



Sawtooth School for Visual Art is the Triad's premier community art school, providing over 1,000 classes and workshops annually across 11 disciplines. Our offerings are open to everyone, regardless of age, background, or skill level.

Since 1945, we've been your space to create.

Our 2024 fiscal year has been monumental for the organization, and we're proud to provide this annual report summarizing Sawtooth's top-level accomplishments and immense growth over the past twelve months. As we look towards our 80th anniversary, we are energized by the strength of our school, the creativity of our community, and the incredible support from friends near and far, including you!

# Annual Report

## Fiscal Year 2024

# SAWTOOTH

# New Staff

In April 2023, Sawtooth welcomed Lauren Davis as the new Executive Director. Davis came to Sawtooth with over ten years of experience working for various community organizations in the Triad, including Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, The Enrichment Center, and the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina.

Sawtooth's leadership team has expanded with new Finance and Marketing Directors along with a new Director of Operations + Exhibitions position. Po Wen Liu joined us as the Director of Ceramics near the beginning of the fiscal year, and new members were added to the Youth and Art + Wellness program teams.



Above: Pet and light portraits by our Director of Photography C. Stephen Hurst.  
Left: Serenity by Po Wen Liu. Right: pendant by instructor Andrew Thornton

# Our Arts Community

- + **16 Art Studios** Downtown
- + **1,000+ Classes** Serving
- 3,000+ Students** Annually
- + **600+ Members**
- + **131% Increase** in Awarded Scholarships
- + **1,100+ patients** served by our Art + Wellness programs in FY2024
- + **80+ regional artists** represented in our Shop
- + **2 New Studios** at the Intergenerational Center
- + **2 Wood-Fired Kilns** at SECCA (the only community wood kilns within a two-hour drive of Winston-Salem.)
- + **600+ Camp Sawtooth** Registrations in 2023
- + **30+ Community Partners** (and counting!)



Proud students from a recent adult-and-child woodworking class.

# Gallery Programming



Programming in Sawtooth's Eleanor & Egbert Davis Gallery reached new heights this year by complementing our studio offerings and strengthening our community partnerships.

One of the highlights was the exhibition *Seating Assignment: Women in Contemporary Chairmaking and Craft Education*, curated by Rebecca Juliette-Duex, 2023 Gondring Resident in Woodworking. The show received coverage in the national arts magazine *Hyperallergic*, on regional NPR affiliate WFDD, and from industry-leading organizations such as The Furniture Society and Women of Woodworking.

*Metal Clay Expressions, In Residence, Sawtooth Spotlight*, and *Sawtooth Print Group* showcased members of our vibrant artistic community while summer exhibitions *Yarn Splash* and *Here Come the Puppets* provided engaging activities for all ages in partnership with community organizations.

Annie Evelyn, *Red Diamonds* (2022)  
(photo by Loam, model SaraBeth Post Eskuche)



## Events

New and returning events found inventive ways to engage our network.

Our inaugural *Sawtooth Spotlight: Holiday Market* welcomed over 800 guests to a year-end celebration of art, craft, and community. Artists reported robust sales, and we heard glowing reviews from guests, many of whom were coming to Sawtooth for the first time.

The fourth edition of the **Metal Clay Artists Symposium** brought together leaders in metal clay to share inspiration, techniques, and innovative technology. The 2023 MCAS featured artist was Clément Marquaire from Brussels, Belgium who creates unique handmade jewelry through through his brand *Geometrically Stuck*.



Ring by Clément Marquaire

# New Studios at the Intergenerational Center for Arts and Wellness



In Fall 2023, we opened two studios at the brand-new **Intergenerational Center for Arts and Wellness**, a state-of-the-art complex bringing together 21 partners to offer healthcare, intergenerational interaction, and arts-based activities under one roof.

Our dedicated **mixed-media and ceramics studios** expand offerings for all students while bringing hands-on art experiences to a historically underserved area of Winston-Salem. Inclusive classes and workshops foster interaction among different generations.

**Registration is not limited by age, zip code, or income level.**

*Students from C. Stephen Hurst's photo class gather at the reception for their exhibition.*





# CAMP SAWTOOTH

Our eight-week summer program transforms our sixteen studios, helping kids and teens discover the joy of creativity while making new friends and extraordinary works of art. In 2023, Camp Sawtooth offered almost 100 classes in morning and afternoon sessions, with scholarship spots available in every single one.

In 2023, Camp enrollment accounted for 605 registrations; 2024 enrollment exceeded that number before Camp officially began.



## Scholarships

Thanks to generous donations from you and other Sawtooth supporters, **we've provided over \$17,000 in scholarships** this fiscal year—a **131% increase** from FY2023!—ensuring that high-quality creative arts instruction is accessible to all students regardless of financial circumstances.

We also changed our eligibility requirements, **helping 55% more community members qualify** for financial assistance. These students could join us for one-of-a-kind creative experiences at Sawtooth without worrying about the cost. We increased scholarship opportunities for Camp Sawtooth, and we reserved spots in each camp class for scholarship students.

# Artist in Residence Program

One of Sawtooth's newest offerings, our Artist in Residence program encourages emerging artists to develop new skills, foster community connections, and create new bodies of work while assisting with studio operations. We welcomed artists from across the country to Sawtooth's creative community with year-long residencies in ceramics and woodworking and are developing a printmaking one to begin in 2025. Our woodworking residency program is made possible by a donation from Kelley Gondring in honor of her parents, who are lifelong artists and passionate arts supporters. In September 2024, we welcomed a new cohort of ceramics and woodworking residents who will be at Sawtooth through the summer of 2025.

*Previous residents (l to r): Sam McCall, Max Saunders, Carey Nathanson, and Rebecca Juliette-Duex*



## 10 Years of Art + Wellness

Our Art + Wellness program provides supportive art experiences in partnership with eleven healthcare organizations across Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Thanks to financial support from the Greer Foundation, this unique program routinely reaches patients, survivors, and caregivers of all ages impacted by critical illness. **Learn more at [sawtooth.org/artandwellness](https://sawtooth.org/artandwellness)**



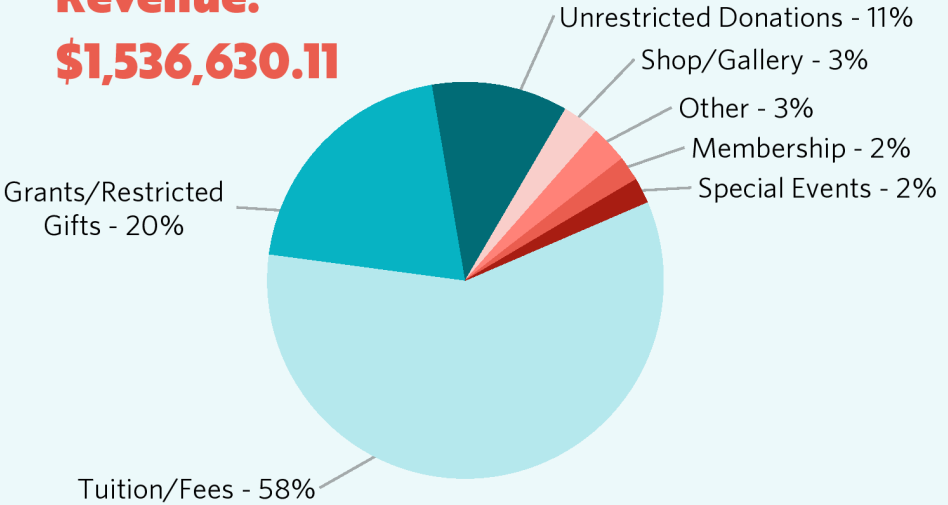
*Clockwise: Sawtooth's Director of Art + Wellness and Community Engagement Betsy Messick carries interactive Arts Kits for Cancer Survivor's Day; a painting activity; gem trees made at SECU House with patients and volunteers.*

# Financials at a glance

\*Pre-audited financials. Final FY24 financial statements and Form 990 will be made available online when finalized. FY24 runs from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

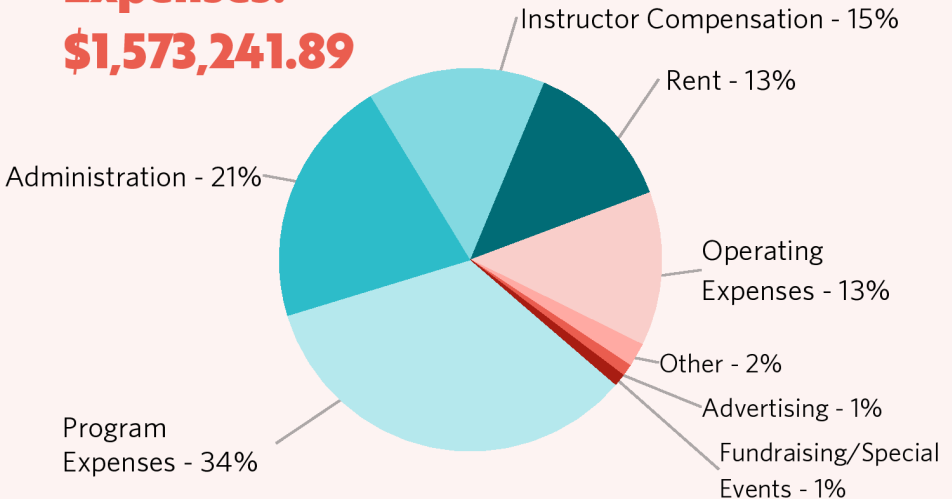
## Revenue:

**\$1,536,630.11**



## Expenses:

**\$1,573,241.89**



*"Classes at Sawtooth always provide enough structure for success, as well as enough freedom to be creative." - Student feedback*

# The Future

**As we celebrate our 80th anniversary and embark on new initiatives, Sawtooth has much to look forward to in the coming fiscal year.**



With new programs such as Sawtooth Luminaries and the return of Sawtooth Spotlight, we aim to showcase, celebrate, and expand the creative community around our beloved school. We are your space to create, and Sawtooth would not be the hub of creativity that it is without your participation, enthusiasm, and dedication to our mission and programs.

We recently collaborated with Next Stage Consulting to develop a new strategic plan, our first in over two decades. This plan, made possible thanks to a grant from the Winston-Salem Foundation, will help us clarify our organization's goals and direction, and guide us as we reimagine our approach to better serve our community. Through a years-long implementation process, we will embark on inventive and exciting ways to strengthen our commitment to the region and reassert our position as the leading provider of community art education in the area.



**Sawtooth School for Visual Art**  
251 N. Spruce St. • Winston-Salem, NC  
Your Space to Create • Since 1945