



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

AH HAA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF BOOKBINDING



JOY AND COMMUNITY



MARTY WOLLESEN
Executive Director

Everything we do at Ah Haa School for the Arts and the American Academy of Bookbinding is a celebration of discovery, exploration, creativity, wonder and surprise. At core we are driven by curiosity and the desire to provide places and opportunities for people of all ages to find and share their voice...and more importantly to discover and activate their potential. All this is possible because of your support. You are the driver of possibility and the spark that ignites the “ah haa” for our community. Thank you for your generosity, support, courage, and commitment.



BETH MCLAUGHLIN
Board President

I support Ah Haa School for the Arts and the American Academy of Bookbinding because I value the generative power of imagination. There is scientific proof that participating in the arts improves our health and connection to community. Ah Haa and AAB are places to embrace new ideas, and of course joy. I am inspired and grateful for your curiosity, kindness and compassion that is the engine that drives us forward. You are activating opportunities for belonging with each of our classes, exhibits, partnerships and gatherings. You create unimagined possibilities for so many in our community.

MISSION & VALUES

Creating joy
and community
through art



AH HAA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

CORE COMMITMENTS

- Honoring diverse voices in a safe and supportive environment
- Developing authentic collaborations with organizations committed to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging
- Removing financial and cultural barriers to participation
- Providing experiential learning in small and intimate class sizes
- Encouraging discovery and exploration through interactive and participatory experiences
- Celebrating the arts, artists and the artistic process

GENEROSITY

Fostering inclusion, access and opportunity for all

CONNECTION

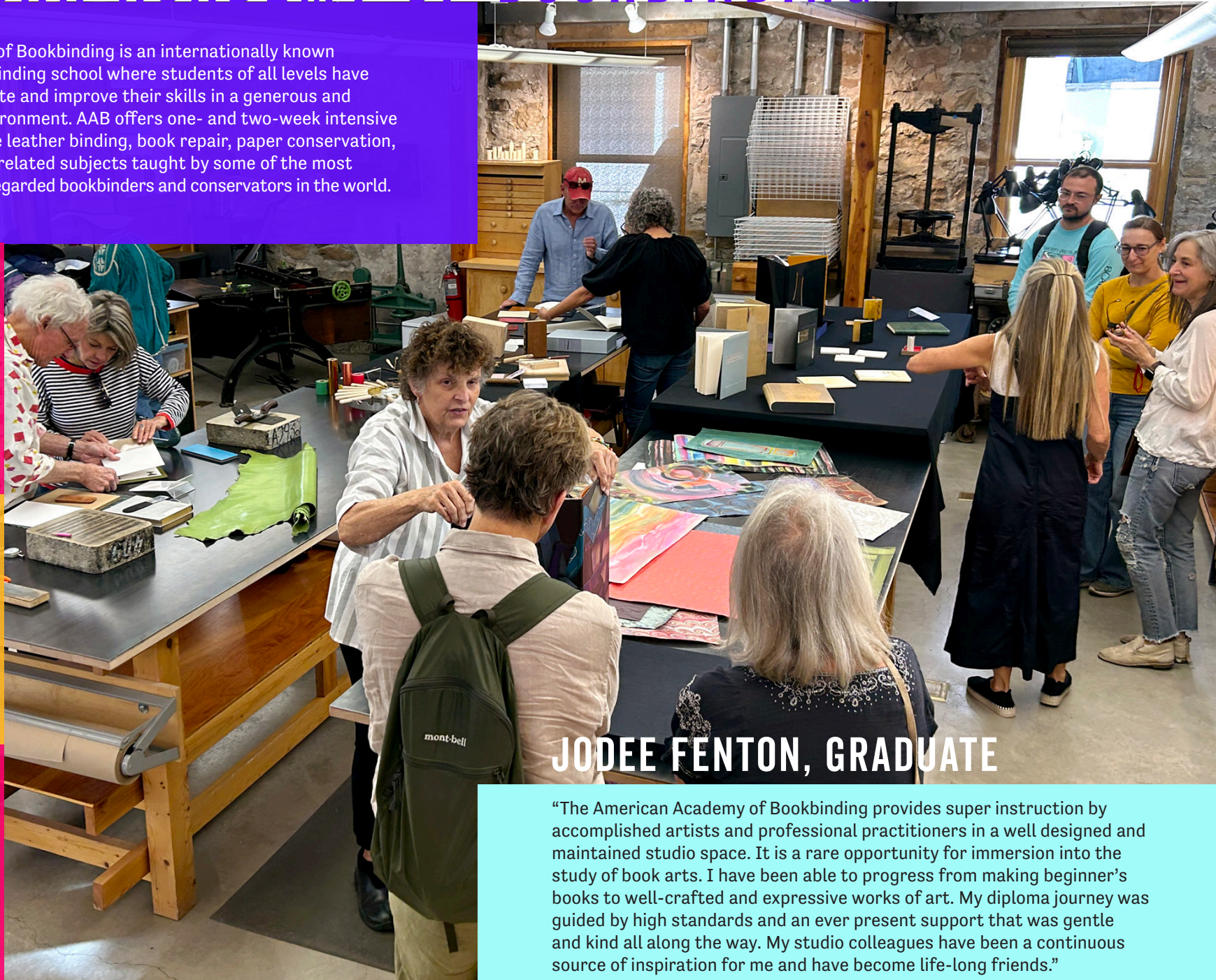
Creating community and a sense of belonging

AH HAA MOMENTS

Embracing creativity, curiosity and learning as a path to joy and inspiration

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF BOOKBINDING

The American Academy of Bookbinding is an internationally known diploma-oriented bookbinding school where students of all levels have the opportunity to initiate and improve their skills in a generous and supportive learning environment. AAB offers one- and two-week intensive courses in the art of fine leather binding, book repair, paper conservation, book history, and other related subjects taught by some of the most experienced and highly regarded bookbinders and conservators in the world.



JODEE FENTON, GRADUATE

“The American Academy of Bookbinding provides super instruction by accomplished artists and professional practitioners in a well designed and maintained studio space. It is a rare opportunity for immersion into the study of book arts. I have been able to progress from making beginner’s books to well-crafted and expressive works of art. My diploma journey was guided by high standards and an ever present support that was gentle and kind all along the way. My studio colleagues have been a continuous source of inspiration for me and have become life-long friends.”

30

YEARS

OF EXCELLENCE

928

feet

of thread used

151

REGISTRATIONS

21 CLASSES

CERAMICS

Students in the Ceramics Program are passionate about the process—finding rhythm in wheel throwing, handling tactile materials and experiencing the power of handbuilding. A cornerstone of Telluride’s creative community, Ah Haa Ceramics is an incubator for emerging and established ceramic artists, as well as youth and teens participating in After School programs. It is Ah Haa’s commitment to create opportunities for access to hands-on arts spaces for potters in our community.

96

TOTAL CLASSES OFFERED
70 Adult/26 Youth

417

Registrations
246 Adult/171 Youth

37

OPEN STUDIO
members



MICHELE FOOTE, STUDENT

“As a retired teacher, I miss being part of a professional community reaching toward similar goals. Though now my goals are very different, the Ah Haa Ceramics Studio stands in as this community. Remarkable instructors and visiting artists generously teach ceramic techniques and guide students to dig deeper into self-expression with clay. There is nothing more inspiring than creating in an Open Studio atmosphere where makers motivate and encourage each other daily. Ah Haa is a gift to those of us looking for connection and artistic inspiration.”

CULINARY

With the overarching goal of cultivating community, forging cultural connection and a sense of place, Ah Haa's culinary offerings bring people together at a fundamental touchpoint – the preparing and sharing of food. As a resource for skill building, sustainable practices and connective storytelling with chefs, cooks, farmers, winemakers; Ah Haa nourishes and nurtures culinary students of all ages and skill levels.

300

TOTAL CLASSES
OFFERED

154 Adult/46 Youth

1,178

Registrations

934 Adult/244 Youth

300

POUNDS OF
Flour



MISSY YOUNG, STUDENT

"The cooking classes we took this summer were a blast! The talented chefs were very fun to be with in the kitchen, sharing all their tips! We are always looking for easy, delicious and creative recipes. Ah Haa's kitchen is spacious and well equipped. There was a good mix of locals, seasonal folks and vacationers to meet in the class. Can't wait to attend more classes next summer!"

LEVI HOLMES, STUDENT, AGE 11

"I like going to Ah Haa After School Programs because I can see friends and people I don't know so they can become my friends. I also like learning how to cook, as well as learning many different types of cooking and techniques in the Ah Haa cooking classes. My favorite thing I've cooked at Ah Haa was the peppermint pie that I made during winter! I can't wait to meet different kids in Ah Haa and different foods to cook!"

VISUAL ARTS

Painting, drawing, textile arts, printmaking, jewelry and mixed media offerings create Ah Haa's well rounded visual arts program. Ah Haa's contemporary, responsive programming approach brings relevant practices and topics in the visual arts field to the forefront, allowing individuals to develop, explore, and enrich their creative and artistic proficiencies. Participants gain a new appreciation of how art is experienced and found in everyday life. The robust Youth and Teen After School programming provides students opportunities to embark on new artistic adventures, immersing them in a different mediums.

150

TOTAL CLASSES
OFFERED

95 Adult/56 Youth

645

Registrations

354 Adult/291 Youth

128

FIRST TIME
students

Adult & Youth



SUE HEHIR, STUDENT

"The painting classes are taught to perfection. Ah Haa is inspiring and motivational! The new space is magnificent and fresh. I would recommend Ah Haa's visual arts classes to EVERYONE!"

EXHIBITIONS

Named in honor of the founder of Ah Haa School for the Arts, The Daniel Tucker Gallery & Exhibitions Program strives to facilitate opportunities for people to discover, explore, and nurture their own creativity through exhibition, programmatic participation, and observation. All exhibitions and installations in the Daniel Tucker Gallery are curated in a manner that adheres to the following principles: celebrating creativity, equity and inclusion; value to community; intergenerational interactive learning and collaborative partnerships.



1,575+
Gallery
Visitors

10
Exhibitions

50
Exhibition
**ARTISTS
SUPPORTED**



TYLER JAMES, NO PARKING STUDIOS

“For us at NO Parking Studios, our art exhibit at Ah Haa School for the Arts in Telluride was everything for us as creatives and as a brand. It allowed us to understand the significance of being immersed in a community that’s not really ours, but still help and create something special within it. And we felt like we did that. We love what we created and seeing new people love our art was great, but I think what made it special was the community and the people there. Ah Haa really just opened the doors for us to come and tell our story and supported everything we did. That love and support meant a lot to us.”

"The best day of my life!"

SUMMER CAMPS

Experiential learning is the cornerstone of Ah Haa School for the Arts Youth and Teen Programming. Young people are given access to tools and resources to locate and develop their creative voice with a focus on process over product. Summer Camps give Youth and Teens an inspiring place to explore, play and connect.

382
Minds
INSPIRED

61
TOTAL CAMPS
OFFERED

1,000s
RAINBOWS
Painted



"This was the best day of my life"

"This camp describes me"

"You are life-savers"

"The only reason my daughter went to school today was because she knew it was the only way she would be allowed to attend her Ah Haa class."
-Ah Haa Parent



LAUNCHPAD & SKYDECK

The Ah Haa School for the Arts' stunning Launchpad and Sky Deck are the ideal gathering spaces with unparalleled Telluride views. The indoor Launchpad has high ceilings and a wall of south-facing windows; the adjacent outdoor Sky Deck is partially covered and looks toward the Gondola and Ajax Peak. The Launchpad and Sky Deck are available for weddings, special events, receptions, photo shoots, culinary experiences, board meetings and gatherings of all kinds. Make your celebration special:

Contact Christin Marcos at christin@ahhaa.org

This year, Ah Haa supported 17 nonprofit organizations through subsidized use of the space for hosting community events and fundraisers.

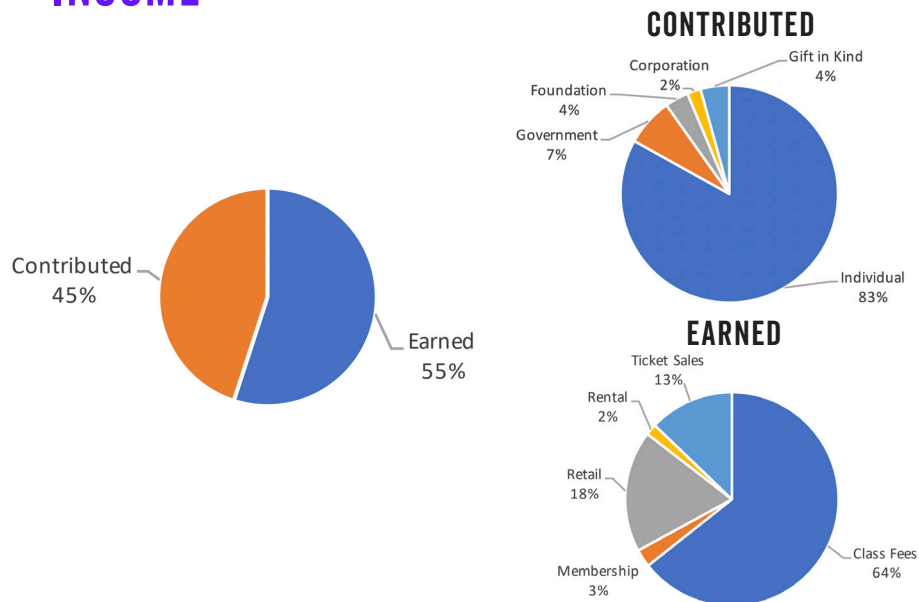


NEWLYWEDS

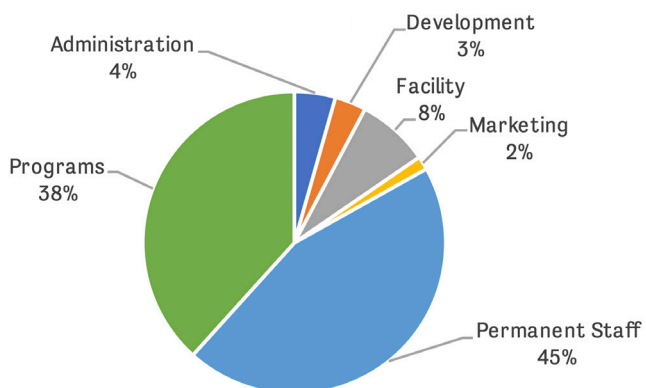
**“WE HAD AN AMAZING TIME.
AH HAA IS FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.
PERFECT VENUE. PERFECT IN EVERY WAY.”**

FINANCIALS

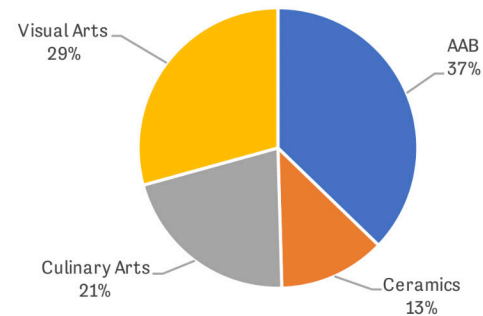
INCOME



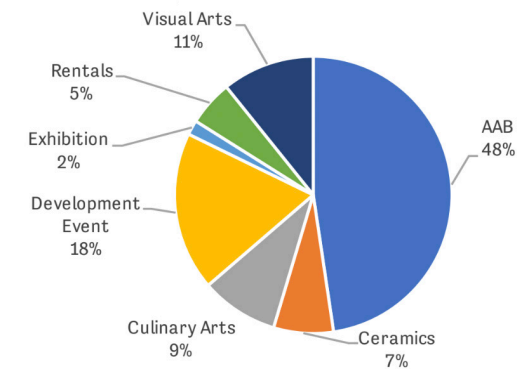
EXPENSES



CLASS FEES



REVENUE BY PROGRAM



AH HAA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

Ah Haa continues offering a wide variety of classes for people of all ages. Our Locals Lunches and Seasonal Suppers featuring trained chef and home cooks regularly sell out, as do our Launchpad Dinners, featuring notable and progressive chefs. Our Ceramics Open Studio program continues to expand with a waiting list of over 30 potters. Across the board, our earned income continues to increase through retail, rentals, and memberships. The continued support of donors at all levels, especially the Trustees, make it possible for us to create joy and community through the arts (see *Support The Arts*).

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF BOOKBINDING

As part of the 30th Anniversary, AAB kicked off its first ever alumni giving campaign, *Bound to Possibilities*, raising more than \$90,000. Further, the High Meadows Foundation gifted the beloved Old Stone Building to AAB, ensuring a dedicated bookbinding space for generations to come. And in addition, we received ownership of a two-bedroom condo in Telluride from AAB instructor and Trustee Lang Ingalls for student and instructor use (see *Support The Arts*).

INDIVIDUALS

INNOVATORS \$25,000+

Anonymous, Bridgitt and Bruce Evans, Carl and Judy Ferenbach, Lisa Hogan, Lang Ingalls, Ilene and Don Kramer, Beth McLaughlin, Aela and Don Morgan, Simon and Kimberly Perutz, Lou Mintz and Beverly Crilly, Mary and Lawrence Whalley

ACTIVATORS \$10,000+

Stephanie Ansin and Spencer Stewart, David and Denise Barmak, Arline Baker, Amy Boebel, Camille and Aaron Botelho, T. Randall and Jyl Cain, Richard Cornelius and Lynn Brubaker, Tristan and Martin Mannion, Catherine McNamee and Chris Miller, Julie and Ted Rolfs, Denise Sherman, Carolyn and Jason Soules, Jane West

CREATORS \$5,000+

Helen Ballard, Katherine Borsecnik and Gene Weil, Gary and Brittany Cantor, Kathleen Fisher, Kathy Green, Steve and Karen Jayne, Mandie and Tingate Jue, Elizabeth and Martin Korman, Jean McLaughlin, Jennifer Lindh and Randy Peterson, Tom and Joanne Pike, Meg Taylor and Franz Rassman, Martin Wollesen

INSTIGATORS \$2,500+

Myssie and Barry Acomb, Karen Baughn, Scott Benge, Ana and Matt Bowling, Dan and Liz Caton, Brian and Karen Conway, Cathe and Chip Dyer, Holly Garner, Rose Gutfeld and Peter Edwards, Susan Hulme, Donald Rosenthal, Tim and Annie Swan, Anna Teerlink, Madi Zarkis

EXPLORERS \$1,000+

Bradley Abelow, Patty and Chris Arndt, Richard B Boebel, Sue M. Cobb, Bonnie Cohen, Dorothy Durrnschmidt, Josephine and Erik Fallenius, David Gallagher, Amy and Kelly Gray, Daniel Gundrum, Kristin Holbrook, Bill Lewis and Rick Underwood, Tommy and Sloane Lusk, Zachary Miller, Barbara Parish and Gary Roberts, Scott Petty, Estee Portnoy, Amy and Lee Pressler, Christine Ring, John Stathis and Gail Connelly, Topher Straus, Andrew Varney, Cate White, Bruce and Jodie Wright

CONNECTORS \$500+

Emily Ballou, Natalie Binder, Lucinda Carr and Nancy Heim, Sally Puff Courtney, Pia Gedeon, Don Glaister and Suzanne Moore, Corina Gordon, Marissa and Dan Gudal, Bettie and Hill Hastings, Barbara and Walter Hinterkopf, Jennifer Holen, Denise Jackson and Trevor King, Charlotte Jorgensen, Paul Lehman and Ronna Stamm, Chris Maughan, Tam and Lauren Murray, Elaine Nishizu, Randy Podolsky, Chip and Trish Schilling, Goedele Vanhille, Susan Viebrock, Laura Wait, JoAnn Weisel, Laura Welch and Mike Lundgren, Elizabeth Werner, Jeremy Wing, Brian Wolahan, Rick Young and Bonnie Beamer

Donors
20
23

SUSTAINERS \$250+

John Clark, Lacey Downing, Jennie Franks, Jessica Goldberg, Sharon Grundy, Jeffrey Harding, Kate Hartfel, Ashley Hix, Zack Holodovsky, Gail and Fred Kittler, Jill Kraft, Wesley Link, Marianne Minnehan, Curt Moe, Diana and Sean Mulligan, Barry and Carmen Nordstrand, Thalia and John Pryor, Sherry Rhodes, Martha Rome, Josie Russo, Julie Smith, Kimille Taylor and Steve Morton, Allison Templin, Bill Valaika, Hans Watford Jr, Beth Willett, Mary and Michael Young

SPARKS UP TO \$250

Anonymous, Brian Adams, Katie Adams, Tracie Amend, Vengan Anandan, Kelly Atkins, Diane Atkinson, Theresa Angelo, Elijah Ball, Susan Barringer, Kathryn E Baum, MaKenzie Baumann, Jeff Bednarz, Pamela Bennett, Jeff Bodenman, Brenda Bogart, Heather Boucher, Raymond Bowers, Mamie Breard, Joanne Brown, Todd and Lauren Brown, Jennifer Büchi, Kai Burrus, Katja Butts, Adrienne Christy, David Cohen, Dylan Cooney, Hallie Coulter, Rosie Cusack, Sarah and Thomas Cyphers, Laura Czapski, Holly D'Oench, Barclay and Tony Daranyi, Janice deLuca, Aubrey Ellison, Mark Esser, Lucia Farias, Jo Ann Fenton, John Feren, Micaela Ferrari, Nancy B Frank, Karen Jowdy Friedman, Cindy and, Rick Fusting, Katie Geissler, Ellen Gelbaugh, Sarah Gluckstern, Jennifer Gremmert, Jane Griffith, Josey and Cristy Griffith, Baerbel Hacke, Marla Hodes, Heather Hoffmann, Rebecca and Kate and Quinn Hogan, Jin Hu, Tami Huntsman, Christina Jones, Karen Jones, Travis Julia, Saree and Michael Kayne, Christopher Keating, Judy Kennedy, Judy Kohin and Midnite Scholtes, Monique Lallier, Amy Levek, Margo Libman, David Levy, Marian Macintire, Mary Mandell, Rebecca and John Markley, Sage Martin, Bridget McGraw, Marla Meridith, Ben Merritt, Marshall Merritt, Consuela Metzger, Elizabeth Joy Mueller, Carolyn Murray, Yiselle Navarrete, Hayley Nenadal, Lisa and Victor Neneroff, Patricia Owen, Todd Pattison, Erin Paulson, Barbara Peters, Richard Pollock-Nelson, Alexander Price, Beth Redmond, James Reid-Cunningham, Flair Robinson, Anna Rotman, Molly and Peter Sante, Liam Scanlon, Elliot Schiff, Ricardo Schneider, Geneva and Laura Shaunette, Joe Sitter, Elizabeth Smith, Chris Sommers, Joanne and Jim Steinback, Ashley Story, Chandra Stubbs, Marta Tarbell, Drake Taylor, Judi Temple, Colleen Thompson, Linda Tueller, Peter and Gabe Waldor, Leslie Walthers, Susan Williams, Fran Windsor, Travis Young

TRUSTEES

Anonymous

Stephanie Ansin and Spencer Stewart

Arline Baker

David and Denise Barmak

Amy Boebel

Camille and Aaron Botelho

T. Randall and Jyl Cain

Richard Cornelius and Lynn Brubaker

Bridgitt and Bruce Evans

Carol and Judy Ferenbach

Lisa Hogan

Lang Ingalls

Ilene and Don Kramer

Beth McLaughlin

Catherine McNamee and Chris Miller

Lou Mintz and Beverly Crilly

Simon and Kimberly Perutz

Kim Roberts

Denise Sherman

Jane West

ORGANIZATIONS

FOUNDATIONS

Amazon Smile Foundation
High Meadows Foundation
Johnson Family Foundation
Just for Kids Foundation

GOVERNMENT

CCAASE – Town of Telluride
Colorado Creative Industries
Town of Mountain Village

CORPORATE

AlSCO
Alpine Bank
Basin Electric Power Corporation
Citizens State Bank
Chipeta Lodge
Element 52
Guild of BookWorkers
Hook Telluride
Mixer Gallery
Mountain Village Wine Merchant
Pneuhaus LLC
Reese Henry & Company, Inc.
Renee & Bill Jones-Perrault Tax Services LLC
San Miguel Power Association
Slate Gray Gallery
SOM Footwear
Suerte Tequila
Telluride Brewing Company
Tim's Trauma Balm

CREATE POSSIBILITIES

Ah Haa School for the Arts and the American Academy of Bookbinding are dedicated to inspiring individuals of all ages to explore, develop and celebrate their creativity. Your contribution is a direct investment in the vitality of the arts in Telluride. Donations provide critical funds giving impact and opportunity for people of all ages to engage in creative experiences throughout the year! There are multiple ways of showing your support and care.

Direct Donation

Your direct donation via our websites makes an immediate impact to the daily operations of our programs and services.

ahhaa.org bookbindingacademy.org

Become a Trustee

As a Trustee you provide a launchpad of possibility for people of all ages to imagine and wonder. Your multi-year commitment is foundational to our long term planning and sustainability, providing us the ability to be more resilient and responsive in a changing world.

Lodging

Support our ability to provide a high level of creative experiences for our community by providing your home, condo or guest house to a Visiting Artist or Instructor for a short term stay.

Planned Giving

A planned gift provides us the opportunity to partner with donors who wish to ensure that future students continue to have transformational experiences at Ah Haa School for the Arts and the American Academy of Bookbinding

Gifts of Stock

Gifts of stock are a convenient way to make a difference by using assets other than cash. The transactions can be handled with you directly or with your financial representative.

Real or Personal Properties

Property is another attractive way to make a gift. When you make gifts of property, certain value appraisals are required. These transactions will be handled with you directly and in conjunction with your legal representative.

Bequests and Beneficiary Designations

Gifts made through your estate plan or retirement plan (including IRAs) can help you realize your philanthropic goals, and may allow you to make a more significant gift than is possible during your lifetime.

Life Income Gifts

Earn money on your contribution by transferring money, securities or other assets to a trust or charitable gift annuity (CGA) that will then pay you an income for life or a period of years. The trust or CGA will be designed by you to fit your own needs in conjunction with your legal representative or financial advisor.

TRUSTEES make a multi-year commitment or a sustaining commitment to Ah Haa School for the Arts and the American Academy of Bookbinding.

TRUSTEE support is foundational for our long-term sustainability, providing us the ability to be more resilient and responsive in support of our mission of creating joy and community through art.

MAKE AN IMPACT!

To discuss how you can give, please contact executive director, Marty Wollesen
marty@ahhaa.org

“AS A TRUSTEE, MY HOPE IS TO SUPPORT AND SHARE THIS SENSE OF INSPIRATION AND BELONGING WITH OTHERS.”



SUPPORT THE ARTS



JANE WEST
Trustee

Ah Haa provides so many opportunities to explore new creative outlets, whether through the exhibitions or classes in bookbinding, culinary arts, pottery or visual arts. Here I’m learning new skills and techniques in all these disciplines. And I’m able to enjoy a beautiful space, designed by artists, surrounded by others often quite immersed in their own journey of learning and creativity. Ah Haa is a bright spark of light in the center of Telluride. It inspires a shared sense of inclusiveness in a community focused on creativity and learning. Simply put, participating in all that is Ah Haa enriches my life.

Jane West has always had a passion for art and architecture, where she finds true inspiration. Jane is an artist, creator, Trustee and serves on the Ah Haa board of directors.



LANG INGALLS
Trustee

A student’s curiosity and fearlessness prompt my best teaching. I also learn from bookbinders about inspiration and patience: we all see the world differently. I am inspired by a beautiful book and an astute binder. Supporting AAB is—in essence—supporting the magic of the written word. Not everyone can donate a dollar, but can you donate some old paper, a tool, take a class, or provide a student with a safe place to sleep? It is important to do what you are able, knowing it will make a difference in our little community.

Lang Ingalls is an Instructor at the American Academy of Bookbinding, a former board member, a Trustee, and a master binder. This year Lang gifted ownership of her condo to AAB as a way to sustain the unique living and learning experience that makes AAB so special.

AH HAA HAHA

JULY 14-16
2023

HAHA returned as THE Telluride community event and fundraiser of the summer! The one-of-a-kind immersive art experience once again transformed Ah Haa into multiple magical environments created by 16 local and international artists. The HAHA allowed us to forefront access and opportunity for our community to participate and engage in creative experiences, while raising critical funds. Thank you, 900+ attendees!



TO DO
"Be Grateful +
Find Your Joy"

TO DO
"Make
More
Art"

TO DO
"Find Joy
Everyday"

TO DO
"Love Yourself
with all
your heart"

TO DO
"Skydive"

Thank you Illegal Art!



CARA PALLONE

"The HAHA was the most inspiring event I've been to since HAHA 2022! Seriously, I am so energized and motivated after seeing the creativity exploding from that space.

It was next-level brilliant."

AAB 30TH

September
2023

The American Academy of Bookbinding, celebrated three decades of creativity, possibility and joy in the art and craft of bookbinding this fall. Special events taking place in Telluride and San Francisco marked the anniversary honoring the founders, instructors, students and supporters. *Bound to Possibilities* was launched as AAB's giving campaign.



BRENDA GALLAGHER

"I really enjoyed the AAB celebration because of the meaningful conversations with past graduates that I have never met before. It felt like a brotherhood of people whose hearts are in this work. The past AAB graduates know better than anyone how far we all had to come to earn diplomas and it is a joy and a source of pride to count myself among their number. It was an emotional tribute to all the teachers past and present at AAB who have so generously, selflessly given their knowledge and shined a light on the way forward for all the students. In that moment it really struck home that it is on their collective shoulders that all the graduates stand."

**STUDENT
HOUSING
GIFTED TO
AAB**

375

30th Anniversary
Attendees
in San Francisco
and Telluride

\$90,000+

Raised by
**Bound to
Possibilities**

**OLD STONE
BUILDING**

Gifted to AAB

BOARD & STAFF

Board

Beth McLaughlin, President
David Barmak, Vice President
T. Randall Cain, Treasurer
Alexander Price, Secretary
Amy Boebel
Ana Bowling
Leise Durant
Kathy Green
Diana Mulligan
Jane West

Past Presidents

Lisa Hogan (2021 - 2023)
Richard Cornelius (2012 - 2021)
Josephine Fallenius (2008 - 2012)
Fran Windsor (2005 - 2008)
Robin Sedgwick (2003 - 2005)
Catherine McNamee (2000 - 2003)
Daniel Tucker, *Founder* (1991 - 2000)

Administrative

Martin Wollesen
Executive Director
Chip Schilling
Managing Director,
American Academy of Bookbinding
Malarie Clark
Director of Marketing & Communications
Christin Marcos
Manager, Rentals & Special Events
Kelley Potter
Front Desk and Registration Manager

Programming

Jennifer Büchi
Program Coordinator,
American Academy of Bookbinding
Tara Carter
Director of Ceramics
Kris Kwasniewski
Manager, Exhibitions
Jess Newens
Director of Culinary Arts
Caroline Schnetzler
Manager, Visual Arts
TBD
Director, Visual Arts





AH HAA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF BOOKBINDING

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