



WASHINGTON  
STUDIO  
SCHOOL

# SEE AND BE SEEN

## FY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 - AUGUST 31, 2019



*“One eye sees, the  
other eye feels.”*

—Paul Klee

What does that mean for an art school like Washington Studio School? We teach through observation, and that means learning to see. But what does it mean to learn how to see like an artist sees?

This is what we and the Board of Directors asked ourselves over the summer after a landmark year of growth and liveliness. Through our sense of sight we take in visual information all day long – information that helps us navigate, decipher, and quite frankly, survive. For an art student, seeing takes on new dimensions. It provides information that provokes emotions begging to be translated. Our job is to teach the skills to do this: how to use line, shape, value, color, texture, which in various combinations incite different felt responses in the artist and the viewer. The basic language used is a shared one, almost universal. But how we see, and the choices we make in how we use that language are unique to us. Our sensibilities, experiences, memories, personal histories, preferences, and even our anatomy lead us each to see differently in individual ways. And thank goodness for that. Things would be pretty boring if otherwise.

In the past few years WSS has been able to explore and implement more outreach programming around the city and has also

introduced two new scholarship programs supported by generous donors. We reached more than 3,500 students and visitors across the District who enriched our perspectives and expanded our outcomes in very positive and meaningful ways. As a school we are seeing differently as well, at all levels.

That is why as you read on, you'll see—along with highlights of this year's programs and achievements—a refreshed mission, set of values and vision “to draw out the artist in everyone through the practice of studio arts.”

We have a language to teach at WSS, but it is the personal experiences and vocabularies that develop from them that translate empathic seeing into a unique voice. We celebrate that unique voice and have so much to learn from each other through our art and our dialogue.

Here's to a year full of rich conversation, expanded perspectives, and strong artistic growth for all. We hope you'll continue to be a part of this exploration through observation and learning together that has always been at the heart of who we are.

*Jill*

Jill Phillips  
Artistic Director/Head of Faculty

*Laila*

Laila Abdul-Hadi Jadallah  
Managing Director

THE PORTRAITS ON THIS AND THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE FROM OUR SUMMER-LONG “SEE AND BE SEEN: DC” CITY-WIDE OUTREACH PROGRAM.



## OUR VISION

DRAWING OUT THE ARTIST  
IN EVERYONE THROUGH THE  
PRACTICE OF STUDIO ARTS.

## OUR MISSION

WE TEACH HOW TO SEE AND  
CREATE THROUGH DRAWING,  
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE. WE  
OFFER CLASSES, WORKSHOPS,  
EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMS  
TO ENGAGE, CONNECT AND  
BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER  
WITH A FRESH APPROACH TO  
TRADITIONAL STUDIO ART. WE  
ENCOURAGE ARTISTS TO GROW,  
EXPLORE, LEARN TOGETHER AND  
CREATE ART THAT IS PERSONAL  
AND RELEVANT.



## OUR VALUES

MEMBERS OF THE WSS COMMUNITY COMMENT ON THE IMPACT OF GIVING THROUGH THE LENS OF WSS' CORE VALUES:

### SERVING ALL ARTISTS

**Margaret Daley**

DCPS Art Teacher and Artist

"Thanks to the Washington Studio School and the Alma Thomas Scholarship, I was able to take time for my art this summer by attending Homer Yost's "Sculpting the Human Head" workshop...I feel strongly that this experience has helped me to reconnect with my love for the portrait and has given me a fresh perspective on representing the human head."

### RESPECTING ALL ARTISTS

**Carol Blum**

Artist, Master Certificate Program Graduate and WSS Atelier Member

"I am a regular sustaining donor of WSS because of its adventures, its position in the community, its lessons in seeing and imagining sustain me and the thousands of area artists who take a class, visit Art All Night, ask questions of master artists — all residents who bring new and insightful perspectives to the school."

### ENCOURAGING PERSONAL GROWTH

**Melvin Nesbitt Jr.**

Artist

"Washington Studio School instructors are the best! As a student, they've given me the tools I need to transition from amateur to professional artist. They bring lessons that challenge and encourage creativity and growth, plus they generously share the unique and valuable knowledge they've gained as working artists."

### ADVANCING THE ARTS

**Serena Martin**

WSS student, artist, illustrator and designer

"The community of teachers, students, artists and volunteers also provide a warm and welcoming environment. The teachers I have studied with [sic.] are all phenomenal. They not only teach students the foundations, but they also show students new ways to look at their surroundings, subjects and how art responds and captures what we feel and see. It is a truly comprehensive art education and experience!"

# WHAT WE ACHIEVED AND WHO WE REACHED

**700+**  
STUDENTS  
WITH OVER  
**1,000**  
REGISTRATIONS

**2,800+**  
VISITORS

WITH  
STUDENTS FROM  
**6 DC WARDS**  
AND BEYOND

**118**  
CLASSES  
AND  
WORKSHOPS

**57**  
PUBLIC  
PROGRAMS

**8**  
FINANCIAL AWARDS  
BOTH SCHOLARSHIPS AND  
WORKSTUDY

**77**  
ARTISTS  
EXHIBITED





FY19 was exceptional from the start. We began by celebrating the diversity in talent of our students during our Annual Juried Student Show and took our programs offsite to offer eight **architecturally-inspired workshops at Resource Library at the Union Market District**. We welcomed our **largest student body ever** and got inspired by **visiting artists Stuart Shils and Ken Kewley's** brilliant workshops and related talks. We launched a **new Foundation Certificate Program** which now has nine students enrolled.

Two of our stellar Master Certificate Program students **Carol Blum** and **Phyllis Ruffer** mounted exceptional graduation shows and **D.C.-area artists David Ibata, Nicole Ida Fossi and Martin Swift's** group

show, "Somewhere Near the Inside" celebrated contemporary figurative painting and generated new connections to the DC-community at-large.

A year of new endeavors—we **expanded our free programs enabling us to reach more people across the District** by partnering with the **National Park Service and The Friends of Peirce Mill** for a special edition of our free plein air painting and drawing meet-ups in May and **Halcyon House as a satellite venue for the city-wide By the People Festival in June**. Our Annual Big Draw morphed into **"See and Be Seen: DC"** for the second year in a row resulting in a remarkable 200+ self-portraits of varied artistic levels filling our walls and painting an amalgamation of DC-area residents.

Our reworked scholarship and work-study programs took off this year, and thanks to the generosity of donors, **more than \$3,500 in classes and workshops were awarded to promising artists** of all skill levels through the WSS Alma Thomas and WSS General Scholarships and our work-study program. WSS sponsored, for the first time, the **second place prize for the Congressional Art Competition, a spot in our popular Summer Teen Intensive Program**.

We ended the year with a busy summer: the return of our **Summer High School Teen Intensive Program, modifying our first-floor with a moveable wall and increased storage space, and purchasing new easels for the painting classroom**. As the population we serve grows we have to as well, and these changes help meet the demand for better equipment, increased classroom, student lounge and storage space.

People are discovering Washington Studio School every day and contributing to our long outstanding community of staff, students and volunteers. **Together, through course offerings and programs, we embarked on a journey to interpret the world through the studio arts.**



# SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

As we commence FY20, we remain committed to offering excellent instruction and multifaceted opportunities to engage with the studio arts. Regular offerings will continue as we settle into the new normal of a more robust schedule of programs while intertwined with new visiting artists and engagement programs at WSS and in other locations across the District.

This November WSS welcomed, for the first-time, extraordinary California-based painter, Gage Opdenbrouw to WSS for a workshop and related talk. And later in 2020, Lebanese-born contemporary painter Reem Bassous will invite us to consider how history requires artists to tell stories through painting. We'll continue to put a spotlight on DC-area artists and their varied artistic perspectives through a series of artist talks.

Partnerships remain central to our goals for the year, and we'll continue to collaborate with organizations across the District to present workshops and programs, both at WSS and other satellite locations. In development for 2020 is an exciting multi-day project presented in various locations exploring neighborhood "profiles."

"I WAS IMPRESSED TO SEE HOW WSS CREATED CLASSES CATERING TO A MORE DIVERSE DEMOGRAPHIC... MAKING ART EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE IN WASHINGTON, DC."

*Alison Beshai*

Principal of Form Function Studio  
and Creator of the pop-up Resource  
Library at Union Market District 2018

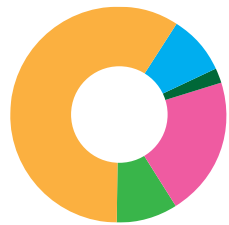




# FINANCIALS

WSS continues to thrive as a result of sound business practices, increased program offerings, generous donations from our supporters as well as a large general operating support grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Tuition revenue for the fiscal year was \$402,665 – a 12.9% increase over FY18. Operating costs continue to rise annually – and did by 25% in FY19 – as our faculty,

staff and program offerings increase. The WSS Board of Directors and staff continue to spend conservatively, resulting in a year-end surplus in our reserves which allowed us to purchase new easels for one classroom and reconfigure our first floor to better suit our community's needs.



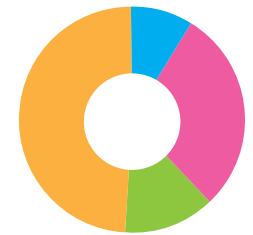
Tuition  
Atelier  
Open Sessions  
Contributions  
Grants

## 2019 REVENUES

TUITION	\$ 402,665	59%
ATELIER	60,900	9%
OPEN SESSIONS	10,458	2%
CONTRIBUTIONS	144,624	21%
GRANTS	60,000	9%
OTHER	2,411	<1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 681,058</b>	<b>100%</b>

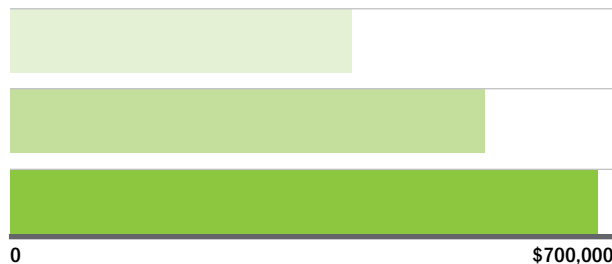
## 2019 EXPENSES

SALARIES AND COSTS	\$ 346,349	53%
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	65,452	10%
RENT, EQUIPMENT, REPAIRS	172,043	26%
GENERAL BUSINESS, OTHER	73,087	11%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 656,931</b>	<b>100%</b>

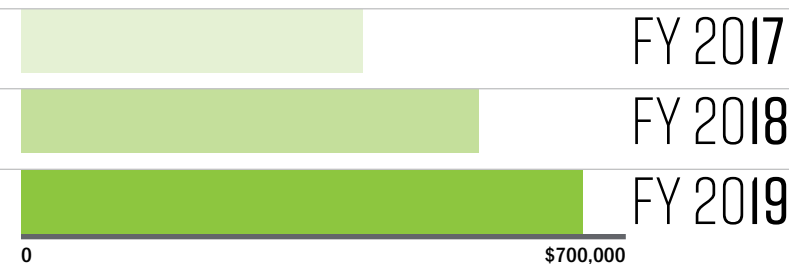


Salaries  
Professional  
Rent  
Other

## TOTAL REVENUE OVER TIME



## TOTAL EXPENSES OVER TIME





# THANK YOU

Thank you to our donors—new and returning—who continue to make our work possible. You help make our ambitious goals a reality.

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