We are so grateful for the support we receive from our community, students, artists, and donors. I want to especially highlight the long-term support of Circle of Muse members, who commit to donating to CHAW over a several year interval. Their multi-year pledges allow us to think bigger and make it possible for us to plan for the future.

Two of our major highlights this year were a Music Residency at the KIPP Northeast Charter School and a spring break Mural Camp with high schoolers currently living at the DC General Homeless Shelter. We know that these are the kinds of projects that make a real impact in our community, and our goal is to make these more than one-time events. And they can be: with longer-term support, we can think longer-term, too.

I am pleased to offer a snapshot of the achievements and impact of CHAW in our fiscal year 2015. At CHAW we think a lot about community and a lot about art. The two are vitally connected.

CHAW offers many levels of arts experiences in the Capitol Hill neighborhood and the surrounding areas. This year we completed public installations such as the whimsical alphabet street markers and a mural created by and for the homeless. Our classes transformed youth and adults from art viewers to art participants.

Creating art challenges us to explore and expose aspects of our inner selves. This takes a special sort of courage. We provide a supportive community to learn, participate, create, and celebrate through art. We are so grateful for the support we receive from our community, students, artists, and donors. I want to especially highlight the long-term support of Circle of Muse members, who commit to donating to CHAW over a several year interval. Their multi-year pledges allow us to think bigger and make it possible for us to plan for the future. Two of our major highlights this year were a Music Residency at the KIPP Northeast Charter School and a spring break Mural Camp with high schoolers currently living at the DC General Homeless Shelter. We know that these are the kinds of projects that make a real impact in our community, and our goal is to make these more than one-time events. And they can be: with longer-term support, we can think longer-term, too.

We’ve done the same thing with our programming internally. This year, we talked to many parents and stakeholders and created the New Youth Arts Program (YAP), to more fully encompass our function as a space to cultivate Creativity, Confidence, and Community through the arts. Thanks to our dedicated staff and board, this program change has resulted in exceeding our registration goals: bringing more art to more people in our community. With your support, we have been able to continue to offer our robust tuition assistance and transportation plans, which allow us to reach students who might not otherwise be able to access the arts.

You are an important part of this CHAWsome community. Thank you.

Jill Strachan
Executive Director

“CHAW enriches the lives of everyone involved with it through the arts, building bonds between people from all across the spectrum of humanity with laughter, paintbrushes, music notes, and dance. CHAW is a wonderful place that everyone should experience, for it would bring new joy into their lives as it has into mine.”
- Summer Teen Intern

“Ellen really owned the idea of being a REAL artist. She saw herself in a new, exciting light, and it was amazing to see. She also learned a lot and benefitted from self expression too.”

“Since college I have forgotten how to include creativity in daily life and lost appreciation for all of the opportunities in creating stories, I got some of that back in my class.”

“Quotes from CHAW class evaluations

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“My daughter’s growing focus and pride in her dance abilities. It has given her so much poise!”

we are chaw

CHAW is over 20,000 Capitol Hill residents and visitors who experience art through our installations, gallery events and public performances.

CHAW is the youths and adults who challenge themselves to create and express themselves through classes and workshops.

CHAW is professional artists who support the creative growth of our students. We are the celebrations, festivals and public displays of creativity, confidence and community through art.

Through classes, performances, and exhibitions in visual and performing arts, CHAW brings together diverse segments of the population to connect through the transformative power of creativity.

“I liked getting feedback on the pictures I took for the homework assignment. It really helped push me to get better!”

“The camaraderie that the program managed to foster in a group of children that were only together 45 minutes a week.”

“We are always surprised how CHAW keeps getting better and better. Every one of your teachers has great enthusiasm, patience, and love for the children and their parents. It is a very warm and welcoming environment for all.”
“My child has blossomed in Miss Heidi’s ballet classes, both in a ballet performance sense and in a personal confidence sense.”

“I just keep signing up. I signed up at first after searching for a drawing class, but now I don’t think I would want to go anywhere else to take a drawing class. I enjoy taking them at CHAW; it’s so welcoming and people are there to have fun and enjoy being creative or learning a new skill.”

“Taking a class at CHAW transforms the student from an art-observer to an art-creator. Instruction in visual arts, music, dance, theater, and creative writing is a core function of CHAW. Our workshop facility includes a dance studio—which doubles as a recital hall—paint studio, black box theater, art gallery, complete ceramics/pottery studio, a photography darkroom (the only “open” darkroom in D.C.), private music instruction studios, and business offices.

During FY15
• The CHAW Youth Arts Program (YAP) offered 192 after-school classes attended by over 900 children.
• 277 children attended 21 arts-oriented summer camps
• 400 adults attended over 121 classes
• Over 300 events including drawing workshops, exhibits, and theatrical performances.
• Over 2000 community members visit every month.
• Our theater hosted 10 productions, including 3 by Taffety Punk Theatre Company, our theater-in-residence.
• The CHAW Gallery hosted 4 juried exhibits and 3 solo shows by the Capitol Hill Art League; and 4 exhibits featuring work by CHAW adult students and teaching artists.
• We extended studio and performance space to 16 private and public arts groups for their events.

“In the process of learning to create pottery, I also learned—and am still learning!—how to slow down, be in the moment, and have confidence to keep going when things are a little rough.”

“The class taught my son to go out of his comfort zone.”

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“I was surprised to learn that such a great resource as CHAW was in that location—I had no idea it was there!”

CHAW at School
This year CHAW launched a music residency program at the KIPP Northeast Academy. Professional musicians instructed students in musical performance, technique and instrument maintenance. Students rehearsed and performed in ensemble groups and as a full orchestra.

CHAW in the Community
CHAW and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities sponsored the mural project at the DC General Homeless Shelter. The project challenged homeless youth to create and share images portraying their dreams and aspirations. The mural was executed under the supervision of CHAW teaching artist Kate DeCicco.

We completed the installation of the Capitol Hill Alphabet Animal Art Project, supported by the DC Department of Transportation. Ten animal sculptures produced by local artists now animate street signs in our neighborhood.

And we are always looking for more to do. CHAW is continually evolving to meet the needs of the community.

“I am impressed that such young kids were exposed to complex musical rhythms and melodies. Most music classes for little ones keep it simple, but I think it was great for my son to be exposed to things like 5/4 time!”

“I was surprised to learn that such a great resource as CHAW was in that location—I had no idea it was there!”
Special thanks to the Circle of Muses, who donate not just once a year, but pledge over three years to sustain the CHAW we know and love.

Anonymous
Frank S. Albinder
Taka Ariga and Jeremy Ames
John Bohman and Louise Van Horne
Anonymous
Frank S. Albinder
Taka Ariga and Jeremy Ames
John Bohman and Louise Van Horne

Statement of Financial Activities*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Actuals as of 8/31/15</th>
<th>Approved FY15 Budget</th>
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<td>Art Instruction</td>
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<td>Support Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Restricted Activity</strong></td>
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<td>Releases to Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Total Restricted Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td>11,981</td>
<td>1,696</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*unaudited

Distribution of Expenses

12%  •  Development
11%  •  Administration
8%    •  Partners & Outreach
3%    •  Theater & Space Use
7%    •  CHAW Productions
61%  •  Earned
Youth/Teens  •  41%
Donors
Mary Ellen Abrecht
Kristin Adair
Marilynn Adams
Blair Ainsworth
Maya Ajmera
Sarah Alkenbrack
Katharine Andrew Weller
Neil Alvin Levy
Anne Andrews
Katherine Dawes
Bill Ainsworth
Sarah Alkenbrack
Maya Ajmera
Blair Ainsworth
Kristin Adair
Mary Ellen Abrecht
William Hauck
Michael Freeman
Joan Biella
Harley K. Branson
Edward Wood
CHAWstars
Katherine Dawes
Keith Davis
Anne DarConte
Jim Crowley
William A. Crowley
James Cox
Dylan Cors
Mary Combal
Cora Collins
Kimberly Coleman
Julius Cohn
Joey and Bert Coleman
Kimberly Coleman
Anita Cline
Cori Collins
Marline Combat
Mary Combat
Laura Conner
Cynthia Cook
Dylan Corr
James Cox
Louie Crane
Suzanne Cross
William A. Crowley
Jim Crowley
Louise Crowley
Currie Curtis
Nicky Cyramt
Anne DeCorte
Jonathan Davis
Keith Davis
Katherine Dawes
Donna Brasil
Alita Brown
Sara Brown
Chaw Thanks
Our donors
Every effort has been made to compile an accurate list of CHAW’s donors. If your generosity has been omitted, please contact Lindsey S. Walter at lwalter@chaw.org so we may correct our records. Thank you!
FY15 Board of Directors
whose terms were completed in August 2015
Amanda Bogden
Victoria Dunning
Heidi Charpentier
Noris Weiss Malvey
Audrey Kim Ngeow

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Matthew Brown, Treasurer
Elizabeth Carriger
Jenny Cheek
Martine Combal, Immediate Past President
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Ivan Frishberg
Dustin Hanks
Patricia Jackson, Member-at-Large, Ex Cttee
Natalie Julich
Anna Kompanek
David Lenter
Deirdre Ehlen MacWilliams
Beth McHugh, President
Sarah Perz, Secretary
Candice Schibli
Jenny Werwa, Vice President
Megan Yanik, Faculty Representative
Ada Fernandez Johnson, Legal Counsel
Jill Strachan, Executive Director

Great thanks to Dee Hardiman & Catchafire
Photographs by Leslie Mansour
Graphic design by Kent Gay
And a special shoutout to CHAW staff and faculty, all of whom can’t be listed here, but who are fundamental to our CHAW family.