

ANNUAL REPORT *2022*

 **LATITUDE Chicago**



Letter from Our Executive Director **COLLEEN KEIHM**

In March of 2012, Walker Blackwell, Victor Yañez-Lazcano, Matt Austin, Maria Hummel, Eileen Mueller and Jennifer Keats founded Latitude. They began the organization at the Carroll Building offering workstations, printers, scanners, and a residency program. The first years of the organization were typical of burgeoning nonprofits - these individuals worked hard to form a space that they loved with artists they admired offering resources they had learned in school. Jump to 2022- Latitude shares space with Filter Photo at Hubbard Street lofts, welcomes 8-10 artists in residence per year and serves 2000 individuals through film processing, DIY, and Lab services. We are a staff of 7 with 12 volunteers and a board of 8. Latitude has come a long way and it is my pleasure to serve an organization built on a commitment to education, access, and forming a thoughtful community.

2022 celebrated growth that we will strive to maintain for years to come. All staff saw wage increases thanks to support of Builder's Initiative and the Reva and David Logan Foundations. Current staff have degrees in the arts and I'm excited that Latitude can offer more competitive wages for the specialized work they do. Our dedication to improving wages has had a positive effect on staff retention therefore helping us to improve the technology and processes present at the lab. It fosters a deeper community and gives us time to dig into the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goals we've been setting since 2019. We created a new fellowship titled "Intentional Printmaking Fellowship" where a former volunteer was hired to work under Alex, our Technical Director, to learn networking, printer/scanner maintenance, and the expanding technology at the lab. I hope funding for this fellowship will continue to grow because the education this position offers is unmatched at any college or university. Latitude formalized and used a Maternity Leave policy which allowed me to take the time needed to heal and care for the newest member of my family. We fabricated a desk for a new mom to return to work that will transition into a breastfeeding and pumping station for any lab user.

Reflecting on 2022, I'm so appreciative to the Latitude community for seeing me through a major life transition. I was pregnant for the majority of 2022 and felt supported by the staff, board, and volunteers each step of the way. Through this experience we practiced accommodations for all bodies like continuing to mask for at-risk individuals, helping me load paper when I could no longer reach or lift rolls, and moving service drawers that were low so that I could continue to help with pickups. We fabricated a desk that could allow me to pump comfortably at work. These accommodations continue to be available to fellow staff, DIY lab users, volunteers and artists in residence. The desk will continue to serve as a breastfeeding and pumping station for staff or DIY users who are in need of it in the future!

I value working for an organization who makes changes that support the community as a whole. I look forward to the ways we can evolve and grow in 2023!

Colleen Keihm
Executive Director

ABOUT LATITUDE

LATITUDE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Chicago, Illinois who maintains a community digital lab with high-end scanning and printing equipment, operates an artist in residence program, and organizes regular education & arts programming. Our mission is twofold: first, to provide affordable access to high end digital equipment and a production space for the creation of artwork, while offering artists and photographers technical assistance with this production; and second, to organize a diverse range of social, academic, and professional programming dedicated to the arts, including artists' talks, workshops, reading and critique groups, print swaps, and an ongoing artist in residence program.



DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

LATITUDE is operated by a small staff and a number of volunteer Lab Assistants who receive ongoing lab access and training. The lab is an educational and arts production facility for hundreds of artists per year, and our related programming (e.g. talks, workshops, and panel discussions) attracts many more.

Method of Accounting

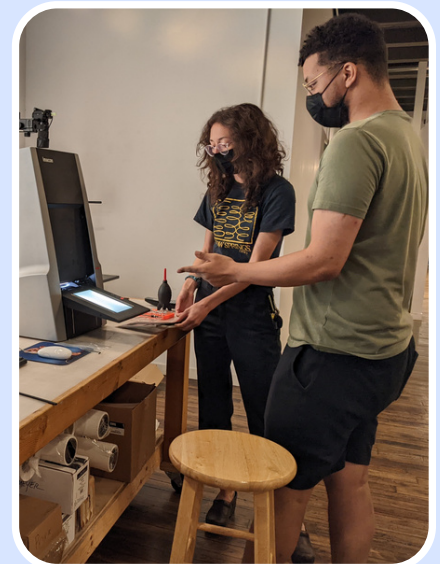
Method of Accounting: The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America.

Fundraising & Development

Fundraising and Development: In 2022, the annual in person fundraising event centered around Latitude's 10th anniversary as an organization. An event at the Chicago Art Department celebrated the opening of the gallery show curated by Asha Iman Veal of the Museum of Contemporary Photography featuring staff, volunteers, DIY lab users, Service customers and former Artists in Residence. This event raised \$7,500 through ticket sales and a Print Auction.

Revenue

Revenue: LATITUDE's income comes from Individual Contributions (9%), Foundation Contributions (18%), Government Contributions (11%), Service Bureau revenue (40%), DIY Revenue (15%) (15% decrease since 2020), and Workshop fees (5%). Individual Contributions decreased 7% in 2022 and Foundation support increased 10%. Within Government Contributions, we are proudly supported by the Illinois Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and DCASE. Foundation support comes from The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Builder's Initiative, the Reva and David Logan Foundation and the Driehaus Foundation. Service Bureau revenue includes printing and scanning for hire services. DIY revenue includes membership fees, ink costs, paper costs, and packaging fees. Workshops run monthly and the fees for each class vary based on production costs and instructor fees.



Expenses

In 2022, LATITUDE's major expenses included personnel wages (51%), benefits for full time employees (7%), rent and utilities (10%), technology costs (9%), professional fees (3%), and program expenses (15%). Professional fees include accounting services and instructor fees for workshops. Program expenses for 2022 include paper, ink costs and the fees undertaken within the artist residency program.

Property & Equipment

Property and Equipment: In 2022, Latitude purchased Mac Studio computers for all printing stations and Mac Mini computers for the V850 scanning stations. Latitude had not bought new computers for 8 years prior to this purchase. In addition, the organization received a donation from Patricia Nichol Barnes to purchase an Overhead Camera scanner with accessories. This will enable the organization to make high quality scans of reflective materials and will act as the base to build out a film scanning kit as well. At the end of 2022 an Imacon was donated. This and the camera scanner will be offered for service and DIY use by the end of the first quarter of 2023.



Notes on Financial Position

Notes on Financial Position: In 2022, Latitude saw a 52% increase in revenue as well as a 34% increase in expenses from 2021. The Service Bureau saw a 50% increase from last year and DIY production saw a 21% increase from 2021 as more safety precautions were lifted at the lab. There was a 13% decrease in individual donations compared to 2021 and saw a dramatic 150% increase with Foundation grant support. Thanks to this Foundation support Latitude was able to give wage increases in 2022 making raises available every year since 2019 despite the pandemic.

NOTES ON 2022

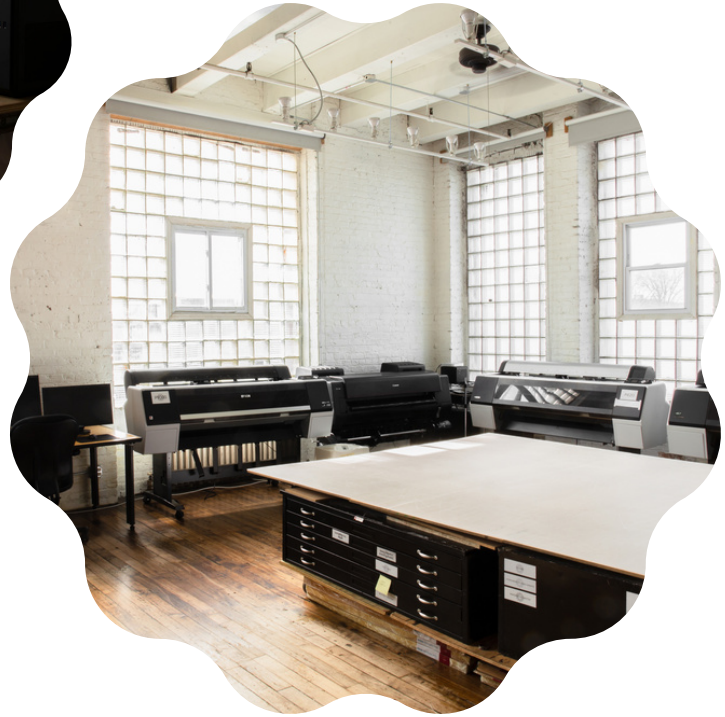


Notes on the year 2022: With the purchase of new computers for the lab, Latitude is now able to offer the most up to date versions of Photoshop, Lightroom, and Bridge to community members, artists in residence and volunteers. Understanding that eventually the drum scanners and Minilab scanners will be technology Latitude can no longer repair, the Overhead Camera Scanner is a technology that can continue updating and improving in the future. Currently it is used for reflective materials offering high resolution scans through the help of pixel stitch technology. This workstation can, in the future, offer wet mounting film scans and a film scanner feed to help ease the transition of equipment becoming extinct. After a year of developing film, Latitude also began selling film at the lab. Each roll includes development fees which, in turn, offers community members a discount on both the film and processing.

The 2022 residency roster at Latitude resulted in some exciting programming for the community. Madeline Gallucci hosted their public program in collaboration with Soho House Chicago, Jordan Martins hosted a sold out collage class that was free to participants, Chantal Lesley practiced hosting an artist talk before being a part of many artist talks in 2022, and Nyeema Morgan connected Latitude with Bomb Magazine and created a video released early in 2023.

To celebrate Latitude's 10th year as an organization, the staff was photographed by photographer and community member Jon Wes to commemorate the beginning of the year. Latitude hosted events that included a slideshow with founder Jennifer Keats, an Artist talk with Latitude's 1st resident John Neff featuring founders Walker Blackwell and Eileen Mueller, and a special "Alex After Hours" with Technical Director Alex Wieder. The celebration culminated in a show at the Chicago Art Department in November featuring the works of Lawrence Agyei, Anwulika Anigbo, Krista Franklin, Brian Gee, Stephan Goettlicher, Lauren Grudzien, Colleen Keihm, Chantal Lesley, Rachel Schafer, Ursula Sokolowska, Leonard Suryajaya, Alexa Viscius, and Reuben Wu. The show was curated by Assistant Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Photography Asha Iman Veal and was featured on CBS in November of 2022. In September of 2022 Latitude participated in MdW Assembly hosting a booth featuring the work of Kean O'Brien's "On Death and Grief" workshop participants.

Administratively, Latitude saw some exciting moments in 2022. In March, Latitude staff were invited to be Administrators in Residence at the Luminary in St. Louis. There, they connected with artists, local institutions, and learned more about the residency at the Luminary. In 2022, the lab hosted 22 different classes at Latitude. These class visits range from high schools to college go-ers and community organizations in the midwest. Latitude also hosted the residents of Chicago Art Department and the Washington Park Camera Club. Latitude created a formal contract for the Executive Director position as well as a Maternity/Paternity leave policy for the organization. Both of these items will protect and encourage growth as staff retention improves. Latitude hosted their first Holiday Print Swap since the pandemic began. There, 25 community members attended the lab with a print and left with a new piece of art!



LATITUDE CHICAGO

The LATITUDE Residency program brings 8-10 artists into the lab annually to develop and produce their projects free of charge while receiving guidance, training and support from staff and volunteers. Artists gain access to the LATITUDE community through their day-to-day interactions, studio visits, and staff supported development of a piece of free public programming. In return, artists are asked to be active as both resources and mentors to the LATITUDE community, sharing their insights and creative methods. The goal of the residency program is to further LATITUDE's mission of promoting creative collaboration between our users and the wider art and photographic communities.



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