

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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STEEL YARD UNVEILS PLANS FOR ANOTHER 100 YEARS OF INDUSTRIAL ARTS

July 26, 2018 - On Thursday, July 26th the Steel Yard unveiled plans for a \$2.7 million dollar restoration and renovation of their 12,000 square foot industrial arts studio. Located in Providence, the century-old facility operated as Providence Steel and Iron until its founding as the Steel Yard in 2002. The non-profit's professional workspace enables community access to equipment for welding, blacksmithing, jewelry, ceramics, woodworking and the foundry arts.

Designed by the award-winning KITE Architects, renovations to the facility will directly address community needs. From basics such as installing heat and replacing a circa-1920's electrical system to the integration of solar power and the construction of a modern multi-purpose community space, the Steel Yard will be open year round, adding 4 months of operations to each year.

In 2016 and 2017 the Steel Yard reached capacity in nearly all of their programs. Recognizing that their ability to fulfill their mission was directly linked to the condition of their site, the RI State Council on the Arts, the City of Providence, foundations and individual donors invested in the project. With \$1.8 million raised towards the \$2.7 million goal, the Steel Yard will break ground on studio renovations in November 2018.

The Steel Yard is an award-winning industrial arts center and Providence's largest and most unique private outdoor venue. The 3.8-acre campus and studio, located in Providence's Industrial Valley, is a cultural asset that serves as a sponsor and catalyst for innovative approaches to urban revitalization, arts promotion, workforce development, and community growth. The facilities at the Yard are a vital component in the careers of hundreds of independent crafts people and entrepreneurs who would not otherwise have the ability to scale their businesses or perfect their crafts, and also provide space for educators to teach their students new skills in a creative and communal environment. Over the last 10+ years, the Steel Yard has been integral to the arts community in Rhode Island by creating a shared professional workspace, introducing thousands of individuals to the industrial arts, and a creating a broader definition of public art.

Mission: The Steel Yard's historic campus is a platform for professional artists, makers and the community to practice and learn the industrial arts. The organization fosters creative and economic opportunities by providing workspace, tools, training and education, while forging lasting links to a local tradition of craftsmanship.

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SUPER STUDIO

THE STEEL YARD PLANS FOR ANOTHER 100 YEARS OF INDUSTRIAL ARTS

The Steel Yard - At a Glance

The Steel Yard is a non-profit industrial arts organization in Providence, RI. Our professional workspace enables community access to equipment for welding, blacksmithing, jewelry, ceramics, woodworking and the foundry arts.

- More than 500 students attend free or subsidized courses annually
- Over 1,461 paid teaching hours provided for working artists each year
- Weld-to-Work, our creative job-readiness training, provides practical and creative skills to Rhode Island's chronically underemployed
- 10,000 or more people attend cultural events at the Steel Yard each year
- Dozens of public art projects produced annually add up to hundreds of installations across Southern New England
- It is estimated that over 500,000 people see the Steel Yard's public art installations every day!

In 2016 and 2017 the Steel Yard reached capacity in nearly all of our programs. We had just about as many students, event attendees, free tours, public project commissions, residents and workforce trainees as the shops could accommodate. Our ability to fulfill our mission is linked to the condition of our site and resources.

Super Studio - Much needed capacity

Planned renovations to the facility will address community needs head on through expanded and efficiently designed studios. The addition of heat and ventilation where there is currently none will enable an additional four months of operating. This will increase the quality of every Steel Yard program and project with cleaner, safer and fully ADA accessible facilities and an overall gain of 35% capacity across the organization!

The award-winning KITE Architects has developed a design that will deliver exactly what the community needs to keep working, learning and practicing the industrial arts.

Increased Capacity

The Steel Yard's workforce training programs, award winning industrial arts courses, residencies and community open studio access will maximize the impact of nearly 1,800 hours of additional shop time annually in an efficient, insulated and heated facility.

- 240 additional hours of paid training programs for low-income Rhode Islanders
- 150 additional annual course registrations
- 450 more paid teaching hours for working artists
- 30 – 50 new youth participants through school partnerships

Greater Accessibility

Industrial art enthusiasts, students, hobbyists, event attendees and tour groups of all ages will enjoy upgraded facilities to participate in all of our programs safely.

- New ADA Restrooms available to everyone, year-round, supporting students, teachers and program participants with special needs
- New classroom for community talks, gatherings and workshops, including OSHA Trainings, neighborhood meetings, job fairs, polling for local elections, student art shows and more!
- Upgraded safety, heat and ventilation for the comfort of diverse audiences

Commitment to the Environment

The Steel Yard is ready to do our part with an improved facility that will reinforce our commitment to a climate-prepared neighborhood that is ready to meet the challenges of the future.

- 40 KW solar array will feed back into the grid
- Complete restoration of the historic electrical system circa 1920's
- 400 sf of asbestos containing materials will be permanently removed
- Repair and replacement of thousands of square feet of windows, retaining the natural light that everyone can appreciate

Economic Stimulus

Access to industrial space for artists is an important indicator of the economic health of our community.

- \$183,000 additional annual economic activity, comprised of
 - \$100,000 new purchasing of goods from other local businesses
 - \$8,800 new trainee stipends for extreme-to-moderate low-income Rhode Islanders
 - \$20,000 in new operating cost
 - \$40,000 added payments to teachers, fabricators and public-artists

Historic Restoration

The Steel Yard's campus is on the National Register of Historic Places, a living example of Rhode Island's industrial heritage.

- 20,000 sf of restored historic facades including steel and masonry walls, roofs and doors
- 2,000 sf of historic windows to be restored and repurposed
- 10,000 additional visitors every year will learn about the site's history from permanent displays about labor and industry in Providence on multi-lingual signs across the site

Mission

The Steel Yard's historic campus is a platform for professional artists, makers and the community to practice and learn the industrial arts. The organization fosters creative and economic opportunities, by providing workspace, tools, training and education, while forging lasting links to a local tradition of craftsmanship.

Vision

We believe in a world still made by hands, where individuals, neighbors, businesses, institutions, municipalities and communities come together to experience the creative process in order to enrich our private lives and public spaces.

Community Impacts

The Steel Yard is an award-winning industrial arts center, a manufacturer of custom and functional public art, a craft school, shared studio, and Providence's most unique private outdoor venue. Our 3. acre campus and 12,000 sf studio are located on the National Historic Register former home of [Providence Steel and Iron](#), in Providence's Industrial Valley.

Community members of all ages and abilities rely on the Steel Yard to practice their craft, gain experience and knowledge and launch their businesses.

Programs

[Open Enrollment Courses](#) provide arts education and practical training while connecting people to the fundamental skills and techniques used in an industrial shop. These courses are open to the public for ages 15 and up, with subsidized tuition and need-based scholarships available. These courses have been widely recognized for their unique blend of technical and creative skill building.

The [Public Projects Department](#) creates commissioned one-of-a-kind functional public-art projects and works closely with artists in communities throughout Southern New England. The program has gained National Recognition as a model that combines the personal expression of artists and community placemaking with economic *and* cultural outcomes. Locally commissioned work allows the Steel Yard to pay artists and fabricators while providing vital amenities such as bike racks, trash cans, benches and public art throughout New England.

[Workforce Training Programs](#) serve under-employed Rhode Islanders living at or below the federal poverty line with access to education, training and facilities to practice the industrial arts. Our flagship training, Weld-to-Work, combines the creative curriculum of our community courses with public-art fabrication and installations. Weld-to-Work transforms participants from those who typically receive services to being able to give back to their community. Weld-to-Work graduates go on to work in

manufacturing/industrial jobs with many returning to the Yard for Public Project commission or work as Teaching Assistants.

[Cultural Events](#), both public and private, support our mission by utilizing our nearly two-acre inner campus as a venue to combine the industrial arts with community building activities. Revenue generated from site rentals helps support facility maintenance while welcoming the community. The Steel Yard's own fundraiser events play an important role in public education by introducing audiences of all ages to the industrial arts through free and low-cost demonstrations and hands on activities throughout the year.

[Residencies](#) in Ceramics, Metals, and Jewelry provide resources and space for artists to gain access to our equipment and materials and become leaders in the creative community. The program is designed to assist emerging to mid-level artists in growing and strengthening their art practice in a supportive, cooperative environment through access to the Steel Yard's studios and facilities. Participating artists have the opportunity to work together, to take part in community events and sales and to be creative leaders in a vibrant community shop.

[Special Programs](#) allow the Steel Yard to extend the educational expertise of the community to partner organizations who bring their constituents, students and/or employees for team building and technical training programs in any of the studios.

[Volunteers](#) at the Steel Yard are engaged with the Yard at every level of operations from corporate and professional coaching to site maintenance and preparations. Teams collaborate to produce elements for spectacular fundraiser events and community-built infrastructure across the site. Volunteers learn through mentorship and shared purpose while preserving the Yard for the community.

[Small Business Incubation](#) in The Steel Yard's office building, where creative businesses enjoy below market rent and many other benefits of co-locating at the Yard (current tenants include a timber frame engineering firm, a sewing studio and a youth craft program)

[Open Studio Hours](#) allow artists to rent space and time to develop and complete their projects. There are no private studios at the Steel Yard, but spaces within the shop can be rented by the day or up to three months through micro-residencies while outdoor spaces can be utilized to realize large scale projects.

[The RISD/Steel Yard - Kiln Yard](#) is a community resource shared between institutions and intentionally designed to bring together art students, community artists and Steel Yard residents for the pursuit of new and traditional ceramic kiln design and experimentation.

Rudy Bruner Report for Urban Excellence

For more Information on the Steel Yard's Programs and History [Download this Report](#) from the Rudy Bruner Awards For Urban Excellence
<http://www.thesteelyard.org/documents/ch4sm-pdf.pdf>

Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

State Announces \$4.6 million in Capital Grants for Arts, Culture, Heritage, and Public Historic Sites. The Steel Yard to be awarded \$300,000. January 9, 2018.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3pREu543YbYODUweWF0alp6ZGFtUndKZkZLNWJoZlI3ZkRv/view>

Providence Business News

The Steel Yard's Weld to Work and Public Projects department featured in the 2017 Annual PBN Giving Guide

<http://thesteelyard.org/documents/givingguide2017-web-pdf.pdf>

Take Magazine

Take Magazine wrote an article about what we do here at the Yard and who our shop services in our community. To read all about it, click here [Take Magazine covers the Steel Yard](#) (pdf)

<http://thesteelyard.org/documents/take-magazine-covers-the-steel-yard-pdf.pdf>

The Steel Yard Logos

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZD7c5ZBzfnB5HWiq9>

The Steel Yard Photos

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/QESXkQgyRBSkeN5i8>

#

super studio

Summary of Sources and Uses

\$2.7
Million

USES

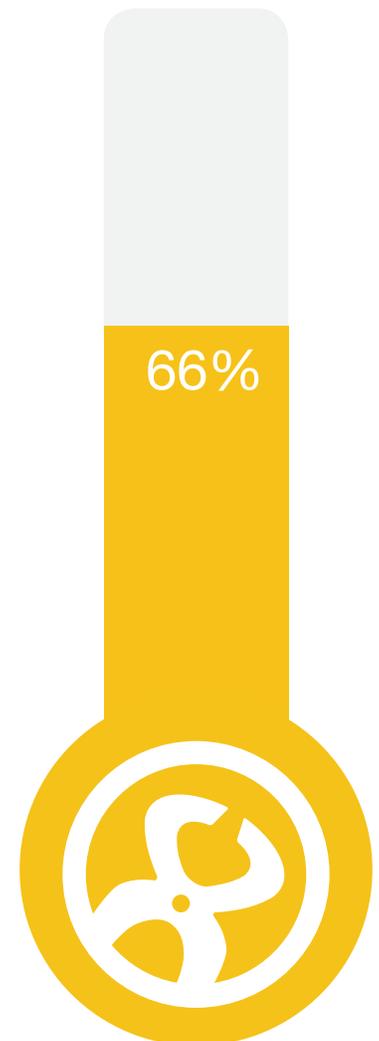
Design and planning	\$150,000
Construction labor and materials	\$1,682,000
Solar Panels	\$220,000
General development costs (All soft costs)	\$373,000
Reserve and Operations	\$370,000

Total
\$2,795,000

SOURCES

Public Sector	\$450,000
Foundations and Corporate	\$660,000
Private Philanthropy	\$1,515,000
Financing	\$170,000

TOTAL
\$2,795,000





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THE STEEL YARD UNVEILS PLANS FOR ANOTHER 100 YEARS

Super Studio Capital Campaign Committee

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Nicolas Bauta

Joseph A. Chazan, MD

Peter & Lucia Gill Case

Nat Harris

Dan Levinson

Manya K. Rubinstein

Supporters

As of 7/26/2018

RI State Council on the Arts, Cultural Facilities Bond

The Champlin Foundation

City of Providence, Department of Planning & Development
(Community Development Block Grant)

The Nordson Foundation

1772 Foundation

City of Providence Councilwoman Sabina Matos, Ward 15

The Foundry Associates

KITE Architects

Tellart

Exnihilo

JCM Display

** Numerous individual donors have contributed to this project.
Their names will be published at a later date.

SuperStudio Campaign Committee: Clay Rockefeller, Committee Chair, Jennifer Carnevale, Board Chair
Nicolas Bauta, Joseph A Chazan MD, Peter & Lucia Gill Case, Nat Harris, Dan Levinson, Manya K. Rubinstein