

A hand is holding a yellow sign with a wavy top edge. The sign features the text '/// AS220 IMPACT REPORT 2017' in bold black letters. The background shows a printing shop with a woman in a red shirt and various printing equipment.

**/// AS220
IMPACT
REPORT
2017**

WHAT IS AS220?

AS220 is a non-profit community arts organization located in downtown Providence, Rhode Island. We are an unjuried, uncensored forum for the arts: a space to access tools, technology and knowledge; a space to come together, collaborate, innovate, experiment and take risks. AS220 envisions a just world where all people can realize their full creative potential.

AS220 offers artists opportunities to live, work, exhibit and perform in our facilities, including: four rotating gallery spaces; a performance stage; a black box theater; a print shop; a darkroom and media arts lab; a fabrication and electronics lab; a dance studio; a youth program focusing on youth under state care and in the Rhode Island juvenile detention facility; 47 affordable live/work studios for artists; and a bar and restaurant.

AS220 cultivates a creative community that continues to have a profoundly transformative impact on the city of Providence. We are dedicated to supporting artists and enhancing the cultural opportunities for all the people of Rhode Island.

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Every year AS220 publishes a report to share its achievements over the last year. We feel the true impact of our work is best demonstrated through the voices and stories of those who contribute to our community. We hope you enjoy reading how AS220 has helped change their lives!

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the creative and dedicated staff that make the realization of AS220's mission possible. And to the many individuals, family foundations and businesses that invest in AS220, we are very grateful for your ongoing support.



SHAUNA DUFFY & SHEY RIVERA
// CO-DIRECTORS

“Over the last 32 years, AS220’s work has been nurtured by many supporters who have - in many ways - invested in the belief that art can build community and change lives. In turn, AS220 has invested that support into the vibrant community of artists and cultural practitioners we serve. The circle is completed when these changemakers help to open doors for others by sharing time, skills, opportunities and experiences that empower the people of Rhode Island to participate in our creative community. Investment in AS220 is not one-way: it’s a continuous cycle.

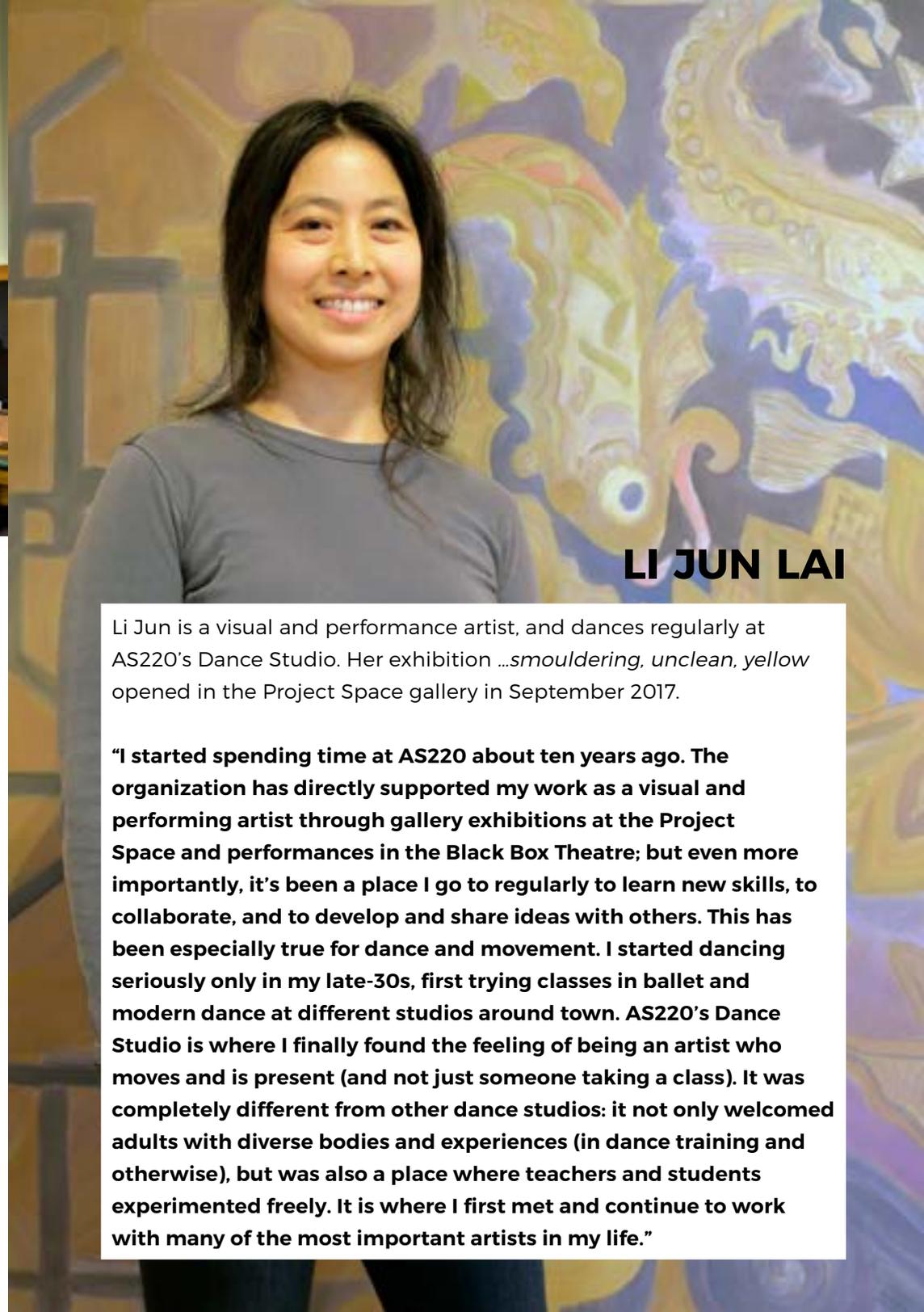
As we think about how best to continue nurturing AS220’s creative community over the coming years, we are focused on strengthening AS220’s role as an incubator for creative entrepreneurs, and a provider of educational and artistic opportunities for underserved members of the Rhode Island community. Our vision is that this focus on the needs of our community will help more people achieve creative and economic empowerment. The cyclical nature of this investment helps ensure AS220 has more relevant programming, informative and welcoming messaging, and attention to cultural sensitivity and equity. As a forum for creativity and freedom of expression, AS220 continues to inspire critical thought, create empathy, and allow individuals and communities to claim ownership of their narratives. Empowering communities and building empathy is critical to our humanity.”



SARAH TOMASSO

Sarah is the owner of LZRbeams, a small company that designs custom jewelry displays, product labels and branded boxes, and is an AS220 Industries key member.

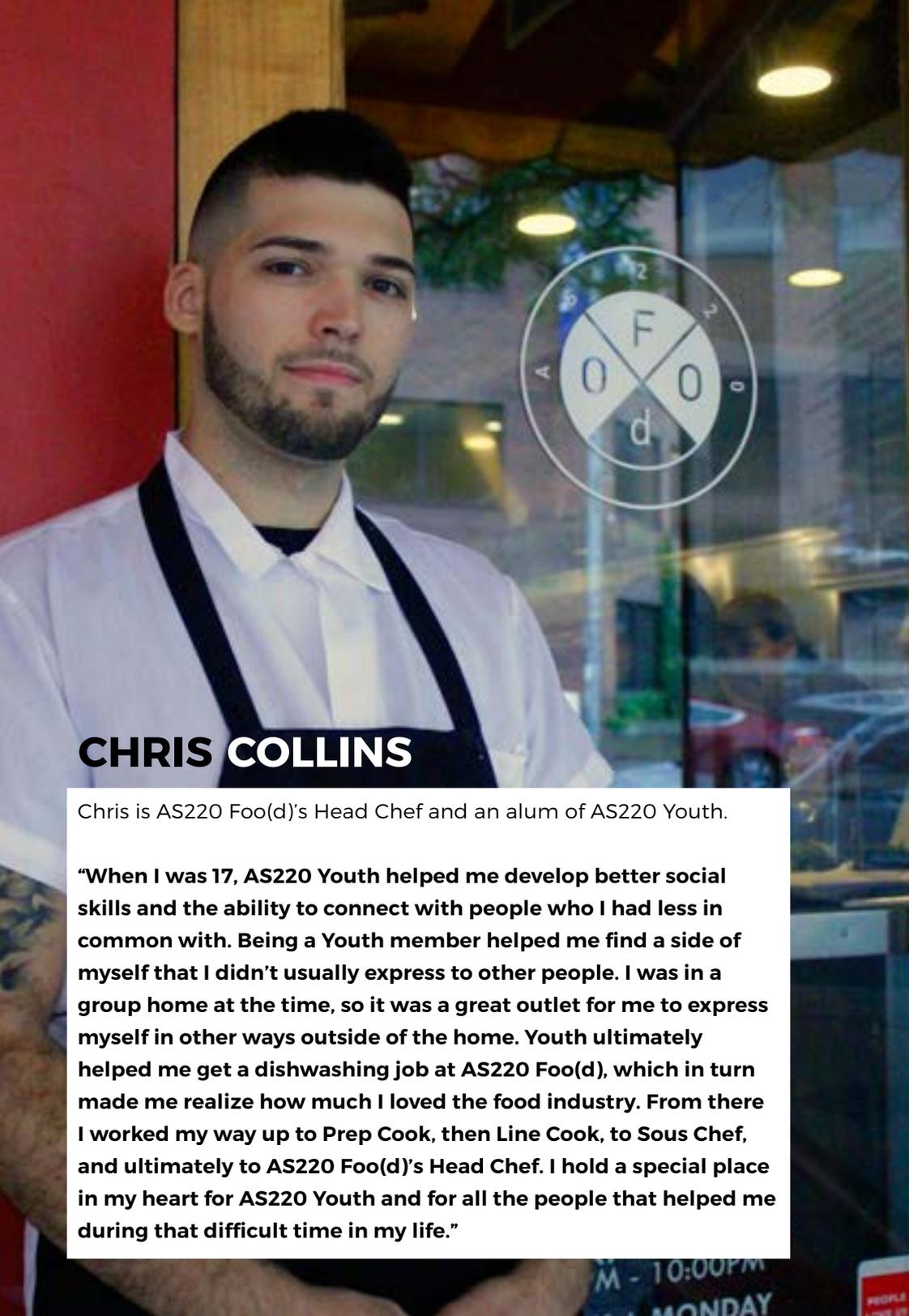
“AS220 has given me the knowledge and tools to dive into an area of creating that was never available to me before. Learning how to laser-cut opened up a world of possibilities that ignited my drive to create even more. It was a way for me to transform my ideas into a 3D reality, which is so exciting as an artist. I started making and selling jewelry, and opened an online shop. Several years later, I opened a second shop, selling the packaging and display materials I was already making for myself but now offering it to other business owners. I left my 9-5 job and fully dove into my freelance graphic design and laser-cutting work. LZRbeams is now rapidly growing. One day I will start looking for my own space and laser-cutter, but for now, I remain so grateful for the space that AS220 has made for the community. I don’t know where I would be without it. Having access to AS220 Industries has allowed me to open up a successful business without the full overhead of buying machinery and space. Most importantly, AS220 gave me the tools to learn a skill, a way of design, that has opened doors for me.”



LI JUN LAI

Li Jun is a visual and performance artist, and dances regularly at AS220’s Dance Studio. Her exhibition *...smouldering, unclean, yellow* opened in the Project Space gallery in September 2017.

“I started spending time at AS220 about ten years ago. The organization has directly supported my work as a visual and performing artist through gallery exhibitions at the Project Space and performances in the Black Box Theatre; but even more importantly, it’s been a place I go to regularly to learn new skills, to collaborate, and to develop and share ideas with others. This has been especially true for dance and movement. I started dancing seriously only in my late-30s, first trying classes in ballet and modern dance at different studios around town. AS220’s Dance Studio is where I finally found the feeling of being an artist who moves and is present (and not just someone taking a class). It was completely different from other dance studios: it not only welcomed adults with diverse bodies and experiences (in dance training and otherwise), but was also a place where teachers and students experimented freely. It is where I first met and continue to work with many of the most important artists in my life.”



CHRIS COLLINS

Chris is AS220 Foo(d)'s Head Chef and an alum of AS220 Youth.

“When I was 17, AS220 Youth helped me develop better social skills and the ability to connect with people who I had less in common with. Being a Youth member helped me find a side of myself that I didn’t usually express to other people. I was in a group home at the time, so it was a great outlet for me to express myself in other ways outside of the home. Youth ultimately helped me get a dishwashing job at AS220 Foo(d), which in turn made me realize how much I loved the food industry. From there I worked my way up to Prep Cook, then Line Cook, to Sous Chef, and ultimately to AS220 Foo(d)'s Head Chef. I hold a special place in my heart for AS220 Youth and for all the people that helped me during that difficult time in my life.”



JOSHUA RODRIGUEZ

Josh is the drummer for local punk band Hairspray Queen and prints the band’s merchandise in the AS220 Community Printshop. He is also a Printshop key member.

“Being involved in the AS220 community has been great! Without AS220’s Main Stage a lot of musicians like myself would have nowhere to perform in the heart of downtown. AS220 has helped a lot of artists in our community to have a voice creatively, and having access to the best technology is the most important part. AS220 has also made it possible for me to make artwork, print merchandise for my band Hairspray Queen, and print on apparel for my streetwear brand ALPHABETS. I also do photo shoots and record films in the Media Arts Lab for social media promotional videos. AS220 has provided a lot of opportunities for me and most of all has made me a better artist.”

Photo credit: James Lastowski



KENZO ABIKO

Kenzo is a Fab Academy Brazil instructor, an artist and maker, and an alum of AS220's Fab Academy.

“AS220 appeared in my life by chance. At the time my life was on track: I had a job as a model maker in one of the biggest architecture firms in Brazil. I was earning good money and getting promotions. But something deep inside me didn't feel right. One day I was surfing the internet for courses and I saw one called Fab Academy. It was all the things I wanted to learn for so long! I had to do this Fab Academy thing! I had 70 Fab Labs around the world to choose from, but in the end I chose AS220 Industries because they specialized in electronics. I had no idea how important AS220 and Providence were going to be in my life. In the beginning I saw AS220 Industries as just a building where I was going to take the course, but when I left I understood it was a very strong community. I never realized people could be that connected and share so much of their knowledge and passions in one place. I guess that's what AS220 is for me: a community of passionate people. Now I'm back in Brazil and I'm trying to emulate that community feeling I felt in Providence. I'm a co-coordinator for the Brazilian Fab Lab Network (we have 40 so far) and I'm also one of the first instructors of Fab Academy here in Brazil. I'm hoping some day I can change someone's life as AS220 Industries did for me, maybe deliberately, maybe by chance.”

Photo credit: Kenzo Abiko



THE DAILY NOTE 401

Louie and Cøøg founded TDN 401 as a platform to promote “dope local Hip-Hop.” TDN 401 is one of AS220's most active Live Arts Community Curators, bringing Hip-Hop to the Main Stage every month.

“As young creatives in the Hip-Hop world it's tough to find a venue that works with us to get our vision across to the people. Finding AS220 has been an absolute blessing. Not only have they allowed us to create but they've encouraged our ideas and helped us elevate these concepts to their fullest potential. Since joining the AS220 family as a Community Curator last fall, The Daily Note has produced a handful of poetry showcases, producer spotlights, artist showcases, taken part in a plethora of AS220 community shows (including Foo Fest), and most recently produced a gallery of art and music. This may seem like AS220 is just a venue, in its simplest form, but we used the word “family” for a reason. Every time we step away from an event at AS220, whether we curated it or not, there's this rejuvenated energy of acceptance and we sleep well with thoughts like: “Wow, this is why we do what we do.” We're absolutely grateful they're in our lives and we know the feeling is reciprocated!”



MELITA MORALES

Melita is an artist, educator, researcher and AS220 Industries key member. Currently she is a PhD candidate at the Lynch School of Education at Boston College.

“As I see it, the heart that beats inside AS220 is in the community of people who refuse to accept a one-way-only approach to life, who instead carve their opportunities in a way that weaves artistic goals with a socially conscious, action-oriented mindset. I am equally inspired by the creative lives being nurtured with self-agency throughout the space, as I am by the things being made in the space. Seeing an event come together at AS220 is standing witness to people who will give above and beyond personal gain for the better of their community. As a maker, the space has helped me grow from thinking of making as a solo studio activity, to opening up to the camaraderie, shared technical development and impromptu critiques of a community space. As a key member and Fab Academy alum, I feel a great sense of freedom and accessibility: from the fluid 24/7 access to multiple tools and shops, to an incredibly talented staff willing to share their expertise, to a considered monthly membership fee and multiple shift-work options. AS220 has changed both how I think and how I make.”

Met School student Marcell Monteiro on-site with Melita during a DownCity Design class, Spring 2016. Photo credit: Jesse Banks III.



RICHARD GOULIS

Richard is a multi-media, video and performance artist, an AS220 Work Studio tenant, and a long-time community member. He and Sheryl Kopel are currently filming a documentary called *Unjuried/Uncensored: Making AS220*.

“I had been a graduate of RISD for a few months. I was invited to sit with a table full of people at a favorite watering hole after a performance we’d done ... somewhere. It was early 1985. There was a guy talking about a place, an idea, a dream, something. That guy was Umberto Crenca, and that “thing” was AS220. I knew right then, that night, AS220 was going to work. No doubt. I fully embraced it and accepted it as a necessary truth. I went on to perform a number of times at AS220 that year above Ocean State Theater (now PPAC), and moved out of town shortly after for work. I have always maintained a deep connection to the organization, performing there countless times, and even serving as Gallery Director for several years after returning to Rhode Island in 1995. Now - thirty plus years later - I have an even more profound belief in the truth that AS220 has bestowed upon the world. I look out to the future and feel that now, more than we may know, the world needs AS220. I have as much confidence in Shey and Shauna as I did in that guy at the table in 1985. I hope I’m around to see AS220 continue to be an ever-resonant force in both my own life and the lives of others it may touch for at least another thirty years.”

Photo credit: Babs Owen



Photo credit: AS220 Youth



Photo credit: James Lastowski

GET INVOLVED!

Check out an exhibition at AS220's Galleries
as220.org/galleries

Take an affordable workshop at AS220 Industries
shop.as220.org

Check out what's happening in AS220's Youth Studio
youth.as220.org

Experience a performance at AS220's Main Stage
as220.org/mainstage

Watch some cutting edge theatre at AS220's Black Box
as220.org/blackbox

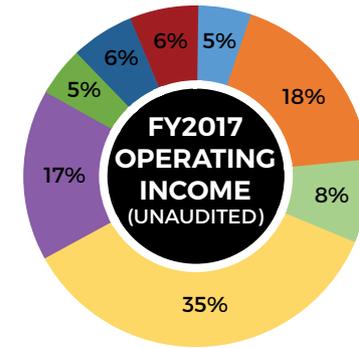
Take a dance or fitness class in AS220's Dance Studio
as220.org/dance

Live or work in AS220's affordable Live/Work Studios
as220.org/living

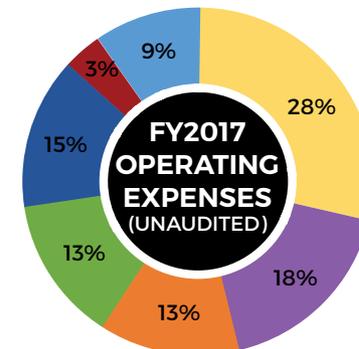
Grab a drink and a bite to eat at AS220 Foo(d) and Bar
food.as220.org

Take a tour of AS220 with Practice//Practice staff
practicepractice.as220.org

SUPPORT AS220 by making a donation!
as220.org/support



- \$1,107,911 Live/Work & Other Rental Income
- \$568,029 Foundations & Corporations
- \$516,050 Foo(d) and the Bar at AS220
- \$258,795 Governmental Support
- \$202,402 Performances & Other Earned Income
- \$172,109 Sales of Artwork & Merchandise
- \$157,582 Fundraising & Events
- \$143,703 Workshops & Educational Programs
- \$3,126,581 TOTAL INCOME**



- \$941,230 Live/Work & Other Rental Income
- \$586,995 Foo(d) and the Bar at AS220
- \$482,751 Gallery & Live Arts
- \$442,921 Industries
- \$429,119 AS220 Youth
- \$311,515 Administration & Development
- \$112,029 Other Programming
- \$3,306,560 TOTAL EXPENSES**
- \$(179,979) DEFICIT**



FY17 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

- 11 artist businesses incubated
- 60 artists living and working at AS220
- 57 art exhibits
- 320 for active artist / maker members
- 600 youth served by AS220 Youth
- 550 live performance events
- 1,600 classes and workshops
- 8,600 artists served
- 54,000 people participating!

Photo credit: James Lastowski



BECOME A \$5 FAN!

Your support of just \$5 a month (or more) is crucial to sustaining an organization that has a profound impact on the city of Providence.

As a way of saying "THANK YOU" for your recurring monthly donation, you'll get a limited edition AS220 enamel pin designed by AS220 Youth alum and Rhode Island School of Design graduate Gaby Mollinedo!

SIGN UP AT AS220.ORG/FAN

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Bruno Tapia - Treasurer

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