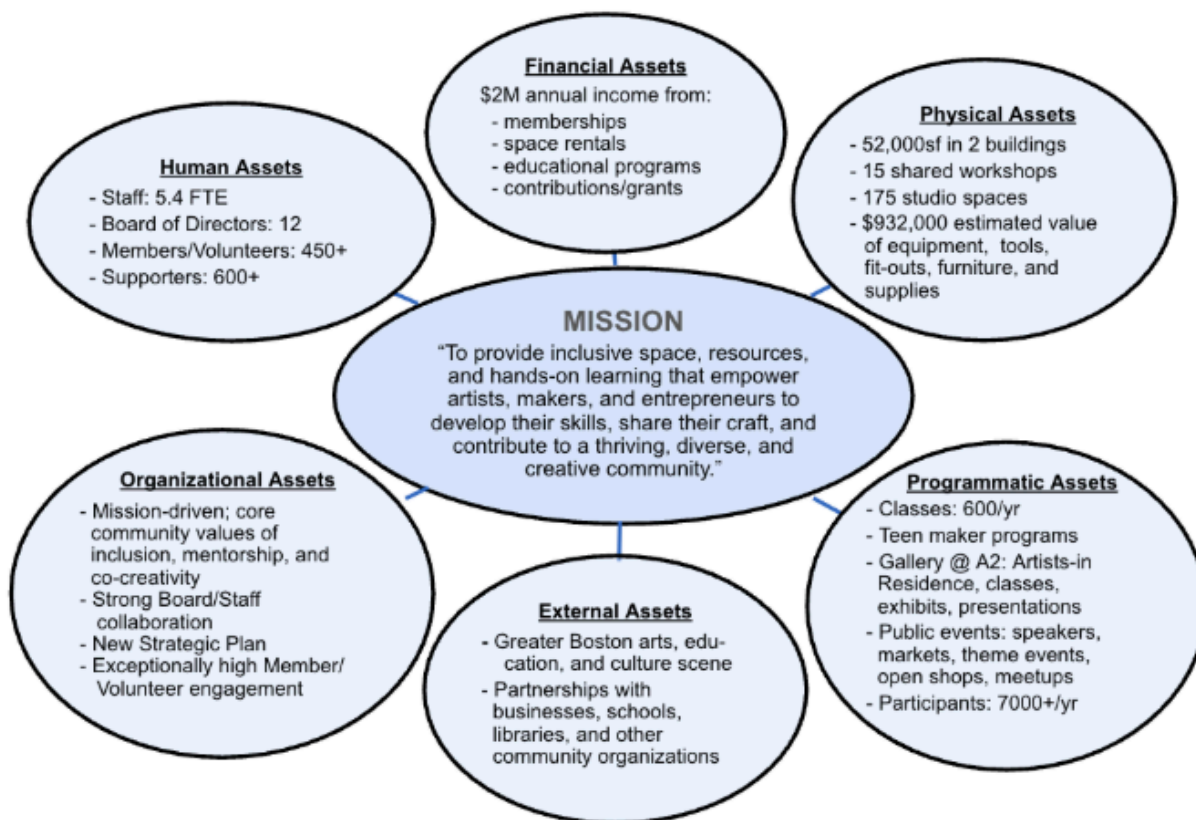


ASSET MAP FY'26

Artisans Asylum aims to provide universal access to the means (tools, training, and mentorship) for creative expression and problem solving in the arts and sciences.

People of all backgrounds and abilities come together at Artisans Asylum to learn, produce their best work, and contribute to the social, cultural, educational, and economic vibrance of greater Boston.



Opportunities and Initiatives

- Expanding our Impact. Grow into our new space with increased memberships, programs, classes, and public events.
- Deepening Community Partnerships. Develop our community collaborations with libraries, schools, community centers, peer organizations, and others.
- Breaking Down Financial Barriers. Reduce participation costs through new partnerships and fundraising.

Challenges and Impediments

- Location Access.
- High Operating Costs.
- Financial Barriers to Participation (despite \$400K+/yr committed to reduced/waived membership and class fees).

Artisans Asylum
ASSET MAP
9-16-2025

OUTLINE:

1. Mission statement
2. Meeting Community Needs
3. Assets:
 - a. Financial Assets
 - b. Human Assets
 - c. Physical/Facility Assets
 - d. Programmatic Assets
 - e. Organizational Assets
 - f. External Assets
4. Opportunities and Initiatives
5. Challenges and Hurdles
6. Closing

1. Mission Statement

“To provide inclusive space, resources, and hands-on learning that empower artists, makers, and entrepreneurs to develop their skills, share their craft, and contribute to a thriving, diverse, and creative community.”

2. Meeting Community Needs

Greater Boston's residents share the essential human need for creative expression and hands-on problem-solving across arts, sciences, business, and technology. These activities aren't luxuries—they're fundamental to a thriving social fabric. Yet the tools, workspace, and expertise required for meaningful *making* remain out of reach for most people due to cost, space constraints, and lack of access to specialized knowledge.

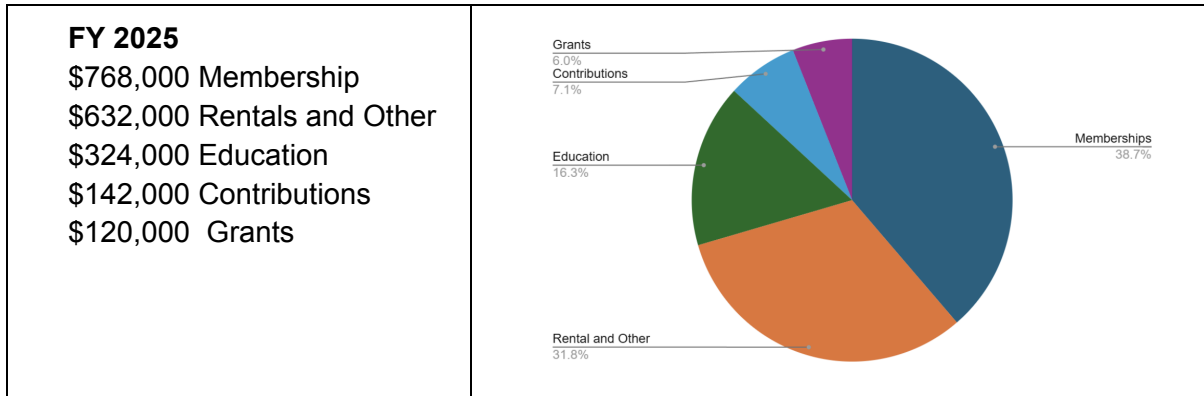
Artisans Asylum bridges this gap by democratizing creativity and innovation. We provide collaborative opportunities, professional-grade tools, comprehensive training, and peer mentorship that enable anyone to learn, create, and teach others. By dramatically lowering barriers to participation, we provide access to the means of creative problem-solving, artistic self-expression, and innovative business development.

Most importantly, Artisans Asylum creates the conditions for diverse individuals to come together and learn from each other, produce their best work, and contribute to the social, cultural, educational, and economic vitality of Greater Boston. Artisans Asylum doesn't just provide tools—we cultivate an ecosystem where collaborative creativity can flourish.

3. Assets

a. Financial Assets

Artisans Asylum relies on five annual sources of earned and unearned income: memberships, space rentals, educational programs, contributions, and grants.



b. Human Assets

- **Staff.** The staff includes a full-time Executive Director who oversees four full-time managers for Education, Operations, Member Services, and Development. In addition, casual/part-time work is provided by a Chief Financial Officer reporting to the Board, Shop Leads and Tool Testers reporting to the Operations Manager, and Instructors and Program Coordinators reporting to the Education Manager.
- **Board of Directors.** Artisans is the oldest incorporated nonprofit makerspace in the country. We have an active 12-director board, with strong support from and for the Executive Director. The backgrounds of the Board reflect the wide range of Artisans activities, including business, arts, science, and education. Three of the Director positions are elected from/by the general membership.
- **Collaborators and Supporters.** Artisans has a growing community of collaborators and supporters, including individual donors, corporate/business sponsors, government entities, peer organizations, and grants benefactors.
- **Members/Volunteers.** At the heart of Artisans Asylum lies its most valuable asset: its vibrant membership drawn from across the diverse Boston community. An extraordinary level of volunteer engagement powers every aspect of the organization. Members don't just use the space—they actively shape and sustain it.

From casual assistance with programs and events to dedicated service on key working committees, our member volunteers are the backbone of Artisans Asylum operations. Member volunteers undertake responsibilities for essential functions including front desk

This deep volunteer engagement reflects a fundamental feature of Artisans Asylum as an organization: Artisans Asylum isn't just defined by its impressive array of fabrication equipment, but rather by its essence as a collaborative community where members take genuine ownership in creating something greater than themselves.

Physical assets include a 52K sq.ft. two-building campus in Allston/Brighton, and the professional-grade equipment, tools, technology, and materials available in 15 shared workshop areas.

Power equipment and hand tools	\$778,000
Technology	\$ 37,000
Furniture and fit-outs	\$117,000



d. Programmatic Assets

Artisans Asylum's programming responds flexibly to opportunities that arise among our membership and in our larger community. Primary among our programs is simply the accessibility of tools, equipment, and community to individual, family, and business users engaged in their own unique projects – currently we have 450+ ongoing memberships, 175 of whom are studio-holders. Educational programs open to the public include 575 courses/year for tool training and creative fabrication experiences. Additional educational programs are offered in collaboration with community partners, for example Guns to Garden Tools in collaboration with local law enforcement and youth urban gardening programs, a Maker/Mentor program in collaboration with the YMCA and Charlesview Residences, and the Fabville Makerspace at Somerville High School. Larger public programs include speakers, gallery exhibits, makers markets, open shop events, and interest meet-ups (for example, Boston Area Robotics, New England Luthiers, Boston Urban Radio). Classes, tours, and events welcome approximately 7,000 participants annually. Finally, programs designed to lower barriers and improve access to Artisans Asylum resources include funded maker-in-residence positions, and approximately \$400K per year in reduced/waived fees for membership and classes.

e. Organizational Assets

Organizational assets include our strong mission, vision, and values as a collaborative makerspace; an experienced Executive Director and growing professional staff; and a new strategic plan. Our history and brand as the oldest incorporated makerspace in the country has enabled us to serve as a mentor and model for other maker spaces, e.g. OpenWorx in Baltimore.

The A2 community itself is our greatest organizational asset: many people come to A2 to access the tools and equipment, but stay because of the community they find here – welcoming, constructive, cooperative, interdisciplinary, creative, playful, experimental, caring, risk-tolerant, hard working, productive, and deeply engaged.

f. External Assets

External assets include our many partners and resources in the greater Boston area, such as:

- Community organizations (public and private schools, YMCA, Charlesview, senior center, etc.);
- Boston's thriving arts and culture scene, with many cross-memberships (Brickbottom, Joy Street, SoWa, etc.) and participation in public events (Burning Man, art exhibits, open studios, etc.)

- Higher education (providing exhibit spaces; equipment donations; project consultations/collaborations; and memberships held by faculty, students, and graduates)
- Local private and public funders investing in the community (the Hamilton Company, MCC/BCC, local banks, etc.)
- A growing roster of corporate sponsors (especially local businesses and suppliers)

4. Opportunities and Initiatives

Expanding Our Impact. The move to our larger Boston facility has opened exciting possibilities for growth. We're positioned to welcome significantly more members while expanding our STEAM educational offerings to serve learners at every level. The enhanced space also allows us to develop our Gallery into a true community showcase and host larger public events that bring the making culture to wider audiences.

Deepening Community Partnerships. Strategic collaborations help ensure that Artisans Asylum's resources reach Boston's full diversity of communities. For example, developing off-site partnerships with libraries, schools, and community centers can bring maker education beyond our walls. Additionally, innovative alliances with professional unions and the vibrant local performance and theater scene can both expand our community connections and diversify our programming with new creative disciplines.

Breaking Down Financial Barriers. Membership and class fees remain significant obstacles for many potential participants. Through targeted fundraising and development partnerships, we aim to expand our current \$400,000 annual commitment for fee waivers and reduced-cost access. Key initiatives include joining the Card-to-Culture program and developing sustainable funding streams to ensure no one is prevented from accessing Artisans Asylum resources due to their financial limitations.

5. Impediments and Hurdles

Location Access. While our move from Somerville to Allston/Brighton has improved access for many Boston neighborhoods, public transportation remains challenging, particularly from the southeast. This transportation barrier drives our commitment to expanding satellite partnerships to bring Artisans Asylum resources directly into participants' home communities.

High Operating Costs. Our extensive facility and 15 specialized workshops require significant ongoing investment to maintain safety and functionality standards. Even with aggressive cost management and conservation efforts, basic operational expenses remain substantial and

unavoidable. Limited staffing for outreach, marketing, and community engagement further constrains our ability to generate participation revenue.

Financial Barriers to Participation. Despite our existing fee reduction and waiver programs, costs still prevent many potential members from accessing our resources. Expanding financial aid resources is essential to ensure access regardless of ability to pay.

6. Closing

Artisans Asylum is at a significant juncture in our evolution. We have outgrown our origins as an informal makers' collective and are emerging as a true community service, providing access to the tools, training, and mentorship required for creative fabrication in the arts, sciences, and technology.

When communities invest in pathways to creativity and innovation—through educational programs, traineeships, and public events—they unlock transformative potential that extends far beyond individual benefits. This democratization of creativity catalyzes social innovation as diverse perspectives and lived experiences converge to address complex challenges. The ripple effects are profound: lives change not just through the acquisition of skills or tools, but through the collective recognition that one's ideas matter, one's voice has value, and the capacity to create positive change is within everyone's reach.