ARTISTS ARCHIVES OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

Annual Report 2021
Presented at the Annual Members Meeting

May 6, 2022 5:00 p.m.

2021 Board of Directors

Stuart Pearl, President
Jocelyn Ruf, Vice President
David Joranko, Treasurer
Le Heinen, Secretary

Philip Bautista
Stephen Bucchieri
Ryn Clarke
Rota Sackerlotzky
John Sargent III
Patricia Triggs

Mindy Tousley Executive Director
Megan Alves Marketing & Program Manager
Kelly Pontoni Registrar

Founder
David E. Davis (1920 - 2002)
Mission Statement

The Artists Archives of the Western Reserve is a unique archival facility and regional museum that preserves representative bodies of work by Ohio visual artists and through ongoing research, exhibition and educational programs, actively documents and promotes this cultural heritage for the benefit of the public.

Archived Artists

Margaret Arthur
Herb Ascherman Jr.
Harriet Moore Ballard
Lawrence Baker
Karen Beckwith
Ruth Bercaw
Roy Bigler (1956 - 2014)
Paula Blackman
June Bonner (1919 - 2016)
Augusto Bordelois
Paul-Henri Bourguignon (1906 - 1988)
Ginna Brand
Denise Buckley
Samuel Butnik (1920 - 2004)
Marita Burger (1928 - 2006)
Shirley Aley Campbell (1925 - 2018)
John Clague (1928 - 2004)
Elaine Albers Cohen
David E. Davis (1920 - 2002)
Dexter Davis
Bette Drake
Bonnie Dolin
Wayne Draxnin (1950 - 2001)
Terry Durst
Anthony Eterovich (1916 - 2011)
Mary Lou Ferbert
Barbara Gillette
Dale Goode
Morton Grossman (1926 - 1988)
David Haberman (1938 - 2021)
Gerte Hacker (1911 - 2000)
Lee Heinens
Miller Horns (1948 - 2012)
John Barlow Hudson
John Jackson (1955 - 2006)
William Martin Jean
Robert Jergens
Jennie Jones
Marvin Jones (1940 - 2005)
Ron Joranko (1935 - 2008)
Rebecca Kaler
David Kaplan (1915-2011)
Kestutis Kizevicius (1952 - 1997)
Terry Klausman
George Kocar
Jean Kondo Weigl
Suzan Kraus
Mark Krieger
Mario Kujawski (1944 - 2013)
Charlotte Lees
Baila Litton
Michelangelo Lovelace (1960 - 2021)
Adele Marihätt (1945 - 2010)
Joseph McCullough (1922 - 2012)
Kathleen McKenna
Chuck Mintz
Bea Mitchell
Gail Newman (1930 - 2008)
Elise Newman (1922 - 2018)
Ken Nevadomi
Algesa O'Sickey (1917 - 2006)
Joseph O'Sickey (1918 - 2013)
Jeannette Palsa
Patricia Zinsmeister Parker
Moses Pearl (1917 - 2003)
Stuart Pearl
Gloria Plevin
Arabella Proffer
Sid Rheuban (1924 - 2020)
Ingeborg Richter (1933 - 2020)
Bess Rodriguez Richard
George Roby (1936 - 2018)
Thomas Roese
Anita Rogoff (1919 - 2015)
Charles Salle (1911 - 2006)
Phyllis Seltzer
Newson Shewitz (1922 - 2014)
Kathy Skerritt (1957 - 2021)
Phyllis Sloane (1921 - 2009)
Marvin Smith (1932 - 2006)
Jean Sommer
Marsha Sweet
Marilyn Szalay (1950 - 2012)
Judy Takács
Randall Tiedman (1949 - 2012)
Kathleen Totter (1931 - 2020)
Mindy Tousley
Nancy Underhill
Douglas Max Utter
Evelyn Svec Wider (1921 - 1989)
William Ward (1922 - 2004)
Roger Welchans

Kathy Skerritt, 2017 Members Exhibition

Kathy Skerritt, Watershed (The Earth is a Realm), 2017, mixed media on canvas, 36 x 36"
President Stuart Pearl

Pearl is a lifelong Clevelander whose love of his native city has informed his photography since he was a child. His photos have been included in juried exhibitions throughout Ohio. He has served on the AAWR Board since 2013 and was elected President in 2019. He is the son of Archived Artist Moses Pearl.

AAWR proudly announces its board members

Dave Joranko has served on the board since 2011 and was formerly the Vice President and chair of the Legacy Committee. He is a retired partner from Ernst & Young LLP where he specialized in corporate and international taxation. He is also the son of Archived Artist Ronald J. Joranko.

Secretary Lee Heinen has been a member of the board since 2000. She serves on the Peer Review and the Legacy committees. Heinen is an Archived Artist whose work was chosen for display in the Ohio Governor’s Mansion in 2016, and she was the recipient of an OAC Award for Individual excellence in 2017. Heinen was the former Gallery Coordinator for the In Town Club, and present coordinator for the Moreland Courts Gallery.

Vice President Jocelyn Ruf is a retired former Key Bank Senior Executive and Line of Business Manager. She is a long time community activist and supporter of the arts, and is a member of the CMA Women’s Council, a member of the Intown club and the CMA Print Club. She currently serves on several philanthropic boards. She is a member of the AAWR Legacy Committee and the 2021 Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Philip Bautista is a lawyer and partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, practicing in the areas of intellectual property and litigation. Phil advises both individuals and institutional clients on the management, protection, and licensing of their intellectual property. Bautista served previously as Treasurer and Board President.
Patricia Triggs is a professional educator, formerly connected to the CMDS School System, as well as GSU. She is former President of the Urban League Guild of Greater Cleveland and a proud charter member of CMA's Friends of African and African American Art where she serves on the board as the Events Coordinator. In 2019 Mrs. Triggs sat on the Steering Committee of the seenUNseen AAWR Exhibition.

John Sargent III
A board member since 2013, John is a working artist who was included in the 2013 Venice Biennial. His work is in collections both private and corporate throughout the U.S. Sargent is the recipient of an OAC grant for Individual Artistic Excellence for 2015. John is Chair of the Exhibition Committee and installs many of the AAWR shows.

Rota Sackerlotzky is the longest serving director on the AAWR board. She has served since 2008 and is part of the Legacy Committee as well as the Peer Review Committee. She is an art historian, writer and curator who has been a great proponent of Ohio artists. She and Roger Welchs collaborated in producing the catalog of our Archived Artists, "The Archives Speaks" in 2014.

Thank you to the board for their volunteer hours!

Stephen Bucchieri graduated with a degree in Architecture from Pittsburgh's Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie - Mellon University) and he is the 1991 recipient of a Cleveland Arts Prize. Since the establishment of Bucchieri Architects in 1967, Stephen has produced award winning, modern work through a design process that draws inspiration from minimalist principles.

Al Cowger joined the board in the fall of 2020. He is the owner and President of his own law office and acts as legal counsel to small and medium size business, as well as a consultant relating to trademarks, copyrights, IP licensing and product development. He is the former Editor in Chief of the Canada-Us Law Journal, and the Editor of the CWRU Journal of International Law, as well as a published author.

Ryn Clarke is a visual artist, photographer and educator. Besides leading iPhone workshops around the country she also experiments with different photographic techniques both traditional and unusual. She is a past board President for the CMA Friends of Photography, and a Zone X Photography Representative for the Garden Club of America. She holds a B.F.A. from Marymount University and actively exhibits her work nationally and internationally.
AAWR Executive Director Mindy Tousley assumed the position of AAWR Executive Director in December of 2014.

She brings a unique set of skills and experiences to the Archives. She co-directed City Artists at Work for 17 years in Cleveland’s Campus Inc. District. Her career path as part-owner of a Lakewood, Ohio gallery, specializing in regional artists, and ten year stint as Gallery Director for Harris- Stanton Gallery in Akron have given her contacts in the arts communities of Cuyahoga, Summit and Lorain counties. She has also worked as an independent curator and has art conservation experience. Tousley was the Secretary of the Northern Ohio Art Dealers Association for 3 years and coordinator of the 2014 ARTEXpo. She is also a proud member of the CMA Print Club and an award winning practicing artist.

Left: Mindy & Kelly installing work by Tim Stover for Kindred Objects: Clay & Glass of the Western Reserve

Marketing & Program Manager Megan Alves

Megan started her career at AAWR as a Collections Intern in January of 2016. She took over the duties of Gallery & Archives Coordinator in August 2016 and in 2020 her title was changed to Marketing and Program Manager. She graduated Oberlin College with a double major in Art History and Comparative Literature and possesses a wide variety of museum experience. She is passionate about the local arts community and has rapidly become a valuable asset to the Archives where she handles social media, marketing and publicity, as well as designing and coordinating programming for exhibitions.
Collections Registrar

Kelly Pontoni is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, with a dual major in painting and printmaking. She began working for AAWR as a Studio in a School intern in June of 2018, remained part time through her last year at CIA, and took over fully as Registrar in June of 2019. She now helps with social media posts, installation of exhibitions, and curation of satellite exhibitions, including exhibitions at Moreland Courts, Kendal at Oberlin, CIA, and Judson Manor. She was the head Curator for the 2021 LGBTQ Exhibition, CONVERGE.

Internships

Phoebe Nowak, Nick Birnie, Lillith Horschke, & Ty Ellis - Clouser were paid Interns from the Studio Institute program starting in December of 2020 - August 2021. Nick & Lillith worked with Kelly as Collections Assistants, learning how to handle the artwork in the Archives, make condition reports and use the Past Perfect data base. Phoebe worked with Mindy as a Graphic Designer: She laid out the NewNow catalog for 2021, produced a new membership brochure and updated publications on our website. Ty was a Marketing Intern, under Megan. He wrote new Archived Artist bios for the website, and updated those artists’ pages.
Welcome back everybody!! Despite a world-wide pandemic that began more than two years ago AAWR not only survived but it has THRIVED! I continue to be grateful and impressed by our talented staff. Through the hard work of Mindy, Megan and Kelly we have grown in our membership, increased programming, and also added to our roster of Archived Artists. Our members, supporters, and donors have done much to insure our survival. We are grateful to these people and there is much to be proud of.

Working closely with other arts organizations we continued best practices developed in 2020 to keep our employees and visitors safe while continuing to function under Covid. Although we had limited live openings, we still delivered new and engaging programs via ZOOM. We have always been an archive of physical art, but the internet now enables us to preserve the living voice of our artists in real time. These new ZOOM recordings have added much to our collection.

As part of last summer’s CONVERGE activities AAWR received an award from the Ohio Museum Association for Best Community Engagement Project. Other outstanding programs and events included “CONVERGE” artist talks with Tom Roese and Bill Jean as well as the virtual panel discussion “Art & Aids”. We also enjoyed “Contemporary Glass” with Susie Silbert and “Adventures in Collecting” with Christopher Richards. Another incredible exhibition was “A Conversation Across Time: Responding to the Work of Kestutis Kizevicius”.

AAWR celebrated 25 years in 2021. During that milestone we made our complete collection of artworks available to the public, through our website. This is a searchable database that gives viewers instant world-wide access to 10,000+ images with just a click of the mouse. It is also linked to our artist videos and other documentation so people can easily research our artists.

Looking to the future, 2022 will be a critical year as AAWR develops plans to increase its’ exhibition space. It has always been our dream to have a permanent gallery of the best art on display year-round in addition to our regular shows. Concurrent with this goal we will collaborate with vendors to plan new and more efficient storage space in our backroom facility. This will enable us to expand our collection of Archived Artists.

I feel that with our positive vision, dynamic Strategic Plan, and sound financial guidance under the Cleveland Foundation, the Artists Archives of the Western Reserve will have a long and successful future. Thank you for your continued engagement, interest and financial support.

Stuart Pearl
The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021, show total net assets of $1,921,547, a net increase of $287,261 from 2020. The increase is driven primarily by net capital gains (realized and unrealized) from investments of $163,549 net of broker fees (versus $146,739 for 2020), contributions to the endowment of $10,476 (versus $37,513 in 2020), and a net increase in operating assets of $113,236 (versus a net decrease in operating assets of $6,589 for 2020).

Other financial highlights for the year include grants received of $113,467 (versus $92,692 for 2020), Legacy donations of $20,075 (versus $16,779 for 2020) and Membership Dues of $21,200 (versus $17,640 for 2020). Event and project revenue was $64,501 (versus $33,612 for 2020) and expenses for fundraising and programs were $61,528 (versus $34,851 for 2020). Finally, during 2021 AAWR recognized loan forgiveness income of $48,704 for two loans of $25,000 each obtained from PNC Bank pursuant to the Payroll Protection Program created by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act enacted on March 27, 2020. The remaining $1,296 of the loans was due and payable in equal monthly installments of principal and interest by May 5, 2022. As of December 31, 2021, $810 of principal remained due.
AAWR Exhibition Committee Report
submitted by John Sargent III

Committee Members: John Sargent III, Chair
Kristi Copec, Barbara Gillette, Bonnie Gordon, Marti Higgins,
Lisa Kenion, George Kocar, Stuart Pearl, Mindy Tousley

Denise Buckley sculpture, Beyond Surface

2022 experienced the health specific measured re-engagement with openings and programming transitioning from virtual to in-person attendance. It is notable that the staff mastered virtual enrollment and engagement during this challenging historic time. There continued to be five on campus gallery installations, and eleven remote programing presentations. The most communally engaged exhibition was the award winning, CONVERGE (celebrating the many facets of the LGBTQAI + visual arts community), presented in four different off campus public venues and the AAWR Gallery.

Converge artists and curators, opening reception at AAWR, photo by Drew Cari

The Celebrated Biannual NEW NOW Exhibition, delayed circumstantially from 2020, was presented virtually in 2021 with a published catalog.

Also of note were the highly attended virtual programming panel presentations regarding the legacy and value of the May Show at CMA & Four African women artists you should know with Amelia Amaki. The creativity and commitment of the staff at the AAWR to fulfilling its purpose to our growing community should be applauded.

Total attendance for home gallery & satellite exhibitions for the period January 2021 to January 2022 was 8014. This is a remarkable achievement in the context of remarkable times.
2022 EXHIBITIONS in the AAWR Gallery

2/5 - 3/27  Beyond Surface: Kathy Skerritt & Denise Buckley
2/18- 4/17  The New Now – virtual exhibition, in partnership with Tri-C East
4/8 - 5/29  2021 Annual Members Exhibition
6/17 - 8/7  A Wild Ride / The Paintings of Ken Nevadomi
8/26 - 10/16  Converge / 4 partner venues
11/4 - 12/18  Kindred Objects

Satellite Exhibitions

10/1/20 - 12/1/21  City Reveries – Judson Manor
1/19 - 2/20  A Conversation Across Time – CIA Student Gallery
1/5 - 3/29  Women of the Archives Judson Manor
3/1 - 6/26  Prints and Process – Judson Manor
Converge at Judson Manor, Converge at LGCT Center
Converge at LEC, Converge at MetroHealth
11/1/21 - 2/1/22  Gifts at Judson Manor

ART BITES: Nutrition for the Creative Mind

Art in Context
3/10  4 African American Women Artists You Should Know
5/12  The May Show: The Museum, The Community & The Story of Art in Cleveland
9/14  Unmasc Ing Drag History
9/22  MOCA Aids sharing at AAWR
10/6  Art & Aids panel, virtual
12/1  MOCA Aids Sharing at MOCA
12/8  Contemporary Glass

Collecting Art
7/14  Adventures in Collecting with Christopher Richards

Artist Talks & Studio Tours
2/10  Remembering Kesty
3/24  Women of the Archives / Oral History Premieres
6/2  Virtual Tour of Phyllis Sloanes studio in NM
7/28  Bill jean at Judson artist talk in person, Tom Roese Judson artist talk
10/7  Metrohealth / AIDS Quilt tour

Professional Practices
10/16 & 10/17  Doll Making with Pride
AAWR Peer Review Committee Report
submitted by Mindy Tousley

Peer Review Members: Mindy Tousley Acting Chair
Dr. Stewart Curtis, Leslye Discont Arian, Bonnie Dolin, Lee Heinen, George Kozmon, Charlotte Lees
Kathleen McKenna, Chuck Mintz, Christine Ries, Rota Sackerlotzky, Kim Schoel, Mary Urbas

The Peer Review Committee is proud to have approved the work of the following six artists, for addition into the permanent collection of the Archives in 2021. Each has produced outstanding bodies of work throughout their lifetime, and contributed to the art history of the region.

Karen D. Beckwith, she/her graduated from The Cleveland Institute of Art in 1987 with a BFA in Printmaking and Illustration. In 1998 she became a part of a premier group of printmakers who have successfully completed a Tamarind Institute Master Printer Fellowship. This makes her one, of only a little over a hundred printmakers internationally, who has a registered chop mark with Tamarind Institute. The work Karen creates now explores rural and urban spaces showing evidence of existence without revealing the inhabitants. She has worked collaboratively with well-known artists and her personal body of artistic work has been widely exhibited and placed in prominent private and corporate printmaking collections across the United States. She has shown internationally as well in Taiwan and Russia, and is a founder of “Ping Pong Press”.

Paula Blackman is a sculptor who uses ceramic, wood, and bronze to create emotionally charged figures which tackles issues from world hunger to abortion, domestic abuse, and homelessness. She received her BFA in Sculpture from The Cleveland Institute of Art and her Master’s in Art History from Kent State University. Blackman later taught in the Institute’s Young Artists program and was also an instructor for the Young Artists and Adult Drawing classes at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Blackman was awarded two influential Assistantships at the University of Tennessee’s Arrowmont school of Arts and Crafts. Blackman’s extensive travels to Africa, South & Central America, and Southeast Asia have also deeply informed her practice. Blackman currently casts bronze at a local studio for both her own work as well as public commissions.

Terry Durst graduated in 1987 from Kent State University, with a focus on both film and sculpture. For practical reasons sculpture won out, and became his focus. Durst was an integral part of the group of Kent State artists who subsequently made the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland a go-to arts destination in the 1980’s and 1990’s. All of these Tremont artists worked in some way with found objects, and while Durst continues to use found objects in his constructions today, in his words his work has changed, “... from the ‘found’ art concept and moved more toward creativity: building pieces and tearing them apart, rebuilding it. He credits Artist Robert Rauschenberg as an early influence, and Rock and Roll remains a life-long source of inspiration to him.
Jean Kondo Weigl is an award-winning painter, drawer, and print maker. Influenced by German Expressionism and Asian Art, Weigl’s work uses a recurring cast of characters to explore the uneasy tension between beauty and sadness. A third generation Japanese American, Weigl was born in Berkeley, CA, a few years after her parents had been released from a government internment camp. She earned a BA in art from Scripps College, an MA in studio art from Oberlin College, and an MFA from the University of Utah before returning to Ohio to teach at Lorain County Community College and Oberlin College. Weigl’s work has been exhibited in numerous local, regional, and national shows and received two Individual Artist Grants from the Ohio Arts Council as well as an Artist in Residence Grant from the Zygote Press.

Baila Litton is a mixed media artist who uses collage as the foundation of her work. By creating “skins” of paint, charcoal, ink, and fabric, Litton produces interrelated layers of meaning which allow her to craft the universal from the specific and reveal cryptic messages hidden in life’s apparent disorder. Litton studied painting at the Cleveland Institute of Art, trained at the Art Students League of New York and received a degree in Art Education from Kent State. Her work has been featured in numerous exhibitions internationally, including solo exhibitions at The Butler Institute of American Art and in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Litton is a three-time recipient of The Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship and received The Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award for 2006.

Photography is Chuck’s third career the result of a passion acquired in Maine many years ago. Chuck studied photography at Maine Photographic Workshop, Parsons School of Design, International Center for Photography, Lakeland Community College and Cuyahoga Community College. He has a BSEE from Purdue University and an MSEE from Cleveland State University. Becoming a full-time photographer in 2008 changed the work in profound ways. His interest in preservation and conservation is reflected in his careful attention to producing work that lasts, using large format film. He is ultimately interested in telling narratives about his subjects’ lives, often tying these into historical narratives relating to a place and time. He has served on many organizations boards and is a Life Director at Jewish Family Services of Cleveland. His work can be found in museums, including the Smithsonian Museum of American History, and private and corporate collections in North America, Europe and Asia. Mintz was awarded an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in 2015 and 2017.

Durst, The Old Guard, 1999, mixed media 36 x 18 x 3"  
Mintz, Robert (Lustron Stories), photographic print on paper, 31 x 39“  
Beckwith, Gateway, 2021, screenprint & monoprint on paper, 23 x 15“
Looking back on 2021 I am stuck by how very grateful we should be. While many arts organizations have faltered, some even you the point of collapse, we have prospered.

While the ongoing Covid, Omicron situation did not affect holding exhibitions and being open to the public, it did affect the way we presented exhibitions and programming. The “NewNow” exhibition, normally held in Tri-C Easts gallery biannually, was completely virtual in 2021. Two of our AAWR Gallery receptions took place virtually, as well as our Annual Meeting of the AAWR Members. Our first in person reception for “A Wild Ride” in June, was split into two parts to enable social distancing. Social distancing and people’s natural aversion to public places continues to affect our attendance for in person events, and regular gallery visits.

The virtual model of programming developed in 2020 continued as a hybrid model in 2021. This Hybrid programming model is still successful. The total attendance for programs held virtually was 1277, many attendees joined from out of state. Four African American Women that you Should Know has received over 13.5K views through Facebook. Using Zoom allows us to automatically record all our virtual programming, which we make available free online through our website, Facebook page and our YouTube Channel. In 2021 we recorded 20 program videos.

Our last Strategic plan, which ends at the end of 2022 has four goals:

- Address Facility Development and Expansion
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Strengthen Community Partnerships
- Increase Public Recognition for the Archives

Working towards these goals for the past three years has helped us improve our Public Benefit, our Cultural Vibrancy, our Organizational Capacity, and our Racial and Gender Equity.

Our public benefit is defined by our collection. On December 6th, we launched our full collection of 10,000 objects online, accessed for free through our website. This achievement involved years of work and the creation of a permanent Registrar position.

In 2012 the oral history recordings of Elaine Albers Cohen, Judy Takacs, and Gloria Plevin were added to our website, and YouTube channel. Additionally, as part of the CONVERGE project, we recorded oral histories of 15 CONVERGE artists. These sound recordings will be available soon as part of the Past Perfect database. 14 Mini interviews with Artist Members recorded by Kelly, during the 2021 Members Exhibition are available through our Instagram, and Facebook pages.

In 2021 we received the last 15% of the O’Sickey Trust in the form of 472 pieces of artwork by Joseph O’Sickey, which we carefully selected from 4,000 available works. Works by Algesa O’Sickey, as well as cash, were dispersed to the three beneficiaries in early 2020.

Our Community Partnerships in 2021 were exceptional. The CONVERGE exhibition a broad-based celebration of over 120 works by 70 diverse LGBTQAI + artists ranging in age from young adults to seniors, was held jointly with the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, MetroHealth, Lake Erie College, and Judson Manor. We made connections with museum curators, and arts organizations for Converse programming: Kil Gudrin of T-Cells & Night Sweats; Daniel Marcus, Wexner Center associate curator; and M Carmen Lane director of ATNSC were part of the Art & Aids program. Dr. Lady J, who teaches at Case Western Reserve University presented The History of Drag. We partnered with MOCA to provide 2 Aids Sharing programs one at each of our galleries. Artist Joyce Morrow Jones led a Doll Making with Pride workshop for all ages.

The Ohio Museum Association (OMA) honored us at their Annual Convention with an Award for Best Community Partnership, for an organization under $500,000 budget, for CONVERGE. These Awards of Achievement honor institutions and museum professionals that deserve statewide recognition.

Other contacts with curators for 2021 included: Cat Sheridan of the OAC Riffe Gallery for the NEWNOW; Dr Amalia Amaki, former curator of the Paul R Jones Art Collection. Key Jo Lee, CMA associate curator of American art was part of the panel discussion of

Increasingly schools like, The Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA) are using our collection, and exhibitions as a tool for teaching students. Exhibitions, and learning experiences like those provided through “A Conversation in Time,” “CONVERGE” at Lake Erie College, and the “NEWNOW” at Tri-C East are connecting the artists of today to the artists of the past through hands on examples, not just through books.

**Our public Vibrancy is expressed through our exhibitions and programming.** Each of our exhibitions, was impactful and gained us further recognition. A marketing plan is in place which utilizes social media, and regular eblasts, as well as printed direct mail to a full extent. Our website traffic has increased steadily, our Instagram followers increased from 997 to 1048. Paid advertising is used within our budget constraints, and our exhibitions and programs have been featured regularly in Canvas, Cool Cleveland, CAN Journal, and The Buckeye Flame. A Wild Ride: Ken Nevadomi was favorably reviewed by the Plain Dealer in a Sunday feature. CONVERGE, was featured 15 times in print, radio and television. The vibrancy and relevance of our exhibitions and programs has gained us increased membership, individual support, and earned income through art and books sales.

**We welcome the wealth of variety that expanding our diversity will give our organization.** We embrace the opportunity to make the Archives a welcoming place for all artists. Inviting more people of different races, ages, and genders to take part in our work at all levels will make us a stronger, more interesting, and more capable organization. In 2021 we made sure that the voices of artists of color were included, heard, and recognized through our exhibitions and programs, and will continue to do so in the future. Public presentations, like the one for Archived Artist Miller Horns (made by AAWR as part of an Akron Soul Train program), and Four African American Artists You Should Know are beneficial in bridging racial divides. The documentation of the work of LGBTQ+ artists to the overall history of the Western Reserve has not been previously chronicled. Holding CONVERGE, producing a catalog, recording artists oral histories, and supporting their stories in a series of virtual programs, began the process of historical documentation for the future.

**While we have made some strides toward racial equity in our board, and our memberships, we still have much work ahead of us and preserving the legacies of all our most important artists is paramount to our mission.** We are very proud to add the work of Jean Kondo Weigl, an Asian-American Artist and Karen Beckwith our first Lesbian Archived Artist into the collection. At the end of 2021 we have 92 Archived Artists. The donations for the Diversity and Equity Initiative Fund, as well as a special Facebook Fundraiser to archive a lesbian artist, makes the inclusion of both Kondo & Beckwith possible. I would like to thank all of those who donated in support of these artists.

The Nomination Committee of the board continues to look for new board members who will add value to our organization as well as meet our equity goals, and has worked with staff, board members and BVU to identify candidates.

**Our robust Organizational Capacity will support us in the expansion and renovation of our facility.** The support of our contributors; our members; our individual fund donors; our Archived Artists; our board and our staff all make us strong.

- Those who give of their time; volunteers that serve on committees and those who pitch in when needed
- The many artists and curators who work to present programs, and organize exhibitions for us
- Community partners that work with us in presenting these exhibitions and programs
- Funders like the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), Cuyahoga Arts and Culture (CAC), The George Gund Foundation, the Zufall Foundation and the David Davis Foundation have been staunch supporters of the Archives over many years

We added 25 new members in 2021, and our 2021 Members Exhibition presented 128 works of art. BIPOC artists represented 10% of the exhibition.

Income derived from membership dues, our annual fund drive, other donations, and Legacy fundraising events, exceeded our yearly budget. Contributions and sponsorships for Converge totaled an additional $14,220 and helped us match a special OAC ArtsNext grant of $8725. Art sales for Converge were $23,451, and $14,070 was paid to artists in commissions from sales.

On behalf of the Archives, I would like to thank you all. I am very grateful to all of you for pulling together under difficult circumstances and making sure through your generosity of time, money, and public support for our mission, that we not only survived but actually thrived.
For the 25th Anniversary of AAWR we held a Summer Fun-Drive – a different fundraiser in that each of the board members were asked to participate. A few board members created unique activities, such as, baking a camera cake by our less-than-qualified baker board president, Stuart Pearl; Lee Heinen dying her hair blue and Ryn Clarke holding an iPhone workshop.

The total raised during the Summer Fun-Drive was $7,466.00. This money will be used for the preservation of the works of Archived Artists.

Fundraising virtually continued to be challenging during social distancing restrictions in place into much of 2021. In spite of this people gave very generously both during the fundraiser and also in honor or memory of several Archived and Member artists that passed away during 2021.

In Memory of (Adele) Marihatt
Vincent Monnier

In Memory of George & Sue Roby
Leslie Ray

In Honor of Bobbi Koplow
David Mednick
Good Karma Broadcasting
Stephen Bassett
Barbara Goldstein
Michael Goldstein
Lawrence Hatch
Marti Higgins
Bret Koplow
Ewald Kundtz Jr.
Theodore Liazos
Terrance Messerman
Mitzi Michelson
Al Schinagle
Mela Schlesinger
Adrienne Siegal
Dennis & Raycine Spector
Steven & Pamela Weisman
Frances and Myron Weissman
Scott & Jillian Wolstein
Bruce & Elizabeth Cohn
Jeffrey Warner

In Honor of Sid Rheuban
Crystal Polis

In Memory of John Jackson
Helen Zakin

In Memory of Kathy Skerritt
Michael Skerritt

Donations made in Honor or Memory

David Haberman, and Untitled
by Haberman, photograph by Herbert Ascherman Jr.
Legacy donors for 2021

Christopher Hust & Debra Allison
Bruce Amsel
Herbert Ascherman Jr.
Anthony Barabani
Ruth Bercaw
Elliott & Roni Berenson
Patrick Biliter
Elizabeth Boles
Dave Brooks
Marilyn Brown
Patricia Brownell
Ryn Clarke
Lauren Clarke
Mary Ann Conn-Brody
Susan Donovan Lowe
Cris Drugan
Rebecca Dunn
Sandra Earl
John & Marlene Englander
Karen Eterovich-Maguire
Charlotte Fowler
Barbara Galvin
Charles & Carol Giomsso
Larry Goldrick, Sr.
Thure Gustafson
Mary Louise Hahn
Electa Horth
Michael J. & Mary Ellen Howard
Hap Howle
Hope Hungerford
William Martin Jean
Dave Joranko
Suzanne Joseph
Robert & Annamarie Kachurek
Maria Kaiser
Timothy & Paula Kane
Wally Kaplan
Judi Kovach
Suzan Kraus
Arthur & Enid Kraus
Suzan Kraus
Edith Lauer
Richard & Michelle Letsky
Jack Lissauer

Kathleen McKenna
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