



Annual Report

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024—AUGUST 31, 2025

tephra
institute of
contemporary art

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

It is amazing to think that I have just completed my first year as Executive Director and Curator at Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA). This year, our board and staff have worked to create a dynamic year of reconnection and growth. Together we have laid a foundation for the next fifty years of the organization. We are proud to share this journey with you.

Recognizing our history was a major point of focus in 2025. We celebrated twenty years in our Reston Town Center gallery with *IMPRINT 2.0*, an exhibition which invited artists from the inaugural Reston Town Center show, all originally from Reston, to exhibit work in our main gallery and satellite gallery, Tephra ICA at Signature. Maggie Booth, Adam Grossi, Elizabeth Kendall, Pete Petrine, Marco Rando, and Yumi Janiario Roth shared new work and reinforced Reston's tie to contemporary art and the many artists it has nurtured.

We celebrated the amazing legacy of Judith Forst, Tephra ICA's former director and the founder of the Tephra ICA Arts Festival. Her commitment to bringing contemporary art beyond the gallery walls and into the community remains the foundation of our mission. In honor of her work, we announced the launch of the Judith Forst People's Choice Award at our future Festivals; the first will be presented on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at the 35th Festival Artist Awards Breakfast.

Tephra ICA also reconnected with our longstanding commitment to partnerships. This year we expanded and strengthened our relationships with local and regional organizations who believe, like we do, that the arts are an important part of a connected and thriving community. We launched new partnerships with Herndon's Next Stop Theatre and the Reston Remakery, renewed connections with regional arts organizations, and developed a new fall festival in Tysons, in partnership with Capital One Hall and Capital One Arts.

To continue to be a resource for artists and our audiences, we've committed to being financially sound. This year, with your support, Tephra ICA ended the year with a surplus versus an almost \$70,000 planned deficit. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our financial position in 2026.

2025 has been a foundational year for what is to come. We are excited to recap this year with you.

Thank you for being an important part of Tephra ICA and for your belief in our work.



Executive Director & Curator



Tephra ICA Board Member Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz, Karen Cleveland, Judith Forst, State Senator Jennifer B. Boysko, and Tephra ICA Executive Director & Curator Jonell Logan.

Exhibitions

In 2024-25, Tephra ICA presented a **dynamic schedule of exhibitions of emerging and established local and national artists** in our Main Gallery and satellite location at Signature. Six exhibitions this year highlighted themes of home, place, race, motherhood, identity, memory, and more.

...three kings weep... a video installation by
Ebony G. Patterson on loan from the Virginia
Museum of Fine Arts.
September 21 – December 14, 2024 →

Guest curated by Liz Ensz, ***MATRICULTURE***
featured new work by regional contemporary
artists Devin Harclerode & Nadia Nazar,
exploring notions of craft, maternal
relationships, and nurturing.
February 1 – June 28, 2025



Ways of Thinking About Your Life
Betsy Packard
Mixed media works inspired by everyday items.
November 1, 2024 – February 9, 2025, Signature

We Dwell in Between
Marie B. Gauthiez
Mixed media works inspired by walls that show
evolution, wear, and tear.
February 27 – June 29, 2025, Signature

IMPRINT 2.0

This exhibition revisited the
inaugural exhibition in our current
gallery, exploring the continued
careers of artists Maggie Booth,
Adam Grossi, Elizabeth Kendall,
Pete Petrine, Marco Rando, and
Yumi Janairo Roth
July 17 – August 30, 2025

A Land and 河/River

Kimberly M. Becoat & Hong Hong
A Land and 河/River explores the
powerful and intricate relationship
between place, our histories, and
imaginings of self.
August 23 – December 20, 2025





Installation view of *MATRICULTURE*, 2025

Audience

40,000
Festival visitors

1000
public program participants

6
exhibitions

25
public programs

85,000
website views

4,200
Instagram followers



I'm grateful for the dedicated team at Tephra ICA and for their commitment to contemporary art and artists. The time and care devoted to the curation and installation of my work made this opportunity to show at their Signature gallery a uniquely affirming experience.

Betsy Packard, exhibiting artist

Public Programs and Events

Tephra ICA's public programs create opportunities for artists and our audience to connect and engage ideas being explored in our exhibitions. Programs take place in our galleries and across the region, sparking conversation and inspiring bold, innovative ideas with programs like Art After Hour, artist talks, career panels, workshops, the Tephra ICA Arts Festival, and more. Examples of this year's programs include:

Artist and Curator Talks

The public was invited to a talk by Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at VMFA, Valerie Cassel Oliver, in response to Ebony G. Patterson's installation *...three kings weep...* which drew a full house.

Workshops

Artists Devin Harclerode and Nadia Nazar taught a workshop on natural dye and cyanotype techniques and provided visitors with a rare one-on-one teaching experience.



The Alloy Project

The Alloy Project, Tephra ICA's Annual Benefit and Cocktail Party, raised vital funds to support our year-round exhibitions program.

Art After Hours

Art After Hours served as a community gathering space where visitors can enjoy lively conversation and explore contemporary art.

The Tephra ICA Arts Festival

The Festival drew a record crowd of 40,000 visitors, exhibited over 200 artists from around the country, and provided engaging programs for visitors, including tours and artist demos.

Claire Helen Ashley Performance

Claire Helen Ashley's performance *Radiant Spawn* drew a large crowd during the Tephra ICA Arts Festival.





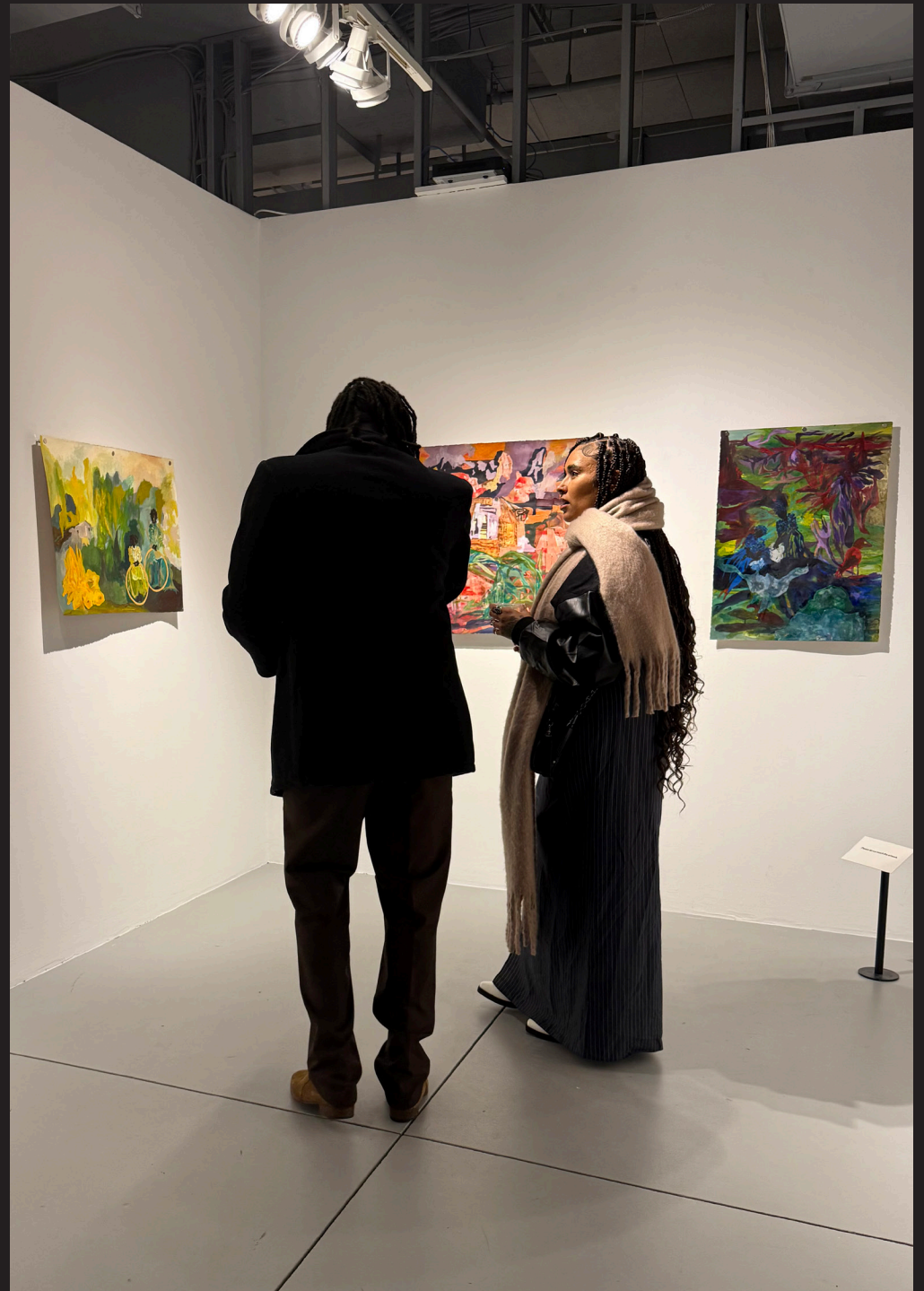
Claire Helen Ashley, *Radiant Spawn*, 2025

Mission & Vision

This winter, Tephra ICA will implement our new strategic plan. Designed to lead us through the next three years, the plan provides us intentional milestones that will continue to center our gallery in Reston, develop exhibitions and programs that will have a local and national impact, and outline a course to continued financial stability.

Key elements of our plan include:

- Presenting contemporary art exhibitions that feature regional, national, and international artists, exploring current ideas and fostering meaningful connections with our community.
- Launching a new, seasonal residency program in support of regional artists.
- Improving our visibility via strategic digital and physical marketing.
- Increasing earned revenue 10% annually over next three years.



Engagement & Partnerships

We believe in doing our part to support a strong, creative ecosystem. Partnering with like-minded arts and community-based organizations to support arts programming is at the core of our engagement philosophy.

This year, we fortified our commitment to partnering with the Reston Town Center Association and Reston Community Center.

We also developed new partnerships with the Next Stop Theatre and Reston Remakery, Restonstrong's youth-led initiative that provides a safe and welcoming space for our housed and unhoused neighbors to explore their interests. Tephra ICA collaborates with the Remakery through workshops, support for their exhibitions, and art kit activities.



Student performers during Claire Helen Ashley performance supported by Reston Community Center

Financial Highlights

Success in FY25 was directly supported by robust growth in both private and public funding streams.

Reflecting our expanded reach and partner enthusiasm, Festival sponsorships increased substantially, rising 52% from \$94,000 to \$143,000. This growth was anchored by securing our new title sponsor, Capital One Hall, and an important Festival Performance Sponsorship from our Signature Community Sponsors at Reston Community Center. Additionally, earned revenue from events was bolstered by a \$25,000 sponsorship from our dedicated partners at Leidos for the annual benefit, The Alloy Project.

Complementing this private support, key public institutions—including ArtsFairfax, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation—made vital investments through significant grants for general operations and special project grants that boosted the visitor experience at the Tephra ICA Arts Festival, our galleries, and all that we do.

Individual giving reached \$63,000 in FY25, marking a 25% increase from the prior year's \$48,600. This upward trajectory positions us well for continued growth and demonstrates the expanding base of support for our work.

These combined resources are foundational to our mission, ensuring the continued funding of our year-round exhibitions and programs, and focusing our work on connecting regional audiences with contemporary art and artists.



Governance & Leadership

Board Officers

Robert Goudie
Chair
Karen Lewis
Vice Chair
Stephanie J. Williams
Vice Chair
Jamie Saylor
Treasurer
Janet Rems
Secretary

Board Members

Talib Aleem
Ann Barbieri
Kerri Bouie
Scott Cryer
Maggie Edwards
Joe Koszarek
Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz
Justin Ruble

Professional Advisors

All in One
Consultance
Tom Hendershot, DLA Piper
Heeren Patel, Axar Hotels
H&R Block

Advisory Council

James Cleveland
Virginia Friend
Raymond Ritchey

Donors & Supporters

\$50K+
Reston Community Center

\$20K+
Capital One Hall
Robert & Theresa Goudie
Leidos
Reston Town Center Association

\$10K+

Bozzuto
BXP
Lerner

\$5K+:

Capital One Art Program
Virginia Friend
Cynthia Hull
Lake Thoreau Entertainment
Association
Carolyn Shields
The M Group

\$2K+

Ann & Bill Barbieri
Joanne & David Bauer
Lindy & Richard Brewster
Kim Denver
Eagle Bank
Kitchen Saver
Joe Koszarek
LeafFilter LLC
Public Art Reston
Reston Association
Signature
Windows by Andersen

500+

Nedra & Peter Agnew
Talib Aleem
Camille Barry
Blazing Bella
Glenda Blake
Kerri Bouie
William & Gina Bouie
Jim & Karen Cleveland
Scott Cryer
Judith & Brian Forst
Leila Gordon
Jim & Susan Jones
Karen Lewis
Ricki & Mark Marion

Janet and Alan Rems
Jaime Saylor
Johnnye and Robert Tamaru

\$10-\$499

Beth Allgaier
Shiela Anders
Jackie Ariail
Jennifer Avery
Phoebe Avery & Cameron Ishaq
Susan & Dean Avery
Susan & Daniel Barco
David Belgin
Carol Ann Bradley
Diana Backlund
Chuck Cascio
David Chao
Beverly Cosham
Montez Davis
Narcisa Despoiu
Tracy Eiler & Randall Jackson
Jessica Eldredge
Patricia Eshbach
Laure Flahive
John Flynn
Ila and Reggie Forster
Michael Fosberg
Aminita Gold
Jennifer Gold
Pat Goslee
Stephen Hagan
Shyamali Roy Hauth
Jaynelle Hazard
John & Barbara Healy
Peter & Leigh Henry
Sarah Hixon-Reed
Stuart Holt
Phyllis Kaye
Thea Kreinik
George Kochev
Doreen & Steven Larson
Eli Lehrer
David Lieu
Phil Lilienthal
Juan Logan
Joseph Minarik
Donna Moran & Barry Broadus
Charles Morrison
Lisa Motton
Robert Osterried
Sammie Parrish
Ellen Perillo
Kristen Plum

Sue Porter
Roz Rakoff
Marco & Elle Rando
Patricia Rentz
Kathleen Rini
Suzanne and Terrence Robinson
Douglas Sanderson
Marnie Schaar
Andrea Serotkin
Linda Sherman
Amelia Snowden
Michelle Spady
Jennifer Spooner
Kenneth Spotz
Anne Marie Stevenson
Aisha Strothers
Nancy Susaneck
Marsha & Carl Swerdlhoff
Lawrence and Kari Uman
Margaret Vetter
Jim and Sarah Wells
Catherine Day and Joe Wetzel
Jennie Wentz
Terri White
Stephanie Williams
David Wiseman
Jim Zhang

Gifts in Kind

BEI
Biofloria
Broadway Gallery
BXP
Fogo de Chão
LMI Designs
Look Cinemas
Open Road Distillery
Panera Bread
Pisco y Nazca
Reston Association
Reston Town Center Association
Ruth Abrahams Design
The Capital Burger
The Hyatt Regency Reston