

BCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

BCA Studios, 405 Pine Street

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Board Members Present: Michelle Buswell, Robin Pierce, David Zacharis, Billi Gosh, Dana vanderHeyden, Rachel Kahn-Fogel, Deb Wilkinson, Lisa Lillibridge, Parker Silver, Barbara Perry, Laura McDonough.

ONLINE: Kristina Pentek, Ryan Moritz, Hannah Lebel, Lori Rowe, Livia DeMarchis, Kelly Butts-Spirito

Staff present: Doreen Kraft, Sara Katz, Heather Ferrell, Joyce Cameron, Melissa Steady, Rachel Zelle, Meara McGinniss

Sarah Rogers called the meeting to order at 3:10.

1. Parker Silver moved to accept the minutes from the November meeting, Michelle Buswell seconded. All were in favor.
2. Michelle Buswell moved to accept the agenda, Lisa Lillibridge seconded. All were in favor.
3. Directors Report: Doreen Kraft asked Barbara Perry to highlight her director's report. Barbara discussed successes in fundraising and encouraged the board to spread the word about available rentals in the Community Room. Sara Katz updated on the HVAC repairs at the BCA Center, which will result in staff largely relocating to 405 Pine Street for the duration of the work, which will be about 8 weeks. The spring exhibition opening has been pushed to March 20 because of the work. Because the city owns the building, all repairs are managed and paid for by the city capital improvements program. Sara reiterated the details of the BCA Center's 50-year lease agreement that ensures the building's use as a community art center, signed in 2001, wherein the BCAF leases the building for \$1 a year. Lori Rowe asked about the marketing strategy for rentals in the Community Room. Elena described the advertising strategy on a local and more targeted level. Kelly Butts-Spirito suggested partnerships with younger presenting groups might increase visibility on social media. Barbara Perry suggested offering the community room to the NPAs for a reduced rate, in order to welcome more of the community in. Laura McDonough suggested reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce.
4. Michelle Buswell, Treasurer, gave the financial report. She reminded the board that the city only funds 40% of our budget, with the remaining 60% in needing to be raised through fundraising and revenue streams. Class registration and studio revenue is on target for the goals for the year. To reach the budget goal \$220,000 needs to be raised, compared with this time last year when the gulf was \$100,000.
Michele named three areas for board members to focus on: come to BCA programs, bring people with you, and brainstorm new corporate partners. There is nothing not to love about BCA! Joyce Cameron addressed corporate fundraising and passed out a list of current corporate funders for board members to review. If board members have ideas for new corporate partnerships, they should reach out to the fundraising team.

5. Joyce gave the fundraising update. The year-end appeal did really well, picked up 40 new donors because of a mailing list gleaned from the grand list. The retention rate of donors was good. BCA received several unexpected major gifts in December, increasing the average end of year gift amount to double what it was last year. She announced that a committee has formed to work on organizing the annual fundraiser this spring, the budgeted goal is \$65,000 but Joyce is hoping to raise \$100,000.
6. FY27 Budget Update-Doreen Kraft explained the current challenges faced by the city in terms of budgeting. BCA is trying to be part of the solution while retaining the core values of the organization. Doreen and Sara welcome any feedback, especially feedback from the community. Deb Wilkinson brought up the supply wish list created with the Ed team, as way to alleviate budget anxiety. Sarah Rogers encouraged the board to bring those donations to the next board meeting.
7. 405 Update-Doreen updated the board on the progress of the capital campaign and some upcoming deadlines. The BCAF board is drawing up a draft condo agreement and looking for possible buyers for the north side of the building. State approval for final environmental site-work has come through.
8. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee Reports-The executive committee is reviewing the board manual and creating a shorter bulleted list of important info for board members.
 - b. Communications and development ad-hoc committee. The committee is working with the communications department to make buttons that "Ask me about BCA!". Board bios need to be updated and put on the website. Elena Rosen discussed the difficulty of measuring the success of an awareness campaign.
 - c. Lori Rowe reported from the Education group. The group met with the staff who discussed budget anxieties. Deb Wilkinson spoke on behalf of Art from the Heart and the usefulness of the "Ask me about BCA" buttons at the hospital and making sure that BCA is part of people's awareness of AFTH. Barbara Perry spoke about the hospital board and the lack of awareness of Art from the Heart. Dana vanderHeyden spoke about a recent experience at the hospital with staff loving the new artwork.
 - d. Hannah Lebel reported from the events committee-they are working on the same projects as before the pause for the holidays.
 - e. Sarah discussed the exhibition committee, which is the same as the regular exhibition committee, and not an ad-hoc committee.

Sarah Rogers thanked the committees and announced that the ad-hoc committee structure will continue for now.

6. Update from the Curator. Heather Ferrell encouraged board members to come to the BCA Center to enjoy the last few days of the current exhibition. She outlined the coming exhibitions (see attached), including Human Impact (focusing on the climate), a sculpture show curated by Jacquie O'Brien, Veronica Pham (summer), Dark Botanica (fall), and Laurent Gresso (spring 2027)

Sarah Rogers challenged board members to coordinate a small private gallery tour with Heather. Lisa Lillibridge volunteered.

7. Parker Silver moved to adjourn, Laura McDonough seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:44.

BCA

Human Impact
Contemporary Art and Our Environment

March 13 – June 20, 2026

Human Impact focuses on the pressing issues facing the natural environment of New England, and our global world.

The exhibit examines our shifting perspectives and connection with the land during a time of dramatic change and development.

Probing complex environmental, social, political, and economic issues entwined with our shared ecology, the artworks in *Human Impact* reveal our ever-evolving connection to – and power over – our natural environment.



Adriane Colburn, *Right Angle*, (left) 2024, steam-bend ash sculpture; Unknown wall-mounted sculpture, (right) 2023



Artists

Confirmed:

Renée Greenlee (VT)

Sallie Dean Shatz (UT)

Nicolei Buendia Gupit (VT)

Diane Burko (PA)

Rebecca McGee Tuck (MA)

Kari Greer (ID)

Adriane Colburn (NY/VT)

John Gerrard (Ire)

Human Impact is curated by BCA Curator Heather Ferrell

Rebecca McGee Tuck, representative image, 2020-2021, multimedia wall sculpture from reclaimed materials

Goals:

- Raise awareness of ongoing issues surrounding human impact on environment and connect the local to global.
- Offer programming with community partners that creates a space for advocacy and activism on environmental initiatives in Vermont.
- Align with one of BTV Mayor's top 3 goals: Citywide Climate Strategy, and Core Value of Community Engagement.
- Curate a relevant exhibition, and one that serves K-12 educators, builds our tour program.



Kari Greer, representative image, photographic print

BCA

*Sculptural Ideas:
Line, Color, and Form*

March 13 – June 20, 2026

Sculptural Ideas: Line, Color and Form is about the careful interaction between three major art making elements in sculpture: line, color and form.

Featuring two regional artists the exhibit seeks to close the gap between looking and understanding when interacting with contemporary sculpture.

Lee Williams – Shaftsbury, VT
Cathy Della Lucia – Boston, MA

Sculptural Ideas is curated by BCA Curatorial Asst/Gallery Coord. Jacquie O'Brien



Cathy Della Lucia, *Give Me Gravy Tonight*, 2024

Key Ideas

Foundational art elements, **line, color and form**, influence the composition of sculpture and how we see it in an idiosyncratic way.

Sculpture shares physical space with the viewer in both passive and activated ways – engaging with our subconscious while using certain tools to help in these somatic responses.

These essential elements communicate gesture, scale or motion. While they seem basic, they often carry bigger implications about the intent of the artist or the effects of the work on the viewer.



Lee Williams, representative image, artist studio

Goals:

- Spotlight the impact that sculptural art that occupies physical space has on the viewer, both consciously and unconsciously.
- Share key aspects of artist practice and the wide array it can materialize in.
- Connect the action of looking with the concept of understanding ones immediate environment in a thoughtful and relatable way.



Lee Williams, representative image, (left), Cathy Della Lucia, *Pumpkin Keeper*, (right)

Exhibit Programs

Artist Reception and Teachers' Night Out (TBD)

Friday, March 20, 2026 4-5pm and 5-7pm

Artist Talk: Lee Williams

Thursday, March 26, 2026, 6pm

Artist Panel: Human Impact

Thursday, April 9 2026, 6pm

Collaborative Program: Middlebury students

April-May Date TBD

Family Art Saturday

Fourth Saturday of each month
March-April-May-June

Programmatic Partnerships:

Middlebury College, University of Vermont,
Burlington Electric Department



Sallie Dean Shatz, *Learning Humility from a Dying Lake*, ongoing, photographic print

BCA

Preview:

Summer-Fall 2026 and Spring 2027

Veronica Pham

July 10 – September 12, 2026

2nd Floor Roth

Veronica Pham works primarily in papermaking and fiber arts.

Her work focuses on traditional craft specific to Vietnamese and Chinese histories – such as papermaking and net weaving.

Through her work she explores ideas of process, generational knowledge, cultural heritage, and questions of identity.



Veronica Pham, MFA Exhibit, , The Line Along the Knot, University of Wisconsin, Madison, April 2024

Dark Botanica

September 25, 2026 –January 23, 2027

First Floor

Dark Botanica includes group of contemporary artists who reimagine the depiction of flowers in visual culture. Long associated with beauty, fragility, romance, and the decorative, floral imagery has emerged as a popular theme in contemporary art.

In *Dark Botanica* flowers are transformed from ornamental depictions of the natural world to something more ambiguous, evocative, and strange. In *Dark Botanica* artists employ floral forms to examine themes of desire, mortality, transformation, and crisis.



(L) Sage Tucker-Ketcham, *Untitled*, 2024 and (R) Mat Collishaw, *Untitled*, *Alluvian* series, 2023

Laurent Grasso

ARTIFICIALIS

February 5 –May 8, 2027

French artist, Laurent Grasso, creates work that interrogates the line between temporalities, combining historical references and futurism to create new, ambiguous, realities.

ARTIFICIALIS examines how 21st-century explorers document the world using modern tools, merging real and virtual worlds to envision the future. Grasso generates images that blur reality, nature, and artifice.

ARTIFICIALIS is presented in conjunction with Grasso's MASS MoCA exhibit, *Metaphysical Maze*, Nov. 7, 2026 – Jan. 16, 2028.



Laurent Grasso, *ARTIFICIALIS*, 2021, film still