



Excellence,
Equity,
and
Education

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!



Charles E. Duddingston
Chair, Board of Trustees

Celebrating Excellence

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.



“Of all the strengths, what I appreciated the most is when work I saw promoted inquisitive interaction and was executed in the most compelling way. I am excited to see how these artists and scholar move forward with their work and continue to engage inspiring and critical dialogues.”

— Jiseon Lee Isbara, Emerging Voices juror

“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.”

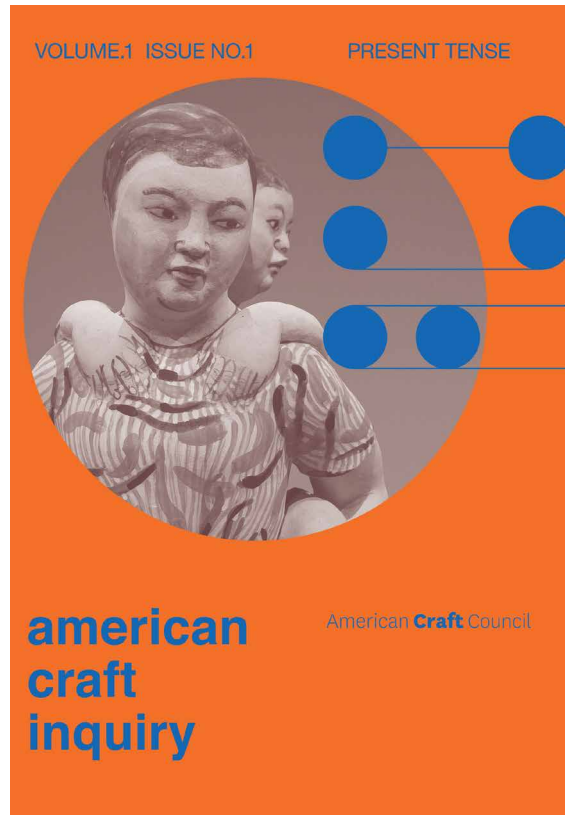
— Karen Hampton, Emerging Voices juror

American Craft Inquiry

Launched in 2017, *American Craft Inquiry* is a new biannual publication of long-format writing that's timely, engaging, and analytical. Founded on the principle of collaboration – with writers, curators, scholars, and artists – *Inquiry* seeks to provide not only reaction, but also action, as it delves into topics relevant to a broad base of artists, craft thinkers, critics, curators, historians, scholars, and essayists.

Our first issue focused on themes and discussions from ACC's national conference in Omaha. The second issue featured pieces on the evolution of the graphic design of *Craft Horizons*, the history of glass, textile and ceramic artist Alice Kagawa Parrott, and more.

Issue three is under way. To learn more about the journal and how to subscribe, visit craftcouncil.org/journal.



“American Craft Inquiry is heeding the call for a richer context in which to think, read, and write about craft in the United States. It has the rigor, research, and thoughtfulness of a journal combined with the fresh voice of a magazine, with writing that’s engaging and accessible to students, educators, artists, supporters, and the craft-curious of all stripes.”

— Sarah Archer, writer and curator

“American Craft Inquiry is an exciting and necessary addition to the current renaissance of craft scholarship. *Inquiry* provides a thought-provoking yet accessible window into the minds of scholars, curators, and other passionate observers of the craft movement, both past and present.”

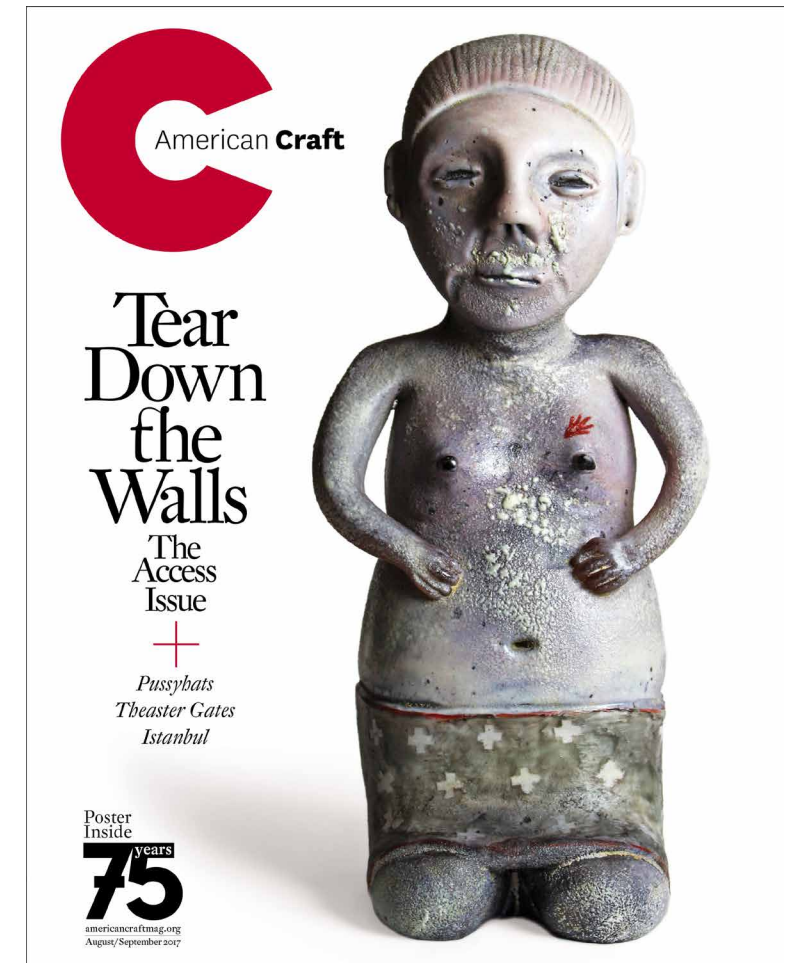
— Jennifer Zwilling, writer and curator of artistic programs, the Clay Studio

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.



The August/September 2017 issue of *American Craft* celebrated activists who are working to make craft more inclusive. To prepare for the issue and become more inclusive in all of our practices, the magazine team consulted for six months with Keith Woods, vice president for newsroom training and diversity at National Public Radio.

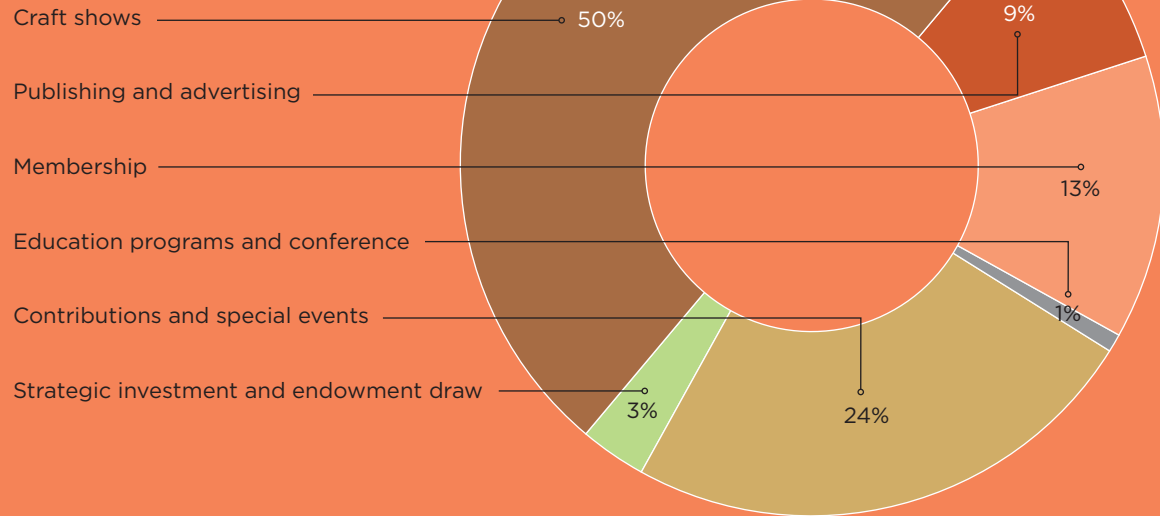
“ACC’s work in this area is more important than ever. There are too many issues today that drive people apart. The work of creative communities helps all of us see what we have in common.”

— Stuart Kestenbaum, ACC Board Chair, 2015 – 2017

Revenue/Expenses

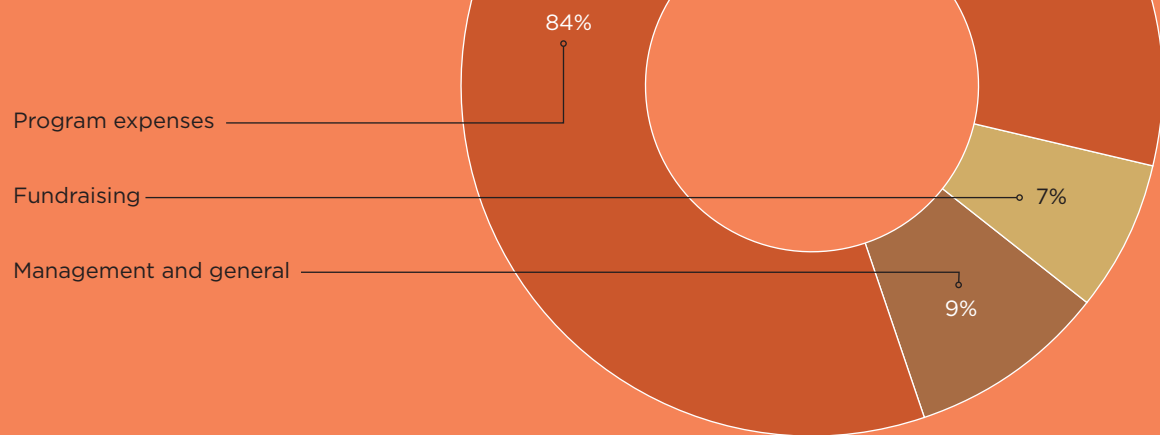
FY2017 Operating Revenue

\$5.69
million



FY2017 Operating Expenses

\$5.69
million



The American Craft Council's financial statements are audited annually by certified public accountants CliftonLarsonAllen. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

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

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



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

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.

\$25,000 or more

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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.

“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

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Membership Matters

For 75 years, American Craft Council members have recognized the value of our organization and the difference that craft makes for individuals and communities – preserving, cultivating, and celebrating this communal heritage. ACC supports professional makers, offers educational resources, and promotes the handmade – all thanks to the support of our members, who are as deeply invested in craft as we are. We encourage you to join us at craftcouncil.org/membership.

“The organization is fantastic. It allows me great opportunities to enjoy crafts, and as an artist myself, I would always support the arts wholeheartedly.”

— Polly Pancoe, ACC member

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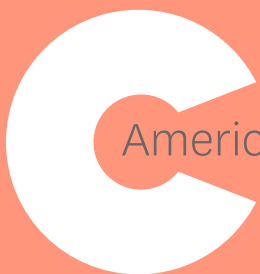
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