

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



FORT MASON CENTER
FOR ARTS & CULTURE



Pier 2 adorned with flags by artist Cauleen Smith. PHOTO: STEPHEN SCHAFER

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thanks so much for your enduring commitment to Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC). In an effort to ensure greater transparency and accountability to the community we serve, I'm excited to present our new annual report for 2023.

Your financial support helps make art accessible to the public throughout the year, while also enabling FMCAC to offer affordable space to 20 nonprofit resident organizations, including the American Indian Cultural District, profiled here.

This past year, the Fort Mason Art program presented an adventurous array of free art experiences, including the return of our Gallery 308 marquee exhibition, new outdoor murals and flags, and the debut of seasonal Art Walks. FMCAC's capital projects program invested over \$3 million and thousands of staff hours in preserving and improving our historic piers and storehouses, from pouring a new concrete slab in Building B to transforming Pier 2 into our newest event venue, the Gateway Pavilion. This work enables us to keep our doors open, literally.

With grant support from the National Park Foundation, we are currently developing a three-year strategic plan in anticipation of Fort Mason Center's 50th anniversary in 2027. The Fort Mason 50 plan will articulate an inclusive, actionable vision for the future. As a member of our broader community, we will be inviting your input on what makes this place so special. I hope you will participate.

With gratitude,

Mike Buhler
President & CEO



Pier 2, circa 1930. PHOTO: GOLDEN GATE NRA, PARK ARCHIVES

FOUNDED IN 1977, FORT MASON

CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

INSPIRES AND FOSTERS CREATIVITY BY

PROVIDING A VIBRANT GATHERING

PLACE AND HOME FOR THOUGHT-

PROVOKING PROGRAMS, ART, EVENTS,

AND ORGANIZATIONS—ON A

HISTORIC, WATERFRONT CAMPUS.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Penny, Chair
Suneetha D'Silva, Vice-Chair
Craig Allison
Ruth Berson
Michelle Branch
Pauline Eveillard
Katie Fahey
Steven Fayne
Natasha Hsieh
Jeff Joslin
Enrique Landa
David Lichtman
Amy Lindburg
Mark O'Dell
Rekha Patel
Rosanna Russell
Alexandra Stoelzle
Stephanie Straka
Doug Tom
Robin Wright

Supt. David Smith, Ex Officio



Violinist Nils Bultmann at Summer Solstice Art Walk, June 21, 2023. PHOTO: CHARLIE VILLYARD

Operagoers at Italo Museo Americano, Fall Art Walk, September 18, 2023. PHOTO: PAT MAZZERA



The Fort Mason Art program transforms this former Army base into a launching site for memory, present-tense assembly, and future imagination. Over the past decade, Fort Mason Art has evolved into a robust, year-round calendar of free exhibitions, public art, performances, and seasonal Art Walks.

In January 2023, Fort Mason Art celebrated the opening of Sunny A. Smith's *The Compass Rose*, a new commission for Gallery 308. The exhibition is the artist's meditation on ancestral lineage repair, featuring interpretations of family heirlooms, mystical objects, and family trees, each imbued with unique symbolism and meaning.

Artist Cauleen Smith's flag series, *Seven Swallowtail Flags: Shiny Things for My Quartermaster*, debuted atop Pier 2 and Pier 3 in September 2023. Each flag is a nod to Fort Mason's history, specifically, the black quartermasters who served during World War II. Smith embraces and subverts the visual language of military symbology, including crossed swords, an American eagle, and the Quartermaster's key.

Throughout 2023, Fort Mason Art piloted a series of three Art Walks in collaboration with FMCAC resident organizations, including FOR-SITE Foundation, Goody Café, Haines Gallery, Long Now Foundation, Museo Italo Americano, SF Camerawork, and San Francisco Children's Art Center. Drawing over 1,500 attendees, each Art Walk featured special performances and exhibitions, from operatic virtuosos to contemporary dance. This popular seasonal event has become a permanent staple of Fort Mason Art's annual calendar.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **March 2024:** *Bonnie Ora Sherk: Life Frames Since 1970* Exhibition Catalog
- **May 30:** Spring Art Walk & Oscar Lopez Mural Installation
- **September 5:** Fall Art Walk & Cauleen Smith Flag Lowering Ceremony

BY THE NUMBERS

In partnership with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, FMCAC is a committed steward of the *San Francisco Port of Embarkation National Historic Landmark District*. As part of our mission, we plan and execute myriad capital projects and public realm improvements that make Fort Mason Center a safe and inspiring home for non-profit organizations and community gatherings.

305,000

SQUARE FEET OF HISTORIC PIERS AND STOREHOUSES PRESERVED BY FMCAC

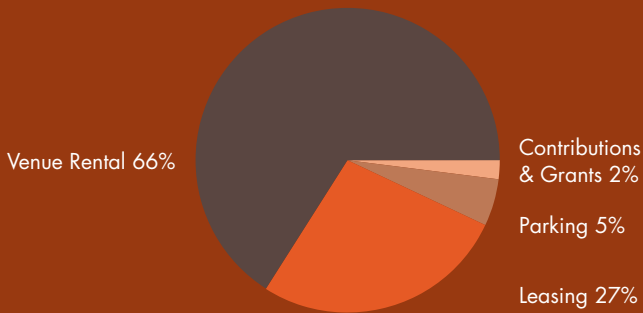
13

ACRES OF WATERFRONT OPEN SPACE MAINTAINED BY FMCAC

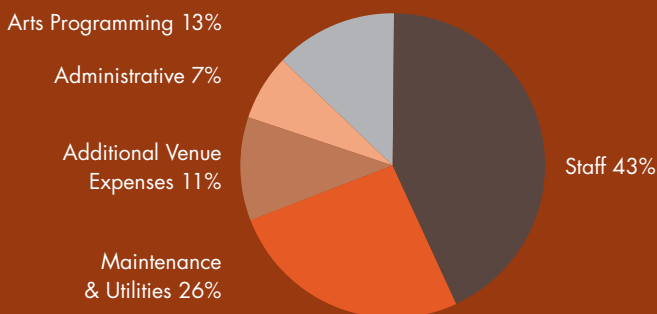
\$3.3M

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES IN 2023

2023 REVENUE BY TYPE
TOTAL REVENUE: \$9,900,000

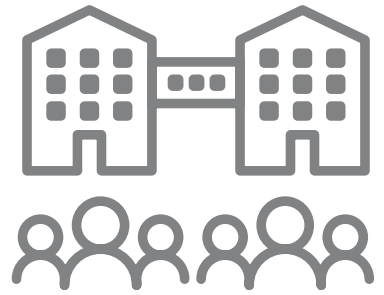


2023 EXPENSES BY TYPE
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$8,800,000



1.5M

Annual visitors



1000+

Events hosted at Fort Mason Center in 2023

40



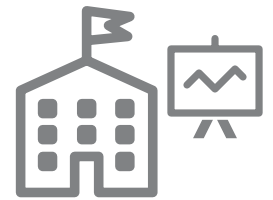
Art fairs, markets, and exhibitions ...

Welcoming over

156,000
guests



20



Non-profit resident organizations at Fort Mason Center



13

Legacy Businesses

Definition: A beloved local establishment open for 30 years or more that contributes to the history and/or identity of a particular neighborhood, community, or the city as a whole.

■ REGISTERED ■ PENDING ■ ELIGIBLE

FACES OF FORT MASON: AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL DISTRICT

Founded in 2020, the American Indian Cultural District (AICD) is the first established cultural district of its size in the United States dedicated to recognizing, honoring, and celebrating the American Indian legacy, culture, people, and contributions.

Since 2021, AICD's American Indian Cultural District Hub office has been located at Fort Mason Center. The space serves as a collective working hub for multiple organizations, including the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone and the American Indian Film Institute. In addition to being across from Alcatraz, home of the notable 1969 American Indian occupation, its waterfront location is culturally significant for American Indians. As explained by Sharaya Souza, AICD's executive director and co-founder, "For American Indians, water is sacred, the origin of all life, and the starting point for many of our creation stories."

In April 2023 FMCAC and AICD collaborated on a lobby art installation in Building D featuring re-printed posters highlighting the history and connection of American Indian organizations and events to Fort Mason Center, from 1980 to the present. Commissioned by AICD with support from FMCAC, this installation and accompanying land acknowledgement foster a sense of belonging for American Indian organizations within and visitors to the hub.

Sharaya Souza,
Executive Director
and co-founder,
American Indian
Cultural District.
PHOTO: MARGOT DUANE

OUR SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to the individuals, foundations, and corporations who have contributed to the Fort Mason Fund. Your generosity bolsters core arts and education programs such as Fort Mason Art, while also enabling FMCAC to offer affordable space and stability to 20 nonprofit resident organizations.

100% of our board members contribute financially each year, in addition to donating their time and effort to strengthen FMCAC.

FORT MASON FUND

\$25,000 AND UP

Helen Frankenthaler Foundation
National Park Foundation
San Francisco Grants for the Arts

\$5,000 AND UP

Craig Allison & Susan Shipley
Michelle Branch
Jim Chappell
Ryan & Suneetha D'Silva
Pauline Eveillard
Steven & Bunny Fayne
Diane Frankel
Natasha Hsieh
Diana Kissil
Enrique & Dara Landa
David Lichtman & Margaret Mak
Alan Mark & Jeffrey Fraenkel
Mark O'Dell
Jim & Vicki Penny
Ian Snow & Stephanie Straka
Gussie Stewart
Doug Tom
Dennis & Rita Williams

\$2,500 AND UP

Ruth Berson
Cappstone, Inc.
Lucia Choi-Dalton
Katie Fahey
Scott & Elizabeth Haskins
Barbara & Ron Kaufman
Jill Manton
Rekha Patel
Alexandra Stoelzle
Diane Wilsey

\$1,000 AND UP

10129 Foundation
Abe & Camille Pollack
Family Fund
Architectural Resources Group
Ardea Fund
William Banyai & Bonnie Bridges
Bellanti Plumbing
Jennifer Brokaw
CCI Commercial Construction
Cow Hollow Catering
Bob & Joanie Daoro
Ron & Barbara Kaufman
The Keith Campbell Foundation
for the Environment
Ledly Maytum Stacy Architects
Amy Lindburg
Beverly Mills
Nigel Mulgrew Plumbing

Oliver & Company
Quality Beverage Catering
Christopher & Pamela Rupright
John Sanger
Daniel Springer
Sophie Ziegler & Jonathan
Schwartz

\$500 AND UP

Sally Allen
Anonymous
Marnie Burke de Guzman
Jean Doyle & Manish Champsee
Samia Rashed
Rosanna Russell
Jan Smith
Ruth Todd
John Trauth
Vanhagen Family Trust
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wilmar
Connie Wolf

\$250 AND UP

Douglas Boszhardt, Karen & John Diefenbach, Rob Evans & Terry Micheau, Sarah Falender, Nancy & Tom Gille, Barbara Hewson, Jeff Joslin, Marc Kasky & Cat Carr, MMHBO Fund, Julienne Pearson, Fred & Karen Rodriguez, Carrie Rybczynski, Greg Ryken, Jeff & Jo-Lee Wishner

\$100 AND UP

Applied Materials & Engineering, Kathryn Burg, Courtney Damkroger & Roger Hansen, Ruth Felt, Krist & Laurie Jake, Maureen Jensen & George Elbaum, Micheal Kiper, Cate McCoy, Amy Meyer, Nyla Moore, Lynne Newhouse, Dean Orr, Philips Seabrook Associates, Joyce Polhamus, Gretchen Rogers, Eugene Schupp, Marilyn Waldman, Lonnie Zwerin & Frank Mainzer

UP TO \$100

Kenneth Ashford, Laura Batchelor, William Curtiss, Robert DeGoff, Jeanne Dorward, Dorothy Ernst, Eileen Glutzer, Laurie Goguen, Diana Goldstein, Marc Herbert, Nancy Hosay, Susan Miller, Laura Obayashi, Linda Scourtis, Lexie Schmidt

