MISSION STATEMENT

High Concept Labs (HCL) supports artists and facilitates dialogue between artists, audiences, and staff members. This increases access and transparency to the artistic process and fosters transformational experiences in an environment of experimentation and discovery.
In 2016, High Concept Labs (HCL) provided two dozen artists and ensembles customized, no-cost support to develop their art and projects. From audience-dependent sound and video installations to dance workshops drawing historical dance forms into the 21st century, HCL’s Sponsored Artists worked extensively to bring new ideas to the table in 2016.

As we move toward our 10th anniversary, I am in awe of the vast number of artists that have been a part of HCL’s Sponsored Artist Program, including Manual Cinema, Spektral Quartet, Ensemble Dal Niente, and more. Each year brings more and more dancers, musicians and visual artists to the forefront of Chicago’s arts community. One thing is for sure – HCL artists always show up with the promise to captivate and electrify audiences with their work.

BILLIE HOWARD
Artistic Planning + Administration Manager
2016 FINANCES

**EARNED REVENUE**

- **2014:** $3,597
- **2015:** $1,926
- **2016:** $3,670

91% CHANGE (2015 VS 2016)

**FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS**

- **2014:** $36,694
- **2015:** $65,200
- **2016:** $97,484

50% CHANGE (2015 VS 2016)

**BOARD CONTRIBUTIONS**

- **2014:** $3,859
- **2015:** $12,712
- **2016:** $44,437

250% CHANGE (2015 VS 2016)

**EXPENSES**

- **2014:** $74,407
- **2015:** $105,760
- **2016:** $147,452

39% CHANGE (2015 VS 2016)
2016 marked a year of tremendous financial growth for High Concept Labs. During this year, HCL was chosen out of 136 applicants to participate in The Chicago Community Trust’s Smart Growth Program, established to help small arts and cultural organizations (with operating budgets less than $1M) with capacity building. For three years starting in 2016, HCL will receive $25,000 each year in general operating support plus year-long training.

In 2016, HCL received a second year of support from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. New for the organization that year, HCL received an Art Works grant from The National Endowment for the Arts to support its Sponsored Artist Program, as well as funding from The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.

In 2016, HCL added seven new board members. At the end of the year, Paul Boulis, retired President of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois and trustee at the Harris Theater, was elected Board Chair. His familiarity and expertise with fundraising helped shift the organization to a new phase of Development. In December 2016, HCL also received funding from The Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development to hire on two Development Consultants to assist the organization in 2017. All of this combined with valued new and long-term individual supporters helped our numbers in 2016 to be strong.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STUDIO USE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$36,090</strong></td>
<td>2,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARTISTIC SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,088</strong></td>
<td>284</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MARKETING SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,131</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PHOTO + VIDEO SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,380</strong></td>
<td>269</td>
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</table>

**PROGRAM IMPACT**

- 117 SPONSORED ARTIST PROGRAM APPLICANTS
- 26 ACCEPTED SPONSORED ARTISTS
- 84 HCL EVENTS
- 1,678 ATTENDEES
PARTNERING WITH...

CENTER ON 3656 N. HALSTED
YCA | YOUNG CHICAGO AUTHORS
ILLINOIS HUMANITIES
Northwestern University
Chicago Dancemakers Forum
Hyde Park ART CENTER
POINT MAGAZINE
BSA | BLIND SERVICE ASSOCIATION
in-time16
MCA CHICAGO
OPER>CABAL
EAR TAXI
NEW MUSIC USA
ACCESS CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
Arts & Business Council of Chicago

THANK YOU

Board Chair, PAUL BOULIS

To all of our donors to High Concept Labs, the board, staff, and our artists would like to thank you for your ongoing generosity in support of our mission. We are deeply grateful for your support and we are committed to investing it wisely in support of furthering our artists’ progress. Thank you for your continued support.
### Our Audiences

#### Age - 350 Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;18</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-60</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### First Time Attending

- Yes: 62%
- No: 38%

#### Gender - 340 Responses

- Male: 46%
- Female: 49%
- Other: 5%

#### Race/Ethnicity - 357 Responses

- Black or African American: 67%
- Caucasian, Non-Hispanic: 12%
- Hispanic or Latino: 6%
- Native American or American Indian: 0%
- Asian / Pacific Islander: 6%
- Other: 6%

#### Sexual Orientation - 227 Responses

- Straight: 55%
- Gay/Queer: 19%
- Other: 14%
- Bisexual: 11%
- Prefer Not to Say: 1%

#### Household Income - 339 Responses

- < $25,000: 30%
- $25-44,999: 22%
- $45-74,999: 23%
- $75-99,999: 11%
- $100K+: 15%
{HCL’s} mission to offer free, personalized support to artists is unmatched in Chicago.

Elise Cowin, movement, Spring 2016
EVENTS

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

FEBRUARY 11  IN>TiME16 with Nicole Mauser (visual arts) and Anna Martine Whitehead (performance)

MAY 7  Cultural Conversations: What are Literature and Poetry For?

MAY 10  On the Table with The Chicago Community Trust

MAY 14  Spring Open House

JUNE 25  Spring Season Send-Off

JUNE 30  Blind Services Association: Pathways Summer Youth Program

SEPTEMBER 23  Hyde Park Salon with Jeanette Andrews (magic) and Deidre Huckabay (sound)

OCTOBER 8  Cultural Conversations: Artist-Presenter Collaborations for Dance

OCTOBER 5-9  Ear Taxi New Music Festival

NOVEMBER 5  Fall Open House

NOVEMBER 11  Hyde Park Salon with Ayako Kato (movement) and Courtney Mackedanz (dance)

NOVEMBER 19  The November Phoenix with the Be Victorious Project and Wirehouse Co.

DECEMBER 10  Fall Season Send-Off

DECEMBER 15  Movement Matters: the Integral Necessity of Dance Criticism
MUSIC

JANUARY 29  Music for Strings Clarinet Percussion Electronics with Ryan Packard

FEBRUARY 14  Following: Valentine’s Day with Luis Mejico and Tyler Lumm

APRIL 21  Fonema Soloist Series I with Weston Olencki

MAY 15  Synthari Sessions with Mark Hardy

JUNE 9

JUNE 16

JULY 13  The Sea: Tales of Lapham with Opera Cabal

JULY 25  Limelight Series at the Center on Halsted with Alexa Grae

OCTOBER 14  Chicago Queer Arts Mentorship Program Closing Event with Alexa Grae

SOUND

MAY 22  “Newly Cemented Dedication to Freedom” and improvisations with NbN Trio and Coppice

DECEMBER 16  (Re)Public with Softday and Hyde Park Art Center

TECHNOLOGY

APRIL 27  Works-in-Progress Showing: Stephan Moore

FILM

JANUARY 16  Rights Lab: Can the Government Spy on My Phone?
**WORKSHOPS**

**FEBRUARY 20**  
Stilts Masterclass with Kristina Isabelle

**FEBRUARY 27**  

**MARCH 12**  
Workshop with Teen Creative Agency

**APRIL 10**  
Back to Basics:
**APRIL 17**  
A Fully-Embodied Self with dropshift dance

**MAY 22**  
What is Movement? with Ayako Kato

**MAY 29**

**JUNE 5**

**JULY 22**  
Stilts Masterclass with Kristina Isabelle

**JULY 23**

**AUGUST 19**  
(((waver)) project with Carole McCurdy

**AUGUST 26**

**SEPTEMBER 2**

**SEPTEMBER 9**

**SEPTEMBER 16**

**SEPTEMBER 23**

**SEPTEMBER 30**

**DECEMBER 14**  
Bunraku-Style Puppetry with Tom Lee
**DANCE**

**FEBRUARY 29**  Limelight Series at the Center on Halsted with Anna Martine Whitehead

**MARCH 27**  The Drama of Exile with Burning Orchid

**APRIL 21**  Body ± New Works in Dance & Technology with Cynthia Bond

**JUNE 8**  What is Movement? with Ayako Kato

**DECEMBER 11**  A Study in Rhyme & Song with Sadie Woods

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**CRITIQUES**

**MAY 25**  
Elise Cowin (movement)  
Nadia Oussenko (dance)  
LaboratoryCo (theater)  
Kempe Scanlan (moderator)

**JUNE 14**  
Deidre Huckabay (sound)  
Alexa Grae (opera)  
Stephan Moore (opera/sound)  
Nomi Epstein (moderator)

**DECEMBER 1**  
Jeanette Andrews (magic)  
Cinichel (sound)  
Matthew Shelton (visual arts/music)  
Vesna Jovanovich (moderator)

**DECEMBER 6**  
Sadie Woods (performance)  
Carole McCurdy (movement/dance)  
Eric Reda (performance/visual arts)  
Robert Steel (moderator)
High Concept Labs has two main programs for working artists: the **Sponsored Artist Program** (a four-month residency) and an **Institutional Incubation Program** (a year-long residency). The goal of both programs is simple: to facilitate dialogue between HCL’s artists, HCL’s audience, and HCL’s staff through a diverse range of programs each season. Programs include Artist Talks, Works-in-Progress Showings, Workshops, Performances, and Critique Sessions. Through conversation, artists have the opportunity to solicit feedback from participants and audience members, providing them with valuable insight as a work progresses. Audience members are able to see works in progress and engage with the artists, opportunities that they might not otherwise have, all while an artistic work is still in its nascent phase.
SPRING SPONSORED ARTISTS

RACHEL BUNTING
DANCE

THE DILETTANTES
THEATER

MARK HARDY
MUSIC

DEIDRE HUCKABAY
SOUND

MARIAH KARSON
PHOTOGRAPHY

AYAKO KATO
DANCE

LABORATORYCO
PERFORMANCE ART

STEPHAN MOORE
INSTALLATION

NADIA OUSSENKO
DANCE, FILM

"The conversations I had with other sponsored artists provided me with new ways to think about my creative process and enlightened me to so much art happening in Chicago that I just didn’t know about before."

Cinchel (Jason Shanley), sound, Fall 2016
FALL SPONSORED ARTISTS

JEANETTE ANDREWS  SENSORY ILLUSION

A.P.E.R.I.O.D.I.C  MUSIC

ANTHEA BEHM  FILM

CINCHEL  SOUND

GROUNDHOG  DANCE

CAROLE MCCURDY  DANCE

ERIC REDA  MUSIC

MATTHEW SHELTON  MUSIC AND VIDEO

SADIE WOODS  MULTIMEDIA

JESSICA ANNE/THE NEO-FUTURISTS  THEATER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PAUL BOULIS
CHAIR

JONATHAN BASKIN
TREASURER

ROBYN TREM
SECRETARY

CINDY BLIKRE

SARAH CURRAN

SHOSHONA CURRIER

GWEN SMUDA

MARK ROBINSON

KEMPE SCANLAN

KEVIN SIMMONS
FOUNDER

MÓNICA MILLÁN
ARTISTIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

High Concept Labs’ Artistic Advisory Council (AAC) is composed of an experienced panel of arts practitioners, critics, writers, and thinkers who work with our staff to guide the artistic direction of our programs. The AAC is instrumental in the selection and growth of the Sponsored Artist Program, making HCL a prime resource for artists who lack the support structures of Chicago’s larger cultural institutions.

SARA BLACK
SCULPTURE + VISUAL ARTS

RACHEL ELLISON
COUNCIL CHAIR,
PERFORMANCE + VISUAL ARTS

MEIDA MCNEAL
PERFORMANCE

MARC FROST
THEATER

MAJEL CONNERY
MUSIC

JULIA A. MILLER
MUSIC

STEPHAN MOORE
MUSIC

ZACHARY WHITTENBURG
DANCE

WALKABOUT THEATER COMPANY
THEATER

PHILIP WHITE
MUSIC

JAXON PALLAS
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY VISUAL ARTS

JAVIER RIVERA
THEATER