

**ELEVATE.**







## **It's time to celebrate and elevate.**

We have made some big moves since we founded the nonprofit in 2019, and we are just getting started.

In 2022, the Hot Shops Art Foundation purchased the building known as the Hot Shops Art Center. With your help, we're ready to raise the bar as we raise up Omaha's artists.

Last year, we provided 648 classes and workshops to 3,395 individuals. We provided 87 tours and demonstrations for 2,159 individuals. 21 of those educational programs were offered at no cost to 323 under-resourced children.

This year, we plan to reach nearly 500 under-resourced children with impactful, inclusive programming designed to ELEVATE the hearts and minds of our next generation. Let's create a critical mass of future makers, while making a positive cultural impact through our educational and public programming.

## **One of the greatest gifts you can give an artist is the space to create.**

We provide our collaborative of artists and creative learners with the freedom and opportunity to explore, to exchange ideas and to develop their voice – across our entire Hot Shops space.

Our historic Hot Shops building is home to several stories of talented artists; but, not all students – or artists – can reach every floor.

That's why we are launching a capital campaign to renovate our two elevators and make them accessible for all.

We need accessible, working elevators to elevate learners of all ages. To accomplish this, we're campaigning for a strong, broad coalition of support to help us stabilize into the future and renovate Omaha's Hot Shops building into a world-class facility that evokes pride and better accommodates all needs.

Join us, as we live our mission – catalyzing creativity, and putting artistic opportunity within reach.



**At our heart,** we provide makers and artists a place and opportunity to be creative, a place where they can come and see how good they can truly be.

At Hot Shops, everyone can experience how the art is made. This is the place you can see the tools, ideas on sketchpads, scale models, mistakes and do-overs. You can feel the heat from the glass furnace, watch potters bring a lump of clay to life or the sculptor pour the molten bronze.

Our greatest pride comes from putting sparks in minds of people young and old. The looks on their faces when the glass blower pulls the 2000-degree glass out of the furnace are priceless.

#### MISSION

To be a place where ideas, dreams and what ifs are explored, created and shared.

#### VALUES

We catalyze **CREATIVITY** through bravery, honesty and hard work.

We accelerate **ACCEPTANCE** through inclusivity and celebrating the individual.

We build **TRUST** by providing a safe place to share and develop ideas and creative expressions.

We create **OPPORTUNITY** by breaking down barriers, developing voice and building confidence.

We strive for **EXCELLENCE** and **QUALITY** in our programs and experiences to the community.

#### VISION

To be the fire that sparks a more open, creative community where everyone belongs, by increasing access to visual arts education.





## **ABOUT US**

We are home to Omaha's largest artist collective, Hot Shops' open-door policy (we are open daily and do not charge admission) means public engagement is welcome and encouraged.

We provide makers and artists of all ages, ethnicities, races, sexual orientations, and backgrounds that work in a variety of mediums a place and opportunity to be creative. Giving artists a home is good for all of Omaha because of what these artists do to educate others. This concentration of over 90 artists that provide immersive and experiential learning opportunities has forged a truly unique arts organization and significantly enhanced a vibrant arts community in Omaha.

Hot Shops artists seek to be better artists. They teach in part for the passion of the craft and commitment to the community. They also teach understanding the value teaching the creative process adds to the economy, innovation and cultural growth of the community.

In addition to 54 artist studios, four Hot Studios (glass, ceramics, forge and foundry) allow our arts organization to serve as a unique place of learning for the fiery visual arts. The demonstrations and hands-on experiences in these studios are essential to the development of artists in these specific areas. These resources are rarely found outside of large universities. Here, they are available to the general public.

The Hot Shops plays an integral role in the economic, cultural and educational framework in Omaha. We are strategically located in North Downtown where we serve as an anchor and support the city's economic wellbeing, drawing visitors and residents to the Hot Shops year-round.



## **LIVING MUSEUM/EDUCATION**

Everyone who comes through our living museum can experience the creative process and how art is made. You can see the tools, ideas on sketchpads, scale models and do-overs. There is no question historical museums are important; cultural gems where you can bring a fifth grade class to see finished art and read plaques describing the pieces. But imagine what happens when you bring that same fifth grade class in to see the artist-at-work, to hear directly from them about their ideas, processes and tools and to have a hands-on experience. That child's imagination expands, and they begin to think about the possibilities and opportunities for them to create new things and solve new problems.

We provide art education through classes, lectures, tours and demonstrations in a unique collaborative artistic environment. We offer 300+ visual arts and creative education opportunities each year so we can inspire a new generation innovative, creative entrepreneurs. These creative skills can transfer to any job of the future.

Our programs are open to all. We have built a creative pipeline and education fund so anyone can come to our art center and learn in this unique arts environment.

### **Creative Pipeline**

Introduction (Tours and Demonstrations) > Workshops/Experiences > Progressive Classes > Experiential Art Labs > Independent Study > Paid Internships > Artist Residency = Creative Talent that Stays in Omaha





## **EDUCATION & PROGRAMS**

### **Classes/Workshops**

We provide classes and workshops in a variety of mediums, including: Glassblowing, Pottery, Painting, Drawing and Life Drawing, Silversmithing, Fiber Arts, Lampworking, Sewing and more.

### **Education Fund**

Arts education is at times out of reach for schools that want to bring children in for arts education due to transportation and instruction costs. This education fund will allow us to offer hands-on workshops and transportation to as many as 500 under-resourced children.

### **Exhibitions**

We have two galleries to host a variety of exhibitions, performances and rehearsals. Approximately 12 special exhibitions are displayed in the galleries throughout the year and the entire building is always filled with both finished art work and art work in progress. Three exhibitions a year are dedicated to metro area high school students.

### **Creation Station**

Materials and instructions are provided to visitors that allow them to drop in and create something of their own.

### **Partnerships and Resources**

We are a resource for other nonprofit organizations. We partner with chamber and tourism organizations with economic development and attraction efforts. We also partner with other arts organizations on a variety of activities and educational needs, and are a resource for artists in those organizations needing access to tools that the Hot Shops specializes in.

### **Community Studio**

Studio space is provided to public members to create their own work in. This shared space is used by students, painters, podcasters, teachers and more to create in a collaborative environment.





## CAPITAL NEEDS

### **Mobile Glassblowing Studio - \$14,000**

The glassblowing process is unique, and one of the most popular artistic processes to witness at the Hot Shops. Viewers are in awe as they experience a visual beauty and multitude of information surrounding the lost art of glassblowing. A visitor must travel to places like Corning, New York; Grapevine, Texas; or Seattle, Washington to have an experience like we provide at the Hot Shops.

The mobile glassblowing experience will bring the artistry and education of glass making beyond the studio walls to a variety of locations throughout Omaha and rural Nebraska. We can make this art form more accessible by taking it to the schools that don't have the resources to come to the Hot Shops.

We have received a \$22,000 grant from the Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund. We have \$14,000 left to complete the build-out of this mobile studio!

### **Elevators - \$1,750,000**

When things are looking up, we don't mind the walk to the next level. Taking the stairs, however, is not an option for everyone. At Hot Shops, we're fortunate to have incredible learning opportunities throughout our historic building. Unfortunately, without fully functioning elevators, not all opportunities are accessible to everyone.

This year, we kickoff our "going up" elevator campaign, where learners, artists, visitors and friends can contribute to next-level planning that includes renovating the two elevators at our facility.

Elevators assist with mobility, helping us safely transport precious cargo, while elevating our precious people. Elevators mean freedom, safety and convenience.

It's time to make Hot Shops accessible to all. It's time to set creativity free, on all levels.





## FUNDING – PUBLIC DONATIONS

Our total operating budget for 2023 is \$680,000. We are seeking \$220,000 in public support for operations, educational programs and \$1.76 M in capital improvements. Interested in funding a certain program? Here are opportunities that need your support:

**General Operating.....\$560,944**

**Educational Programs.....\$116,300**

- CreativeMornings/Omaha ..... \$10,000
- Educational art supplies ..... \$3,000
- Education Fund ..... \$30,000
- Art Fluid Open Studio Nights..... \$2,500
- Arts for People with Disabilities..... \$2,800
- Glass/Pottery/Lampworking class supplies/expenses ..... \$68,000

**Capital Expenses .....\$1,764,000**

- Mobile Glassblowing Studio ..... \$14,000
- Elevator 1 ..... \$750,000
- Elevator 2 ..... \$1,000,000

Your donation will help strengthen and grow the Hot Shops as a crucial arts, culture and educational pillar of the Omaha community!

Mail your check to Hot Shops Art Foundation. 1301 Nicholas St., Omaha, NE 68102  
 Contact Kim Sellmeyer, executive director, for more information.  
 Kim.Sellmeyer@HotShopsArtCenter.org • 402-342-6452



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## **HISTORY**

In 1999, a group of creative risk-takers were looking for a spot to co-locate. They found a building and formed the highly collaborative, supportive community of artists that is now at the Hot Shops Art Center. At that time, North Downtown looked much different. There was no convention center and arena, and riverfront development hadn't happened yet. The baseball stadium, Film Streams, Slowdown, Tip-Top, Mastercraft Building, Millwork Commons and the four hotels were not here.

The growth around us has been amazing, and we are proud to be thought of as an anchor to the neighborhood. Our influence there and the impact we've made on the broader community is apparent. We are excited to lay to groundwork for our next 20 years of creative impact that elevates individuals and community.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

We are a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under IRC section 501(c)(3). Your contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

### 2023 Events

Open Studio Nights - March 10, June 23, August 11

Spring Open House - April 27 (Preview Night) & 28

Fall Fundraiser - October 20

Winter Open House - December 2 (Preview Night) 3 & 4

Hours of Operation | Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Weekends, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Artist list and educational programming can be found at [HotShopsArtCenter.org](http://HotShopsArtCenter.org)



**HOT  
SHOPS**  
**ART CENTER**