

CRAFTING OUR FUTURE



STUDIO & SCHOOL
**CRAFT
STUDIES**
2022 - 2023

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CraftStudies is a community-based 501(3)c nonprofit organization that specializes in the teaching and learning of pottery, jewelry design, and fiber arts.

A NOTE FROM LISA

Dear CraftStudies Community,

From our new location in White River Junction—the epicenter of the arts in the Upper Valley—CraftStudies Studio & School is bursting with promise to enrich learners' identity and belonging, to cultivate community access and equity, and to amplify and invest in our organizational vitality and relevance!

With a long history of success behind us, a strong and growing community of support around us, and a renewed sense of possibility before us, CraftStudies is now poised to discover our true potential for impact: providing a context for meaningful engagement of learners and community through craft.

Since opening the doors to our new studios and school at 87 Maple Street in the spring of 2023, we have already doubled and significantly diversified the number of classes we offer, and therefore the number of students we serve. We have attracted new teaching artists, who have advanced our work in new directions, bringing new mediums and modes of engagement in craft and the creative process to our community.

We have begun the important work of expanding access to and awareness of hands-on learning through partnership with neighboring community-based organizations. This includes partnerships with Bugbee Senior Center, Hartford Parks & Recreation Department, Hartford Public Schools, and Listen Community Services, among others.

We have expanded our partnerships with local artists and like-minded neighbors such as Junction Fiber Mill, Scale House Print Shop, and rePlay Arts, inviting new audiences into our studios and new perspectives to our collaborative work.

Most of all, with the help of our incredible community of students, staff, and committed volunteers, we have created a comfortable, supportive, and inspiring studio for our community to dig in, learn something new, and practice their craft with others, welcoming both familiar faces and new learners of all ages. Together, we have created a place to call home.

All of this is possible because of you, our supportive community of learners, craftspeople, friends, and donors. I truly cannot wait to see what our future holds!

In gratitude,



Lisa Brahms
Executive Director



AT CRAFTSTUDIES, OUR MISSION IS TO SPARK CREATIVITY AND CONNECTION THROUGH CRAFT!

As a community of learners, we cultivate a supportive and joyful environment for hands-on exploration, artistic growth, and meaningful engagement with the materials, tools, and processes of craft.

OUR STRATEGIC PROMISES

Promise to the Learner: **IDENTITY & BELONGING**

CraftStudies will provide opportunities for:

- Hands-on engagement with the tools, materials, and processes of craft
- Exploration and technical growth as artisans and learners
- Meaningful relationships with other learners and makers
- The seeking and sharing of ideas and expertise

This past year was one of redefinition for CraftStudies, offering the opportunity to refocus, reimagine, and rebuild our organization in ways that are responsive to the changing nature of our growing community and their relationship to craft.

CraftStudies has begun a new strategic planning process, rooted in our mission and aimed at building our capacity, our commitment to access and equity, and our evolving relationship with our community.

This plan identifies the things we value most as a **craft school and studio centered on learning** in the form of **promises** we make to our **learners**, to our **community**, and to CraftStudies as a nonprofit **organization**.

Promise to the Community: **ACCESS & EQUITY**

CraftStudies will identify, offer, & cultivate:

- Access to and pathways through CraftStudies' resources and activities
- Welcoming, inclusive, and comfortable environments
- Partners and participation in a thriving creative economy
- Community networks of common purpose

Promise to the Organization: **VITALITY & RELEVANCE**

CraftStudies will evolve, amplify, and invest in:

- A business model that supports CraftStudies' long-term sustainability and growth
- The capacity and capability of staff and volunteers
- An ability to respond to change, innovations, and assets
- A distinct organizational value

The following is a collection of stories that shine light on these strategic promises; the great strides we made in the past year that have led to their identification, and their tremendous potential for future community impact.

For nearly 70 years, CraftStudies' has engaged students of all ages through classes, camps, and workshops.



A student throws clay on the wheel at the studios in Hanover (2019).



A student throws clay on the wheel at the studios in White River Junction (2023).

1940
The League of New Hampshire Arts & Crafts forms a branch in Hanover, NH to provide educational craft programming & gallery space for artists.

1959
The League moves to 13 Lebanon Street in Hanover, NH.

1999
1 organization becomes 2: The League oversees the gallery. CraftStudies oversees educational programming.

2000
CraftStudies gains nonprofit status.

2020
The League closes the Lebanon Street gallery due to the global pandemic. CraftStudies becomes an independent Vermont-based craft school.

2022
CraftStudies resumes educational programming at satellite locations throughout the Upper Valley.

2023
CraftStudies opens its new studios at 87 Maple Street in White River Junction, VT.

NEW HOME NEW OPPORTUNITY

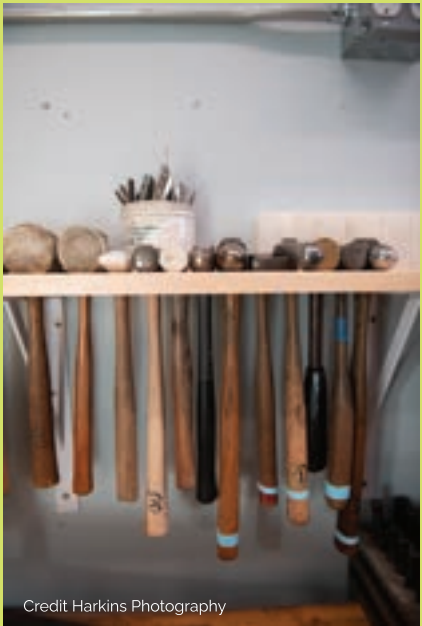
With the opening of our new studios at 87 Maple Street, the CraftStudies community has found its home in White River Junction, the hub of the Upper Valley's creative economy.

CraftStudies' new facility features three connected, sunlit studios that are equipped to support the teaching and learning of ceramics, jewelry design, and fiber arts; free on-site parking; direct access to Advanced Transit; supports accessibility standards; is adjacent to a municipal park; and surrounded by businesses and organizations eager to collaborate.

CraftStudies' studios and school dovetails perfectly into White River Junction's creative economy and social revitalization. We provide an accessible context for hands-on engagement with the art and partnership in service of our community.



Credit Harkins Photography



Credit Harkins Photography



Credit Harkins Photography

Promise to the Learner

IDENTITY & BELONGING



35 Volunteers



25 Teaching Artists



1.5 Studio Staff



The spark of connection between people and craft is at the heart of CraftStudies, and this begins with our teaching artist and volunteer community.

CraftStudies would not exist without the generosity and commitment of our teaching artist and volunteer community. **They are the soul and strength of our organization.**

They put learning at the center of their craft: They make the tools, materials, and process of the handmade personal, relevant and accessible to students. They keep the studios humming with a lot of care and collaborative hard work, creating a welcoming and inspiring learning environment for everyone to feel a sense of connection and belonging.

Through generations, students have become teachers, developing skills as craftspeople, an identity as valuable members of a vibrant learning community, and an appreciation for craft as a learning process.

PROFILE

CHARLOTTE LAMM



Charlotte Lamm grew up in the pottery studio at CraftStudies. She has now come full circle, teaching our summer camps.

“Being a teacher allows me to create a place where kids feel safe and comfortable to express themselves and have fun. As a former student of this organization, I know how valuable that is for

growing teens. CraftStudies was a safe space for me growing up and I want to provide that for as many young artists as I can.”

Promise to the Community: ACCESS & EQUITY

Fundamental to CraftStudies' strategic direction is a strong commitment to expanding access to and awareness of hands-on learning. Through partnership, we cultivate pathways of participation for all members of our community, and work to provide creative learning opportunities to students of all ages regardless of economic need. Within the past year, CraftStudies has developed strong and supportive partnerships with neighboring community-based organizations.

Through partnerships, we evolve and grow as a community resource.

SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, & FAMILIES



CraftStudies cultivates a sense of community through partnership with local organizations working towards a common purpose: to provide inclusive, accessible, and empowering learning experiences for children and families. CraftStudies has teamed up with the **Hartford Parks and Recreation Department** to offer affordable after-school programs for children in our studios, and participates in year-round family-friendly outreach events. In addition, we recently sparked a new connection with the

Hartford Regional Resource Center, becoming a site for youth with developmental and intellectual differences to gain work experience as they transition towards independent living.

CREATIVE AGING

CraftStudies partnered with **Bugbee Senior Center** and **AARP Vermont** to expand access to social and creative learning experiences for older adults, providing low-cost daytime pottery and fiber arts classes at CraftStudies, and artist talks at Bugbee. These experiences improve the physical health, mental vitality, social involvement, and happiness of participating seniors.



BEYOND THE STUDIO

During the transition from CraftStudies' historic home in Hanover, NH, to our current home in White River Junction, CraftStudies offered classes and workshops by partnering with local artists and organizations through the use of satellite studios throughout the Upper Valley. By inviting our learning community into the studios of the makers themselves, our organization remained active and relevant, while our reach and programmatic scope broadened. CraftStudies continues to partner with like-minded artists and small businesses, like **Scale House Print Shop** and **Junction Fiber Mill**, to provide unique off-site learning experiences that continue to expand opportunities for community engagement in craft, while advancing our shared creative economy.



Promise to the Organization

VITALITY & RELEVANCE

As we begin this next chapter as a leading Upper Valley nonprofit, CraftStudies is investing in the development of resources that enhance our ability to thrive.

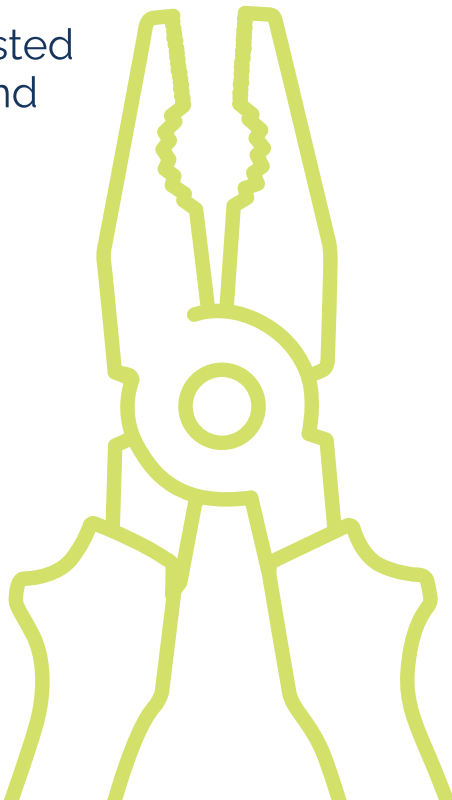
This means valuing and investing in our staff and volunteers, our studios, and our financial future. Doing so enables us to design our classes, workshops, and access programs to be responsive to students' evolving practice and be on the cutting-edge of contemporary craft.

CraftStudies has developed a financial strategy to move our organization from a place of short-term financial sustainability to long-term financial vitality. This was initiated through the sale of our building at 13 Lebanon Street in Hanover, NH. Since opening the doors of our new studios at 87 Maple Street, we have invested in the design of a safe, accessible, well-equipped, and welcoming facility; established investment policies, accounts, and an operating reserves fund; and have established CraftStudies' first endowment. Together, these efforts have given us a strong financial foundation.

NET ASSETS

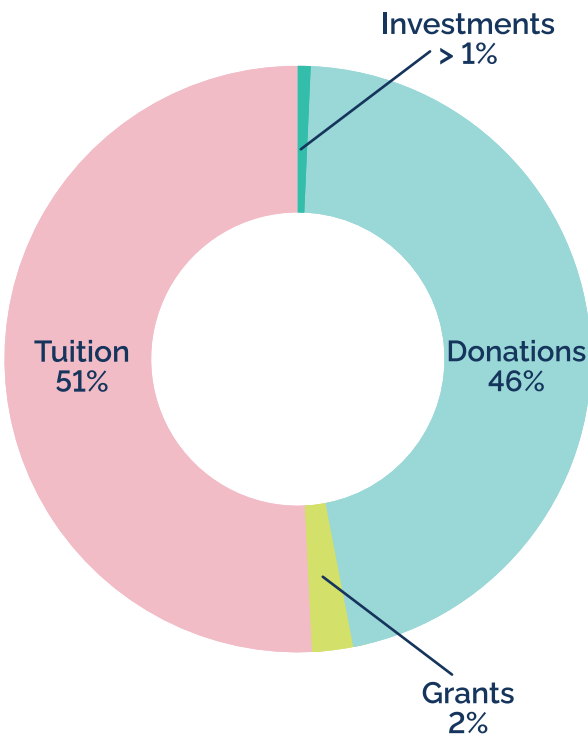
Fiscal Year 22/23
April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023

Beginning of Fiscal Year 22/23: \$1,010,165
End of Fiscal Year 22/23: \$1,004,84



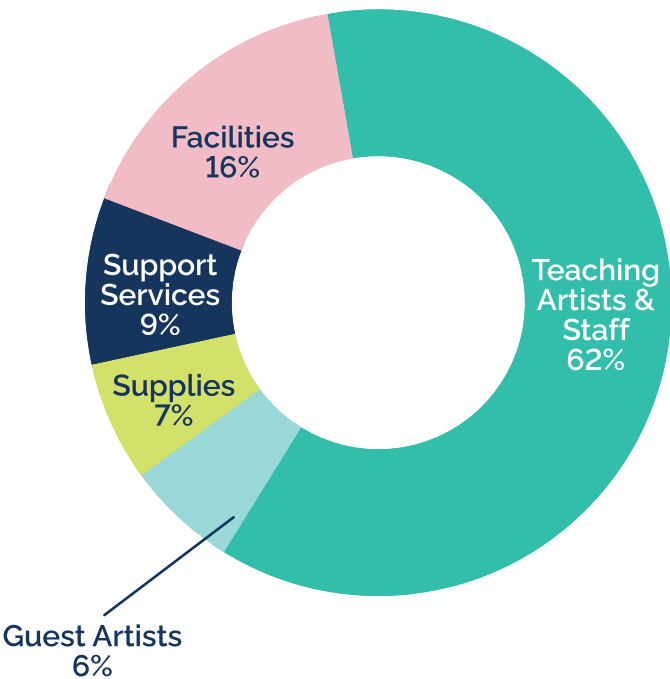
REVENUE

Fiscal Year 22/23
April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023
Total Revenue: \$220,944



EXPENSES

Fiscal Year 22/23
April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023
Total Expenses: \$216,281



A YEAR OF GROWTH: October 2022 - September 2023

	6 months before opening	New studio opens	6 months after opening
Students	261		485
Class-related Income	\$45,773.53		\$84,526.65
Class Hours	1,016.5		2,818
Open Studio Hours	531		2406

CRAFTING OUR FUTURE

CraftStudies' potential is only as strong as our capacity for growth. Our growth depends on you: your belief in our mission, your spirit of generosity, and your investment in our future.

Student tuition accounts for only 50% of our projected total cost of running a safe, equipped, and accessible studio, valuing our teaching artists and volunteers, coordinating vibrant and innovative programming, and providing and expanding access to the creative arts for all members of our community.



Credit: Harkins Photography

We need your support this year to help us realize our true potential and deliver on our promise!

THE PROMISE FUND

Invest in our shared belief that hands-on creative learning can strengthen and enhance quality of life in our community, spur economic growth, and contribute to the cultural vitality of our region.

Donating to CraftStudies' Promise Fund ensures that CraftStudies will focus resources to advance our promises to learners' identity and belonging, to community access and equity, and to our organizational relevance and vitality. These donations help to ensure that CraftStudies will continue to spark creativity and connection for our community today and tomorrow.

POSSIBILITY PARTNERS

Are you a local business or community leader interested in partnering with CraftStudies to broaden your reach and deepen your impact in the community, while showcasing your support for hands-on creative learning?

Possibility Partners help CraftStudies by seeding a matching fundraising goal or sponsoring a fundraising event, either through financial contributions or in-kind donations. In return, Possibility Partners receive special recognition, advertising opportunities and event tickets.

SUSAN M. GALLAGHER CRAFTSTUDIES SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT



CraftStudies believes that all members of our community should have access to the tools, materials, and process of craft, but most importantly, that everyone should be surrounded by a community that supports such hands-on creative learning. **The Susan M. Gallagher Scholarship Endowment has been created to ensure this essential support for years to come.**

Susan found both her creative voice and her creative community at CraftStudies, as a student in the metals and ceramics studios.

This endowment has been established in her honor by her family—at this pivotal moment in CraftStudies' history—to provide both a springboard for, and a strong financial foundation from which CraftStudies can grow our strategic commitment to access and equity.

Scholarships through this endowment are awarded each year using the interest earned from invested funds, ensuring that a principal balance remains secure and continues to grow. As more funds are raised and invested, more scholarship funds may be awarded.

Double Your Contribution!

Aligned to CraftStudies' strategic Promise to Community: Access and Equity, in this inaugural year of the Susan M. Gallagher Scholarship Endowment Fund, members of CraftStudies Board of Directors will match all contributions up to \$5,000 made to this endowment before March 1, 2024, doubling the funds' initial investment. **Help us reach this monumental goal!**

OUR SUPPORTERS

Our deepest thanks to the following individuals, organizations, and corporations that contributed to CraftStudies from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023 In doing so, you have become our generous partners in sparking creativity and connection through craft within and among our growing community.

POSSIBILITY PARTNERS (\$5000+)

Anonymous
Ann Dee & Jan Brahms
Rosemary A. Orgren & Norman Levy

STUDIO SUSTAINERS (\$1000 - 5000)

Selma Bornstein
Alyssa Dodson & Stephen R. Nelson
Sarah Glass & Derek Callaway
Pat Glowa & Donald Kollish
Tina Wendon & John Vogel

HANDMADE HEROES (\$500 - 1000)

Kim P. Gaddes, Promex Service Center
Allan Weiman & Jo Shute
Tim & Phebe McCosker
Rachel Obbard
William Glass

IN MEMORY OF SUSAN M. GALLAGHER

Courtney Adams
Lynn Adams
Judith Forman
David Goudy
Tim & Phebe McCosker
Tracy Smith
Alicia Willette

CREATIVE SPARK SQUAD (UP TO \$500)

Susan Baker
Betty Barba

CREATIVE SPARK SQUAD CONT. (UP TO \$500)

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Anne Clemens
Deborah Churchill
Valerie Dearing
Russell & Susan Edwards
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Michael Riese

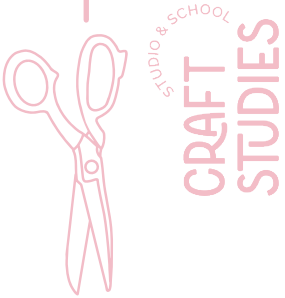
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Mascoma Bank Foundation
Norwich Women's Fund
Hanover Rotary Club
Vermont Arts Council

HELP US SPARK CREATIVITY & CRAFT!

Complete and mail this form to CraftStudies, PO Box 1309, White River Junction, VT 05001. Please make checks payable to CraftStudies. To make a donation by credit card, please visit craftstudies.org/support.

Have a question? Email hello@craftstudies.org or call us at 802.281.6804.



ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT OF _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
APT/UNIT _____ CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

APPLY MY DONATION TO:

- ☐ PROMISE FUND
- ☐ POSSIBILITY PARTNER
- ☐ SUSAN M. GALLAGHER SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT



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