AS220
IMPACT REPORT 2022
WHAT IS AS220?

AS220 is a non-profit community arts organization in downtown Providence, Rhode Island. We provide all Rhode Island artists affordable access to galleries, performance venues, educational opportunities, residential spaces, and work studios. Exhibitions and performances of original work are uninjured, uncensored, and all ages. AS220 envisions a just and equitable world where all people can realize their full creative potential.

AS220 offers access to six gallery spaces; a performance stage; a black box theater; a print shop; a darkroom and media arts lab; a fabrication lab; a dance studio; a youth program; 47 residential spaces and 7 work studios for artists; and a restaurant and bar.

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

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT & THANK YOU

Every year AS220 publishes a report to share its achievements over the last year. We feel the impact of our work is best demonstrated through the voices and stories of our community. This year, we’re excited to highlight community members with something important in common - they’re all staff!

Heartfelt thanks to ALL of the creative and dedicated staff that make the realization of AS220’s mission possible. And to our Board of Directors and the many individuals, foundations, partners, and businesses that invest in AS220: we are grateful for your support.

SUPPORT AS220

Scan the QR code to donate! Your support is crucial to sustaining an organization that has a profound impact on the city of Providence.
2022 has been ripe with budding, blooming and transformation. As with all life cycles, there has also been transition, hardship and grappling with the change. Shifting from virtual to in-person programming has felt similar to remembering how to dance after a long time of sitting still. Thankfully, we have a dedicated and imaginative staff who have supported us in this work.

Racial Justice continues to shape our direction, with initiatives such as a new management structure recognizing the expertise of BIPOC leadership; housing for formerly incarcerated artists (in partnership with Haus of Codec); and an equitable pay structure to be piloted this winter.

Additionally, our staff have worked tirelessly to design proposals that will operationalize the values of antiracism and liberation. We look forward to sharing these goals in our 2023 strategic plan.
Assi was born and raised in Providence in a family rooted in their West African cultural traditions, especially dance. Assi lived at AS220 and is now the Dance Studio Coordinator.

“I didn’t consider myself to be an artist. I applied to be a resident at AS220 using a dance video I had made in college, and I got in! I tell myself now, ‘you applied for something as an artist, and you got it. So, you are an artist. Don’t downplay what you do.’ AS220 continues to be a driving force and a central hub for all people from all different places to come together to express themselves, have access to and use the space. That is the impact I want to have, opening up who has access to this space.”
Madison is an artist working in photographic-based processes. First coming to poetry slams at AS220 when she was 16, she’s now the Community Studios Manager, helping others to realize their creative visions. Madison recently received a Fulbright Scholarship to make her work in New Zealand next year.

“When I came back from school with a degree in photography, I found AS220’s Community Studios, where I could make my work, and also make really amazing friends. We’re now merging our youth and adult education programs, spatially and ideologically. I want to see a space where youth can practice their craft past the age of 21. It’s exciting to reimagine the possibilities of this space.”
Savonnara is a practicing artist who found AS220 while looking for local resources and tools to help him progress after moving to RI. He’s now the Visuals and Media Arts Coordinator at AS220.

“I run the visuals and media arts side of the youth program. AS220 has given a platform for a lot of young BIPOC artists to create because not a lot of us have the opportunity to go to art schools, or school in general. It’s a good place for artists to learn without the pressure of having to succeed or meet a certain expectation. Learning at their own pace and networking with everybody here is so important for our young artists.”
“AS220 has helped nurture me as an artist. I started off as a youth member working on my own craft as a dancer, primarily. I became an instructor, and now I co-manage the youth program. I want to give that same impactful energy. I want to support youth to explore different ideas, concepts, create different pathways so they can end up managing the program -- to have the culture of the space be everlasting.”

Saulo is a songwriter, dancer, choreographer, and media artist who has been involved at AS220 for years -- as a Youth member, a resident, a Community Curator, and now as the AS220 Youth Downtown Studio Manager.
Top L-R: Ayyub Diaz, Jay Lew, Janella Watson, Jason Colon, Alex Ruiz, Kelwin Pacheco Reyes, Diana Ross, Saulo Castillo, Janay Pina, Kevin Steinhauser, Justin Freitas, Bernard Harte, Anjel Newmann, Shauna Duffy, Gem, Mike Ahern

*Not pictured: Francis Bonnet, Assi Coulibaly, Michele Fontes, Ryan Gaudet, Wendy Hyatt, Naffi Koulibaly, Ginay Lopes,
Justin found AS220 while working with the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, helping to facilitate an Undoing Racism® training for staff in early 2020. He now works as the Organizational Culture Coordinator, supporting staff as they advance the work of our Racial Justice Initiative.

“I really love AS220’s mission. We’re all artists at our core, we’re all creative, so it makes sense that artists have a particular role in anti-racist work and in organizing. I hope I can bring education, healing, peace, compassion, some humor and levity, and perspective to staff. AS220 brings out the best in me and helps me to define myself as an artist in ways that I didn’t see.”
Ayyub is a Property Maintenance Technician at AS220. He first learned about about AS220 back in 2000, while attending The Providence Black Repertory Company, and came on staff this year after completing an apprenticeship at The Steel Yard. As an artist, Ayyub works in metal sculpting, blacksmithing, gardening, and music but says “my main thing is being a single father to my 6 year old sun.”

“More people need to know about AS220 and the services that we provide. There’s a community of people at AS220 all helping each other out. It’s very inspiring for me, and when I’m at AS220 it’s as if I’m in another state -- everyone is friendly, gifted, and multi-talented. I want to impact our community by encouraging all people to find, or tap more into, your gifts and look for inspiration anywhere.”
Jay Lew is a songwriter, rapper, and educator who came to AS220 at a very young age, tagging along with his foster brother, and is now the Performing Arts Coordinator at AS220 Youth.

“AS220 has molded my views as an artist. I didn’t grow up as an artist or a musician. Coming here, having a studio that I could use at any time, places where I could perform, it boosted my confidence. I want to reciprocate and pass down all of the knowledge, the skills, opportunities, the resources. When I meet youth that come in, I want them all to feel that they have resources, and someone who’ll listen to them and push their growing edge.”
Neal is a practicing visual artist who first came to AS220 when we were located on Richmond Street in the late ‘80s / early ‘90s. He was an original resident at our Empire Street complex, and has been the Galleries Director for nearly 20 years.

“My role is more that of a caretaker than curator, it’s about meeting artists where they are and being inclusive. AS220 is open to all RI artists, so the wait to exhibit is long -- which makes it difficult to intentionally highlight communities that are traditionally overlooked. We created a new space, the Aborn Gallery, dedicated to hosting exhibits focusing on racial justice, critical social issues, and challenging works that might not fit in traditional galleries. The Aborn makes AS220 more accessible, dynamic, and relevant.”

PHOTO BY: Dave Dvorchak
FY22 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS*
* Numbers affected by COVID-19 closures

- 40 Paid teaching artists across AS220’s programs
- 180 Exhibiting artists, including 41 first-time exhibitors
- 55 Residential and work studio artist tenants
- 165 Classes and workshops
- 222 Young people served by AS220 Youth
- 159 Performance events presented
- 1,840 Artists served

...70,000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATING!* *(includes virtual attendance, not unique participants)*

SCAN THE QR CODE AND GET INVOLVED AT AS220!
### FY2022 OPERATING INCOME
**UNAUDITED**

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### FY2022 OPERATING EXPENSES
**UNAUDITED**

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AS220
BOARD

OFFICERS
Janella Watson - Chair
Aarin Clemons - Vice Chair
Caroline Mailloux - Secretary
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DIRECTORS
Savannah DaCruz
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OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS

COVER PHOTO BY: Miche
AS220 Youth members at the album release for On The Flipside, June 2022
PICTURED: Mika, Zakhi, John Sorto, DeLanté, Hollywood Sanchez, C-lottie, Kelly, Uno Avion, Saulo Castillo, Alex the Blue, Nayasia, Janilson