

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

2019 Annual Report

A photograph of four young people on a rocky coastline. In the foreground, a young woman with long blonde hair tied in a ponytail sits on a large rock, facing away from the camera. Behind her, another young woman sits on the same rock, looking towards the camera with a smile. To the right, a young woman with red hair stands on a higher rock, looking out at the ocean. Further right, a young man stands on the same level, holding a camera up to his eye and taking a photo. The ocean is visible in the background under a clear blue sky.

**MAINE MEDIA
WORKSHOPS
+ COLLEGE**



2019 was a noteworthy year...

A year of both accomplishment and transition. Maine Media met a number of benchmarks in annual enrollments, development and finance. The year also saw several notable events, including the retirement of Meg Weston after more than 7 years of service, the appointment of a new president and the opening of a new chapter.

Maine Media College is making great strides in our strategic plan and toward our 50th year coming in 2023. Enrollment figures were met across many programs, and our annual goal for workshop students on campus was achieved for the first time in 9 years. While work remains to build enrollments within all of our programs, this achievement should not be understated. Revenue shares between earned income and contributed revenue also largely tracked with our strategic plan, driven primarily by contributions to the Keystone Fund – a critical fundraising initiative on Maine Media’s path toward accreditation. Work remains to fulfill our commitment to the Keystone Fund, but we are on track to meet – and will perhaps beat – those ambitions by 2023.

Students and Alumni of our MFA program continued to garner national and international recognition for their work, and graduates of both certificate programs launched their careers in media arts through exciting opportunities. Maine Media sustained thriving programs in photography and filmmaking, an unparalleled book arts program and residency, and The Writer’s Harbor™, a burgeoning creative writing enterprise like no other.

While the following pages look back at the 2019 calendar year, it is written amidst the unfolding backdrop of a global pandemic and upheaval from social and political awakenings, locally and globally. It is important to note that the accomplishments of 2019 both prepared Maine Media to weather the difficulties of 2020, and set the stage for a more resilient institution quickly advancing toward the coming year through innovative online programming, an invigorated alumni network, new international audiences, and compelling opportunities on the horizon.

Michael Mansfield, *President*

Nils Tcheyan, *Chair of the Board*

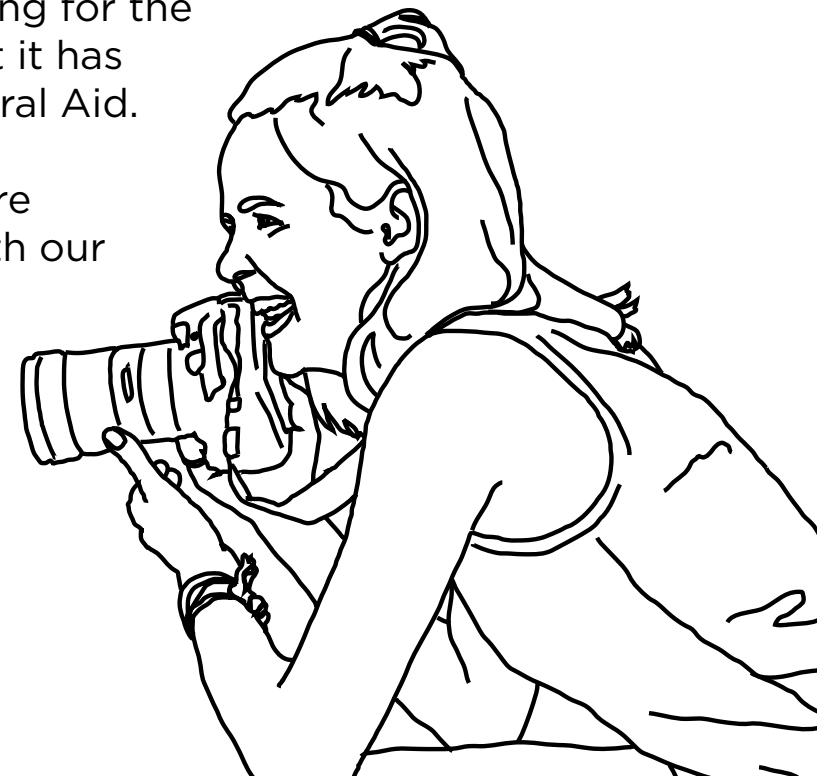
PROGRAMS/ENROLLMENTS

2019 was a robust year for Maine Media's program goals. We exceeded our projected enrollment number, welcoming a total of 1622 students in workshops, certificate and degree programs, a 19.7% increase over the previous year. Broken down, growth included 30% growth in our film program, 65% in our Book Arts, and 137% growth in the Writer's Harbor™.



In February, we were approved to offer Title IV Federal Aid for students in our Professional Certificate in Visual Storytelling and MFA degree programs. We ran the newly redesigned Certificate in Collaborative Filmmaking for the first time and are pleased to say that it has also been approved for Title IV Federal Aid.

The College's accreditation efforts are ongoing, and we remain on track with our Candidacy status with the New England Commission of Higher Education. Our next milestone in the process will be a biennial review in the Fall of 2020.

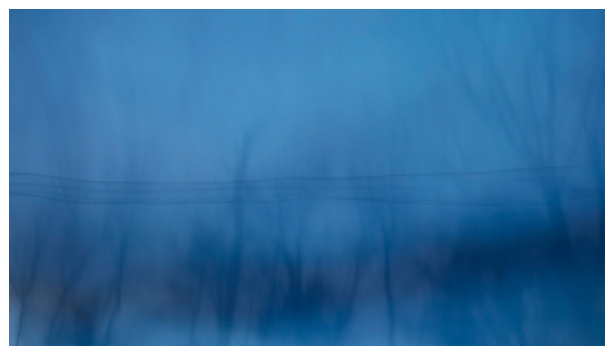


MFA

In our low-residency MFA program, we crossed the threshold of having more than 50 graduates from the program. A number of them received both national and international recognition for their work, and we are so proud of their academic, professional, and personal accomplishments.”

MFA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Susan Teare

In 2019, Susan Teare completed her MFA program with her project ***Stirring Embers***. This incorporated fine art fabrics, photographs, and drawings. Her practice of photography centers on the sensory. Since completing her program, Susan has been accepted into Lesley University’s Arts in Health Graduate Certificate program, and has started working as a Creative Advisor with the Yellow Tulip Project, a non-profit focused on ending stigma around mental health.



CERTIFICATE IN COLLABORATIVE FILMMAKING (CCF)



Maine Media’s Certificate in Collaborative Filmmaking launched in the Spring of 2019. A reimaged version of an old certificate program, the CCF program is designed to give the next generation of filmmakers the tools that they’ll need to participate in this competitive industry. In the first term, students are taught in ongoing courses by some of Maine Media’s core faculty and staff. Over the summer season, they learn alongside our workshop intensive students, giving them a chance to build industry connections, learn from myriad instructors, and develop specific skills. And for their final term, students work to synthesize their education through short film production.

In its first year, CCF was host to two talented young professionals: one an already experienced cinematographer from Thailand, and one a burgeoning artist from India. Working together on projects over the course of nine months, these two young filmmakers left the program with material for their reel and festival-ready short films.

In 2020, we migrated this program online so that filmmakers can continue to work towards a bright professional future with the support of Maine Media’s faculty and resources. In late March of 2020, CCF students were made eligible for Title IV Federal Aid, making the program even more accessible.

BOOK ARTS

Maine Media's Book Arts Studio welcomes two artists each year to complete a project through a month-long residency. In 2019, two singularly talented artists occupied this title.



BOOK ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: Emily Sheffer

A Short History of Cyanotype is a handmade book project that uses archival work, custom imagery, and the historic relationship between three figures - Henry Fox Talbot, John Herschel, and Anna Atkins - to connect their contributions to the invention of the cyanotype process. Emily Sheffer is an artist, book designer, and the founder of Dust Collective, a handmade photography book publisher.

LOCAL BOOK ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: Jim Nickelson

The Anthropocene Surveys: Annals of the Former World is a project created by blending text and photographs to imagine a hypothetical future museum exhibition in 2124. It features photographs of aspects of our own natural world that are threatened by climate change, an elegy for what we had and lost. Jim Nickelson is a fine art photographer, custom printer, and teacher.



THE ARNOLD NEWMAN PRIZE

Since 2016, Maine Media has administered the Arnold Newman Prize for New Directions in Portraiture. Generously funded by the Arnold & Augusta Newman Foundation, this award includes a \$20,000 prize and is awarded annually to a photographer whose work demonstrates a compelling new vision in photographic portraiture. 2019 marked the second year of a partnership with the Griffin Museum of Photography in Winchester, Massachusetts. Maine Media Staff has been energized by the partnership with this creative and resourceful organization.

The 2019 honoree was Louie Palu, whose series ***Arctic Passage*** discusses the intimate dynamic between Inuit communities in the high Arctic, growing militarization of the region, and our rapidly changing climate. Palu's work questions the shifting identities of Inuit people as Arctic Ice disappears. When exhibited, portraits are presented within frozen blocks of ice, which melt throughout the exhibit to reveal a permanently altered image.

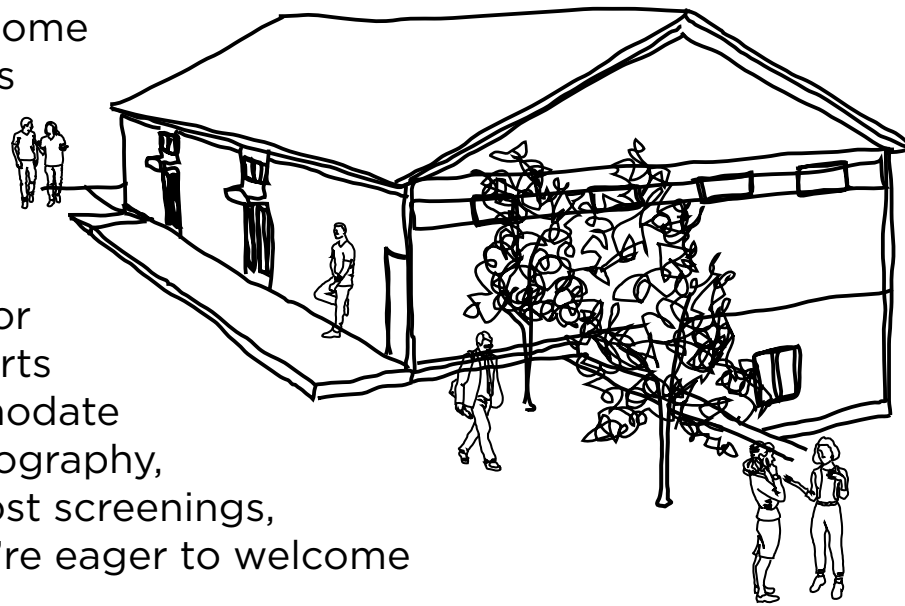
The three finalists included in the exhibit were Jess T. Dugan (***Every Breath we Drew***), Cheryle St. Onge (***Calling the Birds Home***), and Bryan Thomas (***Sunrise/Sunset***).



OUR CAMPUS



Maine Media's iconic Rockport Campus is home to an exciting new facility. Construction was approved by our Board and Maine Media broke ground in the fall of 2019. The new facility features flexible classroom space for our students, as well as administrative offices for staff and a consolidated space for IT needs. Purpose-built to facilitate visual arts education, flexible classrooms can accommodate Maine Media's innovative programs in photography, filmmaking and screenwriting, as well as host screenings, and live-stream lectures and symposia. We're eager to welcome students to this new creative space.



TRIPOD SOCIETY

The Tripod Society is composed of Maine Media's most generous donors and supporters – a close-knit community of image makers and art lovers brought together by their commitment to advance photography, media art and the college. Their generosity helps us implement Maine Media's mission and shape its vision. Unrestricted contributions from members of the society fund urgent and prioritized initiatives at Maine Media, from programs, symposia and lectures, to residencies, scholarship programs and capital projects.

Tripod Society meets regularly at events hosted by Maine Media throughout each year. In 2019, Maine Media organized three Tripod Society experiences, including a pilgrimage to North Haven for a farm-to-table dinner at Turner Farm, and a trip to Holbrook Island and Castine, enjoying a picnic lunch and time on the water. In October, the group joined to celebrate a special tradition – a members presentation – where Tripod members share their creativity and works in progress with the rest of the Society. This presentation was hosted by Tripod Society Co-chair Julie Cawley, who sadly passed away in June of 2020. Julie served alongside Phil Lewis as Co-Chair of the Tripod Society for many years and was a central figure in its formation. She is greatly missed.

If you are interested in contributing to Maine Media Workshops at the Tripod Society level, please reach out to us by emailing tripodsociety@mainemedia.edu to get a conversation started!



SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

In 2019, thirty-three students received scholarship support for a workshop, certificate, or degree program on Maine Media's campus. These students explored black and white photography, nonfiction filmmaking, autobiographical writing, and so much more.

In honor of her retirement from her leadership position at Maine Media, the Board of Directors instituted the **Meg Weston Scholarship**. Meg shepherded Maine Media into its modern era with imagination and thoughtful leadership. This extension of the Maine Media General Scholarship fund fully supports one student each year for a one-week, on-campus workshop.



SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT: Robbin Gheesling

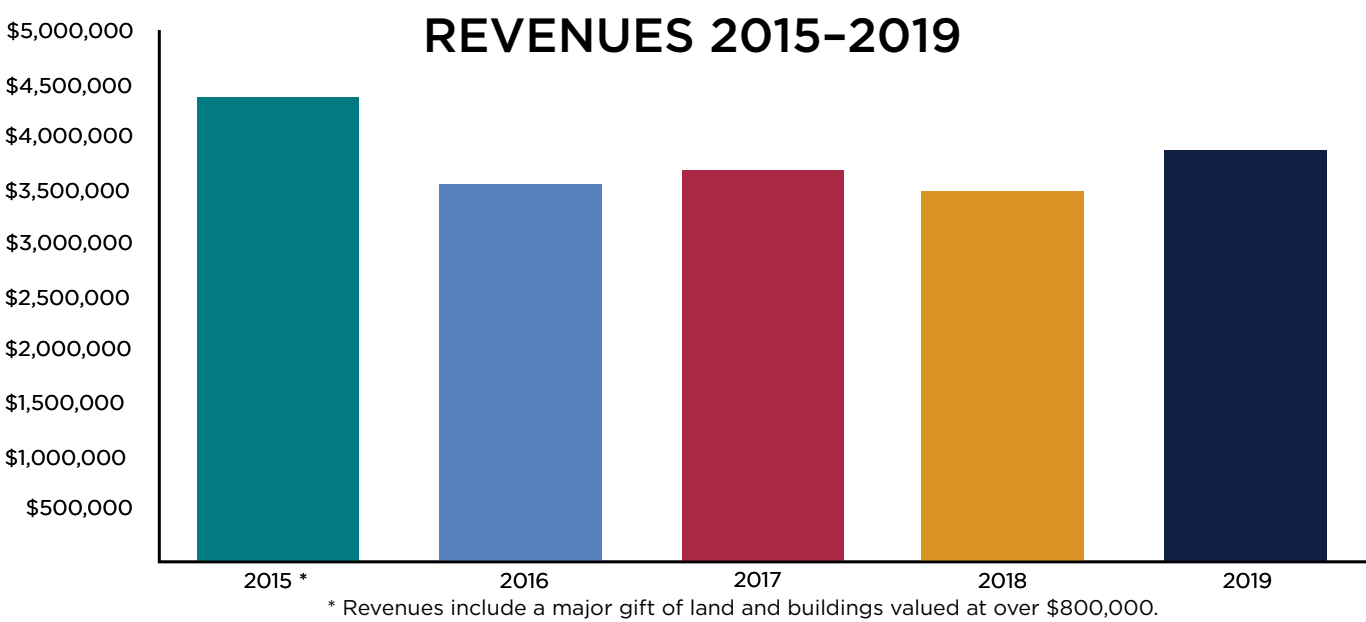


Robbin is a true renaissance woman, and attended her first two workshops at Maine Media over the summer of 2019. She spent the first fifteen years of her career as a sound engineer in the music industry, before pivoting and making her love of wine her full time profession. While studying in Italy, Robbin discovered Florentine “Wine Doors,” a symbol of the disconnection between Modern and Renaissance Italian culture, and started a street photography project centered around these artifacts.

She discovered Maine Media while looking for a photography workshop, but then saw something that got the gears in her mind spinning. “I saw Book Arts, and I thought, ‘this needs to get off the hard drive. This is what I’ve got to do.’” She enrolled in a two-week workshop led by Elliott Dudik, where she trimmed her 5000 image project into an 88 image hand made book.

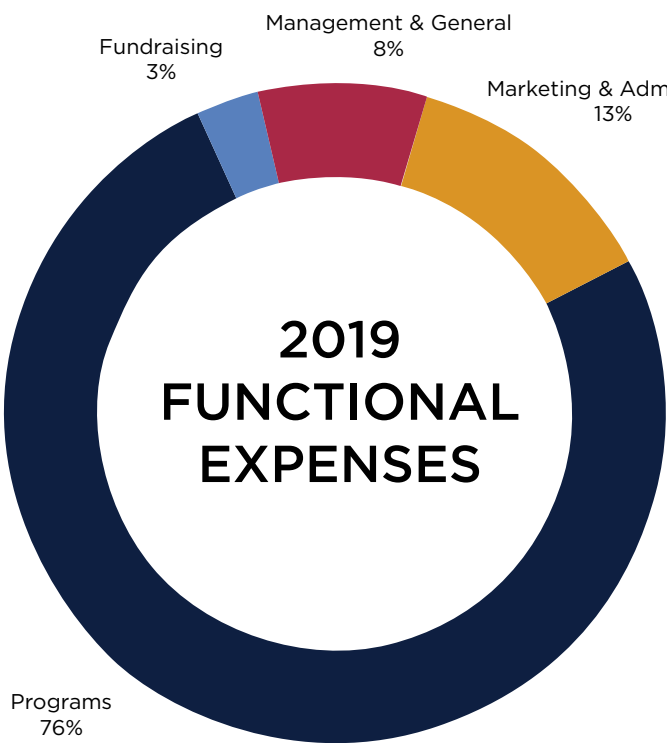
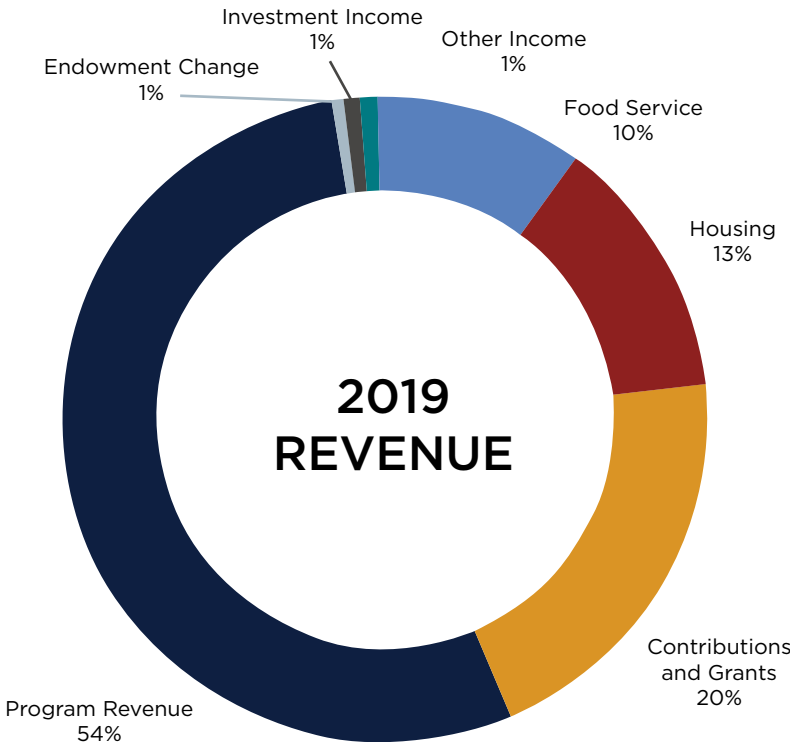
RESULTS

Our “earned” revenues come from tuitions, fees, housing, and meals alongside “contributed” revenues from grants and gifts, both unrestricted and those designated for specific purposes. The fluctuations in revenues from year to year relates to specific philanthropically funded projects that take place in any given year.



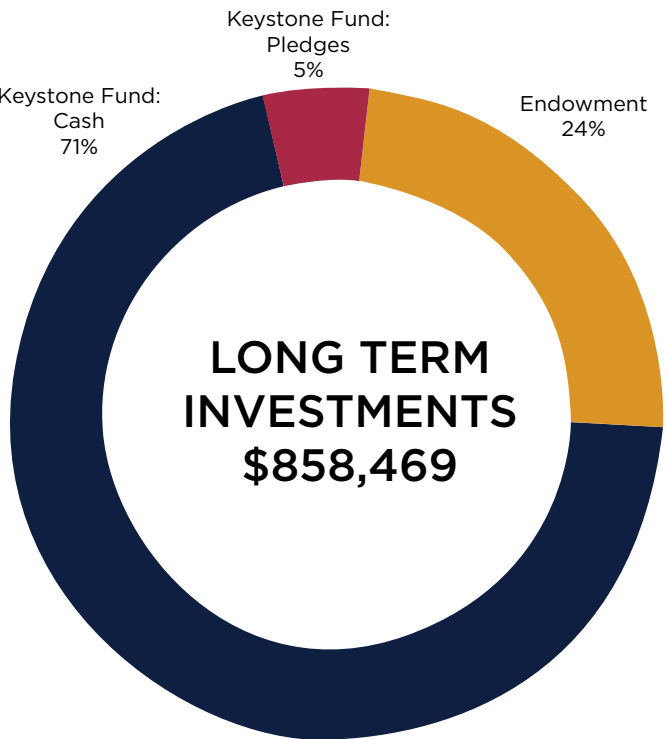
Although Contributions and Grants represented about 20% of 2019’s \$4.1M in revenue, it was slightly less than 2018 overall % due to an increase in program revenues. 2018 also included the final payment of a long term gallery grant.

Our long-term Investments are related to securing the future of the school through endowments and an operating reserve fund, The Keystone Fund.



Our Workshops program revenues come mostly from our photo and filmmaking workshops with smaller amounts from other areas such as Young Artists, Book Arts, Writing and Travel. Our college programs include the Professional Certificate in Visual Storytelling and the MFA program with 25 students.

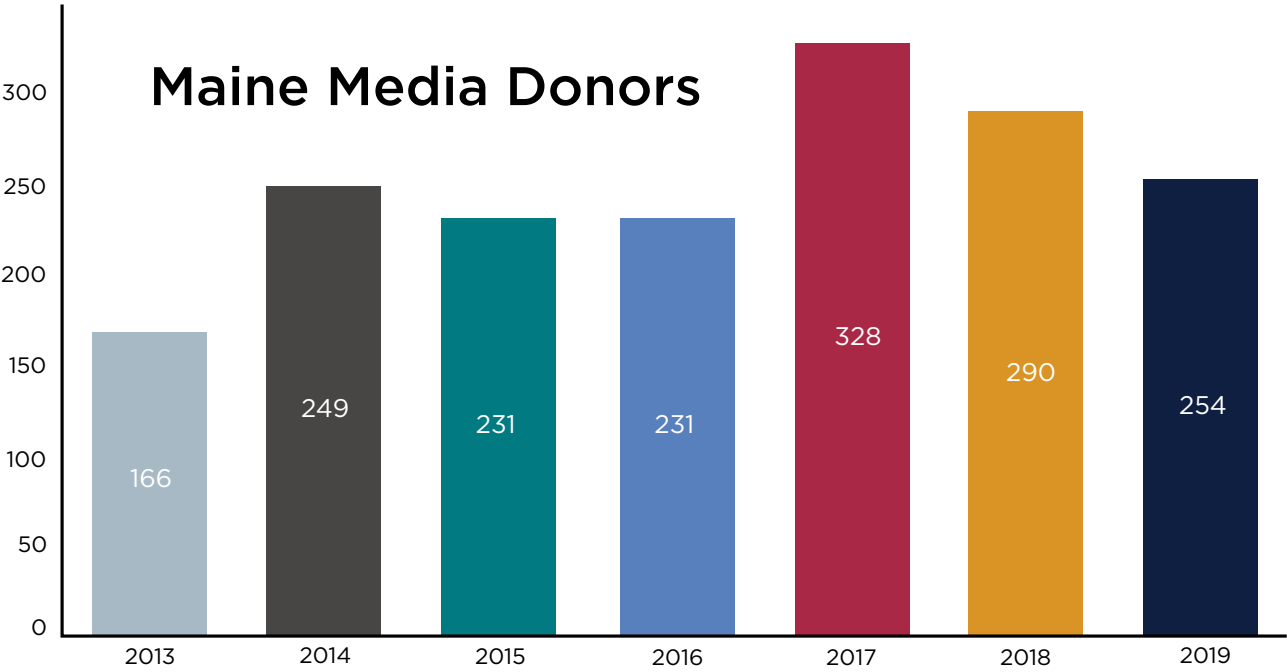
In 2019, we ran the Certificate in Collaborative Filmmaking (CCF) for the first time, bringing aspiring filmmakers to campus from March to November for a ten-week term of foundational classes, ten weeks in the summer of great hands-on experience in cinematography, directing, editing and/or post production, and a 10-week project in the fall of producing their own films. Our college programs represent about 14% of our revenues today, with projections to grow to 20% or more over the next few years.



Special thanks to our incredible students, donors, staff, Alumni and community members. We look forward to a bright and imaginative future.

DONORS

Your sustained support makes Maine Media possible.



With a major capital gift to build the Thorne Dining Pavilion, along with the initial establishment of the Key-stone Fund for the secure future of the school, 2017 gifts were greater than fundraising in the 2018 year. In 2017 Chris Lehmann, a beloved teacher at Maine Media, passed away and a scholarship was established, bringing in contributions from many friends of Chris to honor his memory.

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Maine Media Workshops + College educates and inspires visual artists and storytellers to 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.

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70 Camden St, Rockport, ME 04843
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