



# CREATIVITY CHANGES LIVES

FY2025 Annual Report





# TO OUR COMMUNITY

We are proud to share Portsmouth Music and Arts Center's FY2025 Annual Report, covering the period from September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025, with our community. PMAC continues to thrive as a hub for accessible, high-quality music and visual arts education, and this year was one of creative momentum. We're thrilled to share some highlights with you.

PMAC grew in both size and scope this year, hiring fantastic new teaching artists and launching new classes and ensembles. We added new youth art class topics and a new Teen Blues Band, as well as two new music ensembles for adults: Acoustic Coffeehouse and New Horizons Chamber Strings. Meanwhile, our Creative Aging program continued to expand, welcoming more adults aged 65+ into free or reduced-cost arts programs designed around creativity and connection.


One joyful moment of the year was our second annual Visiting Professional Artist Residency. During the month of April, PMAC hosted a weeklong residency where Grammy award-winning New Orleans jazz musicians taught in local Seacoast schools and mentored PMAC students in celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month. With clear weather on our side, the week culminated with a jazz parade through downtown Portsmouth—professionals marching alongside students in an unforgettable shared experience.

PMAC's commitment to arts access for our community remains at the heart of everything we do. It has been a challenging year for arts funding. However, despite extreme cuts to the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, which eliminated operating funding PMAC traditionally received, PMAC was still able to expand its Tuition Aid and Creative Aging programs so that more families and individuals with financial boundaries can participate at PMAC.

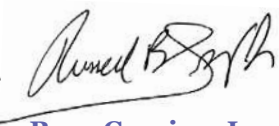
While this report reflects the past fiscal year, we'd be remiss not to hint at something exciting on the horizon: throughout FY25, we were quietly laying the groundwork for the transformation of Portsmouth's historic South Meeting House into a vibrant visual arts center for PMAC. You'll hear much more about that in the year to come—but let's just say, it's a dream project that will help ensure arts experiences are for everyone.

As always, we are deeply grateful for your support. Your belief in our mission makes what we do every day possible. Together with our Board of Directors, students, families, teaching artists, partner organizations, and community members, you make PMAC a vital and welcoming part of the Seacoast.

With immense gratitude,



**Lisa Shawney**  
Board Chair



**Russ Grazier, Jr.**  
CEO and Co-Founder



**Katie Grazier**  
COO and Co-Founder

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# ABOUT PMAC

Portsmouth Music and Arts Center (PMAC) is a nonprofit community music and visual arts school that has served the greater Seacoast community since 2002. PMAC offers lessons, classes, and ensembles for all ages, as well as youth summer camps. PMAC also shares a variety of free arts and music programming—such as gallery exhibitions and concerts—with the community throughout each year.

## OUR MISSION

To build community through the arts by providing all people with the opportunity to achieve their full creative potential, regardless of their age, ability, or economic status.

We accomplish this through high-quality music and visual arts education programs and by creating ensemble, performance, and exhibition opportunities for students, professionals, and audiences.

## OUR VALUES

- ▶ Community
- ▶ Creativity
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Supportiveness
- ▶ Inspiration
- ▶ Collaboration

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L-R: Rick Wallis, PMAC Chief Development Officer Eli Kaynor, Board Treasurer Brooks Jalbert, Mark Anderson, Board Vice Chair William Durling, PMAC COO Katie Grazier, PMAC CEO Russ Grazier, Nancy Pearson, Cleo Villaflores, Joe Keefe, Board Secretary Danielle O’Neil, Jim Buttrick, Board Chair Lisa Shawney.  
Not pictured: Forrest Elliott, Charles Riopel, Stephen Ritchie, Beth Wagner, Susan Wolowitz.



L-R: Eli Kaynor, Melissa Schultz, Michelle Shoemaker, Russ Grazier, Katie Grazier.

# BY THE NUMBERS

## FY25 ENROLLMENT BY SEMESTER

Total Enrollments: 2,307

FALL: 873

SPRING: 960

SUMMER: 474



### STUDENTS RECEIVING TUITION AID

- ▶ Youth Students: \$76,616 of tuition aid awarded to 59 students (55%)
- ▶ Creative Aging: \$52,837 of program support awarded to 176 students (38%)
- ▶ Adult Students: \$9,767 of tuition aid awarded to 14 students (7%)

**TOTAL TUITION AID: \$139,220 (100%) AWARDED TO 249 STUDENTS**

# \$139,220

## FY25 TUITION AID GIVEN

*17% increase from FY24*

In our community, where the cost of living is above the national average, finding room in a household budget for studying art and music can be a challenge. PMAC's tuition aid program ensures that no child goes without music and art, providing anywhere from 25–100% of a student's tuition for families in need.

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## FREE EVENTS IN FY25

Annually PMAC offers a varied slate of free music and arts programming to the public, including concerts, gallery exhibitions, artist talks, open art studios, and more. PMAC is committed to expanding access to the arts, and offering such events free of charge helps remove financial barriers to arts engagement.

# 3

## NEW ENSEMBLES ADDED

In FY25, PMAC added three new ensembles to our already diverse lineup: a Teen Blues Band, for students to explore the blues form and its influence on contemporary music; Acoustic Coffeehouse, for adults to play familiar favorites; and New Horizons Chamber Strings, for beginner-level adult string players to grow. These ensembles were created in response to student feedback about their interests.

# 28

## MUSIC ENSEMBLES

PMAC students can participate in youth, teen, and adult ensembles spanning a range of musical genres.

- ▶ Acoustic Coffeehouse
- ▶ Alt Rock Band
- ▶ Band of Hope
- ▶ Bluegrass Ensemble
- ▶ Brewery Lane Big Band
- ▶ Classic Rock Band
- ▶ Flute Choir
- ▶ Jazz Pioneers
- ▶ New Horizons Band
- ▶ New Horizons Beginner Band
- ▶ New Horizons Chamber Strings
- ▶ New Horizons Chorus
- ▶ New Horizons String Orchestra
- ▶ Noon Tunes Fiddle Ensemble
- ▶ Rock 101
- ▶ Roots, Rock, Blues & Beyond (x2)
- ▶ Sandpipers Youth Chorus
- ▶ Saxophone Ensemble
- ▶ Teen Blues Band
- ▶ Teen Jazz Ensemble (x2)
- ▶ Teen Rock Band (x4)
- ▶ Ukulele Circle Jam
- ▶ Ukulele Ensemble



# IMPACT STORY



**“PMAC IS A GREAT PLACE FOR FAMILY.”**

*Three generations in one frame: Ilianna Rossetti holds a drawing by her mother, Joy Paschalidis, as her daughters, Xenia (left) and Anika (right), look on—Joy pictured between them above.*



“PMAC is a great place for family.” Ilianna Rossetti says it simply, but the meaning runs deep. Her family’s connection to art spans generations, stemming from her grandmother, Alexandra, who was a gifted artist and craftsperson. “She painted winter scenes and flowers, made dolls’ clothes, sewed our dresses, and even canned and baked,” Ilianna remembers. “Everything she touched was beautiful.”

That creativity was passed to Ilianna’s mother, Joy Paschalidis; then Ilianna; and now to Ilianna’s young daughters, Xenia and Anika. Today, three generations are part of the PMAC community.

**TODAY, THREE GENERATIONS ARE PART OF THE PMAC COMMUNITY.**

Xenia, age 10, takes private voice lessons and visual art classes at PMAC. Following in her family’s artistic footsteps makes Xenia feel like part of something. “I think it’s cool,” she declares, “because my great-grandma did art, and then my grandma did art. My mom does art. Right now, I’m doing it.”

And while she loves being part of that chain, for Xenia, art is mostly just fun. She lights up when talking about how she looks forward to coming to PMAC: “Yay! I’m so excited! I get to do art and music this week!”



Xenia in art class with PMAC teaching artist Sophie Rahilly



Ilianna and Anika, with Anika's painted ceramic bunny.



Joy creates a collage in a free PMAC Creative Aging art class

But that excitement doesn't mean everything comes easily. Frustration bubbles up when her artwork doesn't go as planned. "A lot of times I'm like, *I don't like this at all. Oh, no, this isn't good enough,*" Xenia explains. But at PMAC, she's learning to trust the creative process and work through challenges.

PMAC teaching artist Sophie Rahilly is helping Xenia see that mistakes can lead to possibilities. "Sophie taught me if you make something that you don't like, you could turn it into something else," Xenia says. "Even if my artwork isn't good, I still turn it into something amazing."

That growth mindset is starting to show up in Xenia's music, too. "When I did my first piano recital," she remembers, "I was like, *Oh, no, I'm gonna fail this. And then the next couple times I was like, Oh, yeah, I got this. I'm doing it. I'm going to do great.*"

Others are noticing the mental shift, too. Her grandmother, Joy, clearly sees the personal growth: "I think Xenia's more confident at PMAC. She's not as shy as she used to be." Ilianna echoes the sentiment about her children, sharing, "It's amazing to watch them grow and to see their confidence build. Their confidence carries on from PMAC into their school days. When once they might not have been so excited in the morning, now they've got their head held high."

For Joy, her connection to PMAC isn't just through her granddaughter. She's also become a PMAC student herself, taking Creative Aging classes like collage and monoprinting. "When I come here, it's like I unload," Joy reflects. "It's a time where I can sit down, relax and try to be creative and use colors to spark the imagination. I always look forward to it. I'm always thinking *Art is coming. Art is coming.*"

Interacting with other art students is a key part of Joy's experience. "Everybody is so creative, my goodness," she marvels. "Everybody is interesting and everybody's art is different; we all have these different ideas going. People are very kind and sociable and everybody shares. It's stimulating."

Watching her mother reconnect with creativity has reminded Ilianna how often we lose touch with our playful selves as adults. "A lot of times as we get older," she observes, "we are just so caught up in the busyness of life that we forget to have fun and we get separated from the creativity that we had growing up as children."

As a functional nutritionist, Ilianna spends a lot of time thinking about wellness and sees that disconnection as a health issue. "I'll ask patients, *What do you do for fun?* And I'd say 95% of the time most people say *I don't know what I do for fun.*" She believes that creative expression can be a powerful way to restore that missing joy. "Being able to reconnect with ourselves and creativity," she adds, "I find it so important for long term health."

For all three generations, making art at PMAC is about more than creativity—it's about connection: to themselves, to each other, and to something bigger. Family. Care. Purpose. Belonging.



Xenia and her grandmother Joy share a giggle.

# COMMUNITY ACCESS

PMAC's Community Access Program ensures everyone in our community can experience the transformational benefits of music and art. The program has seven facets:

## TUITION AID

PMAC awarded \$139,220 in tuition aid to 249 students in FY25, helping families access music lessons, art classes, and ensembles. Awards range from 25%-100% of a student's tuition per year.

## SATURDAY OPEN ART STUDIOS

In FY25, PMAC hosted 11 free art studio sessions for youth ages 5-17 and their families on Saturday mornings, providing space and supplies for unbound artistic exploration.

## FREE MUSIC AND ART DAY

Free Music and Art Day offers members of the public free private music lessons and art classes, providing an accessible entry point for families curious about the arts. The FY25 event also featured an instrument petting zoo with instruments available to touch and play, and a Blues Workshop with blues musician Scott Ainslie.

## WEST END MASTER SERIES

Free West End Master Series events highlight professional artists and curators, and often tie into exhibits on display at PMAC. In FY25, artists Ashley Page, Mike Jacobs, Forrest Elliott and Rebecca Klementovich each shared about their pieces and their artistic process.

## CREATIVE AGING

PMAC combats social isolation in older adults through a sliding scale of reduced tuition for music ensembles—50% off for ages 65-69, 75% off for ages 70-74, and free tuition for those over 75—as well as a series of free visual arts classes for students 65+. In FY25, 176 unique adults participated in PMAC's Creative Aging programs.

## INSPIRATION WEEK

Each spring, PMAC hosts a week of workshops and concerts in place of regular classes, allowing students the opportunity to explore something new, as well as be inspired by their instructors and guest artists. 400+ students and audience members enjoyed the FY25 Inspiration Week.

## GUITAR SUNDAYS CONCERT SERIES

This annual series of free concerts showcases local, regional, and national guitarists. FY25 performances were held at PMAC and the Portsmouth Public Library, featuring Grammy-award winner Jason Vieaux, Gohar Vardanyan, Duo Molinos, An Tran, John Muratore, David Newsam, the Hampton Trio, and members of the Boston Classical Guitar Society.

## ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY IMPACT

Throughout the year, PMAC ensembles and students also performed at local events, assisted living facilities, and community centers. Additionally, we took award-winning guest artists Gohar Vardanyan, An Tran, and the Grammy Award-winning New Orleans Jazz Orchestra into Portsmouth public schools to play music, and hosted local students at The Music Hall Lounge in February for Jazz Day. PMAC also featured 6 high-quality visual art exhibits in the Haas Family Gallery, free and open to the public.

FREE  
MUSIC + ART  
DAY



Guest artist Scott Ainslie presents a blues workshop as part of Free Music and Art Day.



Painters Rebecca Klementovich (L) and Forrest Elliott discuss their approach to color at a West End Master Series event.



Artist Mike Jacobs leads a West End Master Series discussion about his exhibit "Portsmouth and Other Delights."



Grammy Award-winning guitarist Jason Vieaux plays to a full house at a free Guitar Sundays concert at PMAC.



PMAC adult music ensembles offer Creative Aging discounts to participants ages 65 and older.



Seacoast students enjoy PMAC's Jazz Day, featuring music by PMAC teaching artists, at The Music Hall Lounge.



Guest artists from the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra teach at Portsmouth High School as part of PMAC's jazz residency.



Guest artist Roric Cunningham coaches a PMAC student on hand placement during a cello master class.



Saturday Open Art Studio participants create unique art pieces using a variety of styles and supplies.



A youth-focused Inspiration Week workshop teaches students about music through songs and activities.



Artist Ashley Page (R) and poet Thai Singer share an artist talk about storytelling, representation, and dreams.

# FINANCIALS

## Statement of Activity

September 2024 - August 2025

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Individual, Foundation, Corporate, and Event Donations	\$808,090.01
Tuition, Net of Discounts	\$960,186.93
Financial Aid Awards ("Tuition Aid")	(\$139,469.55)
Miscellaneous Program Related Income, Interest, and Other Income	\$25,035.13
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,653,842.52</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Salaries & Related Expenses	\$1,210,734.82
Other Personnel Expenses	\$86,173.85
Non-Personnel Expenses	\$81,531.95
Occupancy Expenses	\$51,641.79
Travel & Meetings Expenses	\$18,922.51
Depreciation & Amortization Expenses	\$34,626.98
Misc Expenses	\$56,744.87
Business Expenses	\$22,174.43
Special Events Expenses	\$110,217.92
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,672,769.12</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>(\$18,926.60)</b>
<b>ARTS FOR ALL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN</b>	
Arts For All Capital Campaign Revenue	\$1,302,000.00
Arts For All Capital Campaign Expenses	\$115,855.19
<b>Arts for All Capital Campaign Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,186,144.81</b>
<b>FY25 ORGANIZATION NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,167,218.21</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

Balance Sheet: August 31, 2025

<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Bank Accounts	\$250,433.69
Accounts Receivable	\$1,627,257.06
Other Current Assets	\$40,984.81
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,918,675.56</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Land-Operating	\$265,011.45
Buildings-Operating	\$1,075,707.52
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	\$156,605.43
Accum Depreciation-Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	(\$428,758.96)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$1,068,565.44</b>
Other Assets	\$5,352.63
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,992,593.63</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$4,593.57
Credit Cards	\$15,918.88
Other Current Liabilities	\$574,266.91
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$594,779.36</b>
<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>	
Mortgages Payable	\$487,569.69
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$487,569.69</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,082,349.05</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Unrestricted Net Assets	(\$1,114,874.69)
Unrestricted (Retained Earnings)	\$562,780.59
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$1,295,120.47
Net Revenue	\$1,167,218.21
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$1,910,244.58</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$2,992,593.63</b>

# OUR SUPPORTERS

*Everything we do at PMAC is made possible through the generosity of the following donors and leadership partners.*

This list recognizes gifts received from September 1, 2024–August 31, 2025.

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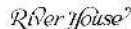
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