

ANNUAL
REPORT

milestone year 2017

Dear Alumni, Supporters, Colleagues and Friends,



2017, our 44th year, was a memorable one for Maine Media Workshops + College.

On April 19, 2018, Maine Media was awarded Candidacy status by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) –a formal affiliation with the accreditation agency. With this status, we can now apply to the Department of Education to be able to process Federal Financial Aid for our students. This is a major milestone on the road to making our programs accessible to even more people from all walks of life!

Over the winter, we planned one of our most exciting programs ever for the 2018 season—with new courses in cinematography, sound design, acting, directing, editing, new writing and book arts workshops, and highly regarded new faculty teaching in our photography program. Wayne Beach, a successful screenwriter, joined us as the faculty Chair of the film program, and through his outreach, we are bringing in A-list instructors for these new courses.

We received a generous gift in 2017 from James S. and Marilyn Moss Rockefeller to build a world-class writing program here at Maine Media: The Writers Harbor™. Richard Goodman joined us this summer as Writing Faculty in Residence to help articulate the vision, design the program, recruit top-notch writers to teach, and connect with our community.

In the past year, we raised just over \$500,000 in cash and pledges towards our \$1,000,000 goal for the Keystone Fund, an operating reserve that will be essential to our achievement of accreditation, and our desire for a secure future for the school.

And we broke ground on a new dining pavilion that was just dedicated as the Thorne Dining Pavilion— a generous gift from Brink Thorne. The structure marries design, creativity, and mission in a way that will touch every student who comes here for many years to come. At the heart of our campus is the conversation over meals, the inspiration we find there, and the bonds of friendship formed that last for years.

I want to thank our board of directors for their unwavering commitment to a bright future for the school. We are also grateful for the support —of our community of students, faculty, friends, donors, and alumni that work to make this place a haven for artists, a catalyst for creativity, and a source of inspiration and transformation.



Meg Weston
President



Mike Jeans
Board Chair



The Thorne Dining Pavillion

Photo: Andrew Todd

Strategic Plan

As we look forward towards our 50th Anniversary in 2023, we envision a vibrant center of lifelong learning that is a model of innovation and inspiration in the education of visual artists and storytellers. We are growing our connection to the storytellers around the globe who have had transformative experiences at Maine Media. They are changing the way we see the world and deepening our understanding of the human experience. The extraordinary Maine Media offerings live at the forefront of innovative, alternative, experiential education in the arts. The mix of creativity, craft, and community is the essence of the Maine Media experience.

Since becoming a nonprofit in 2007, Maine Media has evolved from a “summer camp for adults” to a remarkable institution that integrates the short and long experiential programming that appeals to individuals of all ages from high school teens to adults into their ‘90s. People are inspired to return again and again (one doctor from Puerto Rico has returned every summer for more than 40 years!). Often people who have taken workshops determine they are ready for a more intense, prolonged study of filmmaking, photography, or converging forms of media arts and sign up for one of our certificate programs or apply to be a part of the MFA degree program. Their creative journeys and their stories are an essential part of what makes Maine Media such an amazing place.

Our strategic plan addresses The Workshops, The College, The Community, and Our Future with initiatives and measurable goals in each area. If you’re interested in learning more, it is on our website here at www.mainemedia.edu/about/about-us/strategic-plan-2023/,



Photo: Jennifer Hoffer

Young Artists on the breakwater in Rockland, ME during a four-week photography intensive.



“Every time I
come to Maine
Media I find
new energy and
passion for
imagemaking
and my creative
practice.”

Duncan J. Snyder,
Columbus, OH



“Over the winter, we planned one of our most exciting programs ever for the 2018 season....”

Meg Weston

4-week photography
Yos celebrating their
cyanotype



Photos: Jennifer Hoffer

Scholarships

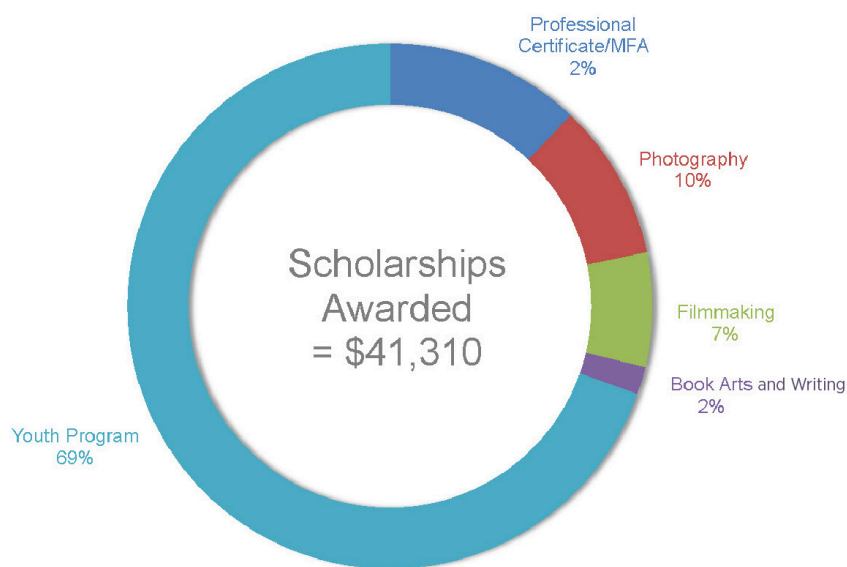
Two new scholarships were established in 2017 to allow emerging filmmakers the incredible opportunity of attending either a workshop or one of our long-term programs at Maine Media Workshops + College.

The Chris Lehman Memorial Scholarship Fund

In the summer of 2017, the MMW + C community was saddened by the loss of our friend and colleague Christopher Lehmann. A talented, Emmy Award winning filmmaker, inspiring and tireless teacher, Chris was a truly valued member of our community. Over the 7 years that Chris was affiliated with us, he taught nearly 200 students from 15 countries across the globe. Friends of Chris have established an annual memorial scholarship of up to \$1500 for budding filmmakers wishing to attend one of our outstanding filmmaking workshops or receive assistance towards the cost of the 4-week film school. This scholarship is intended to enable students who would not otherwise be able to afford the full cost of attending.

Virginia Cabot Wellington Foundation

Louis Cabot is a friend and photographer, and a member of our Tripod Society for many years. His recommendation to the Virginia Cabot Wellington Foundation allowed us to apply for a grant this year and establish a scholarship fund for aspiring filmmakers wishing to attend either the Certificate in Collaborative Filmmaking program or the MFA in Media Arts program. As MMW+C desires to diversify the student body, preference will be given to those matching those criteria.



Scholarships are important as we seek to bring more people from diverse backgrounds and those who may not have the financial means to benefit from Maine Media experience.



In the past year, we gave 21 scholarships, with two-thirds of them benefiting students in our **Young Artist** program. The average scholarship award for teens was a little more than \$2,000—representing most, but not all, of the cost of attendance for a two week workshop with room and board.

Above: Young artist in Photography Workshop

Accreditation



On April 19, 2018, the Commission on Higher Education awarded Maine Media College **Candidacy Status** in accreditation—a formal affiliation with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)—and a major milestone achievement for Maine Media.

A few facts:

Maine Media has been authorized by the State of Maine to grant the MFA degree since 1996. To date, 43 students have been awarded this terminal degree from Maine Media College.

In 2015, the Maine Media board voted to pursue regional accreditation from NEASC, a rigorous process that is expected to take eight years to complete.

Accreditation through NEASC is awarded to the institution overall, not any individual program. We believe that accreditation will help us to raise the reputation of our school, increase enrollments in our longer-term credit-bearing programs, and diversify the student body by creating more financial access.

In 2017, the school submitted a comprehensive self-study that assesses our school's ability to meet the 9 standards of accreditation, and underwent a peer review in November.

April 19, 2018, the President (Meg Weston), Vice President of Academic Affairs (Elizabeth Greenberg), and one board member (Roger Mandle) appeared before the commission to answer questions related to the self-study and peer review team report. Immediately after the hearing, we received the welcome news that the commission voted to approve the school for Candidacy status.

With this formal affiliation, we are now in the process of applying to the Department of Education to be able to process federal financial aid for students.

We will submit an interim report to NEASC in two years, and a final report in four years with another peer review before going before the Commission again.

“I am walking on air from the exhilaration of the creative learning experience at Maine Media.”

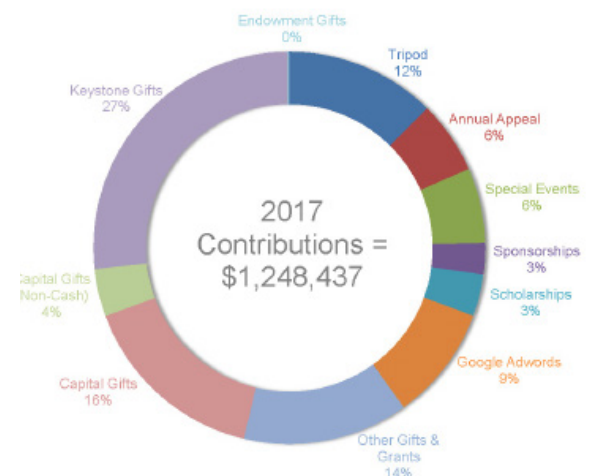
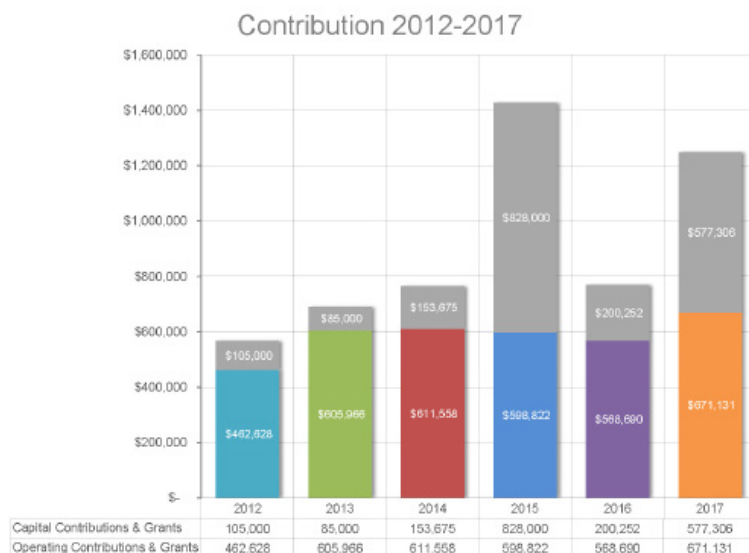
–Bob Katz, Longwood, FL

The Keystone Fund

With the help of a challenge grant, and the commitment of 100% of the Maine Media Workshops + College board members along with a few close friends of the school, in 2017 we raised over \$500,000 in cash and pledges towards our \$1,000,000 goal for the Keystone Fund.

The Keystone Fund is the cornerstone of a future growth strategy for Maine Media. The fund is necessary to achieve accreditation, a critical step toward the growth of enrollments as well as the diversity of the student body in our certificate and degree programs. It is also a critical first step in a comprehensive capital strategy for the school expanding the year-round vitality of our school.

The general purpose of the fund is to help Maine Media Workshops + College respond to varying economic conditions and changes affecting its financial position, and the ability for the school to continuously carry out its mission.



We raised \$1,248,437 in total gifts and fundraising, making 2017 our best fundraising year (excluding property donations) since becoming a non-profit in 2007.

Results + Trends

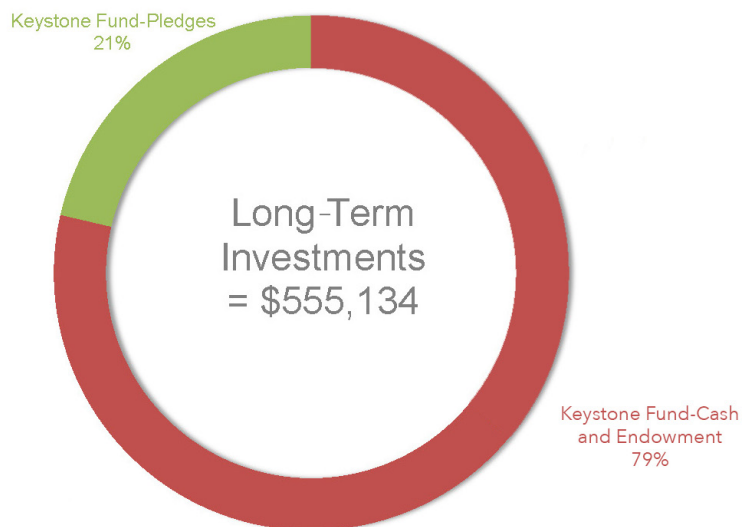
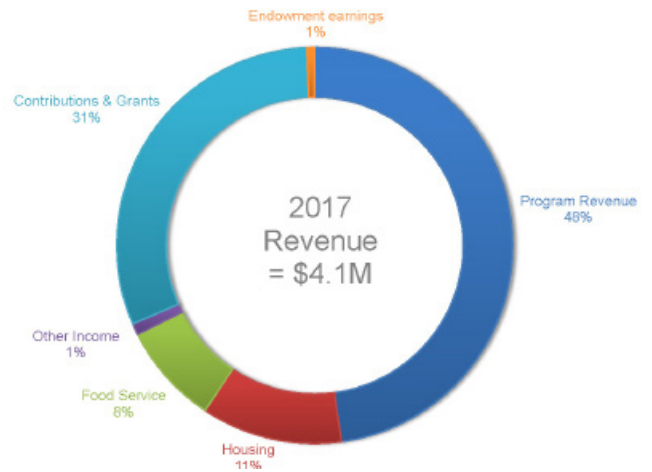
Over the past 5 years, our revenues have continued to grow. As a non-profit institution, our expenses are managed to revenues. Our ability to invest in programs, faculty, staff, technology, and facilities is dependent on income earned through tuition, housing, and food service, as well as contributions from donors.

In 2017, we met our budgetary goals through a combination of revenue generation, expense management, and exceeding our fundraising goals. Tuition and other earned income generated slightly more than 76% of our operating costs, with the balance coming from the generosity of our donors and sponsors.



With the establishment of the Keystone Fund, overall revenue increased 11% in 2017 over 2016,

Revenue, Expenses, Investments 2017



Combined, Endowment and Keystone Fund cash accounted for 79% of investments.

The Writers Harbor™

In 2017 we received a significant grant from James and Marilyn Moss Rockefeller to build a world-class writing program at Maine Media. Our school has been known for teaching the art and craft of storytelling, and writing is at the very core of storytelling in all its forms. We're excited to be able to create opportunities for writers to enhance their craft, be inspired, and find community in one of the most beautiful places in the world.

We've named the program The Writers Harbor™, a name that reflects both place and purpose: the beautiful harbor of Rockport, and a refuge away from the distractions of our busy lives. The Writers Harbor™ is a place where people can take risks, find their voice, and hone their craft in a variety of genres. The grant will fund scholarships and programs, attract high profile accomplished faculty, and help to create conducive spaces on campus for the writing classes.

“There are many talented writers in Maine, and we felt it is important to have a school with a strong writing program here as well,” said Marilyn Moss Rockefeller about the gift that she and her husband, James have committed to Maine Media Workshops + College. “We know that Maine Media attracts students from all over the world and having a world-class writing program is a natural extension of the photography and filmmaking offerings, as well as the book arts studio—the programs that the school has already successfully built here in the midcoast.”

This summer, Richard Goodman, an author and teacher of creative writing at the University of New Orleans, is here for ten weeks as writing-faculty-in-residence, helping to plan and build the future programming.

Richard Blanco, the Obama presidential inaugural poet, is teaching his week-long poetry workshop called Images and Imagination as well as a Poetry Intensive for more experienced poets to focus on their work in a blended learning format (online and in-person) that lasts six months.



Photo: Andrew Todd

The launch of The Writers Harbor will introduce the first set of very exciting workshops to come in 2019.

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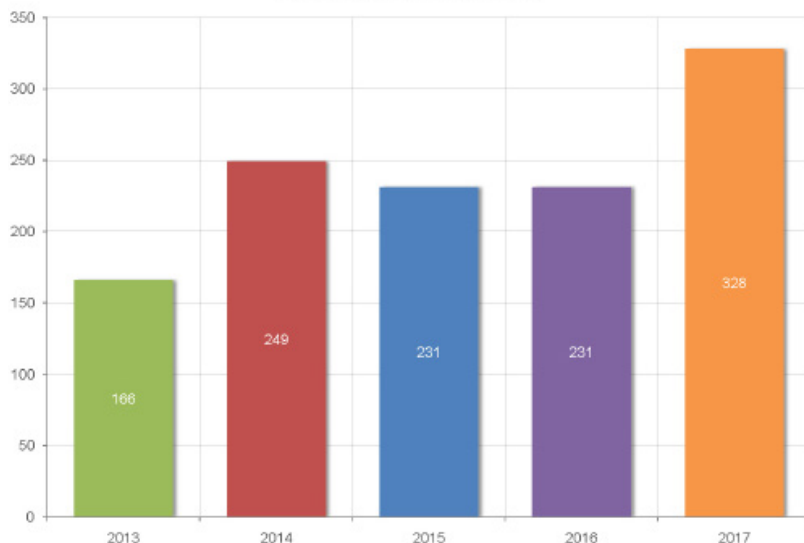
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Photo: Jennifer Hoffer

Board member Liv Rockefeller with granddaughter Haven at a Maine Media event.

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Maine Media Workshops + College educates and inspires visual artists and storytellers achieve their creative potential. We provide lifelong learning opportunities for those pursuing the fine arts and media-related professions. We are committed to fostering a diverse community that values creativity, respects culture, and seeks to deepen human understanding and expand communication in the world.

70 Camden Street Rockport, Maine 04841 207-236-8581 info@mainemedia.edu



MAINE MEDIA **WORKSHOPS+COLLEGE**