



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT Portland Art Guild A Look at 2024: How We Did

February, 2025

Dear Portland Art Guild Members and Fellow Art Enthusiasts,

To start on a personal note, I am honored to be part of Portland Art Guild. It's not just about the art or the great instructors; it's about getting to share time with people like you who support our guild by showing up with your enthusiasm for art.

The artist Georgia O'Keeffe once said, "**I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way—things I had no words for.**"

At Portland Art Guild we strive to create a space where these unspoken stories can find expression, where creativity flourishes, and where art enriches lives. As we reflect upon the past year, we celebrate our continued growth and deepening connection with our community through the transformative experience of art.

PAG MISSION

Portland Art Guild's mission statement was written in 1969 when the guild was formed. It states:

*** To stimulate art interest; * To provide art education; * To encourage and promote artist's work; * To provide opportunities to view and display fine art**

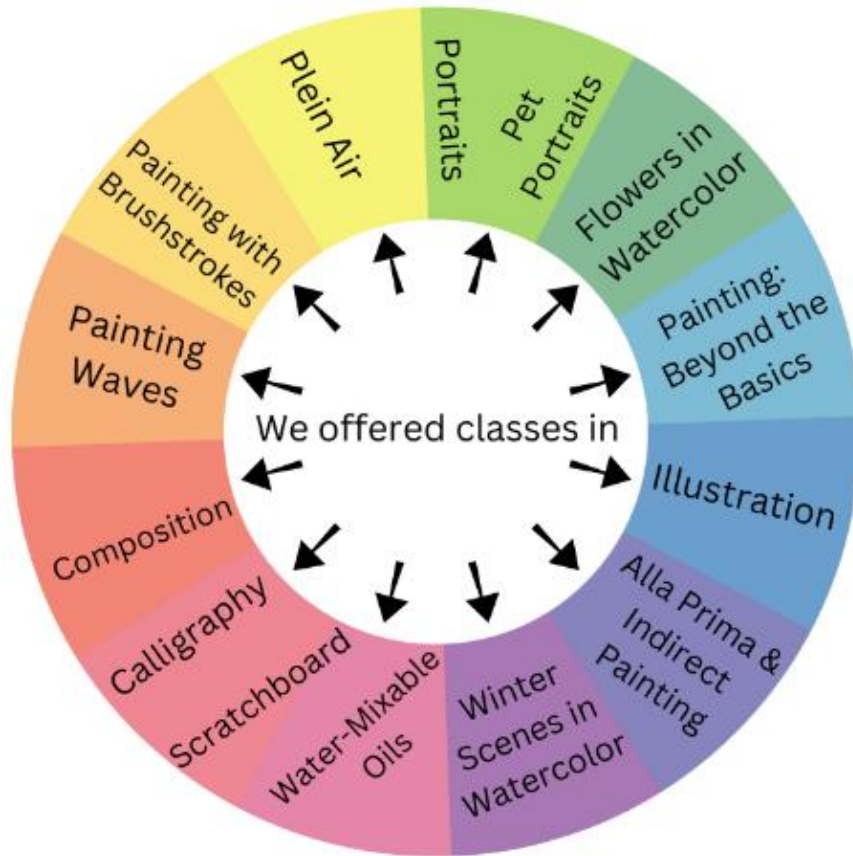
(Yes, it even included the asterisks).



Along with our mission of providing art education and display opportunities, *there's a lovely, indelible current that weaves throughout our events – one of creating community.*

Coming together to create allows us a place during the day where we can share with like-minded individuals our enthusiasm for art and for learning new techniques, where we can share ideas and can feel that **we are a part of something greater than ourselves** – we are part of an art-loving community.

Let's have a **look at 2024** to see how we did in fulfilling our mission.



In 2024, we held classes in a variety of media, including traditional oils, water-mixable oils, acrylics, watercolors, scratchboard, ink, and graphite.

Subject matter ranged from human to pet portraits, flowers, landscapes, still life, and more.

We continued with our monthly Open Studios and we offered several matting sessions.



PROVIDE DISPLAY OPPORTUNITIES Members took part in two month-long group art shows at East Community Center as well as participating in a holiday bazaar at the same center.





CONTINUED GROWTH

We currently have 90 Portland Art Guild members.

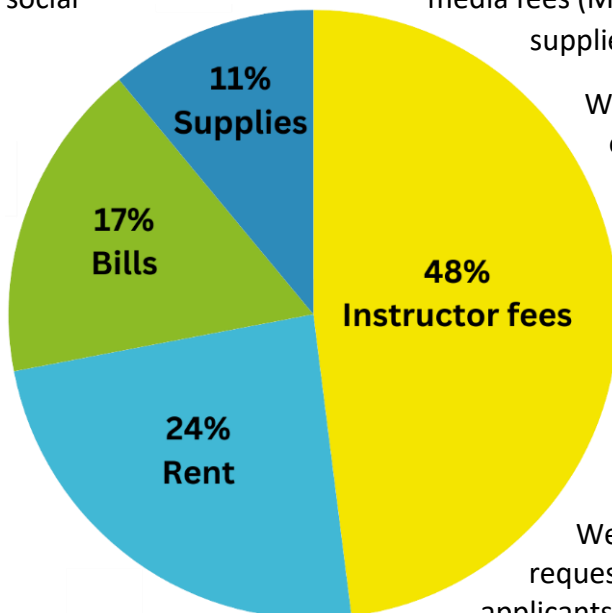
We grew from over 400 subscribers to our *Weekly Art News* newsletter last year to over 500 as of January, 2025.



We have 1,900 followers on Meetup.

It appears that a lot of people are looking to improve their art skills and to be part of an art community. This is what unites us: people coming together with similar interests, sharing ideas, our artwork, and coffee. We look forward to more of that in 2025!

FINANCIAL STABILITY as of Jan 9, 2025 we have \$1,913.97 in Checking, \$5,527.18 in Money Market, \$168.32 in Pay Pal; totaling: \$7,609.47. Our expenses included instructors' fees, rent, insurance, website platform (WooCommerce), website fees (maintenance by our webmaster, website software fees, upgrades), newsletter software fees (Mailchimp), social media fees (Meetup), purchase of materials and art supplies, and refreshments.

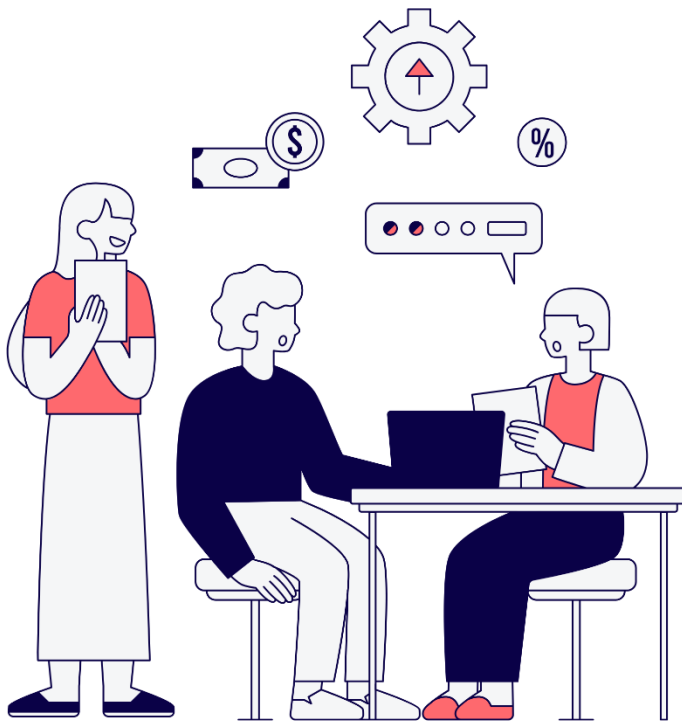


With the surplus, we continue to be able to offer low-cost classes and to purchase art supplies for use during our classes (thus enabling students to try out materials before committing to purchasing their own). We also are able to offer occasional free workshops... because who doesn't love a free, fun learning opportunity? It's a way of saying thank you to our Members!

We used our Art Assistance Fund to award requests for financial assistance, covering several applicants' annual Membership dues. We believe everyone should have access to art classes, regardless of income.

VOLUNTEERS: THANK YOU! We continued having a strong team of volunteers, including our elected officers, without whom none of the above would happen.

A special thank you to last years' Board of Directors.



Paul Clendenin, Judith Ponder, Linda Low, Nancy Erz, Mae Smith, Sallie LaValley, Lorraine Gonzalez, and Holly Vaughn served along with me on the Board in 2024, and spent countless hours behind the scenes to make this guild happen. We are committed to making the guild a place where we can come together in a positive atmosphere.

A special thanks to **Parisa Zolfaghari**, who joined the board this year when she over as Chair of Communications in '25.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our non-board volunteers.

The following people have consistently given a lot of time: **Salomeja** has been a

huge help to our Hospitality Committee, **Danielle** monitors our phone and sends out Membership Cards, **Lucy** is the backup person for the newsletter, and **Pat** assists in setup and takedown during classes.

Thank you to all of you who periodically help us out. As we look forward to 2025, we encourage you to volunteer in some capacity.

Thank you for choosing to “art journey” with us, and for your support of Portland Art Guild.

With warmest regards,

Christina Erickson
President, Portland Art Guild