

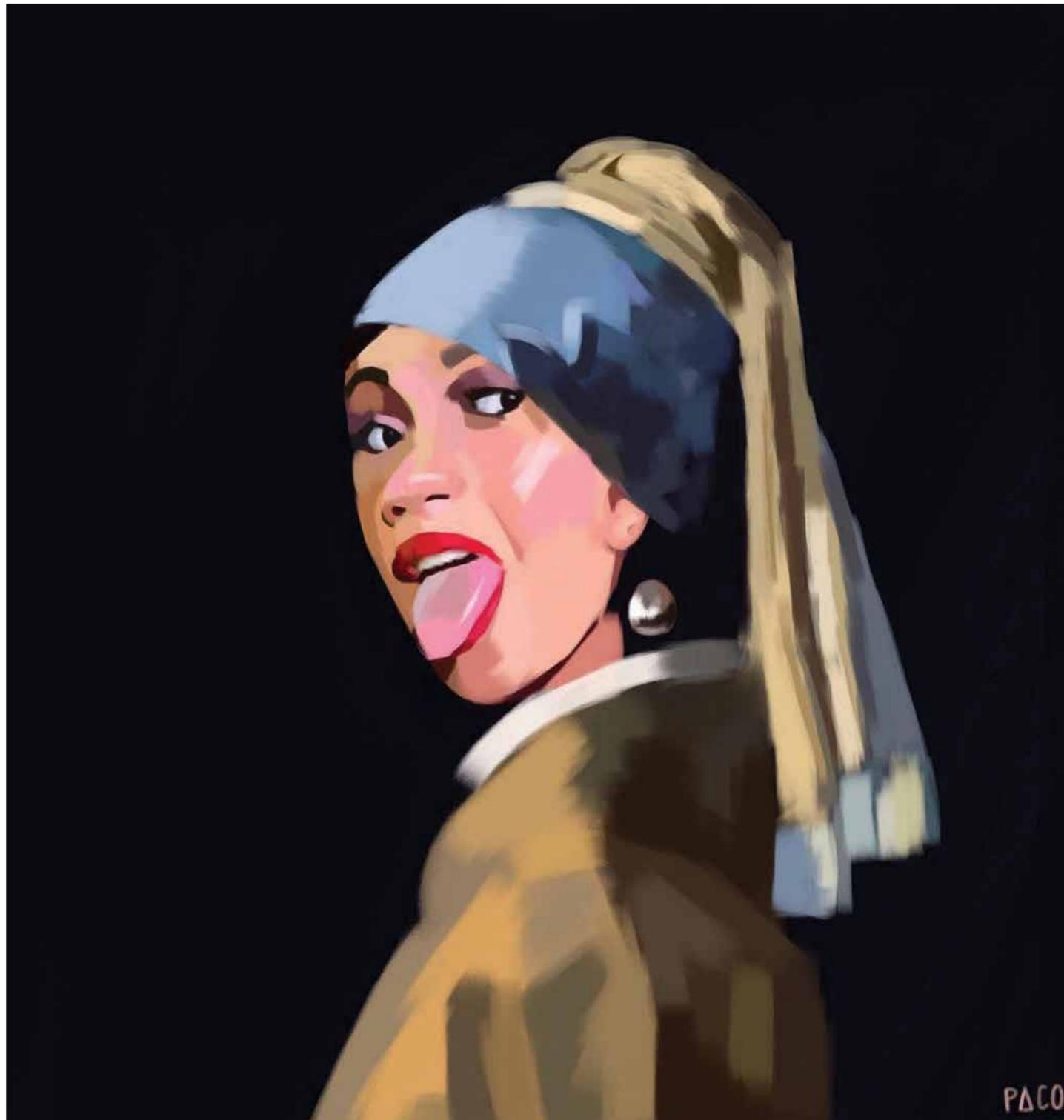
Annual
Report

2020

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New Bedford Art Museum /ArtWorks!





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STAYING CONNECTED

Letter From The Director

Dear Friend of the Art Museum,

What a year it was... none of us could have predicted what 2020 would have meant for New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks!, or for the world, but despite incredible challenges, the Art Museum remained a vital and vibrant place — both in-person and online.

We reimagined new ways to stay connected through virtual presentations, cultivating creativity and play, and building community resilience and togetherness. As always, the life of the Museum revolves around artists. Our commitment to the arts and artists felt even more urgent as the events of the world continued to shift. Because the Art Museum works with artists in real-time, our exhibitions and programs saw the world reflected back to us as the year unfolded through portraits by Jeff St. Pierre and Dena Haden that responded to the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

In unison, every member of the community contributes to the sum total of who and what we are now — to our continuity, and where this can lead us in the future. This remains the core of NBAM—the living essence: creativity, exchange, inspiration, inclusion, and excellence. Members of NBAM created opportunities to stay connected, support working artists, provided art and mental wellness to local youth and teens through reflection, and daily stimulation. Thank you for contributing with your expertise, critical views, companionship, and professionalism. Art is the thread that connects us and what a wonderful, diverse, and strong thread it is!

This Annual Report is dedicated to the incomparable NBAM team — staff, trustees, volunteers, teachers, and supporters. The Art Museum's progress is reflected in its fiscal, programmatic, and operating foundation. After closing our doors on March 13, 2020, the Art Museum's talented and dedicated staff deftly transitioned to online operations, and within just weeks was offering engaging virtual content and educational programming to our greater community.

Above all, I want to express our special thanks and gratitude to our patrons and funders. Without them, none of this would have been possible. Thank you sincerely for your trust and commitment to NBAM. I hope we can see each other soon in one of our new online programs or in-person this coming fall and winter.

Stay healthy and be well.

With gratitude,

Ashley Occhino
Executive Director



Note From the Chair

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! Fiscal Year 2020. Despite the unexpected challenges of the year, the Board of Trustees is incredibly proud of what we accomplished, together. We want to reassure you that the Board and staff have worked, and continue to work, closely to maintain a robust schedule of exhibitions and programming while taking into account the latest health and safety guidelines.

Along with 28 other arts organizations, NBAM continued our participation in the Barr Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative. This program provides major funding to NBAM while also giving access to expert consultation to help us improve our financial management practices, business skills, and cultural competency. In addition to shining a light on the many outward-facing successes that took place last year, it is important to share an update on progress made during recent challenging and emotionally charged events. Accomplishments for the year include:

- Launching the inaugural NBAM Fellow application from UMass Dartmouth's College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA), committee members raised funds to start a program at the college in which a scholar would pursue research using the primary source materials of the New Bedford City Collection. This project will bring visibility to the Collection and the institutions involved, provide valuable research on the city's collection, and allow a student a rare research opportunity. This project would not have been possible without the cooperation and enthusiasm of Allie Copeland, curator of the City Collection.
- Completing a technical assessment of our building at 680 Pleasant Street, funds were raised to hire Machado-Silvetti to complete a top to bottom assessment of the building, including its exterior and mechanical systems. These findings were then incorporated into updated and more accurate pricing for the entire renovation project.
- Researching historic tax credits: with the guidance of the Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE), committee members began laying the groundwork for receiving historic tax credits with the firm Klein Hornig LLP. These credits are potentially a major source of funding.
- Continuing the development feasibility study. Our hired consultant interviewed some of the area's major donors to gauge and generate interest in the project. The results of this study will be used to assess our path forward.
- Spreading excitement about the possibility of a bigger and better institution, committee members met with various local officials and constituents to brief them about all this project has to offer the community and garner their support.

On behalf of the Trustees of New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks!, we are actively planning for a bright future and want to thank you for your continued support of NBAM.

Caroline Conzatti,
Board Chair

NBAM MISSION & VISION

MISSION STATEMENT

The New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! is dedicated to engaging a diverse audience in relevant exhibitions, exemplary education and creative experiences as a vital innovative center for the arts.

VISION STATEMENT

The New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! vision is to transform the community by inspiring all generations through art. The Museum is committed to being a leading institution where people of all identities and diverse perspectives are welcomed into an artistic environment and where equity and inclusivity are fundamental values of the Museum. The Museum seeks to have a staff that represents the New Bedford community, support collaboration with community organizations, host events, programs and exhibits that represent the city's multiplicity.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that the land we live, work, learn, and commune on is the original homelands of the Wampanoag and Massachusetts Nations. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory, and we honor and respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land on which we gather.

EQUITY STATEMENT

New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! values the arts as a universal language and recognizes it is crucial to be an organization that integrates equity, diversity, inclusion, and access into everything we do. We strive to continually represent artists and serve an audience and community that reflects an appreciation and understanding of the broad spectrum of individual differences – cultural, racial, religious, socio-economic, or based on sexual identity, gender, physical, developmental or intellectual ability.

Our endeavors spark engagement through art and provide access for all people. This allyship and support spans across all Museum staff, Board, volunteers, programming, events, and media.

We will hold ourselves accountable to do this important diversity, equity, inclusion, and access work by:

- Being transparent about the way we work and the way decisions are made
- Continuing regular workshops and training for Museum staff and Board
- Developing policies as tools for Museum-wide decision making in areas such as hiring, exhibition planning, and program development
- Continuing to revise our strategic plan to make sure that it reflects these initiatives
- Revising this Equity Statement on an ongoing basis and incorporating it into our strategic plan.

We understand that equity and inclusion work is difficult and we acknowledge that we will make mistakes as we learn and grow. We embrace the opportunity to keep learning and evolving and challenge everyone to do the same.

EXHIBITIONS

VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS

NBAM worked with artists to create online exhibition experiences for Museum guests during the pandemic. Museum staff provided artists with prompts and instructions on producing videos of themselves in their studio to be used on our website. We uploaded photographs of all of the selected works and included additional reading information for each artist and their artwork. Using digital software to create virtual replicas of our galleries with the installed artworks, invited participants would be able to “visit” the Museum in new and meaningful ways!

SKYLIGHT GALLERY

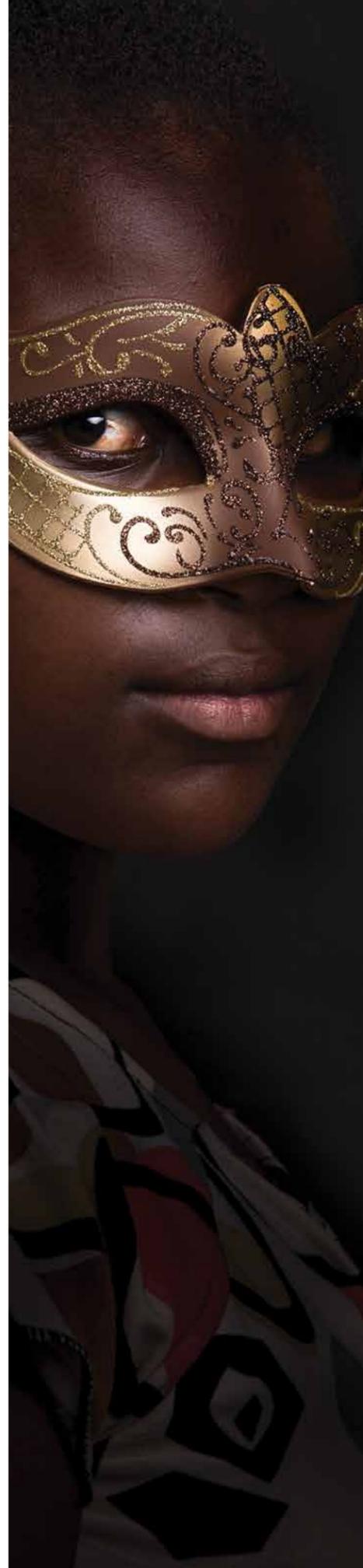
Faces Behind Atrocity: Voices of Human Trafficking
Photography by Matilde Simas
November 1, 2020 – March 28, 2021

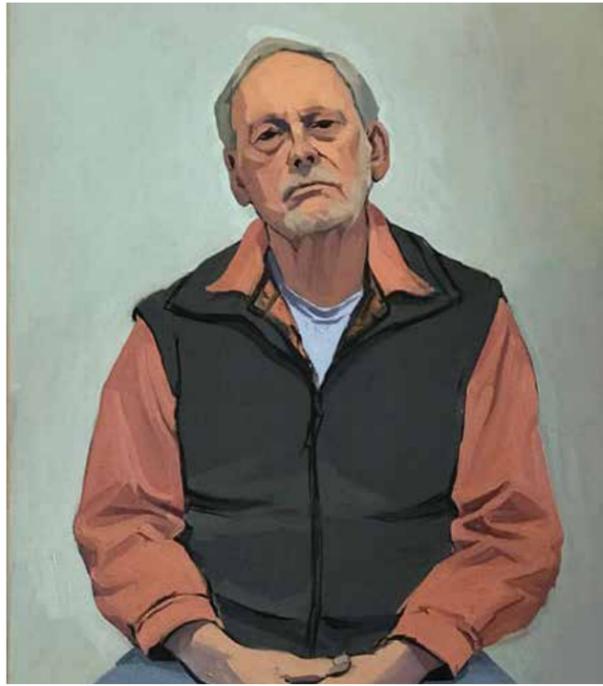
Photographer Matilde Simas documents HAART Kenya, an organization dedicated to ending modern slavery (human trafficking) against women and children in Kenya and East Africa. Simas spent two weeks photographing their workshops, community, and grief-stricken survival stories. HAART Kenya CEO Radoslaw Malinowski outlines the organization's mandate to eradicate human trafficking not only in Kenya but for all of Eastern Africa.

Members Exhibition
July 1 – December 31, 2020

Adrian Tio, Alyson Therrien, Claudia Flynn, Deb Ehrens, Diana Arvanites, Dora Atwater Millikin, Helen Granger, Iwona Lapczyk, Jane O'Hara, Jason Fiering, Jill Law, Joe Quigley, JP Powel, Kate Couturier, Keith M. Francis, Kendra Conn, Lynn Clapham, Marissa Fay-Martin, Mary Belden Brown, Milton H. Brightman, Nancy Whitcomb, Pamela Hoss, Scott Bishop, Spencer Pepin, Taylor Hickey, Viera Levitt, Wendy Stern, William Popik

NBAM moved forward with its annual call to our members inviting them to submit their artworks to be considered for the show, and we are always thrilled to see what our community has been making. Juried by Dina Deitsch, Director and Chief Curator of Tufts University Art Galleries this virtual exhibition was “installed” in our Skylight Gallery. With our August 2020 reopening, NBAM featured the works that received the 2020 Juror's Choice Awards.





BEST IN SHOW: SCOTT
By Pam Hoss

"I taught a portrait class for ten years and found it to be invigorating. This winter I asked artists, former students and friends, to sit for me. When the pandemic arrived in March I could no longer work from models. Therefore, in April I asked my husband Scott if he would be my model. Painting someone close to me had a profound effect on my expression."

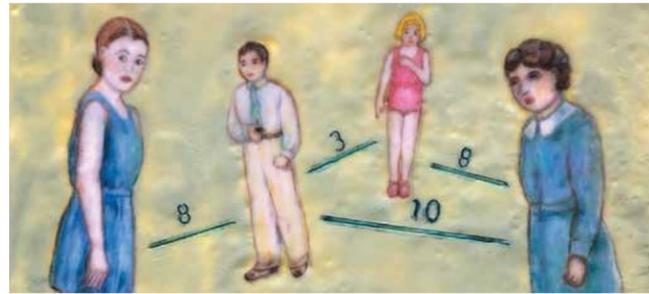
- Pam Hoss

FIRST RUNNER UP: KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!
By Nancy Whitcomb

"Nancy Whitcomb's *Keep Your Distance* caught my eye for obvious reasons. During this pandemic, it is the unspoken mantra most of us think of as we approach a check-out lane in the grocery store, as we enter an elevator, or as we try to gather like we used to pre-COVID 19."

"The images are reminiscent of vintage children's coloring books in color and style of dress, yet the message seems timely. The uncertainty in their expressions also suggests the bewilderment that many feel during this unprecedented and unpredictable time. The measured distance implies that the "distance" one needs to keep is dependent upon how close the relationship is to the bystander; the shorter the distance, the more familiarity, the greater the opposite."

As we navigate our ways through social distancing due to the pandemic, this artistic representation will be a reminder in the future of what we were forced to endure in 2020. A somber message was delivered with whimsy and poignance." – Howe Allen, NBAM Board Member



HONORABLE MENTION: CEREBRAL SEED
By Claudia Flynn

Claudia Flynn has a long-standing interest in the interface of art and the human journey. She utilizes metaphors derived from ancient alchemy to elucidate deep structures in the creative imagination. Her art is deeply moving, transporting us as it were into the depths of the everyday world to reveal a dark and mysterious interior. Claudia's work, often ritualistic in the way that it transforms the objects she makes or finds, does not turn away from the world. On the contrary, it fully embraces the world and reconnects it with an inner life, a life of the soul.

This exhibition is made possible by the New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! with generous support from the New Bedford [Creative Wicked Cool Places Grant](#).

HERITAGE GALLERY

**Steppin' Out 2020:
16th Annual Teen Artist Internship Program
(TAIP) Exhibition,
April 9 – May 24, 2020**

Anna Amarkhanian, Hannah Charron, Jakiya Genreux, Brontë Girard, Fiona Marques, Lillian Taylor, Judith Klein, Lilah Wilkinson, Melissa Souza, Ryan Santos, Corinn Jusell, Roy Rossow, Jay Ryan, Devin McLaughlin, Beverly Carter, Madison Moreno

Our annual TAIP art exhibition went digital in 2020. Visitors of this virtual gallery experience highlighted art created by students and mentors. Collaborative efforts with videos featuring insights into their work and artistic process completed the event

VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS (continued)

Excellence in Fiber VI

December 1, 2020 – March 28, 2021

Nicole Asselin & Leslie Smith, Mary Babcock, Brenna K. Murphy, Sara Rockinger, Tali Weinberg, Charlotte Bird, Laura Burch, Jeffrey Lloyd Dever, Kevan Lunney, Gabriele Meyer, Carol Milne, Theda Sandiford, Judy Titcher, Beth Blankenship, Cheri Dunnigan, Karen Krieger, Carol Ventura, Jill Nordfors Clark, Barbara Osborne, Elizabeth Runyon, Alyssa Ackerman, Wendi Bucey, Melissa Campbell, Heather Allen Hietala, Denise Oyama Miller, Gregory Climer, Liliana Crespi Port, Dance Doyle, Margaret Jo Feldman, Robert Forman, Chie Hitchner, Judy Kirpich, Anneke Klein, Victoria Potrovitza, Trish Johnson, Maggy Rozycki Hiltner, Marge Tucker, Marie Wohadlo, Minna Rothman, Juliet Martin, Jean Howard, Paula Kovarik, Betty Vera, Fuzzy Mall, Lialia Kuchma, Niraja Lorenz, Kathy Nida, Michael Rohde, Carolyn Kohler, Irene Clark, Lily Hope, Cassie Arnold

Fiber Art Network/Fiber Art Now and New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! (NBAM) presents Excellence in Fibers VI, an online exhibition sponsored by Fiber Optic Center. Exhibition jurors, Caroline Kipp, Curator of Contemporary Art, The Textile Museum, George Washington University, and Lisa L. Kriner, President of the Textile Society of America and Professor of Art at Berea College, have selected 52 outstanding works of art from over 1100 entries.

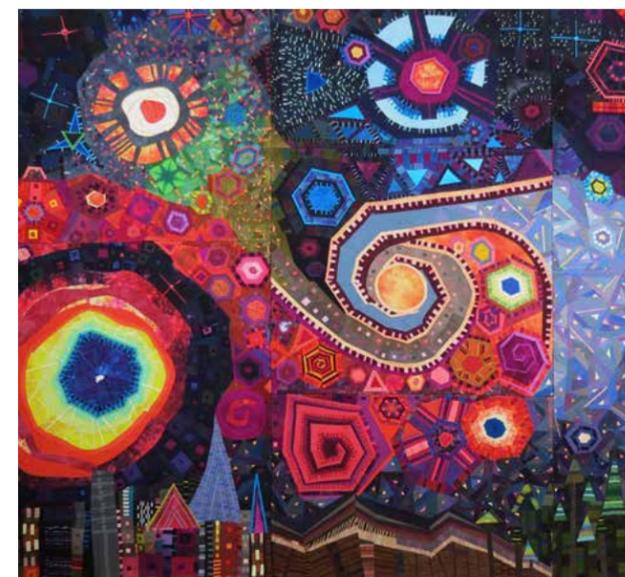


FIBER OPTIC® FRIDAYS!

When our galleries closed in March 2020, NBAM pivoted its new media gallery into virtual content featuring four very distinct artists. Through the summer and fall, NBAM turned the spotlight on digital media artists with Fiber Optic Fridays! (FOF!).

During a two-week virtual residency FOF! artists worked with NBAM to present video, sound, animation, and other digital artworks by emerging artists. NBAM hosted one artist every two weeks, and showcased the artist's work with interviews and other online engagements.

FOF: Virtual residencies were sponsored by the Fiber Optic Center.
Janaya Kizzie July 3, 2020 - July 16, 2020
Marissa Paternoster July 24, 2020 - August 7, 2020
Paco May August 14, 2020 - August 28, 2020
Jeff St. Pierre October 8, 2020 - March 14, 2021



IN-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

HERITAGE GALLERY

Pastoral Light August 15 – December 31, 2020

Curated by Allie Copeland

Presented in collaboration with DATMA's Light 2020, Pastoral Lights is curated by New Bedford Free Public Library's Art Curator Allie Copeland.

Pastoral Light is Allie Copeland's second NBAM exhibition as curator of New Bedford Free Public Library's Art Collection. The exhibition highlights the Hudson River School artists which reflect the three themes of America during the industrial revolution in the 19th century: discovery, exploration, and settlement.

FIBER OPTIC® GALLERY

How to Make Slime, Eli Brown February 12 – June 14, 2020

Eli Brown is a multi-disciplinary artist and organizer exploring the evolution of transness, in humans as well as in other gender-fluid species in the natural world.

CITY GALLERY

She Persisted: Women Artists of New Bedford, from 1900 - 2019 February 5 – August 15, 2020

Curated by Allie Copeland

She Persisted is Allie Copeland's NBAM debut exhibition as the new curator of New Bedford Free Public Library's Art Collection highlights female-identified artists from the Library's collection. NBAM is continuing to engage with the community through a variety of digital offerings, including two virtual exhibitions *She Persisted: Women Artists of New Bedford, 1900-2019*, and highlights female-identified artists from the Library's collection.



From The Curator:

2020 was a turbulent year for all museums, but NBAM remained committed to creating relevant exhibitions and programming for our greater community. What was important for us amongst social unrest, a pandemic, a crumbling economy, and an unsteady democracy, was to recommit to our equity-based exhibitions and programs, ensure that local and regional artists received support and that in-person and online content engaged a broad and diverse audience. We created a variety of online learning experiences to connect our community during COVID and developed residencies that paid artists to create funded digital content for themselves and the Art Museum.

We launched our Community Artist-in-Residence Program (CAIR), working with community partners to nominate artists historically marginalized by museums and local artists who have been working in the New Bedford community for years.

Through Exhibitions and Residencies, NBAM served a total of 124 artists in 2020. \$4,050 went directly to fund artists and guest curators in the form of stipends and awards. \$3,800 was distributed between March and December 2020, during the COVID crisis.

- Jamie Uretsky

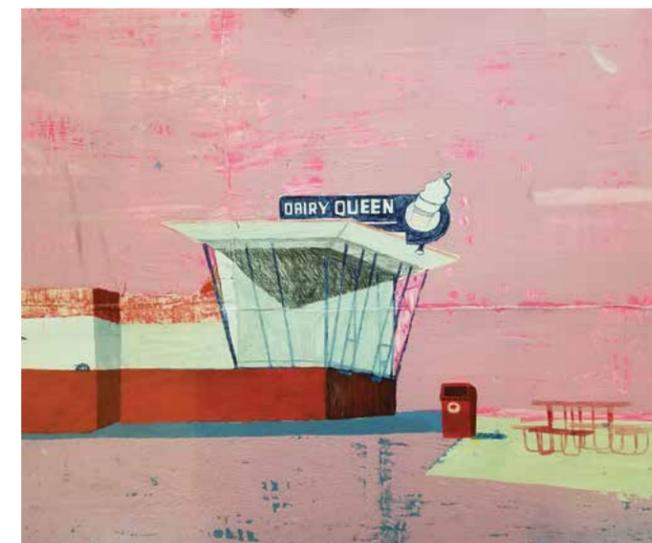
SKYLIGHT GALLERY

Excavation Layers of Meaning January 29 – May 17, 2020

Curated by Catherine Carter

Adria Arch, Tracy Barbosa, Resa Blatman, Alma Cummings, Mary Dondero, Steven Duede, Anthony Falcetta, Lisa Granata, Nancy Hayes, and Jeannie Motherwell

EXCAVATION: Layers of Meaning digs into the layers of artworks made by ten Massachusetts artists whose work has not appeared at the Museum before. Viewers are invited not only to examine the finished products but to envision the various stages that led to each artworks' existence, from origins to the current state of completion. By following the artists through their individual creative processes, we can better understand the miracle that is creation, in art and in life.



A's B4 Benefit Exhibition August 15 – October 10, 2020

Upon our reopening in August, New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks! was thrilled to host local artists whose work will be exhibited in their galleries in support of A's B4 youth mentoring programs. A's B4 nonprofit corporation is sponsoring an online auction to raise funds to be used to maintain programs geared to local youth and exact change in our community. A's B4 is the lead partner in NBAM's Creative Courts project.

Featured artists include Justin Botelho, Dave Guadelupe, Jacqueline Lesik, Alma Del Mar, Kate Frazer Rego, and Vanessa Irzyk, who had a solo exhibition at NBAM in 2019. Jeff Saint has donated an exquisite portrait of George Floyd, which is one of many highlights in this community exhibition.

A's B4 Nonprofit Corporation aids in the development of well-rounded individuals that will impact their community's future. For more information about A's B4, please visit achievementsby4.org.

Immersion & Witness of the Everyday November 12, 2020 – March 7, 2021

Pat Coomey Thornton

Just as her exhibition, *Small Abstractions*, was set to open in City Hall on March 12, 2020, COVID-19 shut the city, and the country, down. While few were able to see Coomey Thornton's exceptional works then, NBAM was thrilled to be able to share her works in a new modest retrospective that featured a selection of paintings, drawings, and sculptures culled from over thirty years of Coomey Thornton's prolific career. Thornton's ability to translate her everyday experiences as an artist, a daughter, and a mother onto an abstract picture plane is matched only by the intensity she brings to each artwork. The works in *Immersion & Interaction: Witnessing the Everyday* do not blatantly illustrate the artist's life, but rather reflect the relentless activity, intentionality, and colorful energy Thornton offers the world. This exhibition was a celebration of her works and a testament to the talent that continues to come out of the SouthCoast.



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

At the end of 2019, NBAM piloted an Artist-In-Residence (AIR) program to support a local artist in developing ongoing installations in our galleries.

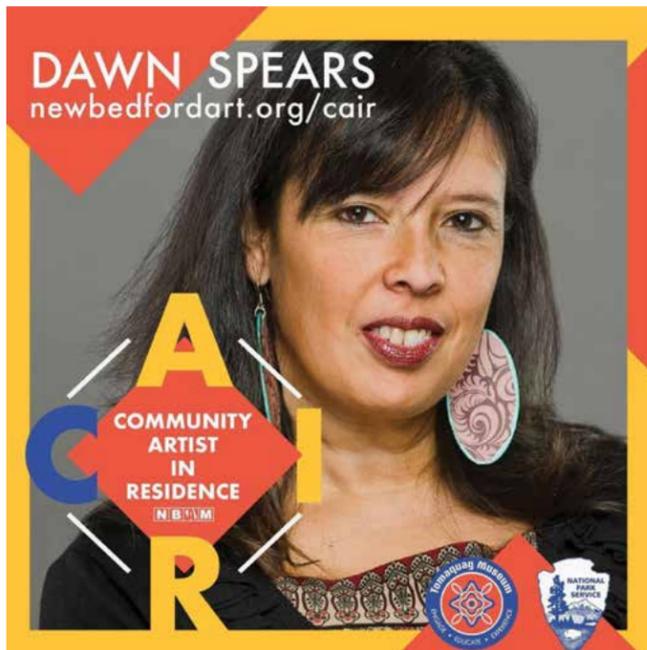
Entropy

November 14, 2019 – December 10, 2020

Stacy Latt Savage

Artist in residence Stacy Latt Savage created an ongoing installation, *Entropy*, an installation that transformed over November 2019 through 2020 as Latt Savage added to her ever-changing installation.

Recognizing the interaction between artists and the public as a vital part of the Museum's mission, NBAM collaborated with organizations already supporting marginalized populations to lead to the creation of an expanded AIR program where NBAM would host a Community Artist In Residence (CAIR).



Dawn Spears

December 4, 2020 – February 14, 2021

Nominated by the Tomaquag Museum, Dawn Spears (Narragansett/Choctaw) is a multimedia artist, educator, and activist. Spears' residency is sponsored by New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. Spears uses cultural symbolism and the vibrant colors of our natural world as inspiration for her work.

COMMUNITY ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

The CAIR program creates an access point for community members to engage more deeply with the Museum and the downtown Seaport Cultural District.

The program offers local artists space, time, and resources to develop their work. The CAIR artists are nominated by the Immigrants Assistance Center, New Bedford Historical Society, Tomaquag Museum, and New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks!.

In the past, the Museum worked with CVPA UMass Dartmouth artists and educators such as Roz Crews and Stacy Latt Savage.

It is important that we continue to learn from artists and partner organizations about how to best serve the New Bedford creative community.

EDUCATION

Message From the Education Department

Over the past year, I have developed a better understanding of the numerous established programs the Art Museum has to offer. We have continued to provide enriching arts curricula to youths and adults in our community, and adapted as needed through in-person, virtual, and hybrid formats. We are continuously evaluating and adjusting our educational methods by reflecting on the lives of patrons. Creating engaging and relevant learning atmospheres is vital to the success of our organization.

- Michelle Borges

Due to the building's layout and mechanical systems, our studio classrooms remained closed throughout 2020 and 2021 as programming had been offered via hybrid, virtually, or offsite and outdoors. We had hoped to reopen our studio classroom space by the fall, but due to the increase in COVID cases, we planned to again offer hybrid classes in the galleries while visitors remain hesitant and will continue to offer a hybrid model outside of our lower-level studios. Interaction is what our community misses the most and we believe it is essential to offer alternative methods of engagement.



Programs and Highlights

artMOBILE - 25th Anniversary!

2020 marks 25 years of continuous operation of our iconic purple vans in our successful artMOBILE program. Beginning in early July, like the numerous years before, NBAM had begun its summer program— only this summer looked a little different. Thanks to the support of the community, NBAM's newest artMOBILE van continued rolling after the 7-week summer program wrapped at public parks and schools, shadowing the City's Grab and Go Free Meal Program. The fall and winter months saw our purple van back at schools across New Bedford and the Farmers Market at our favorite basketball court in Clasky Commons Park.

- 2,373 youth served in 2020
- 30,807 youth served since 1995
- 217 site visits made from July to December to schools, parks, and centers

2020 artMOBILE programming is sponsored by The SouthCoast Community Foundation, Kaplan Foundation, Children's Art Fund, New Bedford Day Nursery, New Bedford Community Development Block Grant, Wicked Cool Places financed by the city of New Bedford's Arts, Culture and Tourism Fund, Merry and Ralph Eustis, and the Incorporated Proprietors of Nonquitt.

Autumn Glen Assisted Living

Art classes were offered to seniors and Alzheimer's residents at the assisted living facility in North Dartmouth twice a month since 2016.



The Learning Studio: Early Literacy Through the Arts - 10th Anniversary!

The Learning Studio has been supporting parents and caregivers as their children's first teachers since 2010.

Originally 40 children from the Irwin Jacobs Elementary School anticipated joining the Learning Studio program that began in late February. When COVID-19 closed down all schools and services for the community, NBAM re-imagined and revamped the program to a virtual platform. The Museum hired Ricky Rainbow Beard, a dynamic visual performer and storyteller, to record 25 videos that could be accessed through YouTube, the New Bedford Educational (Cable) Access, and on the NBAM website. NBAM, together with Cable Access, has a permanent slot, now, on Mondays at 12:30 PM and 7:30 PM to air new episodes monthly.

Teen Artist Internship Program

Now in its 16th year, the Teen Artist Internship Program (TAIP) has been an exciting opportunity for young, talented, artists from local schools to connect and gain hands-on mentorship from established, professional artists from the greater New Bedford area. The artist mentors receive stipends for their time and efforts as they introduce their students to other artists and help connect them with the art community they aspire to join. Acceptance into the free program, which draws students from various SouthCoast schools, is competitive, and teens must submit an application, essay, and recommendation. Each year, the program culminates in an exhibition with a comprehensive catalog featuring artwork by the interns and their mentors.

TAIP 2020 is supported in part by the SouthCoast Community Foundation, the Island Foundation, the District Attorney's Office Discretionary Fund, and by the following Local Cultural Councils: Acushnet, Fairhaven, Freetown, New Bedford and Rochester which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Students 2020

Anna Amarkhanian
Hannah Charron
Jakiya Genereux
Brontë Girard
Fiona Marques
Lillian Taylor
Lilah Wilkinson
Melissa Souza

TAIP Mentors 2020

Ryan Santos
Corrinn Jusell
Roy Rossow
Jay Ryan
Devin McLaughlin
Judith Klein
Beverly Carter
Madison Moreno

Get Out & Art!

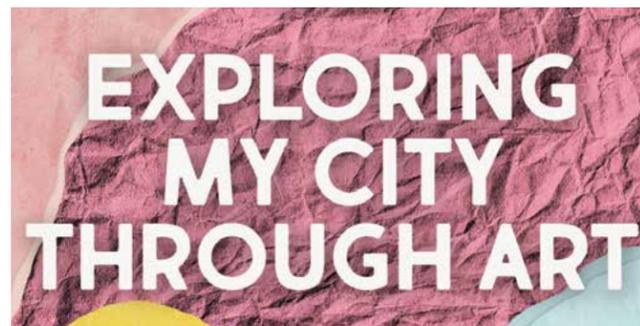
For a second summer, NBAM and its artMOBILE worked in partnership with the New Bedford Housing Authority to bring lessons in art and creativity directly to youth living in the Parkdale neighborhood twice a week, for six weeks. Our artMOBILE educators taught hands-on activities that built upon a new cool theme each week. NBAM provided quality materials in carefully curated art bags in an outside, protocol-safe setting. Young learners benefitted from exposure to art and the critical thinking strategies associated with observation, discussion, and creation of art. By engaging in these art-making activities, youth continue their learning and develop skills and increase their power of observation.

2020 Get Out & Art is sponsored by the New Bedford Housing Authority and Senator Montginey's Youth Empowerment Fund from the SouthCoast Community Foundation

Exploring My City Through Art

This after-school enrichment program served 4th and 5th-grade students from James B. Congdon Elementary School. Since 2009 we have welcomed students twice a week for 25 weeks to explore art in our studios, learn the history of New Bedford, and visit local landmarks. Students enjoyed field trips and weekly lessons at NBAM prior to the pandemic. We were forced to postpone after meeting for our class on March 12th. Working with faculty member Alison Wells, we launched virtual classes within weeks and delivered art kits to each students' home so they could continue art lessons. The students also had the opportunity to virtually experience NBAM's exhibits, as well as, virtually meeting professionals like Art Curator Allie Copeland from the New Bedford Free Public Library.

2019-2020 Exploring My City Through Art is sponsored by the City of New Bedford's Department of Community Services' Invest-in-Kids Program and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.



STAYING CONNECTED

As the coronavirus forced cultural institutions around the world to temporarily shut their doors, creativity continued to flourish. NBAM was no different in its ability to be inventive with digital offerings — everything from virtual tours of exhibitions to online art classes and delivered art supplies to children throughout the community.

By the end of March, the staff at NBAM were busy sharing and producing more online content in an attempt to stay connected to audiences. Our "in-house" production crew edited and posted videos of its new artist talk series - *Creative Convos*, recorded a series of *Museum Dog!* episodes, and created art-making tutorials all in an effort to invite virtual visitors to take a break from our new day-to-day and enjoy a museum moment.

NBAM understands the connection between art and wellness and has prided itself as a place of inspiration, contemplation, and community gathering. Through this new content, one can experience the transformative power of art by staying connected and engaged with resources and ideas from home.

HAND BUILDING FROM HOME

In early May NBAM launched a new virtual clay workshop. The on-demand video gave students the opportunity to explore hours of clay lessons at home.

Throughout the course of the fall, we expanded these offerings to include weekly virtual wheel-throwing classes. Each student had a dedicated pottery wheel from NBAM to work with alongside fellow students online.



CREATIVE CONVOS

Join curator Jamie Uretsky as they chat with artists, curators, and community members about current NBAM exhibitions. Visit our Youtube channel to watch them all!

- [Episode 1: Jeannie Motherwell On Black](#)
- [Episode 2: Jeannie Motherwell On Place](#)
- [Episode 3: Curator Allie Copeland - She Persisted](#)
- [Episode 4: Curator Allie Copeland on New Bedford Free Public Library](#)
- [Episode 5: Curator Allie Copeland on Pastoral Light](#)
- [Episode 6: How Artists Benefit from Museum Memberships with Helen Granger](#)





POP UP STUDIOS

August 15th marked NBAM's reopening and staff welcomed guests to our updated spaces, with new exhibitions and wayfinding. Thanks to our unrestricted New Bedford Creative Wicked Cool Places grant we were able to launch two new Pop Up Studios right in our galleries!

What is a Pop Up Studio?

A Pop Up Studio is a temporary place for people to jump-start their thinking and create together.

Throughout the summer and fall, NBAM invited visitors to a curated experience in our two new in-gallery Pop Up Studios. Visitors got inventive with "Creator Kits" that helped them further explore the exhibition space. The Masks On, Voices Heard! Studio connected our Members' Exhibition by encouraging everyone to stop and see this interactive space and challenge themselves to portray their authentic self, as well as, something they are passionate about. Pop Up Studios + DATMA Light Reflections allowed visitors to experience DATMA's Light: 2020 & Summer Winds 2019 programs inside New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks!. This studio presented the work of artists Soo Sunny Park, and Poetic Kinetics, along with several incredible New Bedford arts & culture organizations. Along with the video compilation, a make and take project was developed that is inspired by Soo Sunny Park's Photo Kinetic Grid.

MUSEUM DOG

Have you met art's best friend? *Museum Dog!* When the Museum was forced to close its doors, NBAM pivoted to create online content that celebrated our artists and our community. *Museum Dog!* is a video series that highlights artists and exhibitions featured at New Bedford Art Museum and around the city.

In each episode, a Labrador Retriever named Museum Dog and his friends introduce viewers to the principles of design and encourage viewers to apply them to an at-home activity using accessible materials.

[Episode 1: Movement!](#)

[Episode 2: Texture!](#)

[Episode 3: Sit! Stay! With Stacy Latt Savage](#)

[Episode 4: Color!](#)

[Episode 5: Spooky Shapes!](#)

[Episode 6: Pattern!](#)



MUSEUM EXPANSION

In partnership with the Mayor's Office, New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! is undertaking a multi-year feasibility study to explore renovating the Anthony S. Catojo Jr. Building to create enhanced gallery and education spaces.

This study, funded by the New Bedford Community Preservation Act, the Cultural Facilities Fund (an arm of the Massachusetts Cultural Council), and private donors, is being conducted as part of a larger process during which we will explore the Museum's growth potential. One of the major components of this investigation is the incorporation of the building's second-floor into the Museum's footprint.

The City of New Bedford has invested both financial and human capital in promoting arts and culture for residents and tourists alike. After receiving the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Commonwealth Award in 2016 for the most creative city in the state, the City passed a home rule petition to create an arts and culture fund line item in the City's Annual Budget. Margo Saulnier has since been hired as the creative strategist at the Economic Development Council. The city has also added to the robust Tourism and Marketing Office and created a new masterplan for Arts and Culture.

An expansion of the Art Museum is in perfect alignment with the goals set out in the Arts and Culture Plan, as it enhances access to the arts for tourists and residents, including youth. The Museum has carefully considered the timeline to accomplish this project over the next several years and it is essential that this phase is accomplished without delay.

The current City administration is supportive of this feasibility study, which is a necessary step in the larger project. The envelope of the building has been under remedial care for years and this project would address the structural integrity of the building. This renovation and expansion would solidify the building's use for future generations, as well as contribute to the conservation and preservation of the City's Art Collection.

Sharing the Vision: Updates on NBAM's Feasibility Study

At the beginning of 2020, the Feasibility Study Phase was in full execution mode. It encompassed a robust series of design workshops with the NBAM expansion committee composed of the mayor, museum staff, and trustees.

Our talented architects at Machado Silvetti diligently performed a series of deliverables which included existing conditions analysis, programming, conceptual design, cost estimation, and technical reviews. This work has set up a clear framework for future growth and the long-range goals to transform the Art Museum. In March, this phase of the Feasibility Study was successfully completed.

Shortly after, amid the pandemic crisis and a national lockdown, our workflow shut down significantly in response to the CDC guidelines. We adopted new ways to interface with each other and began working virtually.

By the fall of 2020, our work plan recommenced at full capacity. Our consultants, museum trustees and staff, embarked on the second phase to complete the Technical Assessment portions of the study. This report serves to document and conclude the second, and final, phase of the study, providing the Museum with a holistic view of the feasibility of future renovations. *

The lifecycle of this visionary project ceases to exist without a repertory of dedicated, talented, and inspirational supporters and contributors, and we are deeply honored and grateful for their unrelenting impetus amid an unprecedented 2020.

*See associated details:

The work during this phase evaluated the existing building's systems relative to current code standards and future gallery requirements - providing recommendations for necessary upgrades through design narratives and existing systems documentation. An envelope assessment was also performed to evaluate the current condition of the envelope of the building and recommendations were provided for improving the building's enclosure and thermal performance as it relates to the mechanical and environmental systems within. Design recommendations made.

EVENTS



AHA! February EXCAVATION Opening Reception

Thurs, Feb 13, 6 – 8 PM - *Excavation* Opening Reception

This AHA! Night was the last big public event hosted by NBAM in 2020, with over 240 people in attendance. Pictured above: Artist Tracy Silva Barbosa, Curator Catherine Carter, Artist Adria Arch, Artist Alma Cummings, and Artist Jeannie Motherwell.

Drag Queen Story Hour

[Learn more](#)

In June, NBAM welcomed the community to join us in celebrating literacy with the fabulous Jacqueline DiMera at a virtual *Drag Queen Story Time*. Participants were invited to color the Queens from *The Hips on the Drag Queen Go Swish, Swish, Swish*, with these phenomenal (and printable) illustrations by Olga de Dios! @olgadedios_

<https://www.lilmisshotmess.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/hips-on-the-drag-queen-coloring-combined.pdf>



Virtual Teen Artist Internship Program (TAIP) Opening Reception

[Learn more](#)

This year's TAIP interns and mentors are Anna Amarkhanian, Hannah Charron, Jakiya Genereux, Brontë Girard, Fiona Marques, Lillian Taylor, Lilah Wilkinson, Melissa Souza, Ryan Santos, Corrin Jusell, Roy Rossow, Jay Ryan, Devin McLaughlin, Judith Klein, Beverly Carter, and Madison Moreno.



Virtual Members Exhibition Highlights and Juror's Choice Awards

[Learn More](#)

Juried by Tufts University Art Galleries Director, and Chief Curator Dina Dietsch and curated by Jamie Uretsky, NBAM's Annual Members Exhibition moved from in-person to virtual in 2020. NBAM's Executive Director Ashley Occhino and Uretsky shared highlights and announced the Juror's Choice Awards in a virtual event. Congratulations to the winners and to all of our artist members!



The Garden Party Appeal

There is always much excitement and preparation that goes on each summer for the Art Museum's annual Garden Party. Sadly, after much consideration, we decided to cancel the Garden Party 2020 to ensure the health and safety of our attendees and our staff.

The New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! Garden Party is an essential source of funding, with all proceeds helping to fund exhibitions and our wonderful children's and adult education experiences. We are grateful for the communities' support shown through their donations totaling \$24,000. Their generosity aided NBAM by raising critical funds to help cover all that we brought to the south coast and beyond.

Thank you for your outstanding support.

Virtual Pop-up

Friday, 8/21 from 6 - 8 PM on Facebook Live
Hosted by Lonelle Walker & Chan Grant

Bid+ Buy for NBAM

Last December, in place of our annual Holiday Party, NBAM welcomed the community to join us in our festive fundraiser Bid + Buy for NBAM. They were invited to create their own customized holiday experience throughout the month and safely explore the expanded Museum Shop.

Art lovers BID on the incredible artwork in our auction and found the perfect gift to BUY in our Museum Shop. Patrons enjoyed private shopping, a special artist-curated activity, and live music in the galleries. A wonderful time was had sipping and savoring hot cocoa while strolling around downtown.

Bid + Buy for NBAM raised \$14,000 in vital funds supporting our mission to engage thousands in the coming year, both in-person and online. This high-spirited annual fundraiser provides an opportunity for individuals and corporations to support NBAM.

Patrons of the Arts

[Learn more](#)

THE 2020 HONOREES :

IRENE AND NORM BUCK

NEW BEDFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Each year New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! has been privileged to recognize individuals and organizations that have helped the arts succeed through their generous support and work in the community. Because of them, the arts flourish in New Bedford.

It is our privilege to shine a light on Irene and Norman Buck, and the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra. Each has played a pivotal role in supporting the arts for many years. In recognition of their support, we will be presenting each with a specially commissioned hand-carved wooden bird whistle made by New Bedford artist Bill White.

2020 Patrons of the Arts Honorees Irene and Norman Buck & New Bedford Symphony Orchestra are longtime supporters of the arts. The Bucks moved the south coast's creative culture forward through the amazing work done at ArtWorks! Partners for the Art by Irene and Norm's development of Ropeworks! Artist Condominium project, to name a few.

The Bucks and the NBSO are longtime friends and supporters of the Museum. From collaborative programming to supporting events to advancing educational opportunities, they epitomize the philanthropy of Patrons of the Arts.



MEDIA & PRESS

Forbes

[Travel Through Centuries of Art History and Contemplate the Moment in Large-Scale Installations by Wife and Husband Artist Team](#)

Fall River Herald News

[ARTSWEEK: Art exhibits in the SouthCoast for the Week of Feb 13](#)

[Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts award \\$125 to support arts and culture in coronavirus pandemic](#)

[DATMA announces 'Light 2020' related exhibitions and events](#)

[Pastoral Light: 19th Century Landscapes' on display at New Bedford Art Museum](#)

[New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! reopening Aug. 15](#)

Wicked Local Provincetown

[Falcetta and Motherwell featured in New Bedford exhibit](#)

WCVB Boston

[5 for Good: Alz Meet Ups offer community, understanding to those with memory loss](#)

SouthCoastToday.com

[Column: Looking back at 10 of last year's most memorable art exhibits](#)

[Bristol County Savings charitable foundation awards \\$64000 to seven New Bedford/Dartmouth nonprofits](#)

[New Bedford's arts and cultures sectors 'back in business'](#)

South Coast Almanac

[8 Great Things list this month: Go Virtual, South Coast Style!](#)

Wicked Local

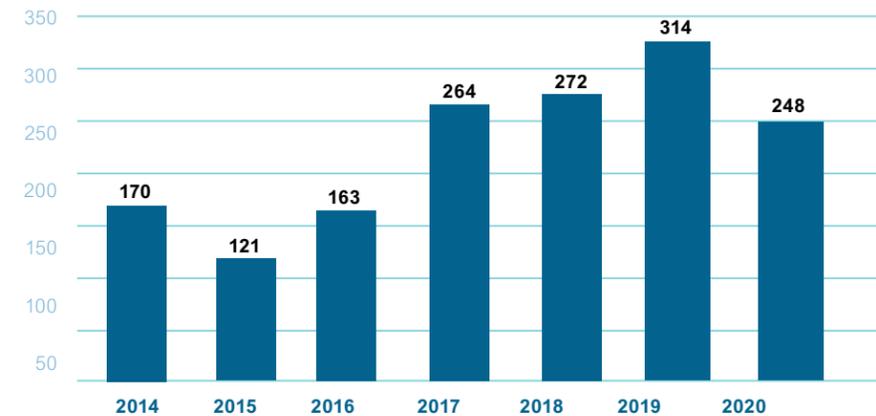
[Southcoast Community Foundation awards \\$60000 to local nonprofits, including Gleason Y](#)

YEAR IN NUMBERS

The impact of COVID-19 was deeply felt at NBAM in 2020, both in our mission and in the bottom line. The staff and Board moved swiftly following the Art Museum's closure in March to recast projections and reduce expenses, while finding support from government entities like the Small Business Administration and Mass Cultural Council, and foundation support from the SouthCoast Community Foundation and from TDC through the Barr Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative.

The Art Museum's 2020 budget was 16% less than 2019, and that reduction helped the Art Museum to continue to reduce our dependence on canceled events. And while expenses were watched closely, NBAM also remained focused on our mission as a platform for artists, increasing commissions, honoraria, and opportunities during an incredibly challenging year.

New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks! Membership



2020 Membership

Student/Senior	41%
Family	29%
Individual	25%
Friend	15%
Supporting	4%
Benefactor	1%
Business	1%

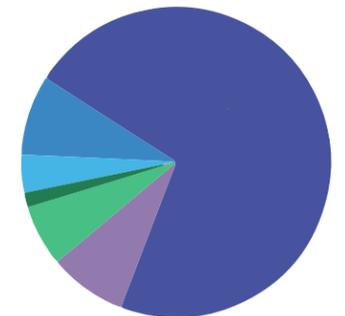
Community Reach

Total Gallery Attendance	1,004
Free Visitors & Free initiatives	714 (71%)
Community Events	585
Total Education attendance	3,017
Social Media Followers	11,285
Artists served	124
Teen Artists Supported	16
Number of Virtual Programs & Events	36
Total Digital Participation	43,388

Finances

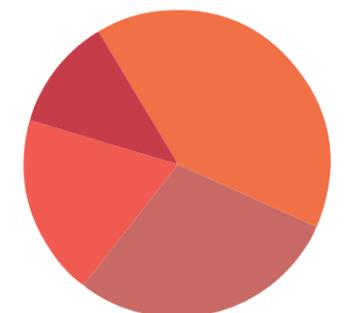
Revenue 2020

Grants	71.8%
Tuition/Fees	3.9%
Contributions	8.3%
Annual Appeal	6.3%
Fundraisers	8.1%



Expenses 2020

Development	11.8%
Exhibitions	19.0%
Education	28.9%
Administrative	40.3%

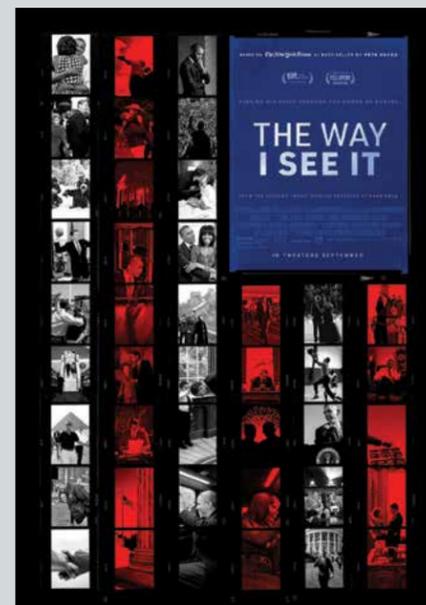


The Way I see It: A New Documentary about Official White House Photographer Pete Souza

Remember back when we were filmed partying with Pete at his 2019 exhibition at NBAM? Well now it's streaming! Watch as the film follows Pete Souza on his journey from the White House to NBAM and beyond.

About the Film

As the Official White House Photographer, Pete Souza was an eyewitness to the unique and tremendous responsibilities of the US President. Director Dawn Porter reveals how Souza transforms from a respected photojournalist to a searing commentator on the issues we face as a country and a people.



DONORS

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Technical Development Corporation
SouthCoast Community Foundation
Creative Commonwealth Initiative
Amelia Peabody Foundation
United Way of Greater New Bedford
SouthCoast Community Foundation - Get Out & Art
The Klarman Family Foundation
Barr Foundation
SouthCoast Emergency Response Fund
Kaplan Charitable Foundation
SouthCoast Community Foundation: Rainy Day Fund
United Way of Greater New Bedford
New Bedford Day Nursery Fund

Local Grants

Acushnet Cultural Council
Fairhaven Cultural Council
Freetown Cultural Council
New Bedford Cultural Council
Rochester Cultural Council
Wicked Cool Places, financed by the city of New Bedford's Arts, Culture and Tourism Fund
New Bedford Department of Community Services
New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development

State Grants

Bristol County District Attorney's Office Discretionary Fund
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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NBAM Student Fellowship at UMass CVPA:

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New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks!
608 Pleasant Street
New Bedford MA 02740

The museum is supported, in part, by patrons like you.

Consider becoming a member today and help us fulfill our mission to provide greater access to the arts in the New Bedford community.

Visit newbedfordart.org to learn more about the perks of becoming a member and to see previews of our current and upcoming exhibitions.

Designed by Carly Costello
carlycostelldesigns.com

A special thanks to the following for supplying photos to NBAM for use in the 2020 annual report:

Ashley Occhino

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Andrew Kepinski

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