Mandy Bass

www.mandybassart.com

EDUCATION

***Appalachian State University*, Boone, NC**
August 2021- May 2025
Latin honors: *summa cum laude*

B.A. Arts and Visual Culture concentration in Arts Management, minor in nonprofit organizations

B.F.A Studio Art concentration in Sculpture

***Wake Technical Community College*, Raleigh, NC**
2021

A.F.A. Visual Arts

SKILLS

Grant Writing & Fundraising, Event Planning & Coordination, Program & Community Engagement, Art Handling, Preparation & Installation, Fabrication, Rigging and Load Handling Certification, CRM Software (Keela, DonorView), Proficio Collections Management Software, Website Development (WordPress), Social Media Marketing, 3D Scanning & Modeling Software

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Watauga Arts Council, Boone, NC — *Development & Grant Writing Intern* January 2025 - PRESENT

- Independently researched, wrote, and submitted a proposal for the SouthArts Accessibility Grant, focused on enhancing inclusivity and accessibility in outdoor public art initiatives.
- Researched and identified grant opportunities, compiled materials for applications, managed records in Keela CRM software, and supported the director in public art, community engagement, and fundraising initiatives.

Blowing Rock Art and History Museum, Blowing Rock, NC — *Front Desk Services, Gallery Gaurd, Events Hospitality* October 2022 - PRESENT

- Managed donor records and interactions in DonorView CRM, tracking contributions and supporting effective communication for fundraising efforts.
- Welcomed and engaged visitors, becoming well-versed in current exhibitions and artists to provide detailed information on artwork, programs, and membership benefits, enhancing guest experience and understanding.

Art Department at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC — *Sculpture Studio Monitor* January 2022 - PRESENT

- Supervise and assist students in woodshop, welding, fabrication, casting, and foundry studios, providing guidance on techniques and ensuring adherence to safety protocols.
- Maintained equipment and upheld a clean, organized, and safe workspace.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Jaroslav and Jarmelia Kabatnik Memorial Scholarship, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 2024, 2023, 2022

Penland Higher Education Partner Program Scholarship, awarded by Appalachian State University Scholarship Committee, Department of Art, Boone, NC 2023

GRANTS

OSR Grant, **Office of Student Research, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC**

Project: *Casting Shadows: Merging Science and Art to Reveal Human Impact on Critically Endangered Birds Through 3D Scanning and Glass Casting* $500 award
September 2024

Project: *Advanced Casting Techniques: Ceramic Shell* $250 award
February 2024

Project: *Student Cupoloa Competition and Conference Presentation* $500 award
February 2023

The Cannon Foundation Grant **(co-writer), written for RAM's Rack Thrift Shop, Boone, NC** 2023

Clabough Foundation Grant **(co-writer), written for Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture, Boone, NC** 2023

The Watauga County Community Foundation Grant **(co-writer), written for Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture, Boone, NC** 2023

Plemmons Student Union at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC — *Art Collections Manager & Looking Glass Gallery Manager*
December 2023 - February 2025

- Directed operations of the Looking Glass Gallery, overseeing exhibition planning, installation, and deinstallation, while supervising the curator and art assistant to foster collaboration and ensure efficient workflow in exhibitions and collection management.he curator and art assistant, fostering collaboration within collections and gallery operations.
- Managed four distinct art collections, including tracking registry data, conducting condition reports, coordinating acquisitions, handling loans, and ensuring proper installations and care of all objects.
- Lead installation and deinstallation of the traveling Smithsonian exhibition *American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith*, including coordinating volunteers for the process.

Turchin Center for Visual Arts, Boone, NC — *Arts Outreach and Engagement Intern* May 2024 - August 2024

- Developed and implemented engagement prompts to connect visitors with current exhibitions, fostering interactive and creative experiences.
- Designed and facilitated educational programs, including weekly gallery tours, outdoor sculpture walks, and drop-in artmaking workshops.
- Contributed to First Friday gallery events and Summer Exhibition Celebrations for An Appalachian Summer Festival by leading workshops and assisting with event setup and breakdown.
- Earned crane safety certification and assisted in the installation and deinstallation of over 20 outdoor public sculptures and gallery exhibitions.

Western North Carolina Sculpture Center, Lenoir, NC — *Studio Intern*
June 2022 - August 2022

- Assisted in the preparation and execution of iron pours and community events, ensuring smooth operations and adherence to safety protocols.
- Supported artist residents by managing studio spaces, assisting with installations, and engaging with visitors to enhance their understanding of the creative process and the works on display.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Western North Carolina Sculpture Center, Lenoir, NC
Studio & Foundry Volunteer, 2022 - PRESENT

Penland School of Craft, Spruce Pines, NC
Community Day Volunteer, 2025

Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
Plemmons Student Union Art Committee, 2024
Sculpture Club, President and co-founder, 2022 - 2024
Metal Smiths of App State, Sales Committee, 2022 - 2023

TriState Sculptors Association, Greensboro, NC
Member, 2021 - PRESENT
Student Committee, 2024
Exhibitions Committee, 2023 - 2024

Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, Boone, NC
Exhibitions Volunteer, 2022 - 2023

Watauga County Arts Council
Boonerang Planning Committee, 2022 - 2023
King Street Art Collective Volunteer, 2021 - 2022

Blowing Rock Art and History Museum, Blowing Rock, NC
Guest Services Volunteer, 2022

Vinnie's Steak House & Tavern, Raleigh, NC — ***Events Coordinator, Operations & Marketing Administrator*** July 2015 - June 2021

- Managed daily administrative operations, including payroll, report submissions, inventory control for 265+ wine bottles, and reservation coordination, ensuring efficient and effective operations.
- Coordinated private events, including large fundraising events in collaboration with the Frankie Lemmon Foundation, overseeing event details, vendor relationships, and guest services to ensure smooth and memorable experiences.
- Directed marketing efforts, managing social media, website content, and newsletters, contributing to increased visibility and engagement.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive 13-page employee manual, ensuring consistent policy adherence and operational efficiency.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS

"Flight and Constraint: Exploring the Complexity of Our Bond with Birds" (exhibition April 2024 - March 2025), at *McKinney Alumni Center*, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC

- Directed curatorial development, including editing and creating interactive materials for a complimentary website and education materials to enhance visitor engagement.
- Managed project timelines and led a cross-functional team of 12 across curatorial, installation, promotion, design, public relations, and reception, ensuring seamless execution..

"Cast Iron Arts Talk with Mandy Bass" (June 2023) presented at *Blowing Rock Art and History Museum*, Blowing Rock, NC

- Delivered a 50-minute presentation on the Student Cupola Project and Competition, covering the process of cast iron art, the technical aspects of cupola design and fabrication, and student involvement.

Student Cupola Competition Team Captain (October 2022 - April 2023), Student Cupola Competition at the *National Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron Art & Practice* (NCCCIAP), Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, Birmingham, AL.

- Led a team of eight students, overseeing proposals, fundraising, project management, and team coordination while organizing travel and registration.
- Secured approximately $5,425 in-kind donated materials, monetary

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

National Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron and Art Practices, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, Birmingham, AL 2025, 2023

Kilncasting: Combining Digital and Traditional Workshop, Instructor Norwood Viviano, Penland School of Craft, Spruce Pines, NC 2024

Introduction to Rigging and Load Handling Certification, Industrial Training International, Woodland, WA 2024

Annual TriState Sculptors Conference, Floyd Center for the Arts, Floyd, VA 2023, 2021

Material Topics Symposium, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 2023

PUBLICATIONS

"Appalachian State Sculpture Art Club Receives National School Spirit Award at the NCCCAIP," College of Fine and Applied Arts News, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 2023

"*The Peel Literature and Arts Review Publication*," The Peel Literature and Arts Review, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 2022

"*Emerging Artist Virtual Exhibition*" Promotional Materials Online Publication, Wake Tech AFA Visual Arts, Raleigh, NC 2020

contributions, and grants through strategic proposal distribution and grant writing.

- Conducted research and developed designs, including CAD blueprints, while managing fabrication, testing, operations, and competition preparation.
- **Awards & Recognition:** Received the School Spirit Award for outstanding fundraising efforts and the Erik Johnson Award, recognizing dedication to the cast iron process, leadership, and inspiration to others.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

"*Casting Shadows*," (on display May 7- September 4, 2025), *The Looking Glass Gallery*, Plemmons Student Union, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC

JURIED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

"*Emergence: A Survey of Southeastern Studio Programs*," (on display January 25 - April 26, 2025), *The Bascom Center for the Visual Arts*, Highlands, NC

"DownEast National Indoor Sculpture Exhibition," (on display March 1 - 28, 2024), *Emerge Gallery and Art Center*, Greenville, NC

"2024 Art and Design Expo," (on display February 6 - February 23, 2024), *Smith Gallery,* Shafer Center, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
*Juror's Award

"Hotter N' Hell," (on display July 2 - September 8, 2023), *Orville Hanchey Gallery*, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA

"NCCCIAP Juried Exhibition," (on display April 5 - 8, 2023), National Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron and Art Practices, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, Birmingham, AL

"NCCCIAP Biennial," (on display April 5 - 8, 2023), National Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron and Art Practices, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, Birmingham, AL

"Capacity," (on display February 8 - March 21, 2023), *Beverly Perdue Art Gallery*, Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA

"2022 Art and Design Expo," (on display February 14 - March 3, 2022), *Smith Gallery,* Shafer Center, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC

REFERENCES

Available upon request

SMALL GROUP EXHIBITIONS

"2nd Annual Leading Legacy," (on display December 11, 2024 - January 30, 2025), *Looking Glass Gallery*, Plemmons Student Union, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC

"Childrenth of the Corn," (on display October 31 & November 1, 2024), *Nth Gallery & Studio*, Boone, NC

"The Process Art Show," (on display February 2, 2024), *Nth Gallery & Studio*, Boone, NC

"Poltergnth: Annual Nth Gallery & Studio Community Halloween Show," (on display October 31 & November 3, 2023), *Nth Gallery & Studio*, Boone, NC

"TriState Member Pop-Up Show," (on display October 5 - 8, 2023), *Floyd Center for the Arts*, 45th Annual TriState Sculptors Association Conference, Floyd, NC

"Student Pop-Up," (on display January 13 - 15, 2023), ECU Symposium, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

"Theminism: Shades of Queer," (on dispaly August 5, 2022), *Nth Gallery & Studio*, Boone, NC

"The Peel Pop-Up," *King Street Art Collective*, The Peel Literature and Arts Review, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC
2022

"Emerging Artist Virtual Exhibition," Wake Tech AFA Visual Arts, Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh, NC
2021

"Emerging Artist Virtual Exhibition," Wake Tech AFA Visual Arts, Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh, NC
2020