MONROE WALTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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www.monroewaltonarts.org

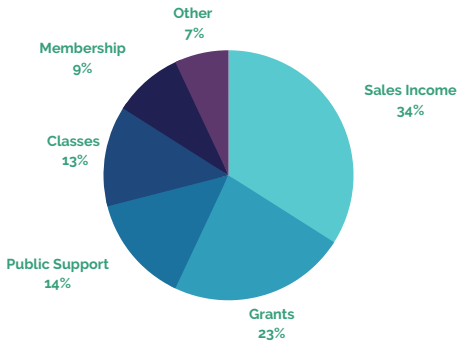
2020 IMPACT REPORT

Our Mission

is to create a thriving arts community through education, outreach and opportunities to ensure all people in Walton County have access to the benefits of the arts. We strive to create beauty and vibrancy while supporting the vital work of local artists and crafts people in Walton County.

Our Vision

is to be the premier arts organization in Walton County and the platform for all things in the visual arts. MWCA is Walton County's community-based arts center, offering experiences that transform individuals and our municipalities through the arts.



Revenue Sources

The challenge

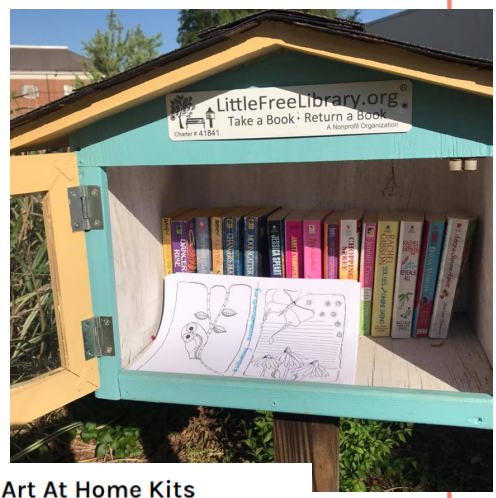
Despite the unique challenges 2020 had in store, MWCA not only persevered but thrived. Thanks to support from corporate, foundation, and city government sponsors as well as the tremendous ongoing support of our members, we finished out the year in a strong financial position. We are thankful for the continued funding for our art programming for children, adults, and the special needs community.

Creative Solutions

Instead of shuttering our shop and gallery, we created solutions to the many challenges of 2020. Developing an online shop with curbside pickup, video art classes for all ages, and fun "Art Drops" in the sculpture garden's Little Free Library provided outreach and continuity to our neighbors here in Monroe and across the internet.

"I believe that MWCA's quick response to the pandemic, offering free virtual content, a virtual shop, and our kits with virtual instruction filled a gap in our community and created an artistic normal that comforted many."

~ Donna Coffman, Education Chair



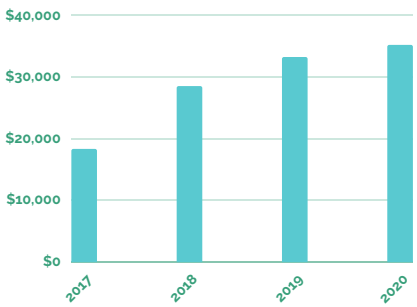
Art At Home Kits

Pottery at home kit: Lamb Bowl
$20.00

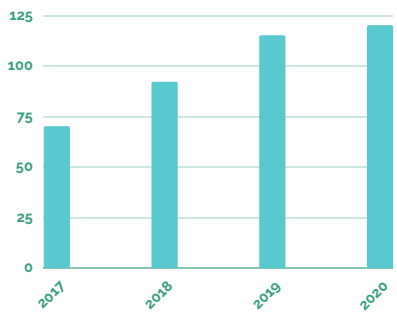
The Gallery

While our shop and gallery visitors declined due to pandemic restrictions, we put our downtime to good use by overhauling our gallery, classrooms, and garden areas. A fresh coat of white paint brightened up our gallery and shop space, and volunteers painted colorful murals on the staircases. Plants and decorative lighting were added to the sculpture garden, and our beloved painted sidewalks were cleaned. We continued our annual Holiday Artists' Market, which meant the art center was a favorite holiday shopping spot!

Our repainting of the gallery, shop, and standards looks fresh and clean. The Artists' Christmas Shop is a community favorite.



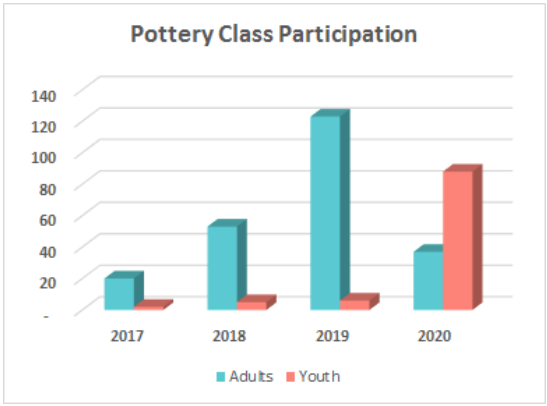
Shop Revenue



Show Participation

Expanded pottery options

Thanks to grant funding and a member donation of a raku kiln, our pottery offerings continue to grow. A shed and ramp were completed for the kiln. Shelves were added in the studio, our electric kilns were repaired, and additional pottery tools were purchased. Our children's pottery class participation is up from six students in 2019 to more than eighty in 2020. Our 3-year expansion plan will facilitate future continued development.

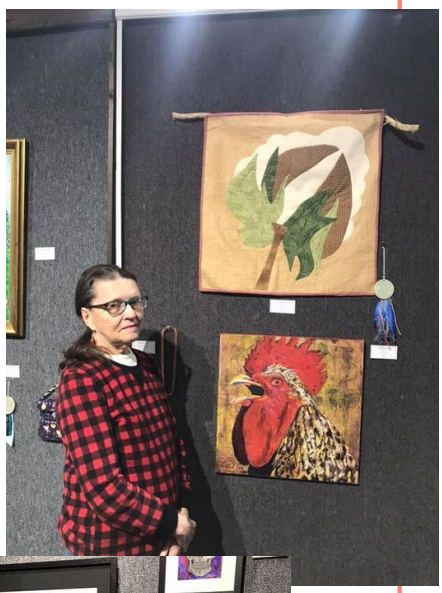


Regular arts programming

Our arts programming for kids includes summer day camps, our After School Arts Program (ASAP), youth pottery classes, and our popular paint-and-pizza events. Adult programming includes our well-attended Sip-and-Paint classes, numerous pop-up events, and more formal drawing and painting classes. In 2020, our classes served a total of 525 students -- 260 adults and 265 youth.

Our art classes served 525 students in 2020!

Our commitment to our community is our byline: ART for ALL!



ART for ALL: Members' Show

One of our eight gallery shows each year is our Members' Show that welcomes creative and artistic works from all our members. Youth, novices, emerging artists, and experienced or professional artists enter works in a variety of categories in one unique-to-us, gloriously inclusive ART for ALL show. The Members' Show is a cornerstone event that highlights our commitment to fostering a community of support for artists of all levels. Our 2020 Members' Show included entries from 42 adults and 7 youth.

ART for ALL: Special Needs

ART for ALL also includes our special needs neighbors, both adults and children. We regularly hold free or low-cost art classes for these groups. In 2020, we served five different agencies and more than sixty individuals. These classes were on hold from March through September but resumed in October.

ART for ALL: Art in Times of Trouble

ART for ALL encompasses those who are hurting and can benefit from the healing nature of art. Our volunteers pack ArtMD healing art kits to give out (free!) to Piedmont-Walton Hospital, DFACS, local fire stations, and other agencies who in turn give the kits to children in times of trauma, loss, or illness. Funded through donations and grants, the boxes contain our original art journals, stuffed animals, crayons, stickers, Play-Doh, and when available, original angel paintings by our artists. In 2020, we gave away over 1000 of these kits. Our ArtMD kits are truly healing arts!

1000+ ArtMD kits were given to children in crisis

ART for ALL: Saturday Soirees

Saturday Soirees are our once-a-month parties! At least two drop-in workshops are planned, including pottery or jewelry making or painting/mixed media for all ages. New to our rotation of workshops in 2020 is wood turning! Soirees have been an invigorating addition to our calendar of events. Our community has responded in a big way to these fun and relaxing opportunities to create and learn something new. We temporarily halted Soirees from April - September, but brought them back in October. Attendance varies from 200+ (in January-March of 2020) to around 50 later in the year.