

2025 CREATIVE GUTS ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION

To awaken creativity, community, collaboration, and opportunities for gutsy creatives of all ages.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Harper Lake | Chair
Becky Barsi | Vice Chair
Joe Acone | Secretary

Drew Collins | Treasurer
Sy Dahar
Ash Sullivan



The end of an era! Thank you, Sarah and Karla.



RECOGNITION

We gave a fond farewell to founding directors Sarah Wrightsman and Karla Dillion at the end of 2025. Sarah started the Creative Guts Podcast in the spring of 2019 alongside Laura Harper Lake. Sarah served as Co-Chair and Secretary for the nonprofit. Karla was an incorporating director and served as our Treasurer. Please join us in thanking them for their many years of dedication, leadership, creative thinking, and passion for the mission of our nonprofit and its community!

Our 2025 Sticker of the Year was created by Emily Dee!

KEY PARTNERS





PROGRAMMING

A Programming Committee was formed in 2025 to help support and grow the robust programs that Creative Guts offers to the community. Here’s an overview of our programs in the last year:

Podcast: We released 36 episodes of the podcast in 2025, featuring interviews with 24 creatives. We also emceed and recorded a slam poetry event at Exeter High School. Becky Barsi and Joe Acone joined as hosts of the show.

Youth Zine: Our summer youth zine featured the art and writings of 36 young people from ages 2 to 16. This zine was possible due to the support of the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire.

Film Fest: For the second year, Red River Theatres and Creative Guts teamed up to present the Creative Guts Short Film Festival in August 2025. Independent filmmakers from New Hampshire, across the US, and around the world exhibited their short films in our three-hour film festival.

Art Round the Room: Our third annual Art ‘Round the Room was held in November 2025 at the Derryfield School. 35 attendees explored various art mediums at timed stations, which were guided by seven local, professional artists. This year’s event sold out again. We were pleased to have WMUR News 9’s New Hampshire Chronicle join us for this event, which they featured on January 14, 2026.

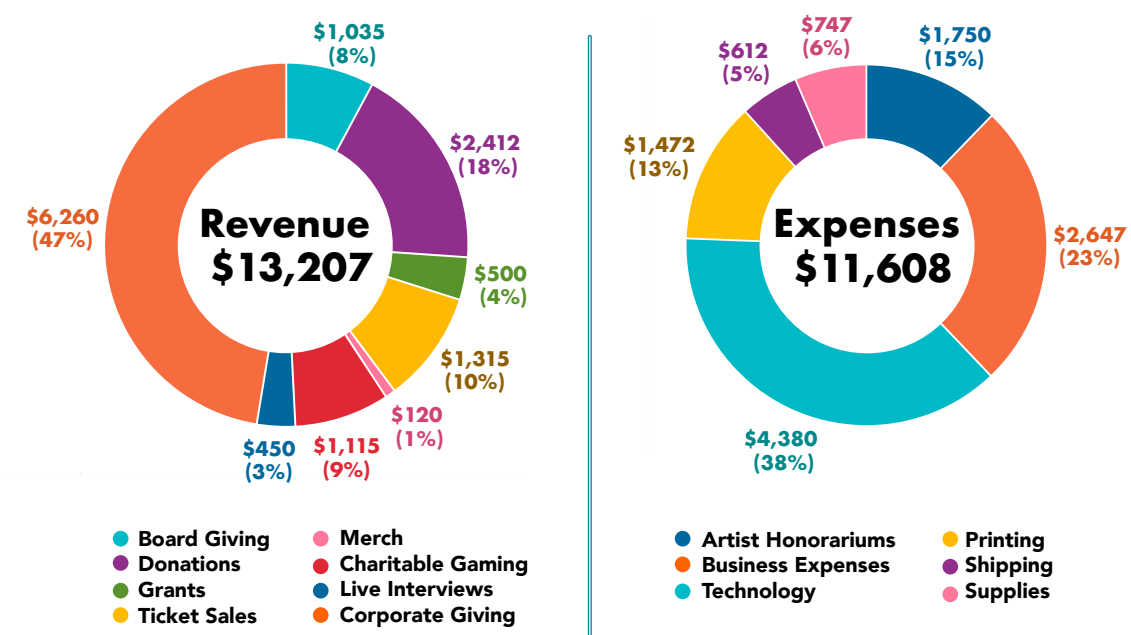
Discord: Seeing a need for community space online that wasn’t on social media, Creative Guts created a Discord server, as a virtual space where creatives of all backgrounds to come together, have fun, and celebrate and share their creativity. We’ve held events on the server, such as artist meetups and monthly book club gatherings!

Zine Library: As a producer and lover of zines, Creative Guts was inspired to build the Little Library of Zines, which lives in studio 6 at Art Up Front Street Studios and Gallery in Exeter, NH.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Tiny Art Exchange & Zine: For the fifth year, Creative Guts hosted our annual Tiny Art Exchange, where 114 creatives from all over the world signed up to create and send a small piece of art in the mail. To celebrate five years of exchanges, we created a Tiny Art Exchange zine to document the collection of work shared in 2025. The printed edition of the zine was sent to each contributing artist, and the digital edition lives on our website with the rest of our zine catalog. This program was possible because of the generous support of The Currier Museum of Art!

FINANCIALS



Creative Guts revenue sources include individual donations, corporate sponsorship, grants, charitable gaming, and ticket and merchandise sales. Creative Guts is often provided a small stipend for live interviews and other commitments.

Because Creative Guts has no staff, the bulk of our revenue is directed to our programming. It is no surprise that our largest expense is technology, which includes producing, editing, and transcribing our signature program: the podcast!

