



LA GRUA CENTER
2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT



A Shared Journey

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and optimism as I share with you our accomplishments, the challenges we've faced, and our inspiring vision for the future. Having had the privilege of serving on the La Grua Center's Board of Directors for five years, I can wholeheartedly say that this past year stands out as one of the most remarkable and promising chapters in our history.

Our journey through the year was guided by unwavering support from our donors, sponsors, and volunteers. To each and every one of you, I extend my heartfelt appreciation. Your dedication and generosity have been instrumental in helping us navigate the post-pandemic landscape and transition into a new era of growth and resilience.

As we approach La Grua Center's 15-year anniversary, we aim to reimagine our resources strategically, ensuring that we establish a sustainable future. Our community is a tapestry of creativity, diversity, and opportunity, and we are committed to harnessing these strengths to their fullest potential.



I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my fellow board members for their passion and dedication to strengthening La Grua Center. Through their collective efforts, we can dream bigger and achieve greater heights.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I also want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated staff for their exemplary leadership and outstanding work in engaging our community through arts and culture. Their commitment to our mission has been a driving force behind our success.

As we chart a course forward, we do so with the knowledge that our shared journey is made possible by the support of incredible individuals like you. Your belief in La Grua Center's mission inspires us to strive for excellence in all that we do. Together, we will continue to create a vibrant and lasting impact in our community.

With Warm Regards,
Phylicia Adams, *Board Chair*



Snapshot July 2022–June 2023

This past fiscal year, La Grua Center played a pivotal role in engaging our community through a vibrant and diverse lineup of concerts, lectures, and art exhibitions. Our Music Matters series celebrated its 13th year with exceptional performances by **Hilary Castle, Ani Kalayjian, Octavie Dostaler-Lalonde, Lisa Marien, Dashon Burton, Maksim Shtrykov, Shannon and Matt Heaton, Sophie et Adam, Theodore Mook, Claudio Ragazzi, and Anita Graef**. We showcased amazing pianists including **Amélie Fortin, Marie-Christine Poirier, Zahili González Zamora, Artem Belogurov, Miloš Repický, Misuzu Tanaka, Michael Bahmann, Duo Stephanie & Saar, Julia Bady, Andrew King, and Jiayan Sun**.

We had even more music and performances with Broadway's **Christopher Faison, Mozart for Munchkins, 123 Andrés, and Elaine Bromka**. Sponsored by the **Stonington Village Improvement Association**, we held outdoor concerts on the **Stonington Commons Green** featuring **Sonia Bettencourt, James Harris, Matt Heaton and the Outside Toys, Ms. Bergin, and the U.S. Coast Guard Band**.

We presented community speakers that focused on a variety of interesting topics including Slater Museum's **Dayne Rugh, CT Poet Laureate Antoinette Brim-Bell, Movie Producer Michael Barker, Moromi's Bob Florence, arts educator Vivian Zoë, author Alex Prud'homme, and the Mohegan**

Tribe's **David Eichelberg**.

La Grua Center's walls were filled with artwork from **Stonington, Mystic, and Pawcatuck** artists at our *Annual Stonington Artists* show. The *Portrait of Complexity* exhibit celebrated Hispanic artists of our region and beyond including **Carlos Bautista Biernnay, Adrián Meyer, and Margarita Maxson**. *3 Steps Forward, 2 Steps Back* was a collaborative project that looked at the topic of social justice through various presentations, performances, and workshops. A pop-up exhibit *Fish School* featured an impressive sculpture from **D Derek**. The visually stunning exhibit *Winterlude* from **Gallery One CT** brought together a diverse group of contemporary artists from the Connecticut shoreline. High school students from **Stonington, Westerly, Ledyard, Wheeler, and Fitch**, inspired us through our *Emerging Artists* exhibit. We created *Artists Supporting Artists*, fostering a dialogue between these students and local professional artists. Our **Postcard Art Project** filled our space and allowed us to bring in 80 students for a virtual bilingual field trip from Harbor Elementary School. For the crowd favorite *An Expressive Brush*, **Anne Fix and Jim Quinn** brilliantly curated a retrospective of the life and art of **Margaret Triplett**.

We continued our commitment to children with four **Youth Art Workshops** during Halloween, the holidays, Earth Day, and summer. Talented local artists along with volunteers from **Yellow**

Farmhouse Education Center, Stonington Community Center, New England Science and Sailing, Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Public Art for Racial Justice Education (PARJE), Hispanic Alliance of Southeastern Connecticut, and Expressiones Cultural Center shared their expertise with young budding artists during these workshops. Adults were able to connect with their artistic side during our sold-out **Memoir Writing, Printmaking, and Pottery** workshops. With the **Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce** and the **Town of Stonington**, we offered a free children's workshop where over twenty buoys were painted for the annual Stonington **Lobster Trap Tree**.

By the Numbers

We presented 23 in-person concerts including 6 free concerts; 14 lectures, films, and panel discussions, together with another 10 from our neighboring nonprofits; 8 art exhibitions; our 13th annual Fine Art & Craft Show/Sale; 4 youth art workshops; 4 weekly music, drum, yoga, and dance classes; and 1 Stonington Candidates Forum—welcoming nearly 7,500 visitors through our doors. More than 7,800 people viewed our online programs on La Grua Center's YouTube channel.

Partnership

We continued to value and build upon our important relationships with our closest neighbors—the **Stonington Free Library**, the **Stonington Historical Society**, **James Merrill House**, the **Stonington Garden Club**, the **Arts Café Mystic**, and the **Mystic Film Festival**, which all regularly use our space for their public programming. We collaborated with the **Stonington Harbor Yacht Club** and **SVIA** for outdoor music and other events. We are active members of

Stonington Nonprofits, the **Stonington Borough Merchants Association**, and the **Cultural Coalition**, as well as our three closest chambers of commerce—**Greater Mystic**, **Ocean Community**, and **Eastern Connecticut**. Thanks to our collaboration with WMNR Fine Arts Radio and Christopher Greenleaf, many of our concerts were recorded live for radio broadcasts.

Grants and Funding

The past fiscal year La Grua Center received a Connecticut Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant and a Quick Grant from **Connecticut Humanities**; a General Operating Support for Theaters and Performing Groups Grant, a Supporting Arts Grant, and a Connecticut Arts Endowment Fund Grant from **Connecticut Office of the Arts**; a grant from the **Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Foundation** for our youth art workshops; a grant from the **Katherine Forest Crafts**



Foundation for our adult art workshops; a grant from the **Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation** in support of our Music Matters opening concert; and sponsorship from the **Chelsea Groton Foundation** for our affordable family concerts. Our Summer Soirée sponsors included **Cove Ledge Beer, Wine and Spirits, UBS, Dime Bank, Waller Smith &**

Palmer, Yale New Haven Health-Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, Chelsea Groton Bank, Grover Insurance/Ferguson & McGuire, Pappas MacDonnell, Inc., Poor Morgan, Robinson+Cole, Seaboard Properties - Fine Homes & Estates, Suisman Shapiro, and The Real McCoy Rum.

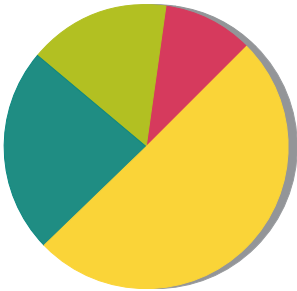
Our Volunteers

Along with our dedicated Board of Directors who serve on various board committees, our programming and events are made possible by the diverse group of volunteers who serve on committees to staff (Music, Programs, Youth, Facilities) and as event/office volunteers. We also thank former board members who remain engaged by serving on board committees. As always, we extend our gratitude to all the following for their donated time during the past fiscal year and personal commitment to La Grua Center.

EVENT, PROGRAM, AND FUNDRAISER VOLUNTEERS

Phylcia Adams	BJ Gaynor	Muireann O’Callaghan	VOLUNTEERS FROM ORGANIZATIONS Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center Expresiones Cultural Center Hispanic Alliance of Southeastern Connecticut New England Science and Sailing (NESS) Public Art for Racial Justice Education (PARJE) Stonington Community Center (COMO) Stonington Garden Club Stonington Harbor Yacht Club Stonington High School Yellow Farmhouse Education Center
Kia Baird	Barbara Ginsberg	Beatrice Palmer	
Ann Baldelli	Christopher Greenleaf	Dennis Palmer	
Emerson Baltrukonis	Ellen Hammen	Dan Potter	
Karin Bastidas	Bret Hammen	Nancy Potter	
Maria Batlle	Barbara Heuer	Adrienne Pratt	
Annette Bienkowski	James Hodge	James P. Quinn	
Keith Bienkowski	Bryan Jackson	Joan Rowley	
Douglass Bjorn	Sarah Janssens	David Schulz	
Beth Black	Lucia Johnstone	Dennis Sitrine	
Sarah Blair	Rebekah Kepple	Lucia Sokol	
Chris Bleuer	Jude Larzelere	Manju Soni	
Mary Anne Butler	Eva Leong	Bill Sponn	
Kate Careb	Vincent Liocano	Mary Grace Sponn	
Betsy Carr	Stephen Loikith	J.J. Stinton	
Jessica Cerullo	Mary Kay Long	Barbara Timken	
Charles Clark	Sharon Lynch	Andie Tomek	
Harriet Crane	Lauren Lyons	Deidre Toole	
Diane de Mailly	Cindy MacNeill	Susan Voorhees	
Lindsay Dean	Jessica Maloney	Lauren Vossler	
Helen Depersia	Christine McMasters	Eric Wang	
D Derek	Laura Metzger	Ellen Warfield	
Julie Duba	Elaine Mills	Brandon Watson	
Lori Dyer	Ted Mook	Trish Watson	
Elizabeth Ellenwood	Helen Moore	Anne Wynne	
Anne Fix	Regan Morse	Wick York	
Tom Frohnafel	Sandy Murray	Elena Zamolodchikova	

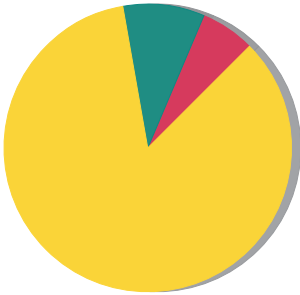
Financials



INCOME

- Direct Contributions: \$185,478 (51%)
- Fundraiser: \$83,875 (23%)
- Program Sales, Fees, Misc.: \$58,970 (16%)
- Grants: \$38,271 (10%)

TOTAL: \$366,594



EXPENSES

- Program: \$260,062 (84%)
- Management and General: \$29,050 (9%)
- Fundraising: \$19,607 (7%)

TOTAL: \$308,719



The Board of Directors consists of passionate individuals who are involved in supporting our programs, mission, and future. We are proud to have a 100% giving board, with each board member donating to our programs and events every year.

Board of Directors and Staff

Phylcia Adams, *Chair*
Rebekah Kepple, *Vice Chair*
Manju Soni, *Secretary*
Beth Black, *Treasurer*
Mary Anne Butler
Jessica Cerullo
BJ Gaynor

Sharon Lynch
Jessica Maloney
Regan Morse
Andie Tomek
Anne Wynne
Daniel Brandl, *Executive Director*
Kelli Rocherolle, *Program Director*



Donors July 2022–June 2023

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors to our Annual Fund, programs, and Summer Soirée paddle raise, who make our programming possible with their financial support. All gifts listed were made to La Grua Center between the dates of July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

\$10,000.00+

Anonymous
Maggie and Benson Blake
Meg Raftis and Stillman
Brown
Connecticut Humanities
Connecticut Office of the Arts
Kitchings Family Foundation
Montauk Foundation

\$5,000.00 TO \$9,999.99

Anonymous
Melanie Cava and Todd Drevo
Barbara and Marc Ginsberg
Stonington Village
Improvement Association
TomKat Foundation
James P. Quinn and Chris
Zhang

\$2,500.00 TO \$4,999.99

Elizabeth Black and Randy
Bean
Anne Fix and Kevin Bowdler
Chelsea Groton Foundation
Charles T. Clark
Cove Ledge Beer, Wine &
Spirits

Dudley and Michael Del Balso
Dominion Energy Charitable
Foundation
Good Dog Yacht Charters
William J. Griffin IV
Paul and Julia Leeming
Diana and Archie Leslie
Ann Lobdell
Stuart and Casey Malcolm
UBS

\$1,000.00 TO \$2,499.99

John W. and Judith B.
Alexander
Alice Fund
Anonymous
ASA Environmental
Products, Inc.
Frances C. Ashley
Daniel and Kathryn Brandl
Peter and Deborah Castle
Chamber of Commerce
of Eastern Connecticut
Foundation
Sam and Beth Chapin
Harriet and Tony Crane
Liane and Don Crawford
Cornelia W. Dickinson

Dime Bank
Dorothy and Declan
Doogan
Anne Wynne and Chris
Errichetti
Mary Wolf and William
Fowler
Susan and John Fullerton
Max Greenberg
Peyton C. Horne
Katherine Ballard and Revell
Horsey
Deborah and Peter Lamm
Amanda Lindberg
BJ Gaynor and David Luce
Kate and Tim Love
Alexandra McCagg
J. McLaughlin
Penelope E. Miller
Claire R. Morse
Anne Navin
Cormac O'Malley
Ivan and Naomi Otterness
Anna Maria and A. Wright
Palmer
Ana and Jeffrey Schneider
David MacKenzie Smith
Manju and Paresh Soni



Mark and Kim Spano
Holland Burt and Lowell
Thomas
Waller, Smith & Palmer
Yale New Haven Health
- Lawrence + Memorial
Hospital

\$500.00 TO \$999.99

Ann and Michael Adair
AHEPA New London
Foundation, Inc.
Anonymous
Olga and David Brandl
Tom and Dorrit Castle
Charter Oak Federal Credit
Union
Chelsea Groton Bank
Christopher and Barbara
Dixon
Peter Reinhardt and Dmitry
Nesterov
Richard and Denise Easton
Allegra and Brian Griffiths
Grover Insurance
Bill Hargreaves
Linda and Marley Hodgson
Bekah Kepple and Morgan King
John and Mary LaMattina

Hal Johnson and Jane Leipold
Bruce and Catherine Littman
Steve and Judy Martin
Prudence F. Meehan
Dan and Jane Meiser
Jessica D. Morrissey
Caroline and Scott Muller
Sheila Rock and Lincoln
Norton
Pappas MacDonnell, Inc.
Colette and Joe Parsons
Sandra Pereira
Sharon Lynch and Peter
Perenyi
Poor Morgan
Robinson+Cole
Tom and Candy Sanford
Seaboard Properties - Fine
Homes & Estates
Shau-Wen Lucia Sokol
Suisman Shapiro
Raymond Uzasas
Janet McClendon and Alan
Vaskas
Daniel C. and Melissa J.
Verdier
Susan Voorhees
Beth Walker
Kathy and Andrew
Worthington
Eugene and Georgia York

\$250.00 TO \$499.99

Annette Born
Betsy Bowman
James Boylan
Josephine Bump
Richard and Lois Cole
Mrs. Michael H. Davis

Arthur M. and Wynne P.
Delmhorst
Greg Smith and Deborah
Dodds
David and Lori Dyer
Mark and Connie Egan
Muireann O'Callaghan and
Tom Frohnapfel
Barbara Heuer
Robin and Judi Honiss
Elizabeth Hopkins
George and Lynn Kimmerle
Deborah Kotchen
Wendy Lehman Lash
Evelynn and Douglas Lyons
Jan and Gus Miller
Dorothea Moore
Cheryl and David Purvis
Cynthia Elliott and
R. Douglass Rice
Kent and Verna Richards
Margaret Luchars Richards
Leslie Roach
Mark Twiss and Sarah
Rogovin
Anne-Marie Smith
Martha Snyder
Anne M. Goodrich Twichell
Vivien Von Walstrom
Harry and Liz White
Peter Kepple and Karin Forde
Whittemore
Andrew Wilson
Sally and Clement Wood

UP TO \$249

Andrea Ackerman
John and Grania Ackley III
Phylicia Adams





Bryan and Laura Jackson
 Jesse Diggs and Marylys
 Jackson
 Sarah Janssens
 Jane Keener and Paul Janssens
 Graham Jeffrey
 Philip and Elizabeth Johnstone
 Eileen Kenny
 Anne La Grua
 G.F. Lane
 Laurie Cameron and Richard
 Larkin

Judith Larzelere
 David and Pamela Leeming
 Susan Lindberg
 Lauren and Alex Lyons
 Jessica Maloney
 Valentina Marchenkoff
 Lynne Marshall
 Sally McBee
 Kari McCabe and Nate
 McBride
 Jeffrey Andersen and Maureen
 McCabe
 Sabine Moffett
 Christie Max Williams and
 Catharine Moffett
 Robert and Karen Mohr
 David W. Moore
 Sandy Murray
 John and Joan O'Brien
 Bunny and Maria O'Callahan
 Joan and Tim O'Neill
 Elizabeth A. Osha
 Henry R. Palmer III
 Gerry Klender and Dennis
 Palmer
 Cynthia R. Palmer
 Joyce and Francis Pandolfi
 Jonathan Parsons
 Anthony and Jane Pellegrini
 Jim and Mary Pendergast
 Maureen and Michael Pernal
 Geoffrey and Beverly Phillips
 Robert Pittaway
 Marya Ursin and Dan Potter
 Grace Smith and Edward
 Purcell
 Ann Baldelli and Don Raffo

Joseph Alchermes
 Anonymous
 Yvette Nachmias Baeu
 Alan and Patience Banister
 Carole Barnard
 Anne Bartholet
 Chauncey and Natalie Bartholet
 Elizabeth Bartholet
 Rebecca Barton-Zuckerman
 Scott and Lisa Tepper Bates
 Ted and Diana Beck
 Hester and Ben Smith
 Wendy Benchley
 Ginny Bitting
 Douglass Bjorn
 Neal and Jane Lassen Bobruff
 Wayne Boettner
 Mary Boyer
 Roanna Breen
 Marcie and Howard Brensilver
 Elizabeth Tobin Brown
 Sylvia Brown
 Alan and MJ Brush
 Jane Buffum
 Ann and Charlie Buffum
 Jeff and Lynn Callahan
 Michael McKinley and Kathy
 Calnen
 Judi Caracausa
 Sharon Carlee
 Betsy Carr
 John P. Casey
 Maurice and Kathleen Clark
 John and Julie Coduri
 Virginia and Frank Colassano
 Betsie and Curt Danforth
 Kay and Dick Daniele
 Lisa and Jay DeFanti

Helen DePersia
 Theodore Mook and Tracey
 Dillon
 Eileen Dobensky
 Linda Dohrmann
 Judith G. DuPont
 Pam and Jim Elesh
 David and Donna Elks
 Adi Ignatius and Dinda Elliott
 Susie and Harry Ferguson
 Dick and Cheryl Ferris
 Meredith Fischer
 Sandra Sharr and Marc
 Fishbone
 AmazonSmile Foundation
 O'Brien Goodman Family Fund
 Eric and Kerry Garofano
 Sandra Gensemer
 Maria Giese
 Richard and Koko Gildersleeve
 Anthony Angelotti and Paul
 Goff
 Alex and Hartford Gongaware
 Jordan Elliott and Lynne
 Griffin
 Geraldine Nager Griffin
 Priscilla Griscom
 John and Alice Groton
 Micayla Hall
 Susan Clapp and Charles
 Hatton
 Muriel Hinkle
 Ardis and Dick Holliday
 Alexandra Moore and Carter
 Holliday
 Alice W. Houston
 Joseph J. Kirby and Katherine
 W. Hossie



Bill Reed
 Betty Richards
 Alan and Ginny Roessler
 Emily Rosen
 Robert and Susan Scala
 Peter and Eleanor Schaffer
 Jessica Cerullo and David Schulz
 Deborah Schwell
 Lottie B. Scott
 J.J. and Chris Sinton
 Steven Slosberg
 Rosanne and Michael Smyle
 Larry and Kathleen Snoddon
 Portuguese Holy Ghost Society
 Geraldine S. Spillane
 Gigi Bradford and Jim Stanford
 Carla and Rowland Stebbins III
 Rich and Liz Stern
 Alexandra Stoddard
 Raytheon Technologies
 Timothy Tyler and Suzanne Tyler
 Mary Kay Long and Dennis Unites
 Sally M. Vail
 Lissa van Dyke
 Jessica Villardi
 Norma McHoes Vyse
 Richard and Virginia Welch
 John and Lucy Werner
 Kirby and Joe Williams
 Andrew and Ellen Wormser
 Elizabeth L. Young



IN MEMORIAM, HONOR, AND SUPPORT

In Memory of David Black
 Rebecca Barton-Zuckerman
In Memory of Marija McCarthy
 Martha Snyder
In Memory of John F. Pereira III
 Sandra Pereira
In Honor of Barbara Heuer
 Alex and Hartford Gongaware
In Honor of Muireann O'Callaghan
 Bekah Kepple and Morgan King
In Honor of Lucia Sokol
 Janet Schloss
In Honor of Jim Quinn and Chris Zhang
 Anne Wynne and Chris Errichetti

CONCERT/LECTURE/ARTS SPONSORS

Anonymous
 Marggie and Benson Blake
 Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut Foundation
 Chelsea Groton Foundation
 Christopher Greenleaf
 Connecticut Humanities
 Connecticut Office of the Arts
 Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
 Penelope E. Miller
 Stonington Village Improvement Association

SUMMER SOIRÉE

LIVE AUCTION DONORS

Beth Black and Randy Bean
 Cove Ledge Beer, Wine & Spirits
 Good Dog Yacht Charters - Wendy and Dave Eck
 Melanie Cava and Todd Drevo
 Behan Family Farms
 Kate and Tim Love
 Mark and Kim Spano
 Saltwater Farm Vineyard

MATCHING GIFTS

The following companies have matched the charitable donations their employees have made to La Grua Center:

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
 Raytheon Technologies

While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, please accept our sincere apology if there are any errors or omissions with your name.



CThumanities



lagruacenter.org