



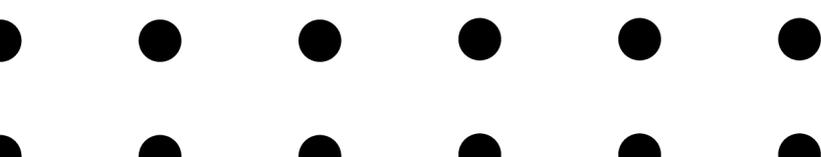
**Baltimore
Clayworks**

**2025
Annual
Report**

**45 YEARS OF CLAY,
COMMUNITY, AND
CREATIVE POSSIBILITY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** LOOKING BACK ON 2025
- 5** IMPACT AT A GLANCE
- 6** DEEPENING PARTNERSHIPS
- 7** EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION
- 8** INVESTING IN CAMPUS & FACILITIES
- 9** SUPPORTING ARTISTS & CREATIVE EXCHANGE
- 10** STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY
- 11** LOOKING AHEAD
- 13** FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT
- 14** THANK YOU



LOOKING BACK ON 2025

2025 invited Baltimore Clayworks into a year of alignment — a moment when our history, our community, and our future came into clear conversation with one another. As we celebrated our 45th anniversary, we found ourselves returning to the heart of our mission with renewed purpose: **to make the ceramic arts accessible, meaningful, and sustaining for all who seek them.**

This year, we adopted our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan, a living roadmap shaped by artists, staff, board members, students, and community partners. It affirmed what has always made Clayworks unique: **our belief that creativity is not a luxury, but a public good; that clay is a medium of connection; and that art has a role to play in healing, belonging, and civic life.**

Alongside a full calendar of classes, exhibitions, and community programs, we invested deeply in our historic campus — restoring our buildings, improving accessibility, and creating new outdoor spaces for gathering and reflection. **These improvements were not simply aesthetic; they were commitments to safety, sustainability, and welcome.** They were acts of stewardship for the next generation of artists and learners.



Inside our studios and galleries, thousands of people found space to learn, experiment, and express themselves. **Across Baltimore, our Community Arts Program brought clay into classrooms, senior centers, libraries, and community hubs** — meeting people where they are, and affirming that creativity belongs everywhere. Our exhibitions and artist programs amplified voices from Baltimore and around the world, reminding us that clay is both ancient and urgently contemporary.

What we saw again and again in 2025 was this: **when people have access to creativity, they find resilience, connection, and joy.** In a world that often feels fractured, Baltimore Clayworks continues to be a place where people gather, make, imagine, and rebuild — together.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who made this year possible. Your generosity fuels scholarships, community partnerships, residencies, exhibitions, and the hands-on learning experiences that welcome thousands into clay each year. **Thank you for believing in this work,** and for helping us shape a future where creativity remains accessible to all.



Matthew Hyleck, Executive Director



Sarah Peters

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

14,736

HOURS STUDENTS SPENT IN FREE STUDIO TIME OUTSIDE OF CLASS

283

ARTISTS FEATURED ACROSS 16+ FREE PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS IN OUR GALLERIES

6,790

PEOPLE VISITING OUR GALLERIES AND SHOP



36 HANDS IN CLAY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR CLASSES, WORKSHOPS & SUPPLIES



4 VISITING ARTIST WORKSHOPS

1,646

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH PROGRAMS AT 29 COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNER SITES

2,898

YOUTH & ADULT REGISTRATIONS ACROSS CLASSES, WORKSHOPS & SUMMER CAMPS

4,597

HOURS OF ON-CAMPUS INSTRUCTION

20

NEW ARTIST TALKS THIS YEAR, BRINGING OUR VIRTUAL LIBRARY TO 100+



244 SUMMER CAMPERS

92

ARTISTS MAINTAINING ACTIVE PRACTICE IN OUR ON-SITE STUDIOS

DEEPENING PARTNERSHIPS

Why it matters: Creativity is a public good — and access must meet people where they are.

Baltimore Clayworks' partnerships are not simply program sites; they are bridges into communities where access to the arts has historically been limited. In 2025, our work with 29 schools, senior centers, libraries, and community organizations connected 1,646 people with **creative experiences that support mental health, social connection, and intergenerational learning.**

In a city where many neighborhoods lack consistent arts programming, **these partnerships matter.** They bring clay into spaces where people gather, heal, and build community. They affirm that creativity is a right, not a privilege. And they help Baltimore Clayworks stay rooted in the lived realities of Baltimore's you, elders, veterans, and blind and low-vision communities.

Festivals, showcases, and Nature Sacred programs **created moments of joy and belonging across the city.** These relationships are the foundation of our future growth.



EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Why it matters: Creative practice builds resilience, confidence, and connection — especially in uncertain times.

Education is the heart of Baltimore Clayworks — not only because we teach technique, but because we create environments where people feel safe to take risks, express themselves, and grow. In 2025, 2,898 registrations across classes, camps, and open studio reflected a **deep hunger for creative practice** in a world that often leaves little room for it.

Scholarships, membership drives, and expanded learning pathways helped ensure that cost was not a barrier. Our residency and fellowship programs **nurtured emerging artists whose voices and perspectives enrich the field**. And our teaching artists — many of them former fellows — modeled what it means to build a creative life rooted in community.

In a time of rising isolation and burnout, our classrooms offered something rare: **a place to slow down**, make with your hands, and reconnect with yourself and others.





INVESTING IN CAMPUS & FACILITIES

Why it matters: A thriving arts community needs safe, accessible, and inspiring spaces.

Our campus is more than a collection of buildings — it is a **creative ecosystem** that holds thousands of people each year. In 2025, we invested in its longevity through exterior restoration, slate roof repairs, structural reinforcement, ADA improvements, and the restoration of the Nurturing Nature fountain.

The opening of our new Sacred Place The Gathering Ground garden in collaboration with the organization Nature Sacred, created a **new outdoor space for rest, reflection, and community programming**. These improvements matter because they ensure that Baltimore Clayworks remains a safe, accessible, and welcoming home for artists and learners for decades to come.

In a world where many arts spaces face displacement or decline, **investing in our campus is an act of resilience** — a commitment to staying rooted in Baltimore and serving the community long-term.

SUPPORTING ARTISTS & CREATIVE EXCHANGE

Why it matters: Artists shape culture, challenge assumptions, and help us imagine new futures.

Baltimore Clayworks has always been an artist-centered institution, and 2025 reaffirmed that commitment. **Our exhibitions featured more than 200 artists** whose work explored identity, environment, culture, and imagination. Fellowship exhibitions offered emerging artists a platform to share deeply personal narratives. Visiting Artist Workshops and Open Studio Tours created opportunities for exchange, mentorship, and skill-building.

- Our Virtual Artist Talk Series **expanded to over 100 recorded programs**, extending access to learning far beyond our campus and contributing to the global ceramics community. *Cultural exchange

- In a cultural moment where artists often struggle for visibility and support, Baltimore Clayworks continues to be **a place where creative voices are nurtured, celebrated, and shared.**



Katherine Pon-Cooper
2025–26 EMBARC Fellow



Janathel Shaw
2026 Short-Term Resident Artist



Brady Fanning
2025–26 Lormina Salter Fellow



Hannah Kautto



STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Why it matters: A healthy organization can serve its community with clarity, stability, and integrity.

Behind every class, exhibition, and community program is a **network of people and systems** that make the work possible. In 2025, we strengthened that foundation through staff development, teacher raises, improved evaluation practices, and successful fundraising for a new energy-efficient kiln.

These investments matter because they ensure that Baltimore Clayworks can **continue to serve Baltimore with excellence and integrity**. They help us weather financial challenges, support our staff, and plan for the future with confidence.

In a sector where burnout and instability are common, **sustainability is not just an operational goal — it is a commitment to care for the people who care for our community.**



Lolo Gem



LOOKING AHEAD

Baltimore Clayworks enters its next chapter with a rare combination of clarity, momentum, and community trust. The work of 2025 didn't just close out a milestone year — it laid the groundwork for **a future where creativity is more accessible, more visible, and more deeply woven into the fabric of Baltimore.**

In the years ahead, we will deepen our commitment to access by expanding scholarships, strengthening partnerships, and bringing clay into more classrooms, senior centers, libraries, and community spaces. We will continue investing in our campus — not only to preserve our historic buildings, but to **create a safer, greener, more welcoming environment** for everyone who walks through our doors.

Our strategic plan calls us to think boldly about **what an artist-centered institution can be in a changing world.** That means supporting artists with more opportunities to teach, exhibit, experiment, and connect. It means building systems that help us understand who we serve and who we still need to reach. It means ensuring that our staff, board, and teaching artists have the tools and support they need to thrive.

LOOKING AHEAD

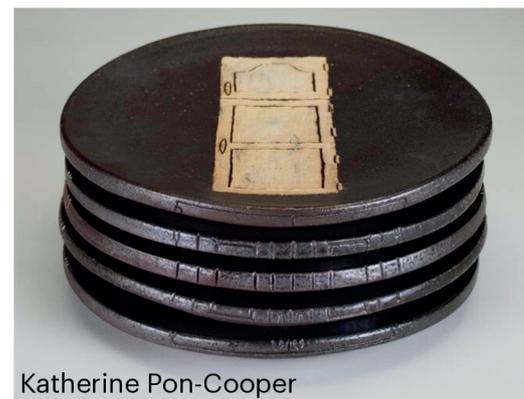
And it means preparing Baltimore to shine on a national stage. As we look toward hosting the **2027 National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Conference**, we see an opportunity not just to welcome thousands of ceramic artists to our city, but to showcase the depth, diversity, and creativity of Baltimore's own arts ecosystem.

Above all, we look ahead with a belief that creativity is essential — to individual well-being, to community health, and to the cultural life of our city. Baltimore Clayworks will continue to be a place where people gather, learn, imagine, and rebuild. **A place where artists grow. A place where joy is taken seriously.** A place where clay becomes a medium for connection, healing, and possibility.

The years to come will be shaped by the same values that brought us this far: artist-centeredness, excellence, inclusivity, integrity, and joy. **We will continue building a future where creativity is not a privilege, but a shared resource** — one that strengthens Baltimore and enriches the world.



Kyoung Hwa Oh



Katherine Pon-Cooper



Martha Grover



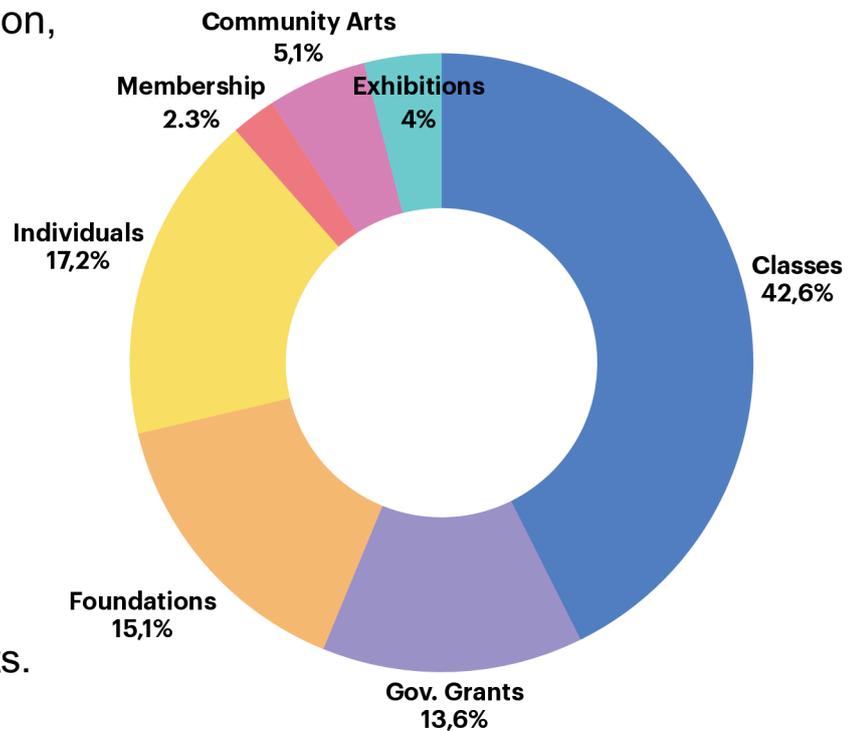
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Baltimore Clayworks closed the year in a strong financial position, with revenue holding steady across core programs and expenses managed carefully throughout the organization.

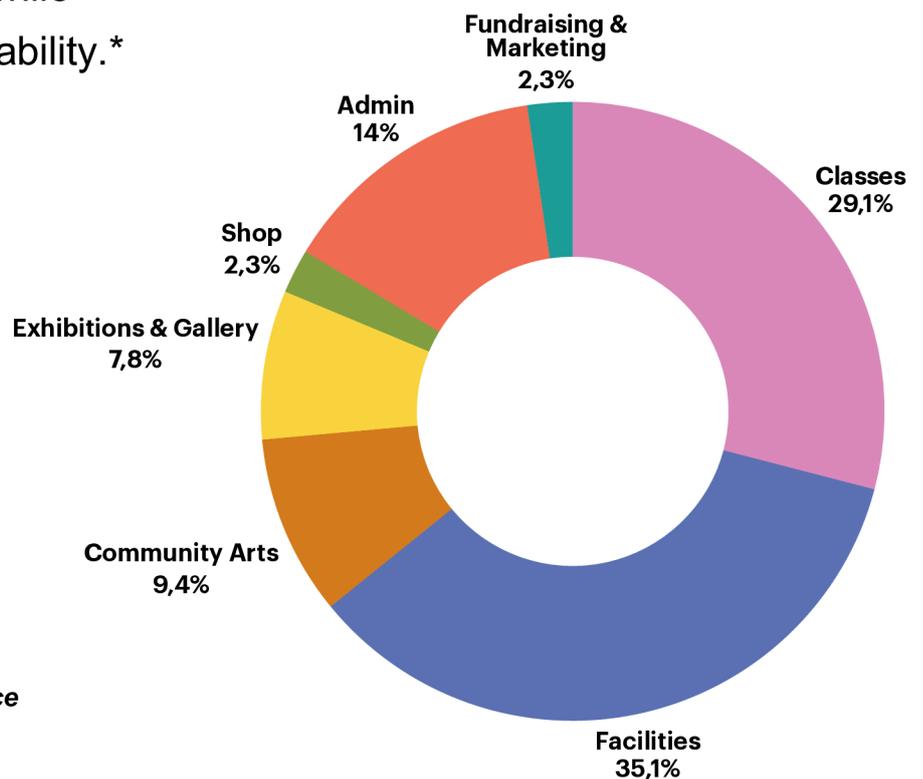
Growth in classes, firings, membership, and institutional support helped balance softer areas such as community arts revenue and fundraising events. Thoughtful stewardship and disciplined operations ensured we delivered our mission while maintaining financial stability.*

Supporters can explore our full financial profile, including independent ratings and accountability metrics, on [Charity Navigator](#), where Baltimore Clayworks maintains a **100/100 score in Accountability & Finance and a strong standing as a trusted community arts organization.*

Revenue Highlights



Expense Highlights



THANK YOU

Baltimore Clayworks is sustained by a remarkable community of artists, students, donors, and friends who believe in the power of ceramic arts to inspire, connect, and transform. Every class taken, artwork created, exhibition visited, and gift contributed helps strengthen this organization and the people we serve.

To everyone who supported Baltimore Clayworks this year — through your creativity, generosity, advocacy, and presence — thank you. Your commitment ensures that Baltimore Clayworks remains a welcoming, inclusive home for artists and learners across Baltimore and beyond. We extend special gratitude to our community partners, whose collaboration makes our programs accessible, inclusive, and deeply rooted in the neighborhoods we serve:

B-SPIRIT-A²Y

BISM (Blind Industries & Services of Maryland)

Citadel of Healthcare

Cross Country Elementary/Middle School

Dee's Place

Homewood Homes

House of Ruth Maryland

JCC of Greater Baltimore

Maryland School for the Blind

Maryland State Library for the Blind & Print Disabled

MJ Housing Services at Mayflower Apartments

Mother Seton Academy

Mt. Washington Community

NAAP (National Association of Asian Professionals)

On Our Own

Park Heights Academy

Reginald F. Lewis High School

Roland Park Elementary/Middle School

Safe Alternative Foundation for
Education

See Beyond Festival

Spider Anderson Festival

St. Francis Neighborhood Center

Stadium Place

SYLC (Summer Youth Leadership Corps)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)