

# The Walter Hive

# 2025

# Annual Impact Report

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# 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 Digital Design Lab:** Attached to the Walter Art Gallery, our new digital design lab features advanced technology to aid in photography editing, digital arts, and computer design.

# A Message from Leadership

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What a spectacular year of growth 2025 has been for The Walter Hive. We again reached over 5000 individuals, encompassing underserved groups from youth to seniors. Participants are experiencing a range of challenges and we continue to adapt our workshops and events to be accessible for all and to honor various capabilities. Every one of us benefits from art in our lives, it is an essential component of wellness. At The Walter Hive we have a broad definition of "art" that includes studio, industrial, and digital arts, healing, expressive, and educational art, and now photography as well. Through hands-on experiences we help people discover what they are capable of and develop the real confidence to carry that forward.

This year we have shifted to a curriculum based model, with fewer one time encounters, and a greater number of recurring programs including concentrated series, regularly scheduled classes with a cohesive purpose, or a variety of other models that are arranged throughout the year. This allows us to provide consistent mentorship for participants, especially youth, who may not have access to reliable adult leadership, which is an essential component of preparing individuals for life and for workplace opportunities.

The number of organizations with whom we collaborate continues to expand as we develop partnerships with new nonprofits and schools, including a number of Title 1 schools across the Valley. We also maintain ongoing participation in the larger arts community at events such as Tempe Festival of the Arts, Phoenix Art Museum family offerings, Canal Convergence in Scottsdale, and others. In addition, our leaders have joined the Social Benefit Collaborative for Youth which has become an invaluable network of nonprofit connection through shared purpose.

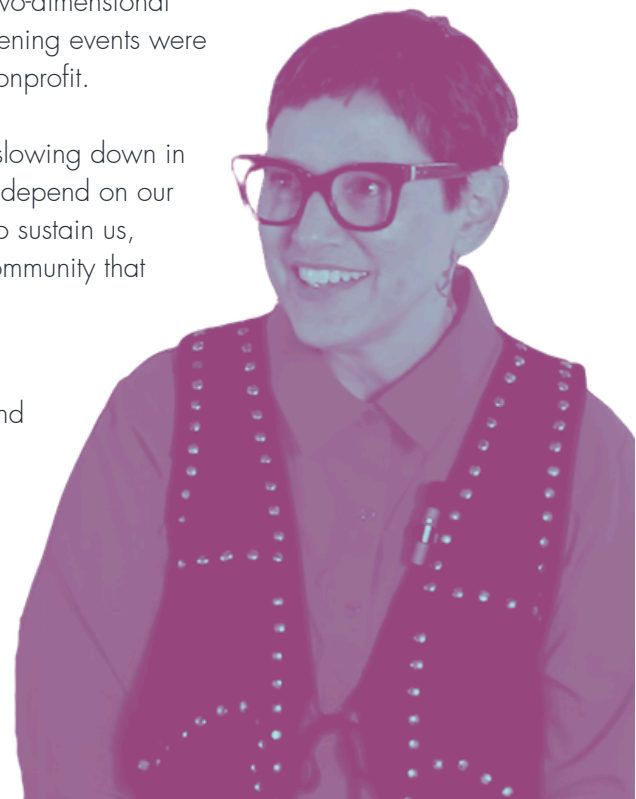
We experienced another significant change this year as we begin to merge with Kids in Focus, a similarly mentor based nonprofit. The art of photography assists youth in gaining a new perspective on current and future opportunities. The established high level photography programs of the organization will be carried out through The Walter Hive as we move toward a full merger later in 2026. The incorporation of Kids in Focus also moves us toward gaining Qualified Charitable Organization status, allowing full tax credit donations.

Walter Art Gallery remains a highlight of our organization, showcasing local artists as well as adding international artists to our resume. Exhibitions included phenomenal two-dimensional works, sculpture, and other installations in both large and smaller scales. Opening events were well attended celebrations of creativity and as always, sales benefitted the nonprofit.

Our exceptional staff is working hard to support our growth, with no sign of slowing down in the coming year. To keep up with this current pace, we now more than ever depend on our dedicated volunteers to facilitate programming, our donors and sponsors who sustain us, partners who align with our mission and expand our reach, and the entire community that shares our vision of changing lives, one interaction at a time.

The year ahead holds some exciting new projects, I look forward to sharing those as we move forward. Thank you everyone for your ongoing support, and for helping us generate a cascade of kindness and well-being. Dream something, change everything.

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.



McClintock  
Charging Forward with Purpose, Excellence and Tradition.



Changed By Fire



HOME OF THE WARRIORS





# Impact

## Partner Workshops

The Walter Hive provides accessible, hands-on art, fabrication, and photography workshops for our partner groups. 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 in a safe space.

**204**   
workshops

*157 in 2024*

## 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.

**3,728**   
participants/encounters

*5,003 in 2024*

## Community Fundraisers

We host community-wide events and fundraisers that invite art lovers of all backgrounds from across Arizona to connect and create together. These fun events allow us to connect with our community while generating the necessary support to sustain our mission.

 **1,389**  
volunteer hours  
*917 in 2024*



# 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.

## Photography Workshops

In 2025, we merged with Kids in Focus and expanded our programming to include photography. Our photography workshops guide students on the basic principles of photographic art, creative direction, and allow them to see the world around them through different perspectives. We are also building a digital design lab to teach students about the applications and processes needed to create digital art.

## 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.

## 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

## 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.

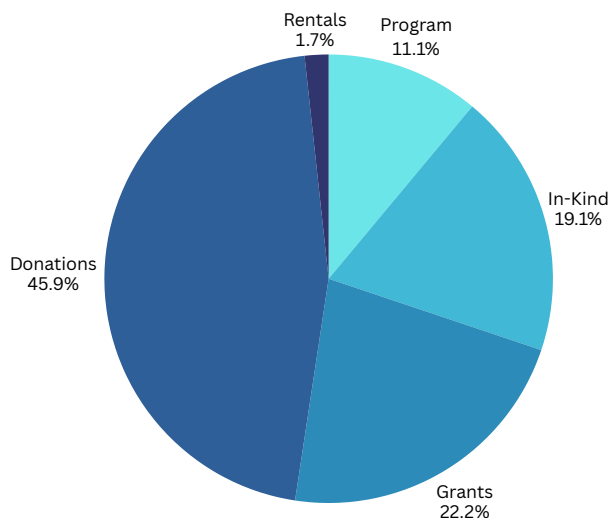




# Financials

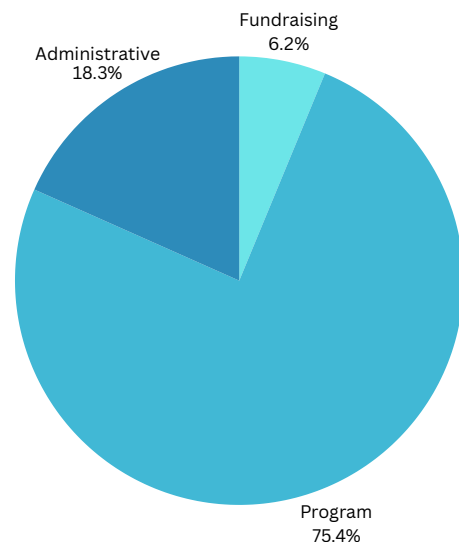
## Revenue

\$404,906



## Expenses

\$564,260



The Walter Hive is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, committed to responsible financial stewardship and public accountability. As a nonprofit, we operate with the obligation to ensure that all donations, grants, and community contributions are used with transparency and purpose in direct support of our mission.

# 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 2024, we're proud to share key milestones from 2025:



We continued to grow our number of people served, and increased our volunteer hours over 50%!



We acquired Kids in Focus which allows us to expand our programming into photography.



We are redesigning our community gallery into a digital design lab!

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 2026, The Walter Hive continues to grow and expand our reach in the community in different ways.

1. We are expanding our programming after our recent merger and are offering photography programs along with more mentorship and career-readiness focused programs.
2. We are partnering with Scottsdale Leadership to build a Digital Design Lab attached to our gallery space to advance art education for populations that may not normally have access to the technology and applications needed to succeed in the digital art space.
3. We are working with more underserved communities. This year, to meet our requirements to become a qualifying charitable organization in Arizona, we are partnering with more Title I students, more nonprofits helping those in need, and more people who need a creative community to heal.

## Big Buzz 2025

The Big Buzz 2025 was a night to remember! We raised over \$70,000 in one night to support our mission and provide art, fabrication, and photography programs to communities who do not usually have access to art resources.

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. We are merging with Kids in Focus, and donations will be eligible for QCO state tax credits in Arizona. 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 Fundraisers

Throughout the year, we host fun events open to the community! Things like the Big Buzz, Zen Day of Art Retreat, and our Changing Hands workshops are all great ways to support us and get involved with your community. Ticket sales support materials, teaching artists, and help us continue offering accessible programming to different groups. 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 school through art-focused programs supports our mission while creating meaningful, creative experiences for your students or community. Every program helps us expand our impact and bring the healing power of art to more people. Learn more [bit.ly/walter-hive-corporate-workshops](http://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  
Jimbo Beck  
Andrea Merican  
Claire Agnew  
Shane Olafson  
Rob Larson  
Chris Tafoya  
Michelle Nelson  
Shawn Beard

## Team Members

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

## **The Walter Hive**

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