

IMPACT REPORT





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INTRODUCTION

IA&A is committed to empowering artists, bridging cultural divides, and expanding access to the arts. For nearly three decades, our diverse programs have made a lasting impact on communities worldwide. We foster cross-cultural understanding by curating powerful exhibitions, facilitating global exchanges, and providing a platform for creative expression that transcends borders. As we continue to ignite connections through the transformative power of the arts, we are dedicated to creating shared experiences that inspire dialogue, enrich communities, and deepen our collective understanding of the world.

WHAT WE DO



Empowering Artists

Building Bridges

Expanding Access to the Arts

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

In an era marked by increasing polarization, isolationism, and communication silos, IA&A leverages art and culture to foster safe, open dialogue and bridge societal divides. This year, our initiatives transcended traditional boundaries; emphasizing creativity, exchange, and unity; and highlighted our belief in art's power to bridge divides and inspire communities.

Our Traveling Exhibition Service showcased world-class visual arts, fostering engagement and understanding across diverse communities. These exhibitions overcame geographical and cultural barriers, creating shared spaces for societal discovery and diverse perspectives.

Our Cultural Exchange Programs have been pivotal in developing future global leaders in the arts. By providing opportunities for artists, scholars, and professionals worldwide, we have bridged gaps between American cultural institutions and international creatives, enriching global conversations on art and culture.

IA&A at Hillyer, located in Washington, DC, has become a dynamic hub for creativity and community engagement. Our contemporary art center supports artists at all career stages, fostering connections and public engagement. It champions art's role in reflecting and shaping societal values, bringing together artists from various backgrounds in a dialogue that resonates with diverse audiences.

The integration of our Traveling Exhibition Service, Cultural Exchange Programs, and IA&A at Hillyer exemplifies our comprehensive approach to utilizing art for societal transformation. Our impact extends beyond exhibitions and programs, enriching public discourse, empowering artists, and strengthening communities.

Reflecting on this year, we recognize that art is not just a mirror to society but a tool to shape it. IA&A's narrative is about the connections, dialogues, and cross-cultural understanding we have fostered. Our commitment remains to innovate, inspire, and unite through art and culture, envisioning a more inclusive, understanding, and colorful world.



Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Houston". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Gregory D. Houston
President & Chief Executive Officer

IA&A IMPACT AT A GLANCE

IA&A is a crossroads of cultural impact, shaping the future of the arts and deepening global connections.

CUMULATIVE IMPACT

- IA&A’s traveling exhibitions have served over **2.5 million** visitors worldwide.
- 1. We have organized over **850** presentations of more than **100** unique exhibitions at museums and cultural institutions across all **50 states, 24 countries, and 4 continents** (Asia, Australia, Europe, North America).
- Our Cultural Exchange Programs have placed over **2,100** J-1 Exchange Visitors from more than **100** countries at over **700** host institutions throughout the U.S.
- IA&A at Hillyer has featured **428** exhibitions since 2006, including **334** solo exhibitions and **94** group exhibitions, empowering **1,352** local, national, and international artists.



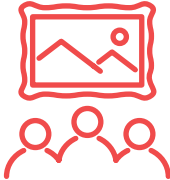
2.5 million visitors worldwide



800 presentations around the globe



2,100 J-1 Exchange Visitors



428 exhibitions at Hillyer



250,000 visitors



106 International Exchange Visitors



7,000 visitors at Hillyer

IN THE LAST YEAR

- IA&A’s Traveling Exhibitions reached over 250,000 visitors.
- Our Cultural Exchange Programs hosted 106 international Exchange Visitors.
- IA&A at Hillyer welcomed over 7,500 visitors to diverse, accessible arts programming.

IA&A AT HILLYER’S IMPACT IN WASHINGTON DC

Begun in 2006, IA&A at Hillyer (formerly Hillyer Art Space) is the Washington-area initiative of International Arts & Artists. Through its innovative and often provocative exhibitions and public programs, IA&A at Hillyer champions local and international artists at all stages of their careers. IA&A at Hillyer collaborates with artists, cultural organizations, and governments to develop and host creative, thought-provoking programs that reflect the uniqueness of DC as an international capital. Hillyer invites visitors to encounter contemporary art from the U.S. and around the world in a welcoming and accessible gallery setting.

Hillyer’s activities are generously supported by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Galena Yorktown Foundation and the Jon and Mary Shirley Foundation. The support of these local funders allows us to provide programs and exhibitions free of charge to our Washington DC community.

IN 2023

- Hillyer offered 51 different programs and exhibition openings.
- Hillyer presented 34 exhibitions: 29 solo exhibitions and 5 group exhibitions.
- Diverse nationalities included artists from Italy, Taiwan, Lebanon, Canada, United States, Kenya, Nigeria, and Cuba.
- Identity and representation encompassed gender (he/she/they), sexuality (heterosexual, homosexual, queer), and diverse cultural backgrounds (African, African-American, Euro-American, Latino, Italian, Arabic, Chilean, and Korean).



51 different programs and exhibition openings



34 exhibitions



Diverse nationalities



Diverse identities and backgrounds



“One of the many reasons I continue to champion IA&A at Hillyer as much as I can is because it has consistently demonstrated dedicated service to the community, while also creating bridges to other communities, both nationally and internationally. There is no other institution in this city that offers the kinds of unique opportunities and programming that IA&A at Hillyer offers to the local artists, poets, performers, and art supporters.”

—Renée Stout

EMPOWERING ARTISTS

IA&A is committed to supporting artists at every stage of their journey, providing the opportunities and resources they need to explore new creative territories and push boundaries. Through exhibitions, cultural exchanges, and mentorship, we empower artists to contribute to a richer, more connected world, because we believe that when artists thrive, communities flourish. Our programs foster an artistic growth that enriches both artists and the broader public, creating a ripple effect that extends far beyond the studio or gallery.

Beyond numerous cultural and social benefits, the arts also play a crucial role in sustaining and nurturing the creative ecosystem. IA&A's partnerships with cultural institutions worldwide—facilitated through IA&A at Hillyer, our Cultural Exchange Programs, and our Traveling Exhibitions Service—offer artists the support and resources they need to succeed. By providing stipends, mentorship, and professional opportunities to artists, curators, and other industry partners, IA&A ensures that the arts remain a vibrant and essential part of our society. We do this not only because we believe in fair compensation for artists and cultural practitioners, but because we understand that their success strengthens the creative industry and enriches the lives of the public they serve.



SPOTLIGHT: PATRICK QUARM, VISUAL ARTIST FROM GHANA

Patrick Quarm is a visual artist from Ghana whose work explores identity, focusing on notions of cultural hybridity and social evolution. Much like the complexities of social identity, Patrick's paintings are multilayered, resulting from a creative process which involves cutting, splicing, and erasing. He frequently uses African print fabric in his work for its associations as a politically charged material that is both culturally specific and representative of global exchange.

Earlier this year, Patrick participated in a residency program at Artpace, San Antonio, through IA&A's Cultural Exchange Programs. During his time in the U.S., Patrick had the opportunity to develop his artistic practice, connect with artists and curators in the San Antonio area, and produce a solo exhibition of expansive new work titled *SILHOUETTES: Tracing Memory*, which was hosted at Artpace from March to May 2024.

"...I finally had the freedom to dive into ambitious and innovative ideas that I couldn't pursue before due to limited resources. This chance let me push my creative boundaries and explore new directions in my art."

"I also got to connect with curators and fellow artists who came to Artpace to see our work in progress. These interactions opened up opportunities for dialogue, critique, and networking within the artistic community, creating a lively environment that encouraged growth and collaboration."

—Patrick Quarm



SPOTLIGHT: IA&A AT HILLYER ARTIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

IA&A at Hillyer curates its exhibitions through a competitive annual call for proposals, with selections made by our Artist Advisory Committee, comprised of established local artists and arts professionals. Each year, this committee carefully selects 30 to 35 artists and curators for solo and group exhibitions. Once selected, artists are paired with a committee member for personalized mentorship, which not only prepares them for their exhibition but also forms lasting connections within the DC arts community.

Hillyer provides additional support for artists, including:

- Direct guidance from Hillyer’s director
- Stipends for both artists and curators
- Installation assistance from trained gallery staff
- Marketing and public exposure through events and online content
- Press coverage from leading publications such as *The Washington Post*, *Washington City Paper*, *Washingtonian*, and *East City Art*

“My Hillyer show was a huge turning point in my career and I cannot overstate what a springboard it became for me.”

—Eric Uhler, Artist

“The work that Hillyer does to support the artist community is important. It provides a venue for both emerging artists who may have never had a solo exhibition, as well as professionals who are looking for the specific support that Hillyer offers—from mentorship and a professional gallery space, to access to a broad audience and connections within the DC artistic community.”

—Laurel Lukaszewski, Hillyer Artist Advisory Committee Member

SPOTLIGHT: UBUHLE WOMEN TRAVELING EXHIBITION AMPLIFIES SOUTH AFRICAN ARTISTS' VOICES

Ubhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence is a traveling exhibition that features the extraordinary work of eight female artists from rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Since the exhibition's inception in 2017, the artists of Ubhle have leveraged IA&A's platform to introduce their intricate bead compositions to a broad U.S. audience, educating the public about their rich traditions, mastery of materials, and cultural significance.

This collaboration has provided the Ubhle artists with new opportunities to showcase their work, build relationships with American museums, and highlight the origins and significance of their unique artistic techniques. Their artistry and initiative have not only captivated diverse audiences but have also deepened the appreciation of contemporary African female artists in the U.S. The Ubhle Women's exhibition exemplifies how artists, when provided with the right tools and platforms, can powerfully advocate for their art and expand their impact on a global scale.



EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE ARTS

IA&A focuses on breaking down barriers to the arts and making cultural engagement and creative expression available to everyone. We believe that equitable access to the arts is essential for building stronger, more inclusive communities. To achieve this, we address socioeconomic and geographic disparities that often disconnect people from the arts, and connect communities with cultural institutions to ensure the arts reflect and celebrate our diverse world.

We expand access to the arts through several key initiatives:



Traveling Exhibition Service: We bring world-class art to communities that might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience it. We reach institutions of all sizes, in rural and urban areas, across the globe. We strive to make our exhibitions engaging and relevant to current events and issues that matter to our audiences, with the hope of fostering meaningful connections and opening opportunities for substantive dialogue.



Cultural Exchange Programs: We place international interns, trainees, and scholars in American cultural institutions, where they offer fresh perspectives and gain experiences that shape their careers and enrich the cultural landscape.



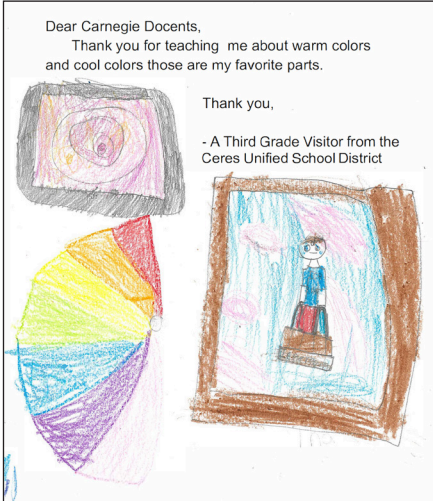
IA&A at Hillyer: We provide solo exhibition opportunities for emerging artists throughout the globe that are free to the public and presented in a prominent art district in Washington DC.

In addition to these core initiatives, IA&A makes scholarship on art and cultural topics accessible through our publications, symposia, and interpretive materials. Our priority is making these resources relevant and available to all audiences.



SPOTLIGHT: MEMORIES & INSPIRATION FIELD TRIP PROGRAM AT CARNEGIE ARTS CENTER

IA&A’s partnership with Carnegie Arts Center highlights our dedication to organizing exhibitions that can enhance arts education and cultural engagement, contributing to academic and personal success within communities. From September to December 2023, the center hosted *Memories and Inspiration*, an IA&A-organized exhibition featuring African American art from the Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection. With grant funding, the center offered free field trips to 1,300 students. This initiative ensured that every third grader in the local school district could experience the exhibition and participate in hands-on art-making activities, fostering a meaningful connection to the arts. Through collaborations with museums like Carnegie, IA&A exhibitions serve as platforms for community-driven programs, creating new opportunities to expand access to the arts for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.



SPOTLIGHT: IA&A AT HILLYER – COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMMING



IA&A at Hillyer is a hub of accessibility and inclusion in the arts, offering free, ADA-accessible programs in downtown Washington, DC. Located in Dupont Circle and open six days a week, Hillyer provides diverse opportunities for creative engagement through hands-on activities, artist talks, and interactive online exhibitions, welcoming people of all ages, backgrounds, and learning styles.



In 2023, Hillyer strengthened its commitment to diversity and community engagement by partnering with organizations like the Qatar America Institute for Culture, Howard University, and the Korean Cultural Center in Washington, DC. These collaborations, along with initiatives like the First Friday Art Walk and Third Thursday programming, ensure that enriching cultural experiences are accessible to all, bringing diverse voices and vibrant arts programming to the heart of the community.

SPOTLIGHT: LUIS MURO, ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SCHOLAR FROM PERU – INCREASING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOLARSHIP ON INDIGENOUS ARTS

Luis Muro, an archaeological research scholar from Peru, became the first Peruvian curator and scholar to work at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) through IA&A's Cultural Exchange Programs. The program provided him with a J-1 visa to conduct his research, during which he curated and developed the exhibition *Taming the Desert: Life, Death, and Cosmos in Ancient Peru*, opening at UCLA's Fowler Museum in November 2024. As part of his exchange, Luis also served as a Visiting Lecturer at the UCLA Department of Art History and the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology. His work at LACMA, particularly in researching Indigenous arts, exemplifies the kind of life-changing opportunities IA&A's Cultural Exchange Programs facilitate, allowing scholars like Luis to share vital research with the broader public.



“LACMA has a significant number of Peruvian artworks that are still understudied and have never been displayed in public. My work at LACMA has tried to make visible those great artworks produced by ancient indigenous groups of the Andes and Peru; I think that now these objects are better appreciated by the museum. Furthermore, as an individual with Indigenous roots, I have always made my voice a channel through which museums, such as LACMA, can continue their paths toward decolonization.

I came with a significant, deep knowledge of the ancient art, designs, and cultures of the Indigenous Americas. What I learned in LACMA was how to make that academic knowledge accessible to large audiences through innovative curatorial practices, educational programs, and inter-cultural encounters.”

–Luis Muro

BUILDING BRIDGES

We believe that art has the power to transcend boundaries and reflect our shared humanity. In a world increasingly divided, IA&A serves as a point of unity, using the universal language of art to build bridges, foster empathy, and connect diverse communities globally.

IA&A is one of the few organizations dedicated to bringing people together through the arts on a global scale. We champion the exchange of international perspectives, practices, and experiences, celebrating diverse and dynamic thought. Through our programs, we harness the power of cultural exchange and artistic expression to break down barriers—whether geographic, political, or ideological—because we believe that reducing division and increasing connectivity serves the greater public good.

SPOTLIGHT: VALENTIN DIAKONOV, RESEARCH SCHOLAR FROM RUSSIA

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's Core Residency Program at the Glassell School of Art deepens community engagement in contemporary arts by offering one-year postgraduate residencies to emerging artists and writers. Valentin Diakonov, an award-winning art critic and historian from Russia, participated in IA&A's Cultural Exchange Programs as a critic-in-residence at the Glassell School of Art from 2022 to 2024 as a J-1 research scholar. Through his work in Houston, Valentin engaged directly with the city's diverse and marginalized communities, using his platform to amplify their stories and perspectives. Reflecting on his experience, Valentin shared, "Conversations with outstanding individuals [such as scholars Alex Kitnick, Tina Campt, and Jack Halberstam, and artist Kevin Jerome Everson] helped me understand North American culture more, with all its complications and tensions." His participation illustrates our commitment to fostering greater understanding by creating opportunities for meaningful cultural exchange. By empowering cultural voices like Valentin's, we enable dialogue that breaks down stereotypes, builds mutual respect, and bridges divides—an embodiment of IA&A's mission to connect people and cultures beyond traditional borders.



"In a world that is polarized, your efforts to build bridges and mend fences is so important. Please keep advocating for artists and scholars so we can collectively build empathy and care for each other."

-Paul Coffey, Director of the Glassell School of Art at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (Valentin Diakonov's supervisor)

SPOTLIGHT: CLEARLY INDIGENOUS: NATIVE VISIONS REIMAGINED IN GLASS AT THE WICHITA ART MUSEUM

IA&A's exhibitions, like *Clearly Indigenous*, do more than just feature art—they engage and connect communities. The Wichita Art Museum's approach to this exhibition not only built bridges of understanding within the local community but also set the stage for future partnerships, showing the lasting impact of such collaborative efforts.

Wichita hosted various programs to make the exhibition accessible and deepen community involvement. Free Family Days, featuring art-making activities and performances, opened the exhibition to a wider audience. The museum also invited two artists whose work is featured in *Clearly Indigenous* to participate in the opening and lead a public talk, fostering direct connections between the artists and the community.

In a groundbreaking partnership with the Mid-America All-Indian Museum, Wichita Art Museum collaborated on programming that included a loan of art from MAAIM's collection and a film series with local filmmaker Rod Pocowachit, founder of the film festival AlterNative. This collaboration strengthened the exhibition's connection with the local Indigenous community. Other events, like glass-making demonstrations, docent-led tours, and performances by a local Native dancer and educator, further enriched the experience.

As *Clearly Indigenous* travels to other communities throughout the United States, this model is now being replicated, continuing IA&A's mission of using powerful art to spark important conversations at the local level.



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

IA&A at Hillyer, launched in 2006, is a Washington-area initiative of International Arts & Artists. It showcases innovative exhibitions and programs, supporting artists at all career stages. Collaborating with artists, cultural organizations, and embassies, it offers thought-provoking programs that highlight DC's unique international character. Visitors can enjoy contemporary art from the US and around the world in an intimate gallery setting.

IA&A's Cultural Exchange Programs connects American institutions with international creatives, nurturing the next generation of global arts leaders. Through the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program, we empower artists, scholars, and professionals to expand their horizons and amplify their impact worldwide.

Our **Traveling Exhibition Service** curates and circulates world-class art exhibitions that bring powerful, thought-provoking art to communities of all sizes. From regional venues to major museums, we create shared experiences that connect diverse cultures and deepen global understanding.



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