



*detail of site-specific installation, **Transience: Trace and Erasure in Lost Landscapes** by Angel Fernandez & Winter Rusiloski, downtown Troy, AL, 2025*

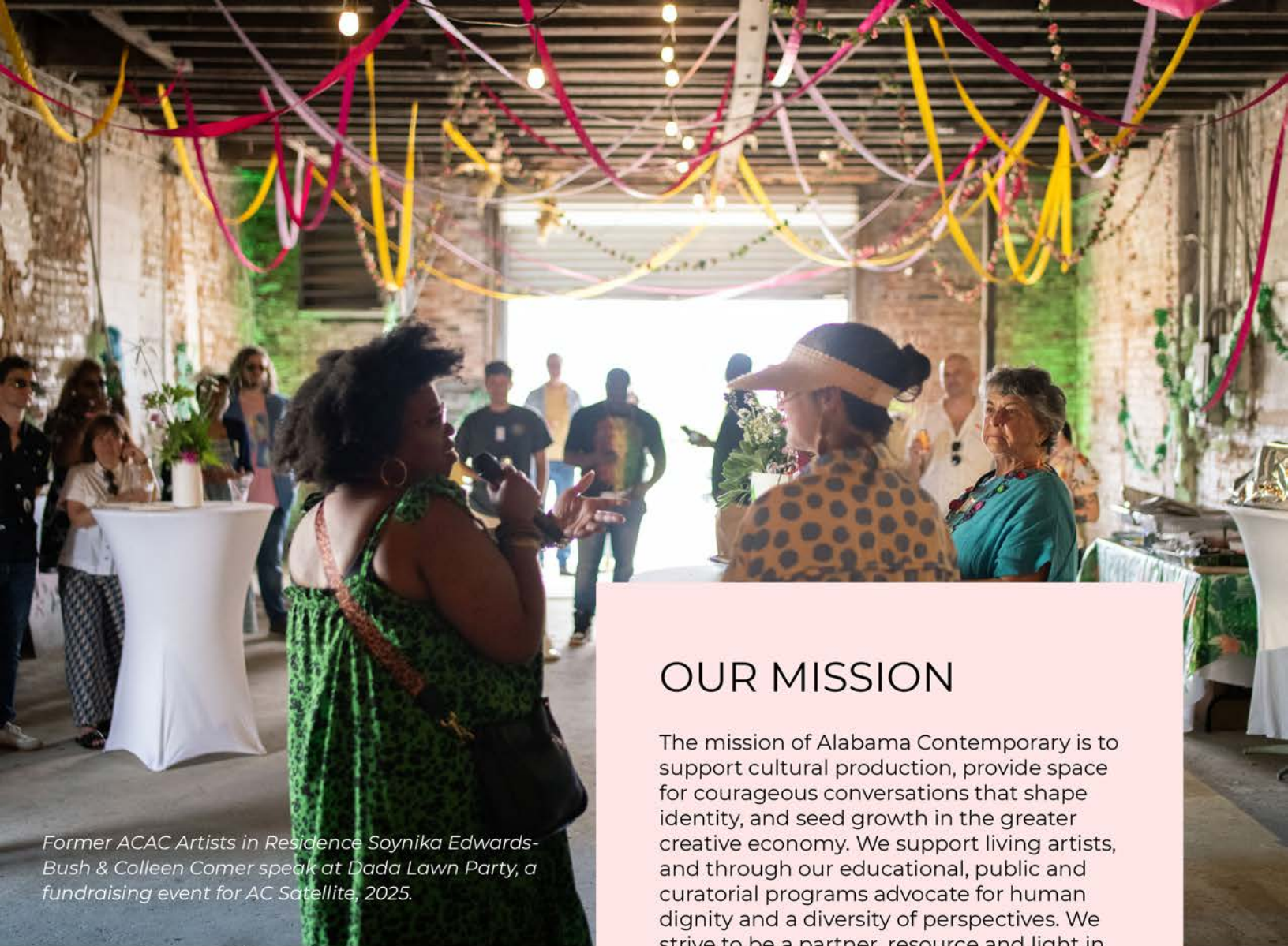
JANUARY 2026

CENTRE FOR THE LIVING ARTS
dba Alabama Contemporary Art Center

elizabeth elliot, Executive Director
Chandra Brown, Board Chair

561 SAINT FRANCIS STREET, MOBILE, AL 36602
EIN: 63-1236563

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Former ACAC Artists in Residence Soynika Edwards-Bush & Colleen Comer speak at Dada Lawn Party, a fundraising event for AC Satellite, 2025.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Alabama Contemporary is to support cultural production, provide space for courageous conversations that shape identity, and seed growth in the greater creative economy. We support living artists, and through our educational, public and curatorial programs advocate for human dignity and a diversity of perspectives. We strive to be a partner, resource and light in the Deep South.

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



elizabet elliot

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CURATOR

Oh man, what a YEAR!

In our first year as a 'Museum without Walls', we launched a new statewide program schedule that took us to Troy, Dothan, York, Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, and many other places. We opened a new statewide artist in residence program, commissioned new work, mounted ambitious exhibitions, broke ground on a new satellite space, broke bread, danced, wept, and broke a leg (figuratively). Across all partner locations, Alabama Contemporary served an audience of over 11 thousand in-person visitors, and an even larger digital reach.

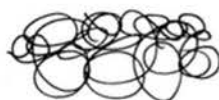
Here in Mobile we completed Phase I of the renovation of a new cultural facility AC Satellite. We've finished the year with a full interior, including updated the bathrooms, electrical, plumbing, and the addition of a mezzanine office floor. This coming year we are finally getting into the fun part. Phase II of the construction project will cover the entire exterior of the AC Satellite, including an education pavilion, community-use kiln, and sculpture garden. This is a high-impact project that focuses on building facilities and resources that support outreach programming, internship and residency opportunities, and access to arts education.

We have always directly supported artists by mounting exhibitions, commissioning new work, and designing growth opportunities that tie into the local ecosystem. This new model allows us to bring relevant projects into underserved communities throughout the state, leaning into what artists do best and pointing it toward the needs of our communities. Locally, we are working behind the scenes on placemaking projects that will revitalize historic neighborhoods as part of the Civil Rights and Cultural Heritage district plan. Our work at the Historic Avenue Cultural Center and upcoming Ace Theatre have us thinking about how to sustainably build cultural assets that establish permanent resources and opportunities in Mobile. We are deepening our investment in this place, and we are asking you to do the same.

All this as the world is on fire, protest movements swell, the news is marked by violence and confusion. Our commitment is to building a new model and systems that create the world we wish to see. Our work is quality of life, lifting up unheard voices, and expanding the definition of Southern art. We've successfully continued this work despite the closure and cancelation of numerous national arts funding programs. We took big hits this year, got back up, and worked our tails off to ensure no artist lost an opportunity because of the color of their skin or where they live. We are continuing our partnerships with arts and non-arts community efforts alike, to celebrate the South's resilience and vibrancy, and ensure talent can grow here.

We have carved a path forward and proven it is possible. Thank you for being such an important part of our journey—we can't wait to share all that's in store for the year ahead!

big love,





detail of pop-up exhibition, *Act III: The Act of Acting* by Shawn Campbell, in a vacant warehouse in Mobile, AL, 2025

- ➔ 6 EXHIBITIONS
- ➔ 10 POP-UPS
- ➔ 29 PROGRAMS
- ➔ 207 ARTISTS
- ➔ 11,527 ATTENDEES

EXHIBITIONS, PROGRAMS & POP-UPS

Without a gallery space and with curatorial projects coming out of our ears, site-specific happenings were the name of the Alabama Contemporary game in 2025. We mounted formal exhibitions with partner institutions across the state of Alabama, gained multi-year national support for our work, and hosted pop-ups and programs all over town.



Generously supported by

Teiger **Foundation**



Andy Warhol

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts





EXHIBITIONS

PARTNERSHIP

TRAVELING

POP-UP

JAN 11 - APR 12, 2025

Mama, These Look Like Lost Souls

WORK BY SOYNIKA EDWARDS BUSH
Coleman Center for the Arts, York, AL

Soynika's work sources family photographs, drawing from her memories and direct relationships to create paintings that ultimately blunt the identities of her kin, to make way for a broader conversation about Black identity, Black History, and Black love. This is an exhibition about what is remembered, what is lost, and what is truly knowable within a human life. Her painting work is bolstered by her dogged participation in the community she comes from, ever striving to present new models and find ways to uplift.

JAN 12 - APR 20, 2025

Act III: The Act of Acting

WORK BY SHAWN CAMPBELL
Vacant Warehouse in Mobile

Atlanta-based artist Shawn Campbell, transformed the old Standard Equipment Company in Mobile into a movie set that teases out the Mythos of the American Cowboy. The Cowboy, like the American Dream, is something that has been assembled to present to the masses as a way they should forge themselves to become something better. Through this lens Campbell explored new ways of making and engaging with viewers in order to address complex, problematic topics permeating popular culture, politics, and history.

MAY 27 - JUL 23, 2025

As Pretty Does

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE DO GOOD FUND
University of Alabama Gallery, Tuscaloosa, AL

Curated by Micah Mermilliod, this exhibition celebrates ways of being, the familiar and unexpected alike. Through the lenses of eight photographers, history and modernity intersect, and the ordinary becomes extraordinary. While not always traditionally beautiful, the allure, honesty, and unpredictability found in these everyday moments resonates like jazz through humid Southern air. Featured artists include Lucinda Bunnan, Keith Calhoun, Rosalind Fox Solomon, Jill Frank, Carlos Gustavo, Betty Press, Jared Ragland, and Mark Steinmetz.





PARTNERSHIP

TRAVELING

POP-UP

EXHIBITIONS

JULY 18 - SEP 27, 2025

Life of the Party

WORK BY VITUS SHELL, CURATED BY BEN HICKEY
Wiregrass Museum of Art, Dothan, AL

Life of the Party features portraits by Southern artist Vitus Shell of Black youth from Dothan and the surrounding areas, as well as others throughout the Deep South. In preparation for this body of work, Shell visited the Wiregrass Museum of Art and ArtFolk to conduct photoshoots and interviews with his subjects. The photographs and interviews were then used to inform large scale painted portraits, superimposed on backgrounds of collaged advertisements and articles that reference hip-hop culture's urge to sample and reimagine the world through a Black lens.

SEP 18 - NOV 1, 2025

Transience: Trace & Erasure in Lost Landscapes

WORK BY ANGEL FERNANDEZ & WINTER RUSILOSKI
International Arts Center, Troy University, Troy, AL

Artists Angel Fernandez & Winter Rusiloski make work that responds to and engages with the landscape. Seeing place as a site of narrative power, politics, and identity; they document time, conditions and movement; Winter through alternative painting practices and Angel through sculpture and performance. Through a residency at Troy University, the artists mounted a temporary public art installation in a vacant plot in downtown Troy. An exhibition followed at the International Arts Center.

SEP 25, 26, & 28, 2025

Pinky Pop-Up

WORK BY PINKY/MM BASS
AC Satellite (Mob) & Ground Floor Contemporary (Bhm)

For this hybrid pop-up exhibition/fundraiser/fire sale, Alabama artist Pinky Bass volunteered her prolific archive of photography prints, tests, hand-stitched, hand-rendered and handmade objects for sale to benefit Alabama Contemporary and our exhibitions & programs. We exhibited first in Mobile at Alabama Contemporary's upcoming AC Satellite space at 561 Saint Francis Street, hosting a ticketed preview party, followed by a public sale. We then packed up all the remaining work and trucked it to Birmingham for Part II at Ground Floor Contemporary.



PROGRAMS

Pecha Kuchas

20 slides, 20 seconds per slide - hosted in bars around town each Artwalk, rapid fire presentations were given by members of our creative community on everything from Pokemon to pet rescue.



Sophiella Partnership

Sophiella Gallery in Downtown Mobile graciously offered their space to host recurring figure drawing classes and a popular presentation series "Bad Women in Art History."

ArtSocial

This quarterly networking series is an ongoing partnership between Alabama Contemporary, Mobile Museum of Art, and Mobile Arts Council that is geared toward creatives, collectors, and arts lovers.



One-Off Programs

We also hosted film screenings, exhibition openings, talks, workshops and tours all across our fair state, geared towards fostering creative production in the Deep South.





PARTNERSHIPS



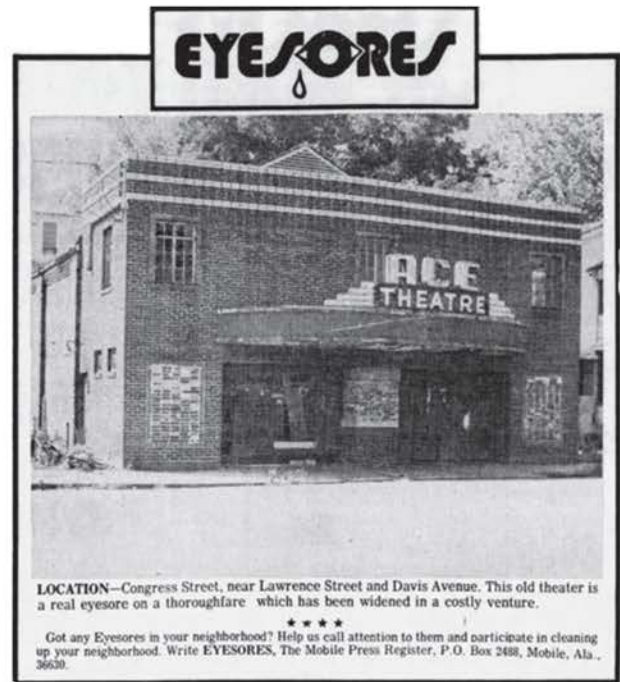
Annual Block Party

➔ 240 VISITORS



Historic Avenue Cultural Center

As a founding partner of the Historic Avenue Cultural Center (HACC), we plan programming and exhibition content that acts as a vessel to empower the community of the newly established Civil Rights and Cultural Heritage District. At the annual block party and other programs throughout the year community members share stories that reclaim the narrative of the neighborhood that was once dubbed "Black Main Street."



Ace Theatre

Across the street from the HACC, we've started story gathering and exhibition planning as part of the revitalization of the historic Ace Theatre. In partnership with Porchlight, Mobile County Commission, and Tall Architects, ACAC is helping to establish the Ace as a multipurpose performance center that emphasizes jazz history, and future home of the Excelsior Band.



ALABAMA AIR

This is a statewide partnership residency program that places artists in short-term project-based residencies throughout the state of Alabama. Alabama Contemporary works with partner sites across the state to place relevant projects and practices into underserved areas and research driven residency programs that tie to localized histories, community needs, and areas of specific interest. In 2025, with support from the Daniel Foundation of Alabama, we identified and signed commitment letters with 4 partnership organizations across the state. We then put out an open call for these locations and received some of our strongest artist project proposals to date. Projects were selected by each organization and will commence in Spring 2026.

Generously
supported by



2025-2026 Partners

Coleman Center for the Arts

York, AL

Mobile Medical Museum

Mobile, AL

Pride of Atmore

Atmore, AL

Wallace Center for Arts and Reconciliation

Harpersville, AL



- ➔ 4 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
- ➔ 26 PROJECT PROPOSALS

detail of site-specific installation, Transience: Trace and Erasure in Lost Landscapes by Angel Fernandez & Winter Rusiloski, downtown Troy, AL, 2025



The Verdant Fund is an annual project grant that funds independent artists with site-specific exhibition concepts, independent projects, or new work as it is relevant to the community we serve. An expansion of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Regional Re-granting program, the Verdant Fund supports creative practice born of and within Alabama. Administered through a partnership between Alabama Contemporary Art Center (Mobile, AL), Coleman Center for the Arts (York, AL), and Space One Eleven (Birmingham, AL), our goal is to reach a broad range of artists across all geographic areas of the state and expand and support creative practice at the margins. In 2025 projects from a highly competitive group of applicants were reviewed by a panel of professionals who ultimately selected nine projects to receive up to \$7,000 in funding each, for a grant total of \$60,125. Each project is documented at verdantfund.org.

Image from Carolyn Sherer's 2025 project, Senior Prom, Reimagined.

2025 Grant Recipients

Zoey Banell

Jessica Cotton & Kimberly Wilson

Stacey Davis & Kelsey Ianuzzi

Tosha Gaines

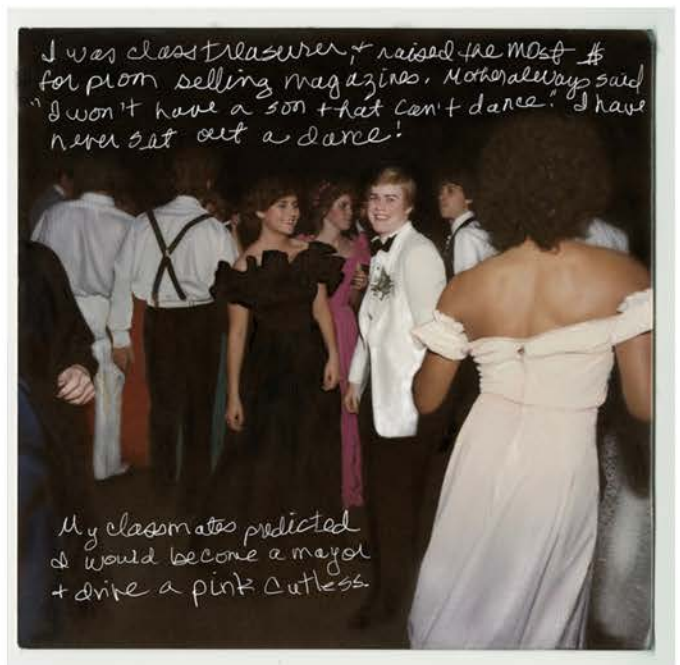
Misha Hadar

Latasha Hyatt

Charlie Mato-Toyela

Carolyn Sherer

Brandin Stallworth



The Regional Regranting Program was established in 2007 to recognize and support the movement of independently organized, public-facing, artist-centered activity that animates local and regional art scenes but that lies beyond the reach of traditional funding sources. The program is administered by non-profit visual art centers across the United States that work in partnership with the Foundation to fund artists' experimental projects and collaborative undertakings.

The 39 regranting programs provide grants of up to \$10,000 for the creation and presentation of new work. Programs are developed and facilitated by organizations in [Albuquerque](#) (NM), [Atlanta](#) (GA), [Baltimore](#) (MD), [Boston](#) (MA), [Buffalo](#) (NY), [Chicago](#) (IL), [Cleveland](#) (OH), [Denver](#) (CO), [Detroit](#) (MI), [Homer](#) (AK), [Honolulu](#) (HI), [Houston](#) (TX), [Indianapolis](#) (IN), [Iowa City](#) (IA), [Kansas City](#) (MO), [Knoxville](#) (TN), [Rapid City](#) (SD), [Los Angeles](#) (CA), [Miami](#) (FL), [Milwaukee](#) (WI), [Minneapolis](#) (MN), [Mobile](#) (AL), [New Orleans](#) (LA), [Newark](#) (NJ), [Oklahoma City](#) (OK), [Omaha](#) (NE), [Philadelphia](#) (PA), [Tucson](#) (AZ), [Portland](#) (ME), [Portland](#) (OR), [Providence](#) (RI), [Raleigh](#) (NC), [Saint Louis](#) (MO), [Salt Lake City](#) (UT), [San Francisco](#) (CA), [San Juan](#) (PR), [Seattle](#) (WA), [Utica](#) (MS), and [Washington, DC](#).

MEMBERSHIP & EVENTS



Wild Things Ball - Oct 19, 2024

Part going away party, part Halloween costume bash, the biannual Wild Things Ball went big with drag performances, DJ sets, and \$10,000 raised for our new model.

Neu Dawn 7 - Dec 15, 2024

This hybrid fashion/art event brings together over 30+ creatives to experiment with large-scale multimedia pieces. \$2,500 was raised for ACAC's children's programming.

Dada Lawn Party - May 10, 2025

This yard party with a Surrealist twist raised funds for our new *AC Satellite*. With a grits bar and absurd yard games, we garnered \$22,500 to support this new space.

This year was made all the more special by the ways our membership sought out and showed up at events all over town. From an opening in a vacant warehouse, lawn games in an overgrown parking lot, and performance art in an dilapidated storefront, to the pristine white walls of our partner institutions, we saw so many friendly faces.

We also started an Art Club, an upper tier membership that includes an ACAC commissioned original artwork annually.

Ongoing membership is the most effective way to support our mission.



Pinky Pop-Up - Sep 25-28, 2025

Alabama artist Pinky Bass approached ACAC with the idea of a benefit sale of her work, and it became of our most successful fundraisers to date, bringing in \$15,000.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

➔ **\$174K**

raised in Phase I



AC Satellite

In 2025 Alabama Contemporary completed Phase I of the renovation of AC SATELLITE, establishing a new ancillary arts education and culture hub in downtown Mobile. We started 2025 with a vacant warehouse, and are welcoming 2026 with a full, programmable interior, including updated bathrooms, electrical and plumbing, and the addition of a mezzanine office floor.

We are currently raising funds for Phase II, starting in 2026, that will cover the entire exterior, including an education pavilion, community-use soda kiln, and sculpture garden.

Thank You to our Phase I supporters!

Alabama State Council on the Arts
Mobile County Commission

Rogers & Willard

The A.S. Mitchell Foundation

The C.D. Helen and Jeff Glaze Foundation

Mrs. Carol S. Hunter



SUPPORT

Bloomberg Digital Accelerator Program
City of Mobile
Mobile County Commission
Teiger Foundation
Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts
Alabama State Council on the Arts
Anonymous
The Daniel Foundation of Alabama
Rogers & Willard
Pinky/MM Bass
A.S. Mitchell Foundation
EA Klass Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
The C.D. Helen and Jeff Glaze Foundation
Herlihy Family Law
Cathead Distillery
Rock & Roll-Offs
Oyster City Brewing Company
Big Bad Breakfast

Carol S Hunter
Chandra Brown
Julie Hall Friedman
Colleen Comer
Maxine Walters
Marion Steinfels
South Alabama Regional Planning Commission
Irving Silver in Honor of Mike & Patsy Dow
Janet Nodar
Red Mountain Garage Doors
Jocelyn Doxsey
Paige Vitulli
Anitra Belle Henderson
Amber Guy
Susan Lee Weissinger
Evan Bernard & Valerie George
Laurie Owen
Megan and Jon Carfagno
Zoe Symon
Doug Porter
Stephanie Mermilliod
Thomas Adams
Oshun Layne

Special Thanks to this year's partner organizations & businesses

Historic Avenue Cultural Center
 Tall Architects
 Porchlight, LLC
 University of Alabama Art Gallery
 The Do Good Fund
 Coleman Center for the Arts
 Troy University's Department of Art & Design
 International Arts Center, Troy, AL
 Roscoe Jackson
 Society of Clotilda
 Sopiella Gallery
 Ground Floor Contemporary
 Nova Espresso
 Cedar Street Social Club
 B'Bobs
 Johnson Center for the Arts





FINANCIAL STATEMENT

→ Revenue	\$935K
→ Expenses	\$544K
→ Carry-over	\$391K

Sustainability

When major national arts funding systems falter, individuals and new foundations often rush in to fill the void. The thing is, these sources usually don't stick around in the long-term. There is a lot of reevaluation and adaptation happening in the field at large, and Alabama Contemporary is no exception. A good 2025 financial year is something to celebrate, but we will continue to prepare for rough waters ahead.

→ Artist Fees & Grants	\$88K
→ Operating Expenses	\$420K
→ Program Expenses	\$36K

FY24-2025 Income

The carry-over this year is larger than in previous years because of some project-specific multi-year funding we are grateful to have received.

The Bloomberg Tech Fellowship (\$200K) will be spent over the course of this year and next on rebuilding our website and digital platforms.

Additionally we are proud to have reached the halfway point in our AC Satellite capital campaign, and will be spending more of those funds this year as we build out a new home for our education programs.

In our first year out of 301 Conti St we drastically dropped our operating expenses, but expect those to tick back up as the new space and a full roster of educational programs come back online.

→ Individual Giving	\$61K
→ Grant Support	\$474K
→ Municipal (City & County)	\$200K
→ Fundraising & Program Income	\$39K
→ Capital Improvements	\$174K

THE TEAM

elizabet elliott

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CURATOR

Glenn Robertson

DIRECTOR OF STORYTELLING

Allison Schaub

CURATOR

Micah Mermilliod

CURATOR

Nikki Grimes

CURATOR OF PROGRAMS



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Independent Artist and Educator

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Paige A. Vitulli, Ph.D (Ex-Oficio)
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*detail of partner exhibition, **Life of the Party** work by Vitus Shell, curated by Ben Hickey, Wiregrass Museum of Art, Dothan, AL, 2025.*

