



2022 End of Year Report

We have made some big moves since we founded the nonprofit in 2019, and this year was no exception. The Hot Shops Art Foundation purchased the building known as the Hot Shops Art Center in June. This achievement will help sustain Omaha's beloved Hot Shops well into the future.

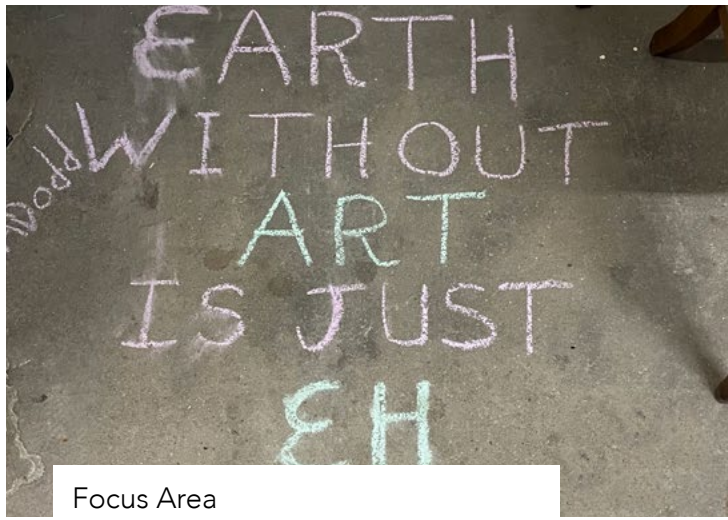
In 1999, a group of artists called Guild by Association created a path to creativity and invited everyone to experience, explore and share. They came and they called it Hot Shops. The torch has been passed and the Hot Shops now belongs to the Omaha community. We are the new "Keepers of the Flame."

Creatives need places to create. A place to tell the story of their dreams – triumphs and tragedy's – the beauty and wonders – the good and kindness we witness – as well as the ugliness and unexplainable. Hot Shops is the place where this happens.

90 creatives have made this a place to create, teach and share. We play 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. In 2022 we welcomed nearly 19,000 people for education and events and approximately 55,000 visitors passed through our doors.

In the following pages, see what we accomplished this year as we live our mission – catalyzing creativity, and putting artistic opportunity within reach. With your help, we are raising the bar as we raise up Omaha's artists.





Focus Area

Strengthen & Sustain

Build capital and processes that will help sustain the organization into the future.

Measurement Report

- Nine board meetings were held and one written monthly report was submitted. Anne Branigan, SVP at the Greater Omaha Chamber joined the board and BJ Reed became our new President.
- Advisory/ 'Friends of the Hot Shops' committee was paused and we will resume building this group in 2023
- Two budgets were created and approved, one included building ownership items
- The Foundation purchased the building known as the Hot Shops Art Center
- \$159,374 capital raised in public donations, sponsorships, grants and public memberships

On June 30, 2022 the Hot Shops Art Foundation officially purchased the building known as the Hot Shops Art Center! The majority of the artists were in full support of the new educational mission and living museum concept. There was a renewed excitement and new ideas for how to incorporate more education into the studios. The building came back to life!

Our application for property tax exemption was due for consideration on July 1, the day after we purchased the building. The paperwork was submitted and after an additional information request from Douglas County, we received unanimous support from the Douglas County Commissioners for a property tax exemption. Receiving this exemption was crucial to our ability to stabilize and remain in our current location.

Doug Bisson stepped down as President of the board after two and a half years. We are so thankful for Doug's service and his continued commitment to the Hot Shops. The board unanimously voted BJ Reed as our new President. BJ is a former Senior Vice Chancellor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. We are excited for the leadership expertise he will bring to the role.

The Hot Shops received contributions from 48 supporters to achieve our 2022 budget. We also held our first-ever Fall Fundraiser in October. Our artists were excited to host the Omaha community in creating make-and-take projects, sharing live-painting demonstrations and showcasing some of their fiery glass and ceramic work. 150 attendees enjoyed an intimate evening with Hot Shops artists at our 'Nightmare on 13th Street' themed event. We hope with marketing and consistency, we will see this event grow in the future.

Winter Open House proved to be the big surprise of the year in fundraising efforts! We promoted a suggested donation of \$5, and attendees were genuinely happy to do so. We collected almost \$7,500 from the 7,500 attendees that visited that weekend. Many resident artists shared that they sold artwork during the event as well and felt the genuine support from the Omaha community.



Focus Area

Education, Tours & Partnerships

Students from Jesuit Academy and Brownell-Talbot collaborate on a mural project.

Provide a variety of education opportunities that reach many individuals from all ages, abilities and backgrounds in our community. Develop key partnerships to assist other nonprofit organizations.

Measurement Report

- 648 Educational Programs/Classes reaching 3,395 creative learners. 21 programs were held at no cost for 323 under resourced children and 19 programs were held for 122 individuals with disabilities.
- 87 tours and demonstrations were given to 2,159 individuals
- 11 CreativeMornings/Omaha events featuring 10 Omaha creatives and reaching 495 individuals
- 15 Gallery Exhibitions, 4 exhibitions featured Omaha metro student and teacher work
- 12 Partner collaborations with JPYD Foundation, Brownell-Talbot, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (MECA), Metro Community College, Collective for Youth, Girl Scouts, Visit Omaha, Eastern Midland School Conference, Omaha Public Schools, Omaha Catholic Schools, Millwork Commons, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (resident artists)
- Bridge Builder workshop series held in Sept/Oct.
- Nearly 19,000 members of the public welcomed in for educational programming and public events

This year, we saw demand for tours, demonstrations and workshops skyrocket. It was a slow start with the pandemic still raging, with just two tours in all of January and February. But we then ended March with 19 total tours. People were hungry for the visual arts and the benefits they provide.

We were excited to partner with JPYD Foundation to bring 70 Jesuit Academy students to the Hot Shops for workshops. This all-boy school from North Omaha participated in hands-on workshops in painting, sneaker design, pottery, and glassblowing. One boy in particular had his eyes opened to new possibilities during the sneaker design class, and began to wonder if he could be a fashion designer. This is a perfect example of our mission in action!

Summer marked the first collaboration with MECA and their Art in the Park program. We offered glassblowing demonstrations during the parks grand opening weekend. We also offered a drawing, watercolor and a clay class that summer.

Our children's summer programs included visits from five Millard Public Schools Summer Spark programs. We hosted 450 children over 3 days for tours, demonstrations and a hands-on activity. One 8-year-old boy was so inspired by his visit, he informed his mother he wants to be a glassblower when he grows up. He dressed as a Hot Shops Glassblower for Halloween and he and friends spent his birthday with us for a hands-on glassblowing experience in December.



Continued

Education, Tours & Partnerships

Glass artists, friends and family attended the "Omaha's Glass Godfather" art exhibit honoring Ed Fennell.

We partnered with Collective for Youth to provide nine hands-on workshops to 60 under-resourced children over the summer as well. Children were able to learn glassblowing, torchworking, sneaker design, pottery and printmaking.

We had the honor of hosting the Professional Photographers of Nebraska's Annual Conference. This three-day conference included a competition, lectures and hands-on workshops.

In November and December we welcomed 500 Gretna Elementary 5th graders. We were able to receive feedback from the teachers that brought students last year and were able to meet their new learning objectives and improve their experience. The kids were able to see glassblowing and pottery demonstrations, and have an expanded tour so they could see and talk to a larger variety of artists. "The students really loved every part of the tour! It was exactly what so many of them needed to see as they go into middle school next year and start thinking about how to use their talents in the future. You all made a big difference in their education to see working artists doing what they love!" Dennis Restau, Art Teacher, Gretna Thomas Elementary.

This fall we hosted a student from Sandy Creek High School in central Nebraska for a series of three mentorship visits. We coordinated meetings with 10 artists, and visits to the Artist Coop Gallery and Kaneko. These visits helped the student decide to attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha and major in the visual arts. "The Hot Shops helped me discover my purpose. Thank you for helping me figure out where I belong." Teagan Varosik, senior at Sandy Creek High School.

We had 15 gallery exhibitions including four that were dedicated to student and teacher work. In April we held a tribute show for Ed Fennell, glassblower, Crystal Forge founder and Hot Shops co-founder. Ed is passionate about sharing his love of glassblowing with others. He has taught hundreds of individuals over the course of his career. His openness and generosity are unmatched. 19 former students displayed work in the exhibit and reunited for the opening and a weekend of glassblowing at Crystal Forge. The glass artwork displayed was created across the U.S. and as far as Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

September featured a month-long fiber arts exhibit that included 28 fiber artists from around the region. The groups mission was to 'wake the world to fiber arts,' and included lectures, a style show, and 15 workshops and demonstrations. Three exhibitions hosted at Hot Shops have been nominated for an Omaha Entertainment and Arts Award.



Focus Area

Community & Spaces

Artist and Life Drawing instructor TG Ndoda draws portraits at one of the Open Studio Night events.

Provide opportunities for artists, and enhanced community spaces that benefit resident artists and the public.

Measurement Report

- Engaged 86 individuals through community studio use and 350 through the Creation Station
- Hosted 25 events that to connected our 90 resident artists with 13,280 members of the public.
- Raised \$22,550 out of \$36,000 needed to build a mobile glass blowing studio that can be brought to parks and other organizations for education and events

The Community Studio saw a drop in member use this year for creating artwork, but saw a large increase in use for classes. Many workshops, classes and continuing education courses in collaboration with Metro Community College are held in the studio each month. The studio also served as a spot to conduct live portrait drawings for Open Studio Night events and for our December Creation Station, where 150 children and adults stopped by to create their own reindeer mask.

New this year were requests for corporate gatherings that incorporated workshops and demonstrations into their event. The Hot Shops was able to provide visual art experiences for companies seeking to give their employees a unique gathering opportunity.

We launched a new Open Studio Night event called Art Fluid. These free, happy hour events drew between 150-250 attendees. Attendees can have hands-on experiences and find unique ways to engage with our artists in a more relaxed setting at these casual Friday night events. We hope with more awareness these events will grow in the future.

Our Open House events continue to be our biggest draw for attendance. We welcomed 3,500 attendees at our Spring event and at the Winter Open House, 7,500 people attended amid major parking and construction challenges. In a post-event survey, 88% of artists ranked satisfaction with the event at a 5, and 12% ranked it as a 4. One artist commented, "It was the best Open House in years!"



Focus Area

Community Awareness and Outreach

Social media influencers from across the U.S. tour the Hot Shops as part of a Visit Nebraska Campaign.

Leverage our brand for increased awareness and support of our mission.

Measurement Report

- Development plan completed. Updated monthly.
- Donation booklet and a 'What if' vision piece created. Hot Shops informational rack card updated.
- Social media audience growth of 1,765 over five channels
- Monthly email newsletter. Audience growth of 178 individuals, to 2,251 and engagement rose to 41-46% open rates
- 124,435 page views on our website and approximately 55,000 visitors passed through our doors.

(Note: no website data was collected for 4th quarter due to a technical issue)

Our development plan and marketing materials have become a useful tools for planning making progress on fundraising goals. We are continuously updating content on our website. This year we were very fortunate to receive several stories in the media.

[After Accident, Omaha Man Finds Work, Fulfillment as a Glassblower](#) - Omaha.com

[CU art & pre-med students create 'Portraits of Medical Humanities' at Hot Shops](#) - The Reader

[Lovely Art Studio Tour to Hot Shops](#) - Youtube

[Giving Tuesday - Hot Shops Hopes Omaha Can Help Them Continue Inspiring Through Arts](#) - WOWT

[We are a Big Community: Hot Shops Open House](#) - KETV

[Sights and Sounds from Hot Shops Winter Open House](#) - Omaha.com

[Andre Watts Embraces Music and Pop Culture](#) - Milford Magazine

[Dizzy Mule Development](#) - WOWT

[Fiber Rich](#) - The Reader

[Hot Shops Bridge Builder Workshop](#) - Youtube

We were proud to receive the following recognitions this year:

- Omaha Metro Tourism Awards - 2nd Place Best Attraction in Douglas County (First place, Lauritzen Gardens)
- Exhibition host of three Omaha Arts & Entertainment Award nominated shows, Omaha Artists Inc. Rachel Mindrup, Creighton University Medical Students
- Hot Shops' Glassblowing Studio Manager, Matthew Shrader was nominated for Best 3-D Artist in the Omaha Arts & Entertainment Awards



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.

