In 2021, AS220’s focus has remained on supporting staff as they navigate safely reopening programs to the public, and community members who are hungry to access the opportunities those programs provide. The adaptability and grace shown by our staff is an inspiration.

The vision of our Racial Justice Initiative to “co-create an anti-racist and liberatory culture at AS220” remains central to our work. This year, staff have worked with five artist organizers from the community to build trust, better understand the BIPoC Demands presented by our Black, Indigenous and Staff of Color in June 2020, and establish priorities for addressing those demands. This work is genuine, committed, organic and necessary. It is our great privilege to be leading it. Read more at racialjustice.as220.org.

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 people in our community. We hope you enjoy reading how AS220 has helped change their lives!

Heartfelt thanks to the creative and dedicated staff that make the realization of AS220’s mission possible. And to the many individuals, foundations, partners and businesses that invest in AS220: we are very grateful for your ongoing support.
At the heart of our creative community are the 53 artists who live at AS220. AS220 has housed artists for more than three decades and is one of downtown Providence’s largest providers of affordable housing. In a city with a desperate shortage of low-cost living options, we are proud that 39 of our 47 residential spaces are designated affordable.

One of AS220’s core values is building community, and providing stable housing to artists is key to cultivating that community. It helps them dedicate time to their practice, immerses them in an environment rich with creative resources, and connects them to a supportive and collaborative community. For many of our residents, living at AS220 has been nothing short of life changing.

The pandemic has had a devastating effect on artists in Rhode Island. To ease the stress on our artist tenants, AS220 raised over $100,000 in rent relief last year to keep them safely housed. And as part of the Racial Justice Initiative, staff are working to make housing at AS220 more accessible to low-income BIPOC artists.

KEITH MCCURDY
Keith McCurdy is a musician, poet and resident at AS220. He released his new album Burnt Offerings in June 2021 and recorded a Streaming Session at AS220 in July of 2021.
In February 2020, AS220 celebrated the grand reopening of the newly renovated Aborn Gallery, a space rejuvenated as part of our $5 million “All Access” campaign to make our Empire Street spaces more fit for purpose. Since then, Galleries staff have shifted the focus of the Aborn Gallery’s programming to align with our Racial Justice Initiative’s goal to create “an anti-racist and liberatory culture at AS220”.

**FUTURE EXHIBITIONS PRESENTED IN THE SPACE WILL:**

- Engage with critical social issues
- Present projects from new voices
- Uplift artists at crucial junctions in their career
- Support work that might be outside of, or push against, boundaries of the mainstream

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**HALIMA IBRAHIM**

Halima is a poet, visual artist, and student at Stanford University. She served as the Rhode Island Youth Poet Laureate from 2020 to 2021. She exhibited in the Aborn Gallery in March 2021.

*“Bigotry in the Time of Infection* was my first experience exhibiting my art in a gallery space, and I couldn’t imagine a better place for the work than AS220’s Aborn Gallery. AS220’s care for us artists, the artwork, and the community really shows through with the execution of each exhibit. The process of organizing the show was simple and straightforward. I’m so grateful to have the chance to showcase my work in one of their gallery spaces.
Since AS220’s performance venues were closed for in-person shows in March 2020, our Live Arts staff have adapted by providing safe, audience-free “Streaming Sessions” since November 2020. The team has recorded 85 performances and counting, with more than 40,000 views from all over the country and the world.

The streaming sessions showcase the original work of musicians and performers across a range of genres, and the recordings are shared for free on our social media and YouTube channels. Not only do the sessions help artists create high quality documentation of their work, but they also ensure people can access AS220 shows from anywhere in the world!

AS220 is now experimenting with the gradual return to ticketed shows with very limited in-person audiences. We can’t wait to welcome back audiences after a year and a half!

Kweku Kwegyir-Aggrey

Kweku is a bassist and performs with Chubby Pockets, a six-piece Rhode Island-based instrumental ensemble. Chubby Pockets recorded one of AS220’s first streaming sessions with a limited in-person audience in early September 2021.

“Shout out to AS220 for having us! We really enjoyed being here, it was an incredible set, an incredible space, all the people were really great to work with.”

PHOTOS BY: James Lastowski
ALIGNING AS220 YOUTH & AS220 INDUSTRIES

As AS220 examines ways to create more creative opportunities for communities of color, one plan that’s underway is to more closely align two of AS220’s largest programs: Youth and Industries. The Youth program offers free arts education, workforce development, racial justice-centered programming, and access to community resources for young people. The Industries offers artists affordable access to education, communal studio space and industry standard tools.

The alignment will strengthen pathways for our young artists -- 90% of whom are youth of color -- to further their career development after aging out of the Youth program; create more opportunities for adult artists to mentor young people at AS220; and consolidate existing space and resources. AS220 Youth members have already been hard at work in the Industries: screen printing t-shirts in the Printshop, and using the Media Arts and Fabrication labs to create work for their annual showcase, Futureworlds. The energy these young people bring to the Industries spaces is magic!

JANAY PINA

Janay is the Director of AS220 Youth, one of AS220’s largest programs. She is also a singer-songwriter and co-founder of The.Park.Studios, a multimedia studio that curates and produces diverse events centered on black and brown artists and communities.

"AS220 Youth has been fighting injustices, dismantling oppressive systems, and elevating the voices of youth of color for over 20 years. We have created some amazing multi-media productions, festivals, music shows, and gallery exhibitions on the second floor of AS220’s Empire Street building, but we’ve started to outgrow that space.

That’s why we’re excited to be merging our program with AS220 Industries in Fall 2021. Not only will it give us more space, but it will foster creative collaboration and a lasting tradition of sharing knowledge, skills and culture between AS220’s youth artists and Industries members."

PHOTO BY: AM Andrade

PHOTO BY: James Lastowski

ALLAM MELLA shoots Alex the Blue at the Media Arts Lab
YOU CAN STILL GET INVOLVED, EVEN DURING A PANDEMIC!

Read about AS220’s racial justice initiative
racialjustice.as220.org

See an exhibit in AS220’s Galleries
as220.org/galleries

Check out what AS220 Youth’s members are creating
youth.as220.org

Book a streaming performance at AS220
as220.org/streaming

Take a workshop at AS220 Industries
shop.as220.org/workshops

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

Stay informed about AS220
as220.org/as220-newsletter

Attend an in-person streaming session
as220.org/calendar

SUPPORT AS220
BY MAKING A DONATION!
as220.org/support

FY2021 OPERATING INCOME
UNAUDITED

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FY2021 OPERATING EXPENSES
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FY21 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS*
* Numbers affected by COVID-19 closures

- Paid teaching artists across AS220’s programs
- Exhibiting artists, including 41 first-time exhibitors
- Residential and work studio artist tenants
- Classes and workshops
- Young people served by AS220 Youth
- Performance events presented
- Artists served

40,000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATING
(includes virtual attendance, not unique participants)

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.

For your recurring monthly donation, you’ll get an AS220 enamel cat pin designed by AS220 Youth alum and RISD graduate Gaby Mollinedo!

Sign up at as220.org/fan
OFFICERS
Janella Watson - Chair
Michael Dupuis - Vice Chair
Caroline Mailloux - Secretary
Kurtis McKenney - Treasurer

DIRECTORS
Savannah DaCruz
Becci Davis
Elizabeth (Eli) MacLaren
Felicia Megginson
Ashley Paniagua

OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS

DESIGN BY: Gaby Mollinedo
COVER PHOTO BY: AM Andrade & Allam Mella
AS220 Youth members filming for Futureworlds 2021
PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT Nayasia Gonzalez, Kianna Marte, Ariana Benoit, Keely “Kego” Fae Roberts, Jordan Page, Mireyshka Cartagena, Sarya Nheb