

The Fine Arts Work Center

Fact Sheet

The Fine Arts Work Center is an internationally recognized creative home for artists and writers in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

History

Established in 1968 in Provincetown, the Fine Arts Work Center (FAWC) was founded on the belief that freedom to pursue creative work within a community of peers is the best catalyst for artistic growth. The Work Center's founders—a group of artists, writers, and patrons that included Robert Motherwell, Stanley Kunitz, Jack Tworokov, and Hudson D. Walker—envisioned a place in Provincetown where emerging artists and writers could live and work together in the critical, early stages of their careers.

This idea was formalized as the Fellowship Program, which has welcomed more than 1,000 artists and writers to 24 Pearl Street over the past five decades. In addition to the Fellowship Program, FAWC has grown to include robust summer and virtual education programs that enrich the creative community in Provincetown and beyond, through multigenre, cross-disciplinary course offerings and free year-round events that include readings, artists talks, and exhibitions.



Photo Credit Michael Cestaro

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Fact Sheet

Mission

The Fine Arts Work Center is an artist-led organization based in Provincetown and connected to the world. We support artistic freedom, nurture creative connections, and make possible artistic achievements important to the larger culture. The Work Center is internationally known for our acclaimed seven-month residency program granting fellowships to 20 emerging writers and artists, as well as an open enrollment Summer Workshop Program; online writing program 24PearlStreet; and an extensive series of year-round cultural events and exhibitions.

Location

The Fine Arts Work Center is located at 24 Pearl Street in Provincetown, Massachusetts. This central site includes 13 artist studios; 17 live-work spaces; the Michael Mazur Print Studio; the Stanley Kunitz Common Room; the Hudson D. Walker Galleries; and the Work Center's administrative offices. The Work Center also maintains 15 freestanding and apartment-style live-work spaces throughout Provincetown, including the Reeves Euler Building on Brewster Street; the Gerritt Hondius House on Commercial Street; and five units in the Meadow Road condominiums in Provincetown's West End.

Annual Calendar

Each year from October 1 through April 30, the Fine Arts Work Center welcomes 20 Fellows to Provincetown, providing these emerging artists and writers with living and work space, as well as a modest monthly stipend. In the spring and fall months, often referred to as Provincetown's "shoulder seasons," we welcome short-term resident artists and writers through the Returning Residency Program and other initiatives. The summer months are dedicated to the Work Center's Summer Workshop Program, which enjoys on-site attendance numbers exceeding 1,000 annually, including summer students, faculty, and event attendees. Throughout the year, we offer virtual creative writing learning opportunities through the 24PearlStreet online writing program.



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24 Pearl Street Provincetown, MA 02657 www.fawc.org

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Photo Credit 2021-2022 Writing Fellow Eduardo Martinez-Leyva

Leadership

The Fine Arts Work Center is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees, led by President Lynne Kortenhuis. The Fellowship program is overseen by a volunteer Writing Committee made up of writers, led by poet Mark Wunderlich, and a Visual Arts Committee, made up of visual artists and led by master printmaker Andrew Mockler. Sharon Polli, Executive Director, was appointed in 2021 and oversees the day-to-day management of the organization.

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Fact Sheet

Visit

To arrange a tour of our facilities or to schedule an interview with Executive Director Sharon Polli, please contact External Relations Director Stephanie Madrid at 508.487.9960 x113 or smadrid@fawc.org. Kindly note that with the exception of winter readings and exhibitions, our facilities are largely closed to the public during our Fellowship period of October 1 - April 30, 2021, although shared on-site event spaces are available to view during this time, and our administrative offices are open.

Funding and Support

The Work Center's mission-based, nonprofit work of supporting emerging artists and writers and Provincetown's creative community is funded by a combination of contributed revenue from individuals and philanthropic partners and earned income initiatives including the Fine Arts Work Center Summer Workshops Program and online writing program 24PearlStreet. Additionally, each year the Work Center hosts a fundraising gala in Provincetown honoring the work of select past Fellows and other notable leaders in arts and culture. Past honorees include Tony Kushner; Mary Oliver; Robert De Niro, Sr; Ryan Murphy; Michael Cunningham; Sam Messer; Ai Weiwei; and Salvatore and Josephine del Deo.

In addition to these annual fundraising events, the Fine Arts Work Center receives support from institutions and foundations including the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, and the Provincetown Cultural Council, among many others.

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