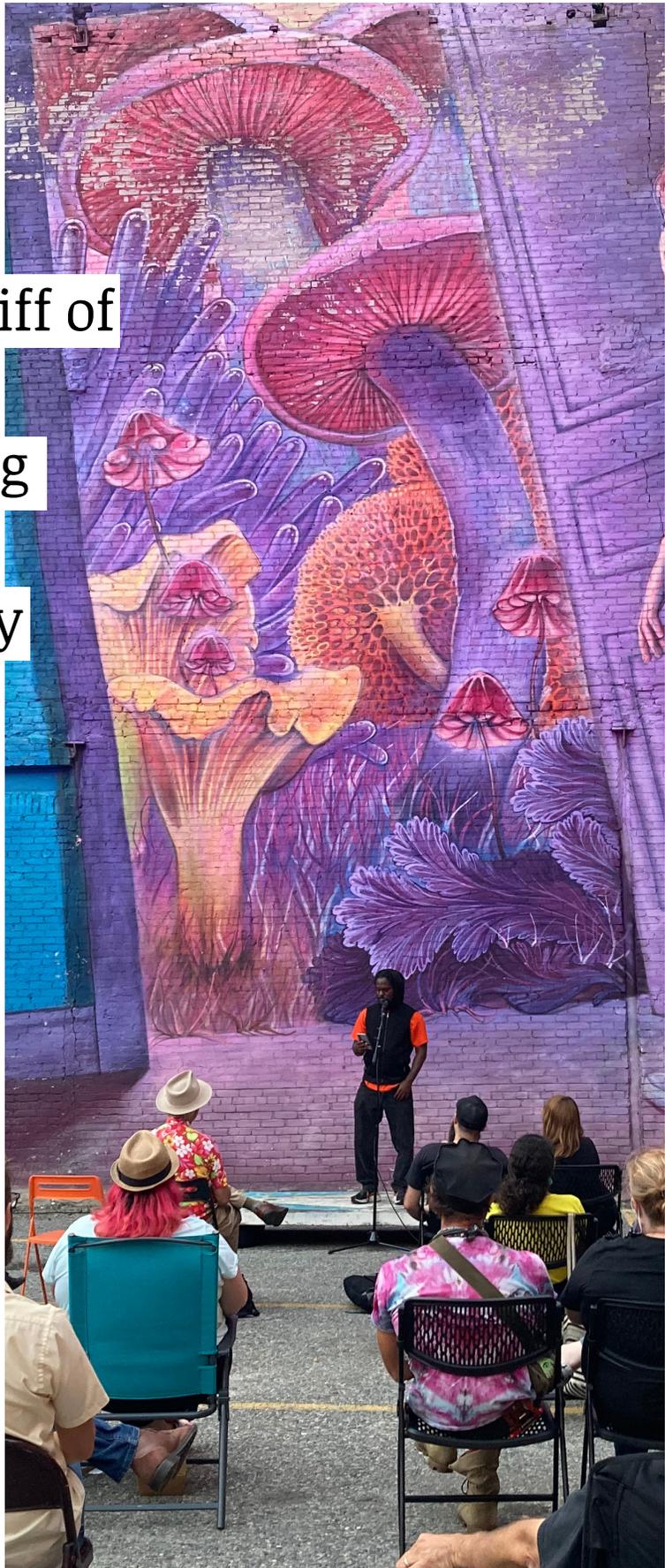


WHAT CHEER WRITERS CLUB

...

Emerging on the cliff of
Yesterday
Cracked and peeling
Spilling
Like an untold story
Or awaiting dream

- *Emergence,*
Damont Combs



OUR MISSION

What Cheer Writers Club's mission is to support Rhode Island's creators of the written, spoken and illustrated word through community events, free and low-cost business services, and low-cost coworking space. We serve as a centralized community connecting content creators, fans and literary organizations state-wide. In addition, the Club seeks to burnish Rhode Island's reputation as a place where content creators thrive.

There isn't always a straightforward path to recovery, but as we head into the unknowns of another year, we hold on to the power of the written, spoken and illustrated word to find beauty in the midst of crisis, and news ways to connect us all.

With gratitude for your support,



What Cheer Writers Club
160 Westminster St. FL 2, PVD
www.whatcheerclub.org | @whatcheerclub

*"You are inspiring—thanks for keeping us from the depths of despair during the pandemic."
- Program Participant*

*"I really enjoyed the warmth and expertise...and getting to see other writers in the community."
- Workshop Participant*

*"This was amazing! We need more creative outlets like this!"
- Workshop Participant*

*"'Community' at its finest."
- Providence Arts, Culture and Tourism*



Left: Poetry on Demand at the Club's Fundraiser, An Introverts Ball; Right: Podcasters Gonzalo Cuervo and Sigfried Puello record in the reopened Podcasting Studio

2021 BY THE NUMBERS



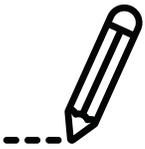
2700+

RI creatives served



341

Active Club members



58

Free memberships for
B/I/POC creatives



970+

Hours of coworking



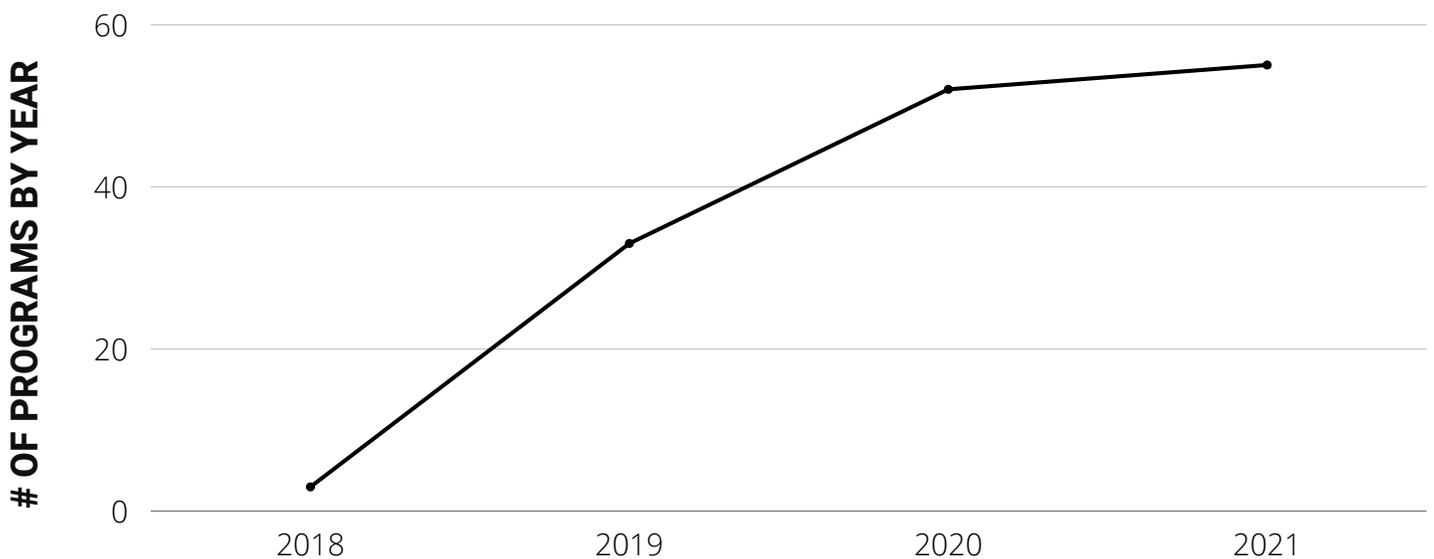
86

Artists showcased



430

RI penpals matched



2021 HIGHLIGHTS



Community Conversations with Writers of Color

"Thank you for providing this incredible space for BIPOC writers, I'm so glad everyone felt heard and got to share their work in such a supportive, positive environment."

- LuzJennifer Martinez, Moderator

In collaboration with community member LuzJennifer Martinez, the Club held a series of events by and for writers of color, including author talks, conversations, a reading, and Diverse Paths to Publishing, a panel of publishing professionals on the challenges writers of color face in the publishing industry.

This programming is slated to continue and evolve in 2022, spearheaded by a small group of POC identifying community members.

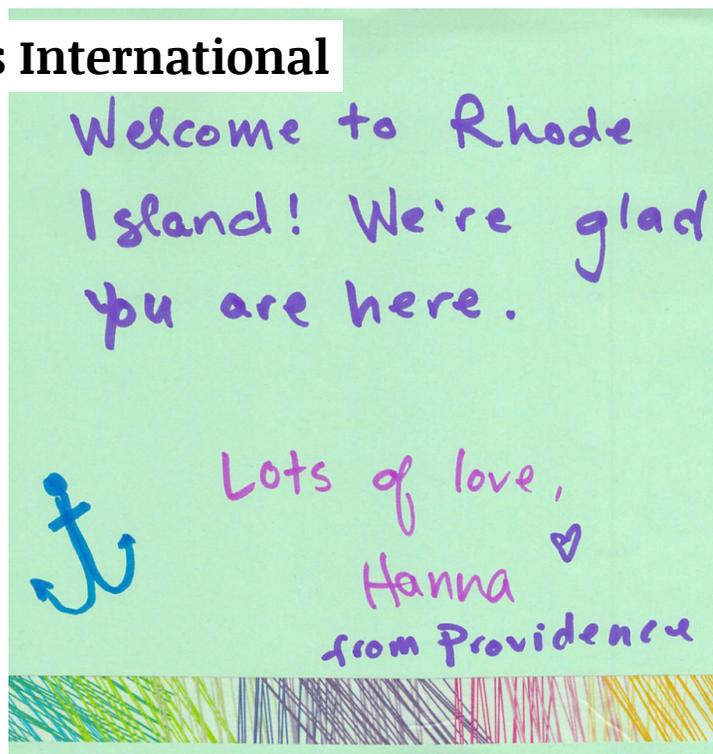
Dear RI Welcome Letters with Dorcas International

The Dear Rhode Island penpal exchange continued to connect Rhode Islanders, and to welcome new residents to our state. Together participants wrote 165 welcome letters to Afghan evacuees resettling in Rhode Island.

With the help of Dorcas International these letters, written from all over the state, were distributed to the homes of every individual and family arriving in Rhode Island from Afghanistan.

"This is a lost art that is probably the only positive thing to come out of this pandemic and make you feel a little more connected to your neighbors!"

- Dear Rhode Island Penpal



Craft Curiosities Workshops with Local Artists

“These workshops are invaluable for reclaiming a space to create and a sense of belonging. To spend two hours with people who value writing, who are willing to be vulnerable with you, who are willing to share, today, in this moment is so rare.”

- Craft Curiosities Participant

EKPHRASIS: WRITING FROM ART

November 13, 2021
What Cheer Writers Club Workshop
Jessica Metzler



The Club piloted a series of workshops that invited local writers to take a deep dive into a single aspect of craft through a two-hour skills-building intensive with a local teaching artist, including:

- **Structuring Memoir: Life as Constellation** with Maria Mutch
- **Sequential Storytelling: The Magic of Mini-Comics** with Kate (@sharksketchbook)
- **Ekphrastic: Writing from Art** with Jessica Metzler
- **Worldbuilding as Activism: Injustice in Imagined Lands** with Rick Claypool

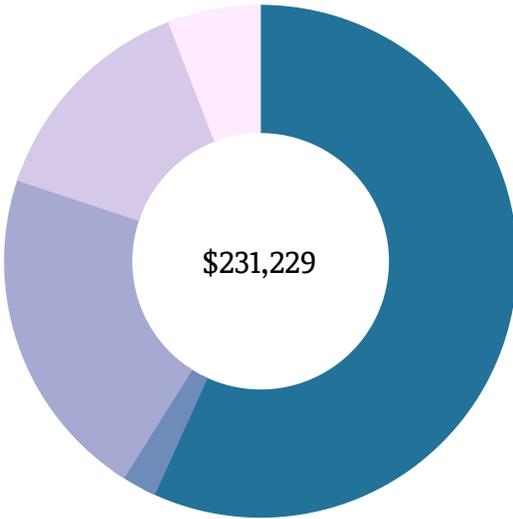
These workshops will continue in 2022 with a new slate of local teaching artists and topics.

Through both online and in-person **Showcases in 2021**, including the Emergence Showcase held in downtown PVD in partnership with The Avenue Concept, the Club continued our mission to elevate the content arts in RI.

Mural: She Never Came, Best
for The Avenue Concept
on view, 134 Mathewson Street

FINANCIALS

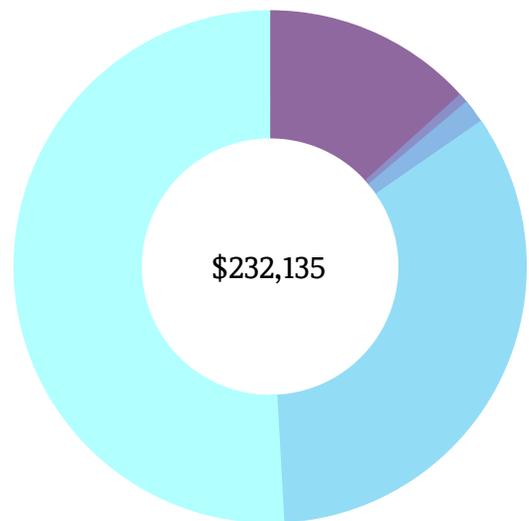
2021 Operating Income



● Donations & Fundraising	57%
● Foundation & Corporate Support	2%
● Government Support	21%
● Program Revenue	14%
● State Grants	6%

2021 Operating Expenses

● Admin & Operations	13%
● COVID Safety Costs	1%
● Fundraising	1%
● Programs: Coworking & Studio	34%
● Programs: Events & Workshops	51%



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



Local businesses and orgs, including Bolt Coffee (left), The Avenue Concept (center) and DWRI Letterpress (right), generously donated to the Club's Silent Auction



RHODE ISLAND
COUNCIL for the HUMANITIES





Mural: Adventure Time, Natalia Rak
for The Avenue Concept
Exhibited 2015-2021, 94 Washington Street