

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION



Art Connection-RI Gallery Exhibit

2024 was a progressive year for Art Connection Rhode Island (ACRI). Guided by our mission, “Connecting Lives with Art”, we expanded our outreach, deepened community engagement, and brought the healing power of art to a wide array of nonprofit and healthcare facilities across the state.

From our **13th** Anniversary Fundraising Event to the impactful *Connecting Lives With Art* exhibition at the Atrium Gallery, this year underscored the profound connection between creativity and community. Each piece of artwork that we placed tells a story, not just of the artist who created it, but of the people and places who receive it.

We reached exciting new milestones: **2,090 artworks placed** across **133 nonprofits** since inception in **2011**. Through calming landscapes in a clinic or expressive works in a supportive housing center, every piece helps foster comfort and inspiration.

These achievements are only possible because of the generosity of our artist donors, the passion of our nonprofit partners, and the dedication of our supporters. Together, we are proving that art deserves to be an accessible resource to all.

As we look ahead, ACRI remains committed to expanding our impact. We will continue to bring art into spaces of healing, grow our workshop programs, and center the community voice in everything we do.

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

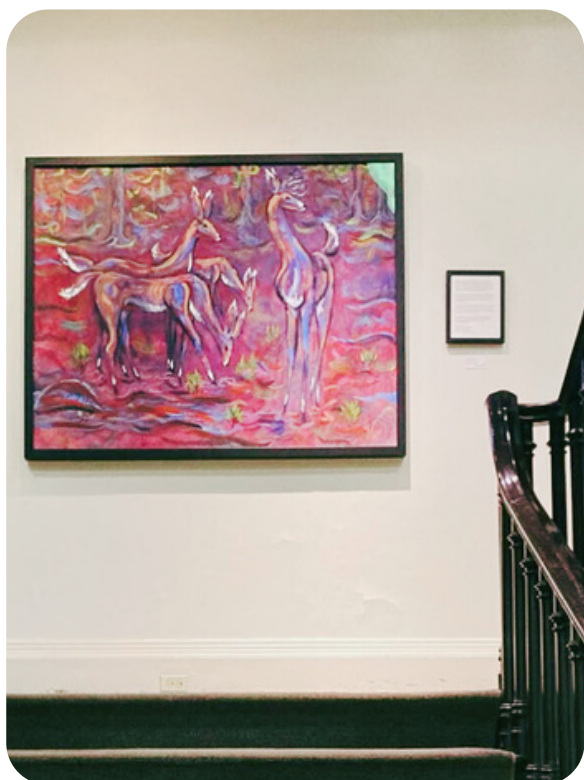


WFRI Art Selection at ACRI's
Pawtucket Office

Women's Fund RI: A Powerful Start to 2024

Art Connection-RI was proud to kick off 2024 with a meaningful collaboration with the Women's Fund of Rhode Island (WFRI), an organization whose mission is to advance gender equality through research, advocacy, grant making, and strategic partnerships.

In February, WFRI became our first art recipient of the year, selecting **8 original artworks** created and generously donated by women artists from our network. These pieces were chosen to enrich WFRI's networking and meeting spaces, bringing visual inspiration and emotional resonance to a place where powerful conversations, community building, and social change are at the forefront.



The Family by Douglas Brooks
Donated to Butler Hospital

The Power of Art in Mental Health

In 2024, we embraced growing scientific recognition of art's role in mental wellness. Insights from Dr. Jason Shimiaie and Nobel laureate Eric Kandel show that creating and experiencing art engages multiple brain systems; visual, emotional, memory, and reasoning, making it a powerful tool in mental health.

At ACRI, these connections validate what we see in practice every day: **art transforms lives.**

Whether it's a child comforted by color, a veteran inspired by abstraction, or a hospital patient soothed by beauty, our work taps into this therapeutic power. We are not just installing art, we are planting seeds of healing and human connection.

Shimiaie, J. (2025, January 20). The power of art in mental health: Perspectives from neuroscience and psychology. Psychology Today. Retrieved from <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/an-interpersonal-lens/202501/the-power-of-art-in-mental-health>

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

Ronald McDonald House of Providence: Bringing Light to Healing Spaces

In May, ACRI partnered with the Ronald McDonald House of Providence to bring **28 pieces of artwork** into the bedrooms and communal areas of their facility.

One highlight included the installation of the *Two Peonies*, a vibrant piece by artist Richard Harrington. This artwork now provides solace and joy to families navigating medical journeys.

The heartfelt collaboration was made possible by artist donors, staff at Ronald McDonald House, and Providence Picture Frame.

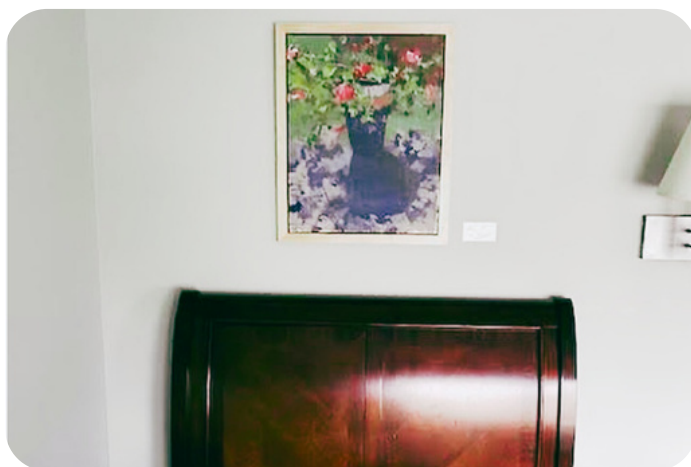
The selection emphasized how artwork can transform a space into a sanctuary, offering both emotional and psychological comfort to children and families.

“We hope these pieces provide comfort and inspiration to the families and children staying at the House,” said Wendy Ingram, ACRI’S Board Chair.

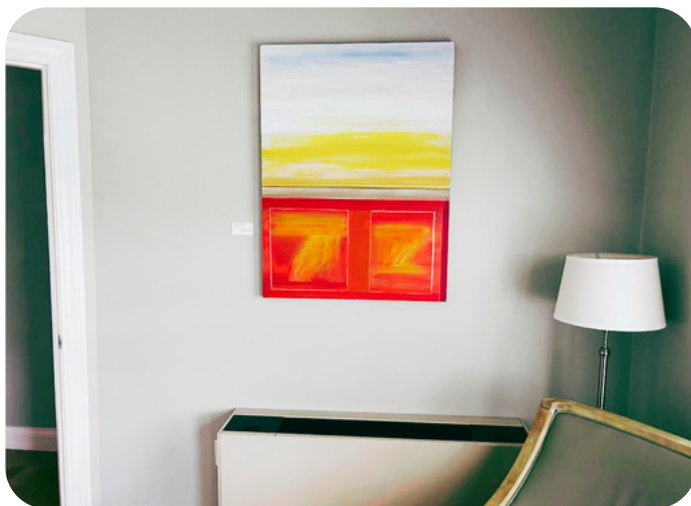
This story is just one example of the real-world impact of ACRI’s work and why we remain committed to our mission.



Two Peonies by Richard Harrington



Geranium Shadows by Cathy Chin



Rising Sun by David Kupferman

ACRI EVENTS

ACRI Atrium Gallery Exhibition

In collaboration with the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts (RISCA), Art Connection Rhode Island hosted the signature exhibition *Connecting Lives With Art* at the Atrium Gallery, One Capitol Hill, from May 2 to July 11, 2024.

This exhibition celebrated our mission by showcasing original works from over **20 artist donors**, featuring paintings, mixed media pieces, photographs, collages, and prints. Set in the heart of the state's Administration Building, the gallery was transformed into a vibrant space of creativity.

With unbelievable attendance and a renewed sense of momentum, this exhibition was a highlight of the year, reaffirming our commitment to placing meaningful art in places where it makes a lasting impact.



Atrium Gallery, One Capitol Hill

ACRI's 13th Anniversary Celebration

On April 26th, Art Connection-RI joyfully celebrated **13 years** of connecting lives with art at our Anniversary Fundraising Event. An evening that was filled with gratitude, community, and creative spirit.

Hosted at Shri Yoga in Pawtucket, a space whose community-centered ethos beautifully mirrors our mission, the event brought together friends, supporters, artists, and local residents to honor the transformative power of art in Rhode Island.

We were deeply moved by the outpouring of support and the stories shared throughout the night. Here's to 13 incredible years and to the creative journeys that lie ahead.



Shri Yoga Studio, Pawtucket



ACRI WORKSHOPS

Hands on Creativity at South Providence Public Library, MLK Center and Boys & Girls Club of Providence

At Art Connection-RI, we believe the creative process is just as powerful as the final work of art. That belief came to life at the South Providence Public Library, the MLK Center, and the Boys & Girls Club where our after-school art workshops sparked imagination, built confidence, and offered young people a safe space to explore their creativity.

Thanks to the incredible leadership of our 2024 art instructors; Hollis Hickerson, Mary Ann Rosonni, and India Sachi, our workshop programs have become a cornerstone of community-based art education.

Since 2017, ACRI has partnered with libraries and community centers in Providence, Pawtucket, and Newport, reaching **320 children, preteens, and teenagers** through hands-on art classes.

These workshops are more than just an introduction to painting, they're an invitation for young artists to express themselves, build skills, and find joy in the creative process.

"I believe the attendees got a lot more than just art skills out of the workshops...The more capable students would help assist with younger students which created a sense of community and promoted communication skills in a wide demographic across many different languages."

-Hollis Hickerson, Art Workshop Instructor



Hollis Hickerson
South Providence Library



Mary Ann Rosonni
MLK Center

2024 ART PLACEMENTS

From Canvas to Community: In Selection Order

Women's Fund Rhode Island

- 9 pieces selected | Providence, RI

Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP)

- 18 pieces selected | Cranston, RI

Ronald McDonald House of Providence

- 28 pieces selected | Providence, RI

The Providence Center – Joyce House

- 15 pieces selected | Providence, RI

CCAP Behavioral Health

- 37 pieces selected | Cranston, RI

Oasis International

- 30 pieces selected | Providence, RI

Refugee Dream Center

- 10 pieces selected | Providence, RI

Butler Hospital

- 30 pieces selected | Providence, RI

Wood River Health Services

- 20 pieces selected | Westerly, RI

BVCHC Dental

- 20 pieces selected | Pawtucket, RI

Social Enterprise Greenhouse

- 21 pieces selected | Providence, RI

The DaVinci Center

- 20 pieces selected | Providence, RI



In total, **258 pieces of artwork** were selected in 2024. Each placement brought beauty and healing to environments where people seek care, support, and community.

We extend our sincere thanks to the artist donors, staff members, and community partners who made these meaningful installations possible.

DONORS

Vera Gierke
David Gendreau
Liz Glatzer
Susan Aitcheson
Frank Faltus
Karen Rand Anderson
Micheal Fink
Janice Libby
Liz Martino
Hannelore Crossgrove
Deming Sherman
Pamela Hughes
Herman Brewster
Cynthia DiDonato
Doug Victor
Carla White Ellis
Adrienne Wooster
Elizabeth Buckley
Paula Martiesian
Oasis International
Len Cabral
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Victoria Guerina
Erica Gierke
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Program Manager, Rhea Levin

MISSION

Art Connection-RI believes that everyone should have access to art regardless of socioeconomic background. We provide community service organizations in Rhode Island original works of art created by local artists at no cost so that it may enrich and inspire those they serve.



IMPACT



In **2024**, Art Connection-RI placed **258** pieces of artwork in **13** nonprofits, bringing creativity and inspiration to their spaces.

Since **2011**, Art Connection-RI has placed **2,090** pieces of artwork in **133** nonprofits and community organizations throughout Rhode Island.

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

SPONSORS



Papitto
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Connection

Iona Dobbins Art Fund

Carter Family
Charitable Trust

June Rockwell
Levy Foundation



Osceola Foundation Inc.

Nordson Cooperation
Foundation

RI House of
Representatives & Senate
Legislative Grants

IDA Ballou Littlefield
Memorial Fund



Art Connection-RI supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

