Dear Friends,

On January 1, 2015 Marwen had six studios and two galleries. Programs were thriving, but our building’s physical limitations put a cap on the number of courses we were able to offer, and many of those individual courses had hit their capacity. With a goal to increase student enrollments, an expansion and transformation of our treasured facility was imperative for continued success.

On December 31, 2015 Marwen had just completed the first term of courses in an enlarged and revitalized environment. Young people now have increased opportunities throughout eight studios and three galleries on four floors of our building. Fashion design students are cutting, stitching, and sewing in their own dedicated space, while graphic designers are learning the latest skills and techniques in our new third floor technology studios. An informal exchange of ideas and personal accomplishments is freely shared on a daily basis in the new student and family lounge.

The story of everything that took place in between these two dates is contained within the pages of this annual report. The successes of young artists, the moments of personal transformation, and the generosity of the Marwen community are what powered our ambitious vision to achieve new heights in 2015.

Thank you for being a part of the bold effort, the moment by moment action, and the joyous celebration of the past year, for setting your sights with ours on a brilliant future that provides rigorous arts training to more of Chicago’s deserving young people in a gracious, welcoming, state-of-the-art building. The Marwen Arts Campus is humming with life, art, and ambition.

Avanti!

Antonia Contro
Executive Director

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Marwen educates and inspires under-served young people through the visual arts.

63%  37%
FEMALE  MALE
54 out of 57
MARWEN SERVED STUDENTS in 54 OF CHICAGO’S 57 ZIP CODES
74
STUDIO PROGRAMS
1,303
TOTAL ENROLLMENTS
699
UNIQUE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED
87% of STUDENTS come from LOW INCOME FAMILIES
Hispanic/Latino 38%
African-American/Black 29%
White/Caucasian 17%
Asian/Pacific Islander 6%
Multiethnic 9%
Other 1%
63%
67%
FEMALE  MALE
TOTAL ENROLLMENTS
87%
of STUDENTS come from LOW INCOME FAMILIES
RACE/ETHNICITY
63%
67%
FEMALE  MALE
TOTAL ENROLLMENTS
87%
of STUDENTS come from LOW INCOME FAMILIES
Hispanic/Latino 38%
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White/Caucasian 17%
Asian/Pacific Islander 6%
Multiethnic 9%
Other 1%
With a major renovation project on the horizon, Marwen’s year ahead would be marked by profound moments of challenge and growth. And less than two weeks into 2015, many students were also taking risks and opening themselves up to new opportunities. On January 10, more than 592 young people and their parents crowded into the Berkowitz Gallery for what would be the final new student orientation in the existing building. This event, which marks the approach of each new term and sets students’ expectations, was a powerful milestone for Marwen and its students.

At day’s end, 105 first-time students were enrolled in exciting opportunities including architectural photography, wheel-thrown ceramics, CG landscapes, oil painting, and more—opportunities that, for most students, would be inaccessible outside of Marwen.

For many in the Marwen community, the Helen and Sam Zell Design to Print program has become part of their annual holiday tradition. Each year this initiative commissions a group of high school students to create original artwork for a line of greeting cards. In 2015, this interdisciplinary art-making experience began early in winter term so that cards would be ready for the holiday sales season nine months later. After being given an official design brief by the client (Marwen), young people got to work on creating a series of designs to present before a panel of experts on February 7. Each student stood confidently before the assembled audience of professionals and peers and spoke about what inspired their work, then listened to the feedback that would help to shape their final designs.
MARCH

Marwen Lab is an extended course designed for the most dedicated high school students—and the group from the 2014–15 academic year was especially committed. With personal guidance from expert instructors, Lab artists have access to all of Marwen’s studios and resources so that each individual can develop their own art-making techniques and a body of work. Under normal conditions this course would meet just once a week for the duration of the school year, but Marwen’s mid-year construction project impeded that schedule and as a result, these flexible artists doubled their weekly time in the studio. The course culminated in a stunning exhibition at Chicago Art Department in Pilsen and was attended by almost 800 individuals including Marwen students, friends, and families, as well as the broader Chicago art community.

APRIL

Each year when spring break rolls around Marwen students use the time off to look toward their futures. College visits provide young people with tangible university experiences, ultimately making the prospect of applying and attending feel like a real option rather than a far-flung concept. During the week of April 6, high school students got the opportunity to tour campuses and ask questions of administrators at Columbia College, Oakwood University, Northern Illinois University, Dominican University, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
With our transformative renovation project underway, it would have been impossible to host Paintbrush Ball in its usual location, right outside Marwen’s front door under a big-top tent. Instead, for the first time in more than ten years, Marwen moved the annual gala off-site to the West Loop’s beautiful Morgan Manufacturing—a space that is at once industrial and refined, and has an aesthetic creative energy similar to Marwen’s studios and gallery spaces. Creative sponsor Leo Burnett lent its considerable talent to create the event’s theme and aesthetic. Board members Tom Shapiro and Bob Buchsbaum co-chaired the May 1 event which honored DLA Piper LLP represented by Lee Miller and Caryn Englander. Through the immense generosity of all in attendance, the event raised a record-breaking $800,000.

Left: Marwen Trustee, Paintbrush Ball Co-chair Tom Shapiro, Honoree DLA Piper represented by Lee Miller and Caryn Englander; and Marwen Trustee, Paintbrush Ball Co-Chair Bob Buchsbaum. Above: Mural created by Marwen students on the dance floor at Paintbrush Ball 2015.

JUNE
“Everyone always thinks of education as reading, writing, and math; but if you want a complete education it must be arithmetic and the arts, it must be math and music, not either or. I want to applaud Marwen for their vision of making sure that every child in the City of Chicago has the opportunity to have a complete education.”

So were the words of Mayor Rahm Emanuel when he joined the Marwen community on June 9 for the ceremonial groundbreaking of the Marwen Arts Campus. This facility transformation project would ultimately add an entire new floor of technology-based art studios along with increased exhibition space, enhanced fashion and ceramics studios, and a safer, more inviting parking lot and entryway.

5/1 Paintbrush Ball
5/13 Returning student registration opens
5/20 Summer teaching artist retreat at UIC

MAY

5/9 Groundbreaking
6/10 #ThisIsMarwen Garfield Park Conservatory workshop
6/16 Education staff moves to UIC
6/20 New student orientation at UIC


Summer term at UIC

Winter term at UIC

JULY

Come July, Marwen was in the thick of construction and 833 North Orleans was uninhabitable as a place of art-making. In great partnership with the University of Illinois Chicago, Marwen staged summer programs in UIC’s fine arts building. Students and families were welcomed onto the college campus. Students reported that the high quality Marwen arts experience successfully translated to this new, temporary space. They were also pleased to get the opportunity to make work in college studios for the summer.

AUGUST

All summer long, while displaced from our building, Marwen, with the help of our creative partner, Leo Burnett, continually unveiled student art installations in parks, shopping malls, libraries, el stations, and myriad other locations as part of a public awareness campaign called #ThisIsMarwen. Without the ability to bring Chicagoans into our home galleries to see student work, we instead opted to take the art straight into their neighborhoods. #ThisIsMarwen celebrated, and continues to celebrate, the vast geographic diversity of our student body—with our annual enrollment typically coming from 54 of the city’s 57 zip codes. In order to raise awareness for the incredible work of our young artists, installations were placed in almost all of those same 54 zip codes where students reside. By the end of August Marwen artwork could be seen in every corner of Chicago!
On September 24, friends, supporters, students, and families gathered together at a wholly transformed Marwen Arts Campus to celebrate the culmination of an ambitious vision to offer more classes to more students than ever before. Among the featured speakers at the evening’s ribbon cutting ceremony was Akilah Halley, a Marwen alumna and current board member. She spoke about what the new facility means for the potential of our city’s youth: “It means that more young people across the City of Chicago will be prepared for college and their creative careers. It means that more young people across the City of Chicago will belong to a community that nurtures and respects them as professional artists and as individuals.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, all in attendance took in the opening of the summer term exhibition of student work—the first show in Marwen’s transformed facility.
OCTOBER

Young people serious about pursuing a career in a creative industry were given the tools and resources to find success with two important October events. First, on October 12, leaders from local institutions such as the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design reviewed student portfolios and provided honest, helpful feedback for students hoping to further refine that tool for their college application. Just one week later on October 19, Marwen’s College Fair was held in the main gallery—an event that featured more than 35 different schools including local and national universities, art schools, and community colleges. The event was an excellent opportunity that allowed students to gain valuable college information about admissions, programs, financial aid, college life, portfolio preparation, and more.

NOVEMBER

Art Fair is Marwen’s annual celebration, exhibition, and art sale featuring works created by Marwen students, alumni, staff, and teaching artists. On Friday, November 6, in celebration of the event’s tenth anniversary, Marwen threw the largest Art Fair to date that included more than 200 original art pieces. The newly created third floor gallery paid tribute to key partners in the construction project with Wheeler Kearns’ original watercolor renderings of the transformed building and construction photography by Marwen alumna and teaching artist, Maria Murczek.
The Marwen Institute works to strengthen teaching and learning in all Marwen programs by creating professional development opportunities, conducting program evaluations, and building strategic partnerships with art education colleagues. On December 3, Marwen teaching artists gathered together for an all-day winter retreat focused on critique strategies in the studio. With leadership from Marwen staff, teaching artists applied relevant case studies from the recently completed term in order to build their professional practice as both artists and educators.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION as of December 31, 2015 and 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>$2,136,922</td>
<td>$6,018,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>$8,927,557</td>
<td>$8,682,786</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments and other non-current assets</td>
<td>$9,205,824</td>
<td>$8,695,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,640,203</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,376,041</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>$125,646</td>
<td>$149,916</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term debt</td>
<td>5,080,000</td>
<td>5,080,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,205,646</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,229,916</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,640,203</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,376,041</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues and Other Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and government grants — operations</td>
<td>$2,200,196</td>
<td>$1,557,881</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions — Campaign for the Marwen Arts Campus</td>
<td>2,026,422</td>
<td>1,164,157</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other earned income and investment return designated for current operations</td>
<td>$394,874</td>
<td>$369,318</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,621,492</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,091,356</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Functional Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$1,719,074</td>
<td>$1,712,348</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development (including Paintbrush Ball*)</td>
<td>853,055</td>
<td>779,103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>287,363</td>
<td>282,593</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,859,492</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,774,044</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in net assets from operations</td>
<td>$1,762,000</td>
<td>$317,312</td>
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<td>Investment (loss) return in excess of amounts designated above</td>
<td>$(334,009)</td>
<td>$320,101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other changes</td>
<td>$(139,559)</td>
<td>$(21,530)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,288,432</strong></td>
<td><strong>$615,883</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets at the beginning of the year</td>
<td>$14,146,125</td>
<td>$13,530,242</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets at the end of the year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,434,557</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,146,125</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The financial information presented above was obtained from the Organization’s December 31, 2015 audited financial statements. The information does not include all the disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as a result it does not purport to present the Organization’s financial condition or results of operations.

*Paintbrush Ball expenses for 2015 were $177,211; for 2014 were $206,207

NOTE:
In 2012 Marwen’s Board of Directors approved the Campaign for the Marwen Arts Campus with a target of $10,000,000. In addition, as part of the Campaign, donors made multi-year (pledges to Marwen’s campaign fund) included above are net assets of $2,699,012 associated with the Campaign as of December 31, 2015 ($6,383,139 as of December 31, 2014).
The conclusion of the 2015 also marked the end of our three-year commitment to the Marwen Arts Campus. The following individuals and organizations have been pivotal in allowing us to expand and transform our facility into an inspiring and creative environment for Chicago’s youth.
The Staffs of Marwen students do a lot to get their people involved in volunteering. Here are a few hours during programs, art projects, and hundreds of them do great work. How many do you think there are? They make voluntary donations to ensure that Marwen can continue to be there for future students. Thank you to these amazing donors.

Future Students. Thank you for your voluntary donations to Marwen. Many students do a lot so their futures can be a bit brighter. Voluntary donations to Marwen are exciting because the impact is so much greater than the amount of money. Thank you.

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