RIDGEFIELD GUILD OF ARTISTS

34 HALPIN LANE
RIDGEFIELD, CT
203•438•8863
WED-SUN/12 to 4

Annual Report
June 15, 2023

Original Guild Members in the Infamous Norway Maple Tree

circa the 1970's

Overview of Our Organization

Forty-nine years ago, the Ridgefield Guild of Artists opened its doors as a place for local artists to gather…bringing art to our antique barn, and creativity to our community. From its humble beginnings as a clubhouse-of–sorts for a couple dozen local artists to today, with nearly 350 members, we continue to offer quality gallery space, education, and special community collaborative events for Ridgefield and our surrounding communities, with thousands served annually. The Guild's mission is to encourage and inspire the creation of art, and offer artistic opportunities to our artists, young and old. We are happy to report that our reputation as a vibrant and friendly arts organization grows and grows year after year, as we continue our dedication to meet the needs and to serve this wonderful artistic community.

COLOR
Jan 15-Feb 6
2022
Online:
rgoa.org

212
Feb 12 - Feb 27

Picturing
our Past
March 12 to April 2

Coming
of Age
70 ARTISTS OVER 60
April 9 – May 8, 2022

RIDGEFIELD
GUILD
OF ARTISTS
Juried
MEMBER
12TH
Show

Art Walk
RIDGEFIELD

45TH
ANNUAL JURIED
EXHIBITION
SEP 17 - OCT 16, 2022

Bewitching
Bedlam

Focus
On:
Landscape
NOV 5-20

THE
ART
OF
GIVING
OPENING HOLIDAY PARTY
& ART AUCTION

ANYTHING
GOES
JAN 14 - FEB 12
2023

CAMERA
WORKS
PHOTO EXHIBIT
Feb 25 - Mar 26, 2023
Juror: Paula Tognarelli

OPPOSING FORCES

RIDGEFIELD
GUILD
OF ARTISTS
Juried
MEMBER
13TH
Show

FREEDOM
June 17-24

Coming Out of Covid

COVID was a challenge for all of us over the past few years, giving us at the Guild some opportunities we would never have expected, as we navigated our forced closing in the spring of 2020 and eventual re-opening full-time in 2022. As we all moved carefully toward a more "normal" life, the Guild returned to a full line-up of shows and classes, along with community events, always keeping in mind the needs and comfort of our members. In our 2022/23 timeframe, we are now operating at full speed, with member participation increasing with each season.

Looking Back…

Year in Review: Exhibitions

Note: Our fiscal year coincides with the calendar year, so in addition to our schedule for 2022, we have included January to June 2023 to keep everyone up to date as of today.

Our gallery shows are the foundation of our arts organization. Our intention is to create a variety of shows, allowing all our member artists to participate no matter the level of their artistic abilities. Through in-person shows, our online virtual gallery, Art Walk , Art of Giving and satellite galleries, we have sold over 135 pieces of art during this 18-month timeframe.

January – December 2022

Color: (January–February2022) Annual member themed show - online due to post-holiday COVID upsurge. 98 members participated.

2-1-2 Small Group Juried Show: (February-March 2022) juried by Georgette Gouveia, Editor-in- Chief of WAG Magazine. Juror selected five artists, two in the front, one in the middle and two in the back galleries, each exhibiting a body of work, created over a six-month period of time.

Picturing Our Past: (March-April 2022) An open and collaborative show with the Ridgefield Historical Society in celebration of their 20th year. This show included original art from 33 members and artifacts on-loan from the Historical Society.

Coming of Age: (April-May 2022) A special show curated by member Nancy Moore, featuring 70 artists over 60, including very personal individual statements describing their experience as 60+ artists.

12th Annual Juried Member Show: (May-June 2022) Juried by Lisa Cooper, owner of the Elisa Contemporary Gallery in Riverdale, NY. Of the 331 entries, 75 pieces from 74 artists were selected by the juror to be included in the show.

9th Annual Art Walk: (August – September 2022) Our annual end-of-summer community event bringing artists to the streets of downtown Ridgefield and in store windows. 48 artists were showcased in 38 venues in town.

45th Annual Juried Show: (September – October 2022) The Guild's longest running exhibition, juried by Colleen Cash, VP of online auctions at ARTNET. Of the 366 pieces submitted by 129 artists, 72 pieces by 47 artists were selected by the juror to be part of the show.

Bewitching Bedlam: (October2022) Guild's crazy hang-it-yourself member show with a Halloween theme. 32 artists participated.

Focus On: **Landscape*:*** (November 2022) Third installment of our *Focus On* series, looking at different art genres. The Landscape Show featured 111 pieces by 51 artists.

Art of Giving, Auction and Art Show: (December 2022) Holiday gift-giving art show and auction. 14 paintings were donated and auctioned off at the opening holiday party/auction. We thank our auctioneer, Colleen Cash. The show continued through December with member artwork and handmade gift items for sale. 64 artists/artisans participated.

January – June 2023

Anything Goes: (January–February 2023) Our annual member themed show, always the first of the new year. 65 artists submitted 131 pieces.

CameraWorks Biennial Juried Show: (February-March 2023) juried by Paula Tognarelli, recently retired as cultural administrator and curator, working as Executive Director of the Griffin Museum of Photography. 65 photographers submitted 235 images and the juror selected 67 pieces from 56 artists to be included in the show.

KMAA Visiting Show – Opposing Forces: (April 2023) The Guild welcomed the Katonah Museum Artists Association for a month-long visiting exhibition.

13thAnnual Juried Member Show: (May – June 2023) Juried by Melanie Prapopoulos, owner of the CAMP Gallery in Westport, CT. 117 members submitted 351 pieces and the juror selected 78 pieces by 48 artists to be part of the show.

Freedom Pop-Up Bedlam Show: (June 2023) Our annual Bedlam show, with a theme, opening June 17 for one week.

Ridgefield Guild of Artists' Outreach

Ridgefield Guild of Artists is continually working to bring art to various venues in the community, often joining with other non-profits, to reach out to an even wider audience. We also support local organizations when we can. In the past 18 months, collaborations include partnerships with The Ridgefield Historical Society, The Ridgefield Library, The Ridgefield Arts Council, The Ridgefield Theater Barn, The Ridgefield Playhouse, The League of Women Voters, along with local community groups and businesses. The following is a few outreach highlights from 2022 and early 2023:

- ***Little League Sponsorship:*** For years, and again this spring, The Guild happily sponsors of one of the Ridgefield Little League T-Ball Teams.

- ***ARTalks***: This program is a long-standing collaboration between the Guild and the Ridgefield Library. This very popular lecture/workshop series attracts more than 500 people annually.

- ***Art Walk 2022:*** Our annual Art Walk event gains more momentum with every year. In 2022, this event offered 48 artists the opportunity to display their work in 38 storefronts in downtown Ridgefield. Despite the repaving on Main Street and a short thunderstorm, opening weekend brought hundreds of visitors to our town with artists selling over 85 pieces of art, including original artwork, prints, hand-crafted cards and small works. Art Walk has become a town favorite with its outdoor, summer setting.

- ***Satellite Galleries:*** In 2023, we are collaborating with local businesses providing member artwork at "satellite galleries." It's a great way for the public to see member works beyond the walls of our gallery barn. We are currently working with William Pitt Sotheby's Realty on Main Street and Jill Rae Designs on Governor Street.

- ***Member Artist Opportunity:*** In the spring of 2023, Synchrony Bank of Stamford CT reached out to the Guild to come up with some artist works for their new headquarters. We presented samples of member art and steered them toward our member websites, and in the end, they selected 6 pieces to purchase for their conference room walls. We are thrilled to offer this opportunity to some of our members, and will try to seek other venues that may want to partner with us, as well.

- ***Education:*** In the fall of 2022 and the first half of 2023, our education program has come back strong and grown with more class offerings *and* students. Our members are excited to get back to classes and workshops after the COVID "interruption." We are excited to offer a variety of classes and new workshops. It's great having our barn alive again with student voices and creativity.

- ***Summer Program:*** The Guild has been running a kids' arts-focused summer program for years. It gives kids in the area a chance to gather and create together in a relaxing summer atmosphere. During the pandemic, we continued to offer a modified version of our popular summer program. The kids really seemed to need the creative outlet we could offer them with their school schedules in flux. We adapted our program to meet the times and now offer weekly themed sessions, including drawing and cartooning, painting, sculpture and mixed media, print-making, and so much more. This year's program begins at the end of June and runs for 6 weeks.

Membership

As of June 1, 2023, the Guild has a total of 348 members with the majority of members coming from 38 towns in Connecticut and 23 from towns in New York…but also from as far away as Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Florida, and California!

Financial Status

After a few uncertain years through the pandemic, the Guild got by with the support of our members through dues, class and entry fees (even when our classes and shows were only online!), along with generous donations and federal, state and local grants, to keep us going. We continue to thrive with our continued member support, grant money, and donations. We spend money as frugally as possible. As an arts' non-profit, we function mainly as a volunteer organization, governed by a volunteer board, just two part-time employees and several student gallery sitters, and our many generous volunteers, including two National Charity League chapters, along with National Honor Society students.

The following pages offer an overview of the Guild's Financials.

FINANCIALS - EXHIBITIONS

		Jan 2022 - Dec 2022	Jan 2023 - May 2023
JURIED MEMBER SHOW			
Revenue		$ 4,890	$ 8,174
Commissions/Expenses		$ (2,617)	$ (1,129)
	Net	**$ 2,273**	**$ 7,045**
ANNUAL JURIED SHOW			
Revenue		$ 5,320	$ 170.00
Commissions/Expenses		$ (2,875)	$ (322.00)
	Net	**$ 2,445**	**$ (152.00)**
2-1-2 SHOW			
Revenue		$ 2,272	$ -
Commissions/Expenses		$ (1,933)	$ -
	Net	**$ 339**	**$ -**
ANYTHING GOES			
Revenue		$ 570	$ 2,780
Commissions/Expenses		$ (53)	$ (1,738)
	Net	**$ 517**	**$ 1,042**
COLOR SHOW			
Revenue		$ 1,799	$ -
Commissions/Expenses		$ (352)	$ -
	Net	**$ 1,447**	**$ -**
BEDLAM			
Revenue		$ 510	$ -
Commissions/Expenses		$ (371)	$ -
	Net	**$ 139**	**$ -**
PICTURING OUR PAST			
Revenue		$ 1,653	$ -
Commissions/Expenses		$ (1,153)	$ -
	Net	**$ 500**	**$ -**
ART OF GIVING			
Revenue		$ 11,604	$ 200
Commissions/Expenses		$ (5,691)	$ (867)
	Net	**$ 5,913**	**$ (667)**
COMING OF AGE			
Revenue		$ 10,775	$ -
Commissions/Expenses		$ (7,118)	$ -
	Net	**$ 3,657**	**$ -**
FOCUS ON			
Revenue		$ 2,300	$ -
Commissions/Expenses		$ (1,216)	$ -
	Net	**$ 1,084**	**$ -**
CAMERA WORKS			
Revenue		$ 34	$ 4,090
Commissions/Expenses		$ (6)	$ (2,171)
	Net	**$ 28**	**$ 1,919**
AIR			
Expenses		$ (10)	$ -
	Net	**$ (10)**	**$ -**
RHS			
Scholarship		**$ (200)**	**$ -**
TOTAL EXHIBITS			
Revenue		$ 41,727	$ 15,414
Commissions/Expenses		$ (23,635)	$ (6,260)
	Net	**$ 18,092**	**$ 9,154**

FINANCIALS - CONTRIBUTIONS

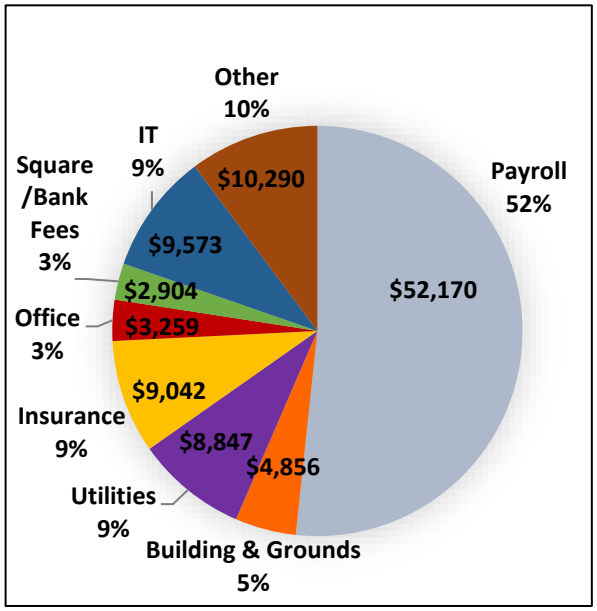
		Jan 2022 - Dec 2022
DONATIONS		
	Annual appeal - net	$ 4,222
	FC Just Give	$ 1,056
	Other	$ 3,450
	Total Donations	**$ 8,728**
GRANTS		
	NY Trust/Lewis Fund	$ 1,000
	Thrift Shop	$ 2,500
	CT Humanities	$ 11,000
	AARPA	$ 6,844
	NCL	$ 200
	CT Arts Endowment	$ -
	Nancy Moore - Restricted	$ 1,000
	Total Grants	**$ 22,544**
FUNDRAISERS		
	Community Arts Project	$ 19
	Total Fundraising	**$ 19**
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		**$ 31,291**
ECONOMIC GRANTS		
	CT - Econ & Comm Develop	**$ 8,988**
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS		**$ 40,279**

FINANCIALS - OTHER REVENUE

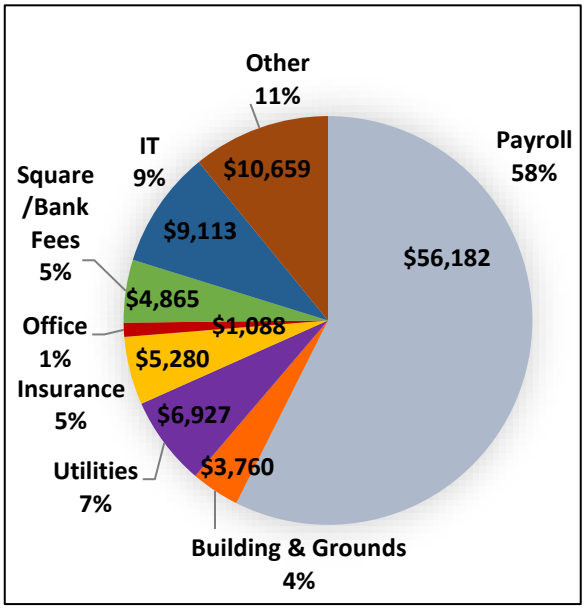
		Jan 2022 - Dec 2022	Jan 2023 - May 2023
CLASSES			
Adult Class Revenue		$ 23,251	$ 29,337
Youth Class Revenue		$ 5,904	$ 1,496
Expenses		$ (18,593)	$ (11,869)
	Net	**$ 10,562**	**$ 18,964**
SUMMER PROGRAMS			
Revenue		$ 19,993	$ 3,197
Expenses		$ (12,611)	$ -
	Net	**$ 7,382**	**$ 3,197**
MEMBERSHIP			
Revenue		$ 13,005	$ 5,570
Expenses		$ -	$ -
	Net	**$ 13,005**	**$ 5,570**
GALLERIES EXCLUDING SHOWS			
Gift Gallery Sales		$ 225	$ 328
Gift Gallery Expenses		$ (90)	$ (197)
Satellite Gallery Sales		$ -	$ 12,204
Satellite Gallery Expenses		$ -	$ (8,325)
Rental Income (Net)		$ 2,075	$ (639)
	Net	**$ 2,210**	**$ 3,371**
FESTIVE HOME			
Revenue		$ 3,745	$ -
Commissions/Expenses		$ (5,658)	$ -
	Net	**$ (1,913)**	**$ -**
ART WALK			
Revenue		$ 11,560	$ 441
Commissions/Expenses		$ (6,189)	$ (320)
	Net	**$ 5,371**	**$ 121**
ART OF GIVING AUCTION			
Revenue		$ 7,841	$ -
Commissions/Expenses		$ (1,545)	$ (883)
	Net	**$ 6,296**	**$ (883)**
TOTAL OTHER			
Revenue		$ 87,631	$ 51,953
Commissions/Expenses		$ (44,686)	$ (21,594)
	Net	**$ 42,945**	**$ 30,359**

USE OF FUNDS 2020-2023

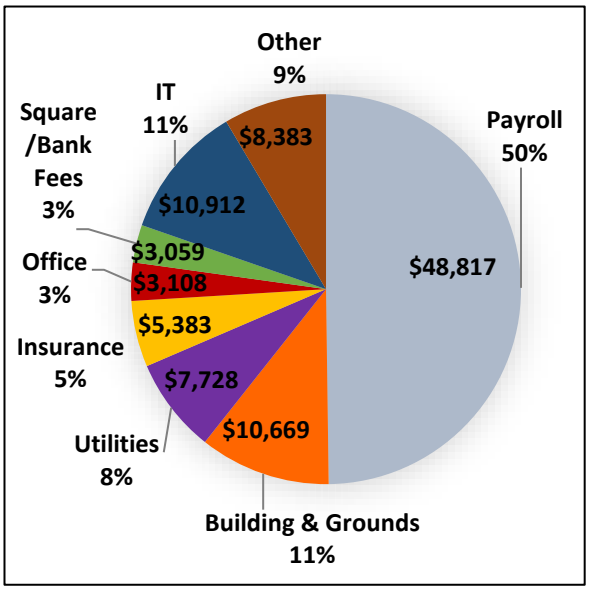
2020



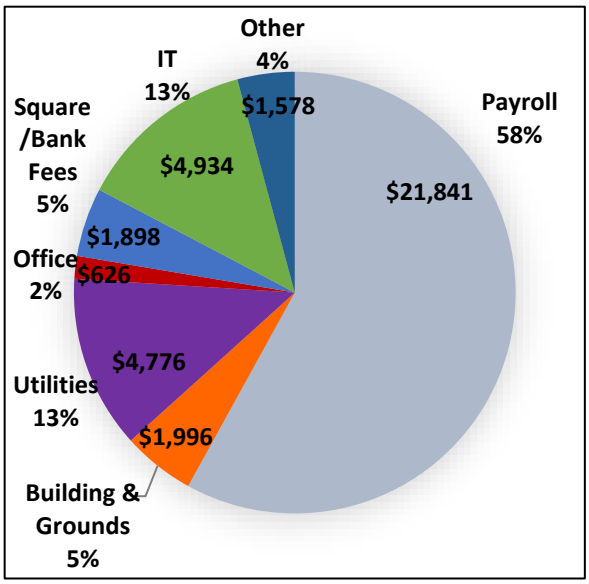
2021



2022

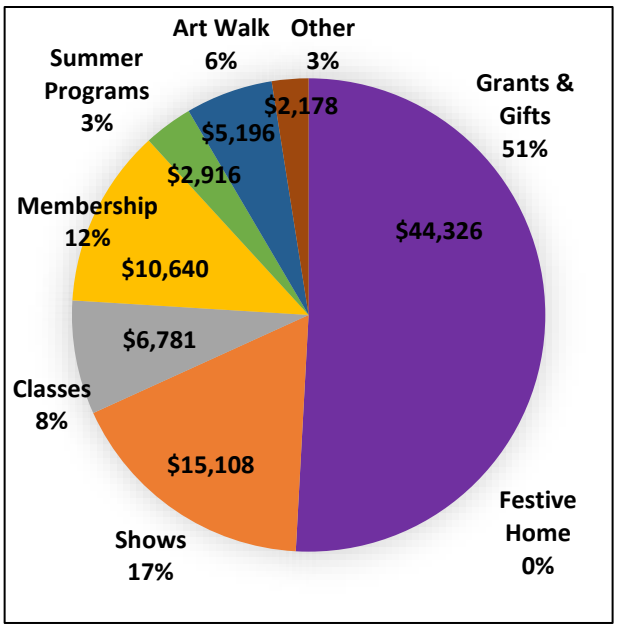


As of May 31, 2023

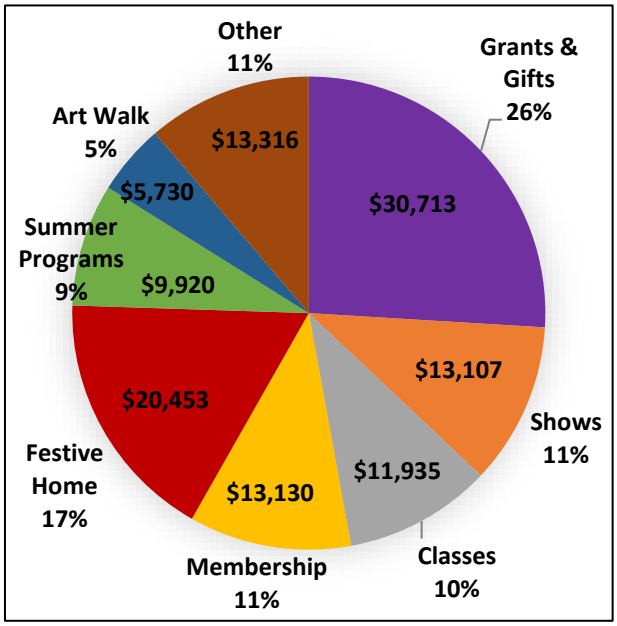


SOURCES OF FUNDS 2020-2023

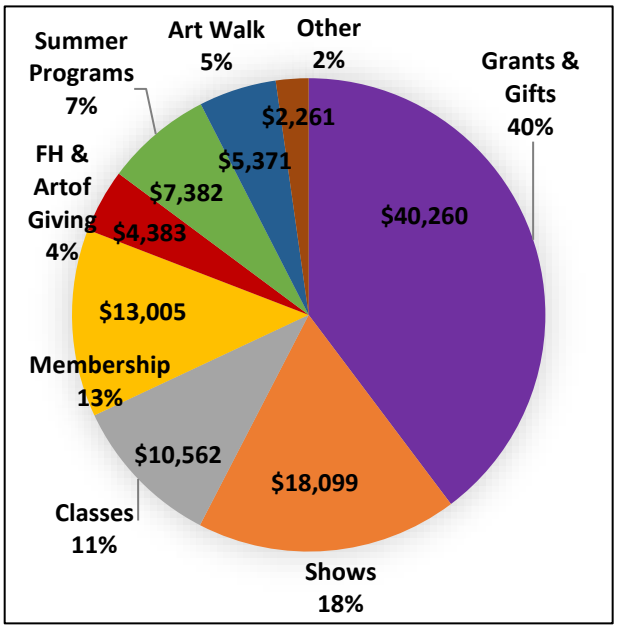
2020



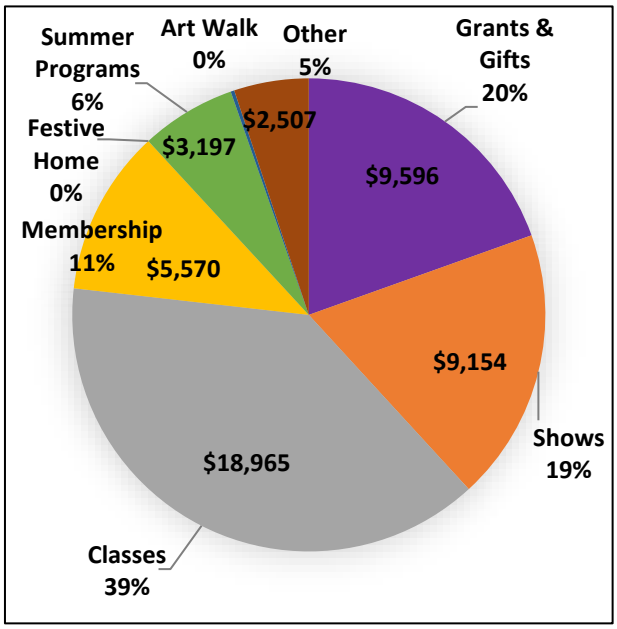
2021



2022



As of May 31, 2023



Goals For 2023/24

Plan for the Guild of Artists' 50th Anniversary in 2024: It's a BIG deal and a wonderful time to celebrate us!! Plans are in the works for an exciting year of commemoration. We will kick off the year with this December's, *Festive Home*, following with themed and special events throughout the year!

Continue to be a Venue for our Artists to Exhibit: This is a main goal for the Guild year after year, as it is big part of our mission. In addition to the variety of exhibitions *in* our gallery barn, we offer Art Walk at the end of summer, satellite galleries, and artist participation in Make Music Day in June for the past few years, to bring our members' works to our community at large.

Continue Building our Educational Programs: We work hard to offer a creative environment for our educational programs for adults and children. We continually look for new class offerings and workshops, to enhance our members' artistic experience here at the Guild.

Festive Home: This loved event is back this December as the kick-off to our 50th Anniversary year-long celebration. We are moving away from purchased gift items, and will focus on hand-crafted and hand-made items to sell with member artwork for holiday gift-giving.

Ridgefield Community Outreach: We will continue to collaborate with the various non-profit arts organizations in town, bringing art in its many shapes and forms to the greater Ridgefield community. We also continue to look to a variety of community projects to share our artists' talents out into Ridgefield. In the past, we have participated in community gingerbread house and tree decorating projects with Lounsbury House, painting fiberglass dogs for the Bow Wow Artful event, collaborating with the Historical Society for the special "Picturing Our Past" exhibit, creating sunflower paintings for Ridgefield Responds' Ukraine fundraiser, and offering artist participation in the Ridgefield Art Council's Make Music Day events.

In addition, we continue to strive for racial equity in the art world. We at the Guild recognize that the arts have the unique ability to connect people across the barriers that divide us. We promise to be sensitive to these issues and will work towards this equality in our exhibitions and educational programing moving forward.

General Gallery and Studio Use:

- We will continue to offer studio rental space during slower months.
- We encourage other arts organizations to rent our gallery space (when time allows) for exhibits. KMAA rented our space in April 2023.
- We have had wonderful special curated exhibitions for years. Nancy Moore has brought the Guild several exciting shows. We always welcome ideas for special visiting exhibits.

- We hope to bring back our very successful Artist-In-Residence program at some time in the future when space and time permits.

General Ongoing Administrative and Building Upgrades:

- We will continue to look for savings in all aspects of our operating expenses to relieve the pressure of lingering inflation due to COVID.
- After receiving a very generous donation, we are in the process of a lighting upgrade project for our gallery spaces.
- We plan a review and update of the Guild By-Laws in 2023/24.
- As always, we continue the necessary maintenance of the barn with the town. We look toward repairing/replacing the outdoor stairs in the near future. We appreciate the town's help, advise, and expertise when needed. We are also working with the town and Theater Barn to improve our parking, in hopes it will finally happen in the coming year. With the increased recognition, along with conservation concerns for our notable Norway Maple tree, we also support and watch carefully to see what the town is planning for its preservation.

Giving Thanks

We thank all our board members for their dedication to the Guild: Mary Harold, Vice-President and Summer Program Director; Cindi Mullins, Secretary and Creative Director; Karyn Moroney, Treasurer; Barbara Dobbin, Advocacy and Community Liaison; Tina Sturges, Special Events and Hospitality Coordinator; Chris Perry, Exhibitions Coordinator; Mara Freeman, Graphics Designer and Website Manager; Grace Drake, Social Media Guru and Standing Special Events Committee Member; and Sharon Cavagnolo, Walk & Talk Coordinator and Standing Special Events Committee Member. Each in their own way, gives much of their time and talents to meet our mission and improve our offerings to Guild members and the community at large. We are an all-volunteer and working board where everyone pitches in when needed. We also thank Patty Short, our office manager, for her invaluable multi-tasking skills *and* welcoming ways for all who come to the Guild and administering to all our needs at the Guild.

As you know, the Guild is primarily a volunteer organization. We count on and appreciate our dedicated volunteers who always come through for us with everything from receiving for shows and helping out at openings, to committee work, to tagging, painting and decorating for Festive Home, and everything in between. We are also grateful for all the help from both NCL Ridgefield chapters every year and volunteers from local student organizations.

We are looking for new board members. We govern (and exist, honestly) by dedicated folks coming forward to volunteer to help with our mission. You can help in several specific areas: special events chairs, fundraising, PR and marketing, and coordinating volunteers. Each board member has a specific position, but since we are a working board, you must be willing to roll up your sleeves to help out when extra hands are needed. We are an easy-going group that works well together and takes pride in what we do. If interested in being considered, please email Mary Pat at rgoa.president@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone who takes the time to help us out at the Guild!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pat Devine, President and
Pamela Stoddart, Executive Director