

# The Walter Hive

# 2024

## Annual Impact Report

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THEWALTERHIVE.ORG

# The Walter Hive Mission

Our mission is to build resilience, promote healing, and foster creativity through the arts.

## Our Guiding Principle

We believe that creative expression and connectivity are necessary elements to well-being. Our workshops are designed to give participants guidance in expressing themselves through the arts while providing meaningful human connection.

## The Walter Hive Campus

1. **The Walter Dome:** A makerspace with fabrication tools such as a wood shop, welding, laser cutter; tech such as LEDs, and other programmable components; and a vast array of fine arts materials like ceramics and watercolors.
2. **Walter Art Gallery:** A welcoming space where attendees experience contemporary art and where the work of both up and coming and more established local artists is celebrated.
3. **The Walter Hive Community Gallery:** Attached to the Walter Art Gallery, our community gallery showcases art created through our workshops.



# A Message from Leadership

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2024 was an incredibly busy year of growth for The Walter Hive. We served over 5000 individuals, ranging from young children to seniors. Our educational art workshops are intentional and we adapt projects to best serve the needs and goals of a variety of groups. During this year, we have continued to work with individuals dealing with trauma, including physical, financial, emotional, behavioral, or other. This includes children with life threatening illnesses, teens in foster care, people experiencing dementia, and others, including the general public, who also benefit from creative expression in a safe and encouraging environment. The general current financial climate is uncertain, especially in the non-profit world, and we support other organizations with subsidized fees whenever possible. With every workshop we see the transformation in participants from places of discomfort to expressions of healing, self discovery, and surprise, often with smiles and laughter.

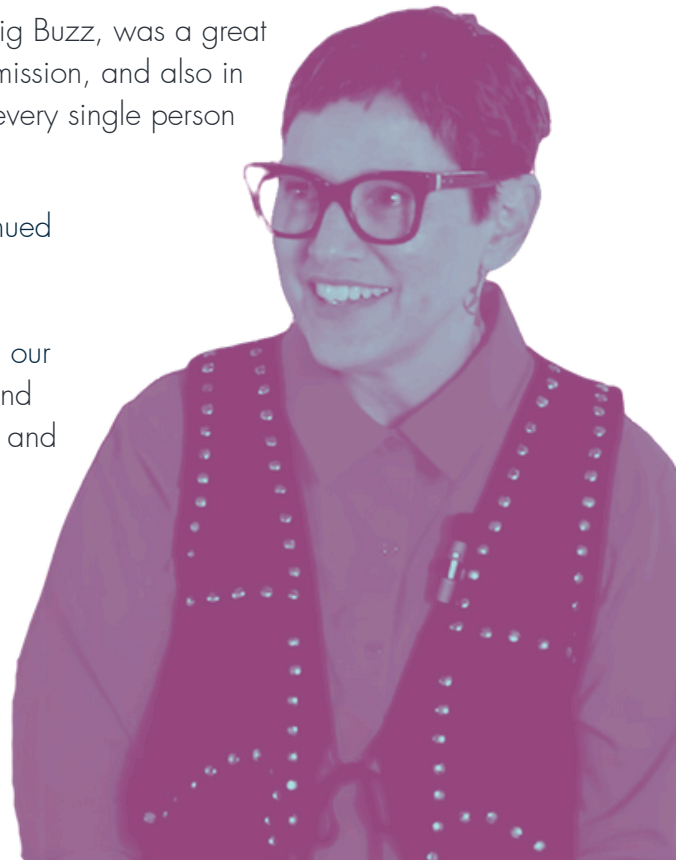
In addition, Walter Art Gallery hosted a number of individual and group exhibits, showcasing local artists in our unique space. For the second year in a row we collaborated with Pensar Academy and Arizona Burn Foundation's Leaders In Training programs, holding openings wherein youth proudly present their work to a wide audience. Another highlight was the group show, Hexagons and Honeycombs, which featured pieces generously donated by artists to benefit The Walter Hive.

Our organization could not accomplish our mission without the volunteers, sponsors, donors, and others in the community who support and promote us in every way. Our staff is mighty but small, and volunteers are essential in facilitating programs that allow us to serve a vast number of individuals. We are indebted to our generous sponsors and donors who continue to provide resources, helping us to reach our financial goals as we continue to expand. Our annual fundraiser, The Big Buzz, was a great success in terms of engaging those who are aligned with our mission, and also in terms of financial reward. We extend a heartfelt thank you to every single person involved in supporting The Walter Hive.

As we look toward the year ahead, we are confident of continued growth in non-profit partners, participants, volunteers, financial support, and in other realms. Our welding and fabrication programs have had immense expansion already this year, and our programming team continues to develop innovative curricula and events. We are prepared to heal, educate, and improve lives, and to create a movement of self-expression for all.

Thank you, and please remember to JUST•BE•NICE

Mary Strawn  
Co-founder of The Walter Hive



# Our Community Partners

With shared passion and purpose, our growing list of community partners helps us extend our reach and strengthen our efforts through their unwavering support.



**Tempe Community  
Action Agency**







# Impact

## Community Workshops

The Walter Hive provides accessible, hands-on art and fabrication workshops for the community—offered at a low cost to ensure that creativity is within reach for all. Our regularly scheduled classes empower participants to explore, build, and express themselves.

**157**  
workshops

*144 in 2023*

**5,003**   
participants/encounters

*4694 in 2023*

## Community Partners

In partnership with local nonprofits, The Walter Hive delivers tailored art and maker workshops that meet the needs of diverse populations—creating space for healing, empowerment, and connection.

## Walter Community & Art Gallery

The Walter Art Gallery is a welcoming space that showcases local artists alongside works created by our workshop participants—offering a visual expression of our mission. All artwork sales directly support The Walter Hive's programming.

 **917**  
volunteer hours



# Our Programs



## Fine Art Workshops

The Walter Hive's fine art workshops offer a welcoming environment for participants to explore painting, drawing, mixed media and other techniques. Led by skilled artists, these classes foster creativity, self-expression, and personal growth in a supportive community. Whether you're a beginner or experienced artist, our workshops provide tools and inspiration to bring your artistic vision to life.

## Fabrication Workshops

The Fabrications Workshops in our maker space offer hands on training in shop skills such as welding, woodworking, and electronics, empowering participants to bring creative projects to life. Through guided instruction and collaboration, students develop technical skills alongside problem-solving and teamwork.

## Youth STEAM Workshops

Our Youth S.T.E.A.M. Workshops are designed to educate and inspire young minds. Utilizing our advanced equipment and an array of fine art supplies, we empower youth to dream, imagine, and create. These workshops foster confidence, leadership, and problem-solving skills, while exposing participants to potential careers and other rewarding opportunities. Through personalized mentoring and encouragement, we help each child realize their potential and believe in their ability to change the world.

## Art Masterpiece and Design Series

The Art Masterpiece and Design series are a week-long program where participants explore new artists, styles, and techniques while building confidence through hands-on projects. They learn a range of skills—from fine art to welding and laser cutting—collaborating to create an interactive community art installation. The experience fosters creativity, teamwork, and self-belief, culminating in a public exhibition.

## Third Friday

These events bring together art lovers, artists, and music enthusiasts for a communal experience featuring live music, a potluck, and crafts gathering in our makerspace. It's an opportunity to connect with our growing community and enjoy the local talents of all kinds.







# Where We See Impact

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## Creative Expression

We believe that everyone benefits from creative expression and art. Our workshops are designed and led in a manner that encourages individual self expression. Our space is inclusive, welcoming, and safe for participants of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to create. Workshop instructors are trained on how to provide encouragement and support, removing the hesitancy often found when participating in the arts.

## Skill Building

Acquiring new skills is both empowering and energizing. This sense of empowerment strengthens resilience and supports healing. Participants leave our workshops equipped to apply their new skills independently and share them with friends and family.

## Community

The Walter Hive is an inclusive gathering space. Through events like Third Fridays and other functions we connect people in meaningful ways, all in support of a common purpose. Volunteers have quickly become our heart, facilitating experiences and making The Walter Hive a key contributor to the wellness of the local community.

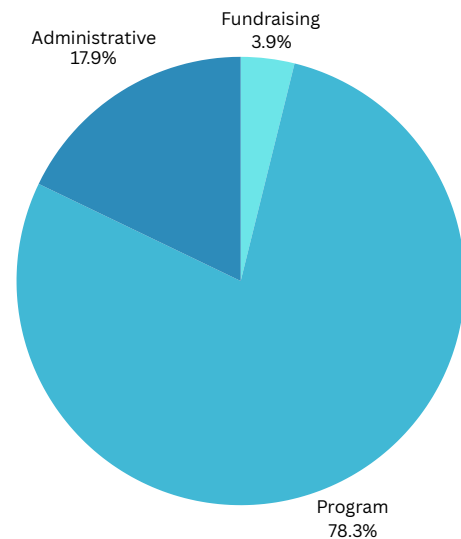
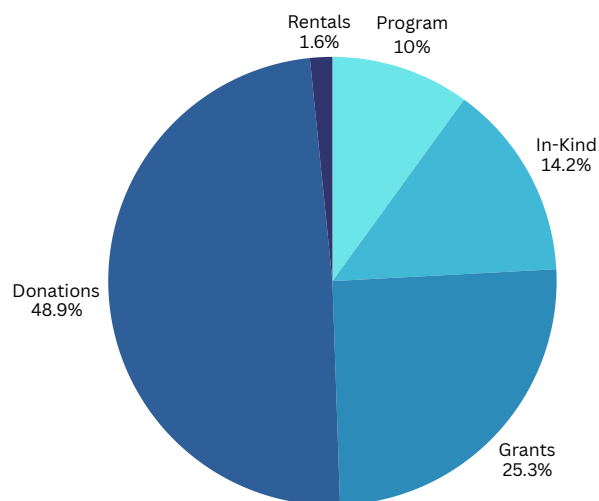




# Financials

The Walter Hive has a financial obligation to ensure that all donations and community funding received directly support our art programming.

	2023	2024
Revenue	\$189,209	\$429,885
Expenses	\$326,869	\$454,148





# Year Review

This year, The Walter Hive made meaningful strides in expanding our impact, deepening community engagement, and strengthening the foundation for future growth. Building on the strategic goals we set in 2023, we're proud to share key milestones from 2024:



We grew our total number of workshops by over 10%, giving access to more people.



We enhanced our volunteer network with a 27% increase in active volunteers and welcomed our first dedicated Volunteer Coordinator.



Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the success of The Big Buzz, we achieved our ambitious \$100,000 fundraising goal, fueling more opportunities for accessible, art-based programming.

These achievements reflect not only our commitment to our mission—but the power of our community to grow, uplift, and create together.

# Looking Ahead

In 2025, The Walter Hive continues to grow and expand our reach in the community. We plan to achieve this by:

1. Continue building a volunteer program that recruits new community members and focuses on retaining volunteers to train as workshop leads.
2. Lean into social media to build The Walter Hive's online presence, and expand access to our programming to more members in our community.
3. Offer additional programs for corporate and non-profit partners creating opportunities for more revenue streams, more volunteer opportunities, and more creative partnerships.

## Big Buzz 2024

The Big Buzz 2024 was a vibrant night of art, music, and community—and we're proud to share that we reached our \$100,000 fundraising goal.

With an incredible turnout and strong support from attendees, the event reflected the collective belief in The Walter Hive's mission to heal through creativity.

Thank you to all donors, volunteers, and attendees for making it such a memorable night!





# Ways You Can Make an Impact

*Buy from our  
Amazon  
Wishlist!*

## Donations

Donations to The Walter Hive directly fuel our mission by funding art supplies, workshop materials, and accessible programming. Every contribution helps us expand our reach, offer more workshops, and create a safe, welcoming space for self-expression. You can also support us by purchasing items from our Amazon Wishlist, which helps keep our studio stocked and our programs thriving.



## Volunteer with Us

Volunteers are the heart of The Walter Hive—helping us set up workshops, support events, and create meaningful experiences for our participants. By sharing their time and talents, volunteers make it possible for us to reach more people and run more programs with care and intention. Learn more about volunteering on <https://www.thewalterhive.org/volunteer-with-the-walter-hive/>.

## Support Community Workshops

When you buy a ticket to one of our monthly community workshops, you're not just signing up for a creative experience—you're helping sustain our mission. Ticket sales support materials, teaching artists, and help us continue offering accessible programming to different groups. Every workshop you attend helps us build a stronger, more connected community through art. Keep an eye on our calendar: <https://www.thewalterhive.org/events/>



## Become a Beekeeper

Becoming a Beekeeper—our monthly donor program—is one of the most impactful ways to support The Walter Hive. Your \$20 monthly gift provides consistent funding for art supplies, teaching staff, and accessible workshops for underserved communities. As a Beekeeper, you're helping us nurture creativity, healing, and connection all year long. Sign up on our website <https://www.thewalterhive.org/donate/>.

## Partner with Us

Partnering with The Walter Hive as a non-profit through regular workshops or as a business through corporate events supports our mission while creating meaningful, creative experiences for your team or community. Every booking helps us expand our impact and bring the healing power of art to more people. Learn more [bit.ly/walter-hive-corporate-workshops](https://bit.ly/walter-hive-corporate-workshops)



# JUST • BE • NICE

## Founders

Dr. Mary Strawn  
Dr. Kirk Strawn

## Board of Directors

Dr. Kirk Strawn – *Chairman*  
Dave Edwards  
Anita Lang  
Seth Philbin  
Darren Jeffrey  
Jimbo Beck

## Team Members

Dianne Haws – Executive Director  
Dr. Mary Strawn – Program Director  
Charlotte Strawn – Gallery Manager  
Jules Brandenburger – Program Manager  
John Elvis Taska – Shop & Fabrication Manager  
Tanika Roy – Volunteer Coordinator  
Kelsey Nunn – Marketing Coordinator

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