island's arts community.

David Hundley  
President  
Whidbey Island Arts Council

PAST-PRESIDENT - KATRINA HUDE

PRESIDENT - DAVID HUNDLEY

SECRETARY/TREASURER - BRITT MCKENZIE

ARTS IN EDUCATION - THERESE KINGSBURY/JORDAN JONES

PROGRAMS COORDINATOR - BECK DIAMOND

IT SUPPORT - QUINN COX

MEMBER AT LARGE - TEKLA CUNNINGHAM

MEMBER AT LARGE - JANE FUNG

MEMBER AT LARGE - CHRISTIAN HAMMER

MEMBER AT LARGE - ALICIA ELLIOT

MEMBER AT LARGE - SUZ SHWETZ

MEMBER AT LARGE - SHARON SAPPINGTON

**Whidbey Island  
Arts Council  
2024 Board  
of Directors**

# OUR MISSION

The Whidbey Island Arts Council fosters local artists and arts organizations through grants, fiscal management and sponsorship to provide outreach and awareness of the arts and culture on Whidbey Island.



## Relevance

local art isn't extra, it's essential

## Community

supporting artists means supporting the whole community



## Equity

we offer access to resources usually only available to established non-profits

## Sustainability

we provide behind-the-scenes support for creative work



## Aesthetics

we believe art provides transformative and meaningful experiences

## Accessibility

we aim to remove financial and logistical barriers to participation in the arts with our programs



## Autonomy with Accountability

you can follow your own path with us

In compliance with Washington State law, Whidbey Island Arts Council and its umbrella organizations shall not discriminate against a person on the grounds of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, creed, marital status, age, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, honorably discharged veteran or military status or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability.



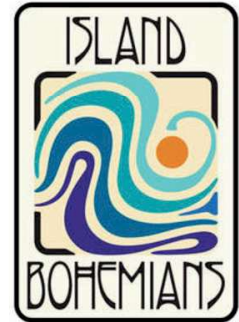
## CREATE SPACE LANGLEY

Create Space Langley became a part of WIAC in October 2024. Located at the South Whidbey Community Center, we provide low-cost arts classes for adults to help build community and provide the life enhancing benefits of creative

expression. This year, 1200 people participated in classes in watercolor, ukulele, collage, book making, free-style weaving, creative writing, drawing, learning to read music, community choir and much more. All in all, we provided 8,400 hours of class instruction. We are a volunteer run program, and our highly skilled arts teachers work for a stipend as a donation to our community. We charge \$5 per class hour, and to make our classes accessible to all, we invite people with financial hardship to pay as they are able. You can sign up for classes at [www.createspacelangley.org](http://www.createspacelangley.org)

## ISLAND BOHEMIANS

Island Bohemians is an inclusive and dynamic community on Whidbey Island, currently boasting 1,200 members, all of whom are residents of the island. This community is tailored for creative professionals engaged in a variety of fields, including visual arts, music, literature/poetry, theater/film, dance, fine craft, design, culinary arts, and botanical arts. We would love to have your ideas for some new events. Send those ideas to Barb Mosher. [Barbmosher.artist@gmail.com](mailto:Barbmosher.artist@gmail.com).



a public program sponsored by  
Whidbey Island Arts Council

## ISLAND STRINGS



**ISLAND  
STRINGS**

EST 1974

Island Strings is dedicated to creating opportunities and access to stringed instrument education for young Whidbey Island students of violin, viola, cello and double bass. Joining WIAC as a sponsored program in April 2024, Island Strings created a website including all-island retail and educational resources for strings; held two group sessions for beginning violin study, for ages 9-12; employed and trained two high school interns as classroom teaching assistants; and extended four scholarships to Whidbey families in need of assistance with their child's instrument rental or tuition.

Contact Cynthia Albers [contact@islandstrings.org](mailto:contact@islandstrings.org)



## LANGLEY ARTS FUND

Langley Arts Fund (LAF) nurtures and supports local artists and community creative endeavors by conceiving of, commissioning, purchasing, and installing significant public art, including: Hope the Wishing Whale (artist Georgia Gerber) at Whale Bell Park, the Langley Loaned Sculpture Program, and art-wrapped utility boxes. 2024: LAF commissioned and funded Melissa Koch's stunning Wishing Wall, purchased new sculptures for Clyde Alley, AND conceived, funded and constructed a new art gallery! Uprise Gallery at South Whidbey Community Center, for youth art and local artists without gallery representation. Coming soon: A new name and broader geographic area for our work. Stay tuned! [langleyartsfund.org](http://langleyartsfund.org)

## MEANDER DANCE COLLECTIVE

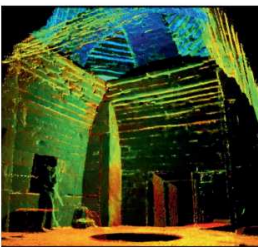
Meander Dance Collective was formed in 2021 to create a space for adult dance artists to practice their art. We support the creation of new work and provide an annual outdoor concert on beautiful Whidbey Island. Rehearsal space and production costs are covered to ensure equal access for our community of dancers. 2024 was Meander Dance Collective's fourth year running its summer dance concert series. We were excited to bring in our first off-Island choreographer, Saulyman Corr. We had such a great time learning afro-house! Thank you, Sauly! [meanderdancecollective.com](http://meanderdancecollective.com)



## SOUNDSPACE AT EARTH SANCTUARY



EARTH SANCTUARY



We are building a monumental work of art at Earth Sanctuary on Whidbey Island designed to inspire sound and musical exploration, spiritual growth, and healing experiences. SoundSpace will be a chambered mound that evokes feelings of connection, peace, and wonder through the power of sound. Such a sacred place has not been created anywhere in the world for thousands of years. We are currently raising funding through tax-deductible donations made through the Whidbey Island Arts Council. If you are intrigued and want to learn more

about getting involved, visit [earthsanctuary.org/soundspace/](http://earthsanctuary.org/soundspace/) or contact Chuck Pettis at [cpettis@earthsanctuary.org](mailto:cpettis@earthsanctuary.org)

WHIDBEY  
*art market*

## WHIDBEY ART MARKET

In 2024, the Whidbey Art Market (WAM) advanced its mission of connecting with art enthusiasts and highlighting independent creatives by hosting three successful events: a one-day show at Coupeville Rec Hall on Mother's Day, a two-day outdoor Holiday Market at Greenbank Cidery, and a two-day Holiday Showcase at Freeland Hall. With an estimated 1,500 total attendees, 1,200 of whom attended the Holiday events, WAM effectively attracted visitors through Drewslist, Instagram, and Facebook. These events provided a platform for a diverse group of artists and created a vibrant, welcoming space for the community to experience the creativity of these local artists and craftspeople. Contact Michelle at [hello@whidbeyartmarket.com](mailto:hello@whidbeyartmarket.com).

## WHIDBEY ART TRAIL

The Whidbey Art Trail is a year-round, self-guided tour of 20 working studios, galleries, and sculpture parks across scenic Whidbey Island. Designed to connect visitors with the island's thriving arts community, the trail features a wide range of mediums—from painting and pottery to sculpture and basketry. Each stop offers a glimpse into the creative process and the chance to meet the artists themselves. Funded by artist fees, sponsors, and donations, the trail is supported by a printed map, brochure, and easy-to-navigate website to guide your visit. [whidbeyarttrail.com](http://whidbeyarttrail.com)



## WHIDBEY ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL



Whidbey Island  
**Music Festival**

This season was a joyful, soul-nourishing journey through centuries of music. Highlights included stirring Bach cantatas with audience sing-alongs, sparkling Mozart and Mendelssohn quintets, and a spirited C elidh in a historic barn. We explored Handel's harp arias, danced through Yoga in the Barn, and brought history to life with The Harpsichord Diaries. Our Day of Historical Keyboards offered hands-on discovery, while Dutch Masters paired baroque gems with visual art. The Beggar Boys returned for a festive Celtic Christmas, and winter/spring brought emotional depth with Schumann and Biber, and a lively tribute to the Bach family's musical legacy. [whidbeyislandmusicfestival.org](http://whidbeyislandmusicfestival.org)

## WHIDBEY ISLAND SCULPTURE EXPERIENCE

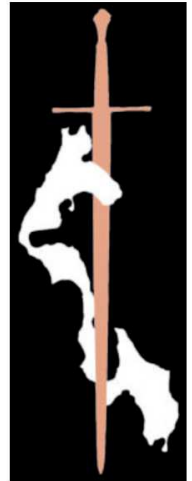


The Creators of WISE invite you to step into a world where art and nature meet in wild, whimsical harmony. In 2024, the Whidbey Island Sculpture Experience hosted stone carving classes for kids and adults, joined a fundraiser for the Oak Harbor Education Foundation, welcomed nearly 200 visitors, and added more sculpture to the land. We've been busy with trail work, storm cleanup, and dreaming up fun partnerships for 2025. As always, we are open by appointment and can be found on Facebook and at [www.wise.fun](http://www.wise.fun). Come for a tour—it's free, with donations accepted. Barefoot trails and surprises await!

## WHIDBEY SWORDPLAY ASSOCIATION

In 2024, the Whidbey Swordplay Association proudly introduced Whidbey Island's first Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA) club, beginning with the art of the longsword. Since then, we've grown into a vibrant community with over 20 active members, expanding our teachings to include polearms, sword & buckler, smallsword, roundel, and more.

Our members now have the opportunity to immerse themselves in authentic combat techniques from the medieval era to the Renaissance and beyond. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced practitioner, we invite you to join us and experience the rich history and excitement of HEMA firsthand. [whidbeyswordplayassociation.com](http://whidbeyswordplayassociation.com)



## WHIDBEY WORKING ARTISTS

Whidbey Working Artists celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024—a major milestone for this beloved island-wide studio tour. What began with a handful of artists has grown into a vibrant, diverse collective representing creatives across Whidbey. This year also marked the first tour without our founder, Kay Parsons, and we're proud to carry her vision forward. Over 60 artists participated, welcoming visitors into their studios to explore everything from textiles and woodwork to sculpture, painting, and photography. The tour continues to spark curiosity, build connections, and shine a light on the incredible talent that makes Whidbey an artist's haven. [whidbeyworkingartists.com](http://whidbeyworkingartists.com)

## 2024: A Year of Steady Work and Shared Effort

### Connecting Through the Arts

In 2024, the Whidbey Island Arts Council kept our arts and culture calendar active and free to the public, with monthly newsletters and member updates. We renewed our partnership with Cascade PBS, began a new collaboration with Whidbey Life Magazine, and supported outreach for local events. An all-members picnic and several open meetings created space to connect.

### Support for Programs and People

We welcomed new leadership with Working Whidbey Artists and adopted four new sponsored programs: Island Strings, Create Space Langley, Sound Space, and Whidbey Swordplay Association. As the Zakin Apprenticeship program concluded with its leader's retirement, we commissioned a story honoring its legacy. A new memorial grant was also created in honor of Kay Parson to support international cultural exchange.

### Resources and Access

A grant from the Whidbey Community Foundation helped us rebuild our website and calendar on a more responsive platform. The Community Accelerator Grant supported 5 juried member grants and funded the Zakin story. Lodging Tax Advisory Committee grants in 2024 and 2025 helped promote events that draw off-island visitors, with most funds going directly to qualifying programs.

### Collaboration and Celebration

We hosted a public Word Salad event for Earth Day, featuring visiting performance artists, Meander Dance Collective, musical guests Puff & Scrub, and a small silent auction. Arts in Education held art classes with Big Brothers Big Sisters and a tie-dye party for 60 participants. We aim to keep participation in the arts joyful and accessible.

### Behind the Scenes

We filed taxes, reviewed contracts and procedures, and brought on new board members and advisors. Membership grew by 23% this year, helping sustain our operations and pay our part-time contracted admin team. While some grants were awarded and others not, we continue to seek funding that supports creativity on the island.

### Thank You

To everyone who created, attended, volunteered, donated, or helped in any way this year—thank you. You make Whidbey's creative life thrive.

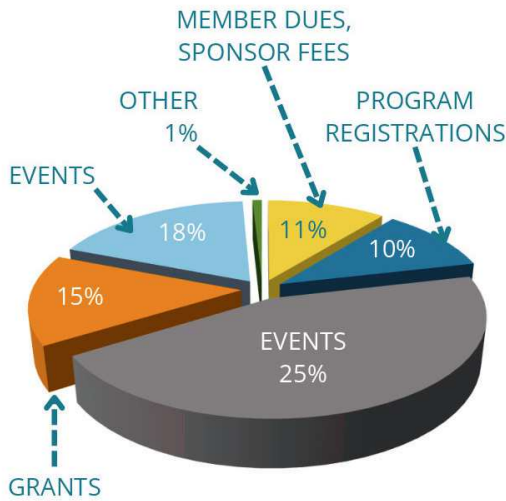


# OVERVIEW

# FINANCES

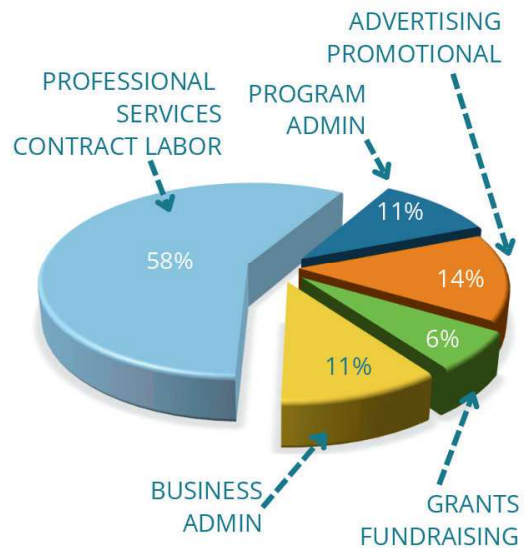
## 2024 INCOME \$248,000

Program and administrative income grew by 68% in 2024, up from \$147,291 in 2023. Donations, now 45% of total income, showed strong community support, while member dues remained steady at 11%. This growth reflects the success and impact of our sponsored programs and the dedicated work of all involved.



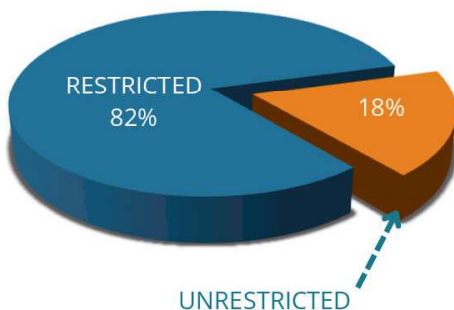
## 2024 EXPENSES \$238,700

Most spending in 2024—58%—went toward professional services and contract labor, directly supporting the work of the programs. Advertising costs decreased, while investment in grants and fundraising grew. Overall, the numbers reflect stronger economic support for the people doing the work and more efficient use of shared resources.



## TOTAL FUNDS \$146,808

In 2024, 82% of total spending went directly to programs, up from 77% the year before. That means a smaller share went to administrative costs—proof that more of our resources are going where they're needed most: to the people making the art happen. With this year's growth in unrestricted funds, we're looking at how best to support that work—whether through grants, contracted help, or shared tools that lighten the lift for everyone.



# LOOKING FORWARD

## WIAC Goals for 2025

Doing the work, making it matter, keeping it joyful!

### Stay Connected and Celebrate

We'll create a few opportunities throughout the year for members to gather, share ideas, and connect—whether through informal meetups or community events.

### Make Participation Smoother

We'll continue streamlining systems to better support Sponsored Programs and members—removing unnecessary hurdles and offering clearer guidance where it's needed.

### Support Creative Work

We'll continue Member Grants and move forward with the Kay Parson Memorial Scholarship, helping artists pursue new work, collaborations, and public engagement.

### Show Up and Promote Our Community

WIAC will maintain a visible presence at local events and online, sharing updates, inviting participation, and working toward a web presence that reflects our purpose and people.

### Broaden Engagement

We'll expand our advisory panel and keep reaching out to include a wider range of artists and community voices—especially those who haven't always felt represented or included.

### Keep Space for Joy and Experimentation

We'll protect room for creative risk-taking, collaboration, and play—supporting work that may not be finished or formal, but is meaningful and alive.

# GET INVOLVED

## New Members:

Want to be part of something creative and community-minded? Whidbey Island Arts Council welcomes individual artists, families, supporters, and local businesses into our membership. Members get personal listings, event promotion, and a monthly cultural guide—plus a chance to shape and participate in the arts community here on Whidbey. Whether you make art or just love being around it, there's a place for you.

Questions? Reach out to us at [info@islandartscouncil.org](mailto:info@islandartscouncil.org).

## Volunteers:

If you're curious about how the arts come together behind the scenes, we'd love your help. Whidbey Island Arts Council volunteers pitch in on events, outreach, and all kinds of creative projects. It's a great way to build skills, meet people, and support artists across the island. You don't have to be an expert—just bring a little time and a willingness to jump in.

Email [info@islandartscouncil.org](mailto:info@islandartscouncil.org) to learn more.

## Donations:

Every contribution, big or small, helps keep the creative energy flowing. When you give to Whidbey Island Arts Council or one of our Sponsored Programs, you're helping artists share their work, kids access music lessons, new ideas take shape, and community events come to life. It's all part of making the arts accessible and active on Whidbey. Donations can be one-time or ongoing—whatever works for you.

Get in touch at [info@islandartscouncil.org](mailto:info@islandartscouncil.org) if you'd like to learn more or support a specific program.

Support the arts on  
Whidbey Island



# THANK

# YOU



With your help, Whidbey Island Arts Council continues to grow, adapt, and support the creative spirit of Whidbey Island. We're grateful to do this work alongside you.

## 2024 DONORS

ANONYMOUS X 14  
ALICIA ELLIOT  
BRITT MCKENZIE  
DEBORAH MONTGOMERIE  
KATHARINE PETER-KIRK  
KATRINA HUDE

KIM STOKELY  
KIM TINUVIEL  
LINDSEY STRAND POLYAK  
MARIE DRYDEN  
PAT DORSEY

## IN-KIND PARTNERSHIPS



## AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM



## CONTACT US:

PO Box 197  
Greenbank, Washington 98253  
info@islandartscouncil.org  
WIAC is a non profit 501(c)(3)  
91-1147736  
All donations are tax deductible

