

Saving The Box Shop



Mission:

The Box Shop's mission is to support artists and the creation of high-quality art through shared access to tools, skills, and knowledge. We focus on enabling artists from underrepresented communities.

We believe that art made in community, in collaboration, can inspire, create beauty, and make the world a more lively and stimulating place.



Donate to Help
Save the Box Shop

Why Save The Box Shop?

Regional Challenges: San Francisco has long been recognized for its thriving art community and commitment to innovation and social change. Yet, artists are leaving San Francisco, and our City is losing its creative soul because artists can't afford to live and work here. Many other artist workshops and maker spaces have shut down.

Our Challenge: Our lease of ~20 years will expire in August 2024, and we will lose our space.

Solution: The Box Shop is a collaborative industrial workspace with shared equipment and affordable studios. We exist to help anyone expand their creative dreams and make them a reality through community and resources. We want to purchase a property to build a forever home for The Box Shop, so we can continue providing these services.



Help Save The Box Shop

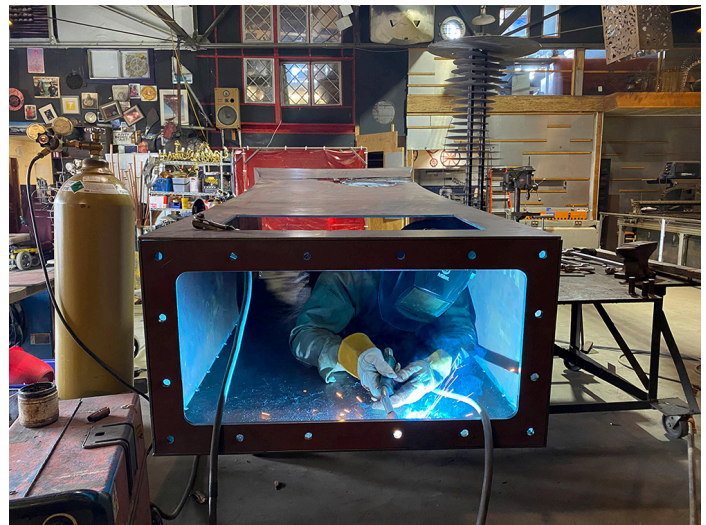
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Visions and The Future Box Shop

We have the opportunity to create a world-class facility that attracts and elevates the Bay Area artistic and local community. Our vision is a permanent, sustainable, creative space in Bayview-Hunters Point that serves artists, creators, and community and operates a thriving public art space and maker center.

How will we do this?

- **Purchase new property** in Bayview-Hunters Point, San Francisco, to sustain our space, work, service, and community.
- **Build a world-class collaborative arts fabrication studio** in the new space and relocate our community to the new home.
- **Support the livelihood and stability of hundreds of artists, makers, and small businesses** who rely on The Box Shop.
- **Become an even more integral part of the arts community** in Bayview-Hunters Point, San Francisco, and the greater Bay Area. Serving thousands more artists and makers a year.



- **Enable our artists to make monumental pieces of public art** that inspire the next chapter of San Francisco culture and future generations.
- **Impact the lives of thousands of people** who come through our doors, participate, and become inspired and empowered to create their own art.
- **Continue to change the face of industrial arts** by making it more accessible to women, femme, queer, trans, and BIPOC communities and other underrepresented artists and makers.



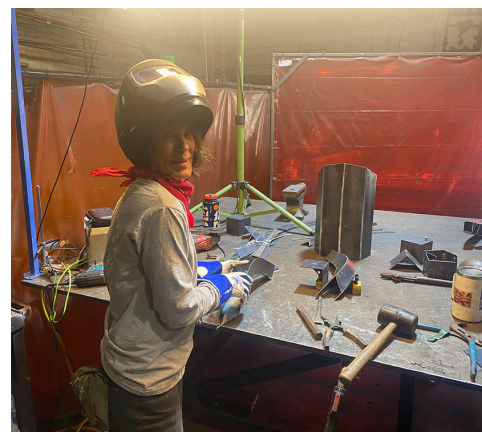
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Why Is The Box Shop So Special?

The Box Shop is a collaborative industrial workspace in San Francisco's Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood with shared equipment and affordable studios.

- **A Unique Space:** There are no places (left) like The Box Shop in San Francisco where you can rent studio space and access professional-grade equipment and tools for sculpture and industrial arts with a community of artists supporting you through project-based learning. Our spacious indoor and outdoor workspaces enable the development of locally made monumental, complex, and one-of-a-kind creative projects.
- **By and for Community:** We are rooted in our community, serving not just the artists inside The Box Shop but Bay Area-wide and hyper-locally in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood. We focus on enabling artists in underrepresented communities.
- **Collaboration and Participation:** Beginners, experts, and people from all walks of life come together and contribute their knowledge and skills to each other's projects—creating a learning, productive, and creative environment. Beyond our 100+ artists and studio members, 600+ community members come to participate in collaborative art making annually.



- **Radical Inclusivity:** We have a low barrier for entry and focus on enabling artists from underrepresented communities. We are women- and trans-friendly in a male-dominated world of industrial arts. We serve all levels of makers and creators, from professional artists building large-scale public artworks to emerging artists and hobbyists. Members create a range of small to massive projects in metal, glass, wood, digital media, mixed media, and more.
- **Monumental Public Art:** Box Shop artists and collaborative groups develop large-scale, awe-inspiring, and often interactive art that reaches and engages audiences in the tens of thousands.



Funding Our Plan for the Future

We are working to purchase a commercial, industrial property in Bayview-Hunters Point that includes ample warehouse and open yard space to continue serving our community with industrial arts equipment, tools, studio, and working space. The new location will be a permanent home for The Box Shop and our community. Commercial properties in the area comparable to our current location sell for approximately \$7-11 Million. Below is our estimated capital campaign fundraising plan and accomplishments:

We have made excellent progress in the first year of our campaign (2022-23) toward purchasing our forever home.

- **Approval of a \$1.7M gift** from the state of California, Senator Scott Wiener, to help us acquire a new space
- **Engagement and work with fundraising consultants** to help us strategize our fundraising plans
- **Fundraised a \$200K seed fund** to help us with real estate planning and fundraising needs
- Initiating our capital campaign and fundraising another \$200K+ to meet our fundraising goals
- **Created a business plan and feasibility study** to review and assess our plans for purchasing a new space and our future revenue model and sustainability
- **Filed for 501(c)(3) (nonprofit) status** to support our fundraising and programming needs

Fundraising Goals

Estimated Building Acquisition and Start-Up Costs	Amount
Real estate purchase	\$8,500,000
Closing costs & commercial tenant buyout	\$290,000
Vacant mortgage payments (at current site) during move/construction	\$1,000,000
Construction improvement costs at new site (building out studio spaces, shop, shipping containers, permits, architect, structural engineer)	\$1,300,000
Capital campaign (fundraising) costs	\$155,000
Moving costs	\$100,000
Start-up operating reserve	\$500,000
SUBTOTAL	\$11,845,000
Current Committed Funds and Financing Plan	Amount
Senator Scott Wiener grant from the state of CA - received	\$1,700,000
Save The Box Shop Seed funding campaign - received	\$200,000
Capital Campaign donations - committed	\$200,000
Loan (SBA/private blend) - committed	\$7,000,000
SUBTOTAL	\$9,100,000
Total Campaign Needs	\$2,745,000

Outlook: We are thrilled to have fundraised and committed financing of \$9.1M! Yet, over the next three years, we need to fundraise approximately \$3M to get us over the finish line headed for a successful new space. This means raising \$1M per year over the next three years.

All donations made to The Box Shop are tax deductible. We recently filed for our 501(c)(3) (nonprofit) status and are currently fiscally sponsored by SOMArts Cultural Center while we await our status designation.

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Stories and Testimonials

The Box Shop has been a vital part of the community and has supported many public art projects I personally created at the facility. If not for the Box Shop, I would not have been able to create many of the public art projects I built there and installed in Lafayette, San Francisco, Emeryville, Seattle and Menlo Park.

—**Brian Goggin** - Site-Specific Sculpture

The Box Shop is one of the only remaining Arts Collectives where artists can have shop space, access to tools, and COMMUNITY in the Bay Area - especially San Francisco. It provides an invaluable resource without which more art and more beauty will move out of state.

—**Amacker Bullwinkle** - Sonoma Charm School

I had the unique opportunity of painting a mural at the Box Shop. And while I was there I observed many artists coming and going and using this rare location to create their artwork. Especially unique is the huge shared metalworking studio. When you live in a city it is near impossible to find spaces to weld, band, laser, melt, rivet, cast, and hammer metal. The artwork that has been pumped out of the space is enormous in numbers and while it may seem scrappy, it is really needed in San Francisco. I no longer can live in San Francisco because I was priced out of the market, I am a working artist and a place like this is super rare anymore in a city that was always known to be a huge draw for artists in the past.

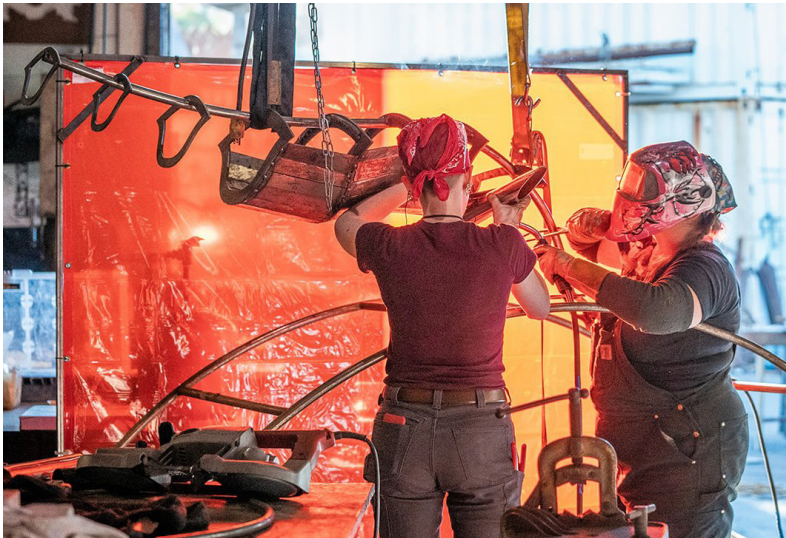
—**Isabel Rucker** - Artist

The Box Shop is a rare and much needed place where artists can gather, create, have community and build some of the most iconic and unique large pieces of art for both temporary and long-term installations. Having been an active member of the Flaming Lotus Girls, who call the Box Shop home (as well as working on several pieces created by



Charlie Gadeken, the guiding light of the space, i.e. "Entwined"), I know personally how precious this kind of industrial space is. The ability to build both art and community is essential, and needs to be supported.

—**Cathryn *Catbird* Blum** - Flaming Lotus Girls



More details and testimonials



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