



2025 ANNUAL REPORT





Alexis Madrigal as "The Memory Clerk," September 2025. PHOTO: ELIZA STRONG

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thanks to the tremendous support of our community, we expanded free public programs in 2025, strengthened Fort Mason Center's vibrant resident community, and added new signage to help visitors navigate the campus while learning about its multifaceted history.

The Board began the year by finalizing the **FORT MASON 50** plan—an ambitious five-year roadmap for welcoming public spaces, major capital improvements, and expanded access to arts programming.

Last summer, Fort Mason Center installed more than a dozen interpretive and wayfinding kiosks across campus. In addition to maps and directional guidance, these panels share the diverse stories that have shaped our historic waterfront—from the Ramaytush Ohlone presence, to Fort Mason's role as a military port of embarkation, to its transformation in the 1970s into a hub for arts and culture.

We were also delighted to welcome our newest campus resident, **Stern Grove Festival**, San Francisco's original free music festival, which relocated its administrative offices to Fort Mason Center. The move opens new opportunities for collaboration, with Stern Grove Festival now curating live music at the monthly Fort Mason Night Market. Learn more in *Faces of Fort Mason*.

As we look toward our 50th anniversary in 2027, the Board and staff are advancing several exciting projects, including a book by Alexis Madrigal—author and host of *KQED Forum*—to be published by Heyday in Spring 2027. As part of his research, Madrigal spent 24 hours at Pier 2 last September as "The Memory Clerk," conducting 46 interviews that captured the community's deep love for this place.

As we look to the year ahead, we invite you to return, explore, and experience all that's next at Fort Mason Center.

With gratitude,

Mike Buhler
President & CEO



Ben Kinmont: Our commons are free in the Store House, Summer 2025. PHOTO: MINOOSH ZOMORODINIA



PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER MICHEL

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

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2025 BY THE NUMBERS

Home to

22

organizations & businesses

14
of which have been
in operation for
30+
years

\$1.9M

invested into capital projects

9

Fort Mason Night Markets
hosted over

67,000

visitors, showcasing

15
DJs and

13
bands,

20
food vendors, and over

100
unique craft vendors and artisans

Fort Mason Art presented

14

free programs and activations
in partnership with

11

Nonprofit organizations

Welcomed

1.5M

visitors in 2025

Achieved

100%

leasing capacity
strengthening our core community
of organizations and businesses

Directly supported

64

artists, writers, musicians,
dancers, photographers,
filmmakers, and performers

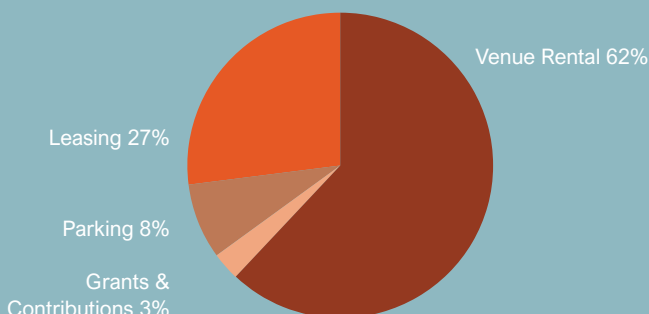
13

Acres of public open space
maintained by FMCAC

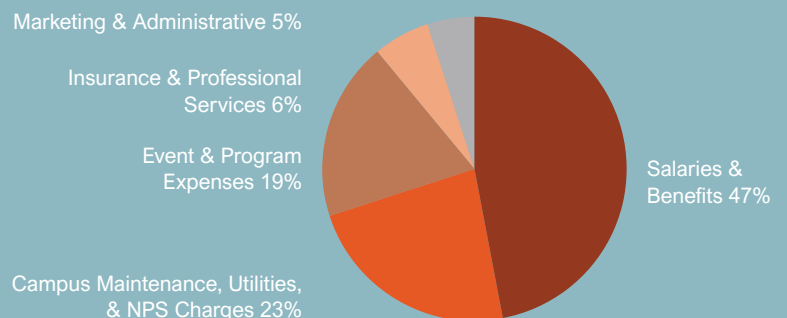
900+

events hosted at
Fort Mason Center

2025 OPERATING REVENUES
\$13,000,000



2025 OPERATING EXPENSES
\$10,500,000





DIASPORADICA transformed Pier 3 and captivated audiences. PHOTO: ROBBIE SWEENEY



Launched in 2015, **Fort Mason Art** is a dynamic year-round program featuring exhibitions, public art, performances, and free seasonal Art Walks. The program continued to grow in 2025, presenting a rich spectrum of work spanning immersive performance, historical inquiry, and community-centered activations.

Presented in collaboration with SFMOMA, the site-specific exhibition **Kota Ezawa: Here and There — Now and Then** featured Fort Mason’s unique waterfront location as the backdrop for *Grand Princess* (2024) and *Alcatraz Is an Idea* (2024). These works reframe historical moments of crisis and resistance—ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic to the 50th anniversary of the occupation of Alcatraz—into icons of shared memory. The exhibition also included Ezawa’s digital recreations of Kurt Schwitters’ lost Merzbau, drawing parallels between historical artistic environments and contemporary installation art. Visitors were invited to find unexpected connections between crisis and creativity, and between San Francisco’s past and its possible futures.

Fort Mason Art successfully launched its first summer exhibition at the Store House in Landmark Building D. ***Our commons are free, a project by Ben Kinmont***, explored the radical legacy of the San Francisco Diggers, a 1960s counterculture collective that sought to bypass capitalism through “guerrilla theater” and the creation of a purely free economy. Showcasing an extensive archive of underground publications—ranging from early street broadsides to influential commune newspapers—the exhibition highlighted how the Diggers used print culture as essential infrastructure for community building and resource sharing. Contemporary engagement was fostered through new films, historical timelines, and “free stores” within the gallery,

inviting audiences to reimagine the commons and consider how this radical heritage might inform modern modes of creative expression and social connection.

In summer 2025, Fort Mason Art presented **DIASPORADICA**, a three-act performance that transformed Pier 3 into an immersive installation exploring Black kinship, belonging, and collective imagination. Choreographed by experimental dance group RUPTURE, the work invited audiences into a participatory experience that blurred the line between observer and performer. Each evening unfolded from the communal gathering of *Kickback*, to a choreography-centered *Performance* rooted in diasporic storytelling, and concluded with *Function*, which transformed the venue into a communal dance floor. In conjunction with *DIASPORADICA*, Fort Mason Art hosted conversations with Beatrice Thomas, Joanna Haigood, and Ishmael Houston-Jones, underscoring the project’s bold and transformative impact within the Bay Area arts community.

Your contributions to the Fort Mason Fund directly support **Fort Mason Art** and its commitment to cultivating bold, imaginative, and accessible cultural experiences.

LOOKING AHEAD:

January 10–March 8: Anthony McCall: First Light

March–May: Fort Mason: Points of Departure Talk Series (New program!)

April & September: Fort Mason Art Walk

June 20–August 15: PLEASE. STAY. TOUCH. Jess Curtis Experiments with Gravity

August 7–August 9: San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival, co-presented with Zaccho Dance Theatre

September–November: Fort Mason: Points of Departure Talk Series

FACES OF FORT MASON: STERN GROVE FESTIVAL

Founded in 1938, Stern Grove Festival is the longest-running nonprofit music festival in the United States, having welcomed more than five million people to free live music in San Francisco. As a nonprofit organization, Stern Grove Festival believes deeply in the power of music to bring people together and strengthen the city's cultural life.

While the Festival's main stage will remain at the iconic Sigmund Stern Recreation Grove in the Parkside neighborhood, the relocation of Stern Grove Festival's administrative offices to Fort Mason Center opens new opportunities for collaboration, shared programming, and long-term partnership with Fort Mason Center and its resident organizations.

"We're pleased to be part of the Fort Mason Center community," said Bob Fiedler, Executive Director. "Being here supports our mission and allows us to work more closely with other arts organizations that value access, creativity, and public engagement. It's an important step as we look toward the future of the Festival."

Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture has already partnered with Stern Grove Festival to present live music at Fort Mason Night Markets, with additional programming planned for the 2026 Night Market season beginning in April.



Stern Grove Festival staff in full force, made up of a dedicated seasonal team and an amazing fleet of volunteers. PHOTO: JON TURNER

OUR SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to the individuals, foundations, and corporations who contributed to the **Fort Mason Fund** in 2025.

\$25,000 AND UP

Anonymous
Helen Frankenthaler Foundation
San Francisco Grants for the Arts

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\$10,000-\$19,999

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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UP TO \$100

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Courtney Damkroger, Jeanne
Dorward, Dorothy Ernst, Donna
Gothelf, Sarah Kishler, Amy Meyer
Nyla P. Moore, Julienne Pearson,
Kristen Williams & Jimmy Schmidt,
Linda Scourtis, Aloisia Stevens,
Laura Wong



**FORT
MASON
CENTER**
FOR ARTS
& CULTURE

2 MARINA BLVD., SUITE C-260
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123

FRONT COVER:

The Fort Mason Night Market transforms our waterfront each month into a lively destination.
PHOTO: PAT MAZZERA

BACK COVER:

Fort Mason Art presented the site-specific exhibition *Kaia Eawa: Here and There — Now and Then*, featuring *Grand Princess* (2024).
PHOTO: CHARLIE VILLYARD

LEARN MORE AT FORTMASON.ORG

  
[@FORTMASONCENTER](https://www.instagram.com/FORTMASONCENTER)

