



For 43 years, Fort Point Arts Community (FPAC) has been fostering a growing community of Boston arts and artists. The nonprofit organization currently has three gallery locations, alongside several artist studio spaces and housing initiatives across the city.

"Our first Gallery was at 300 Summer Street, which is still there and then our second gallery opened at Atlantic Wharf, which is just across the channel next to the Federal Reserve Bank. Then we have a third gallery, which is pretty active. It's called Assemblage, and that's in the Envoy Hotel over in the Seaport," said Duane Lucia, President of the FPAC Board of Directors.

Although the organization has several different programs and initiatives, its main goal is to facilitate the work and lives of local artists, who may otherwise find it difficult to find work in their craft.

"We give opportunities to artists to exhibit their work and to be somewhat experimental in their abilities to take chances," said Lucia. "Sometimes the artists get overlooked as being siloed in their own little world, but when you look at the final product and how far it extends, the work gets out. It has the potential to get out worldwide. We are just facilitating that as an organization."

Lucia, who has been involved both formally and informally with FPAC for forty years, has witnessed the organization's parallel growth alongside the city's changing landscape.

"I think that FPAC has been primarily a visual arts organization. And that's probably the part that's changing the most," Lucia said. "The organization, I would say, is broadening its perspective from a visual arts organization to include and promote performing arts and programming."

Alongside the gallery locations, FPAC also hosts an annual 'Open Studios' event, allowing the public to come and experience the art that occurs within their various live workspaces for a weekend.

This year's event will occur from October 14 through 16 and will also feature music, performances, demonstrations and art making activities.

Lucia noted the importance of artistic presences in the general community, "Without FPAC and the galleries, you're not getting that artwork to the public. In the Seaport we have anywhere from 50 to 100 people come to the gallery every day. It's fairly busy because the Seaport is a busy place, and I think that there should be more spaces like ours that allow the crowds and the people that would otherwise go to the beer gardens and shops to come into the gallery and see local artwork and appreciate it."

"I've always believed that art is the social consciousness of humanity. Where would we be without music, concerts, theater goers, poets and poetry books in school? You need a workforce to do all that, that's who the artists are," Lucia said.

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