

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

GENT GLAS vzw

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GENT
GLAS

WELCOME

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our 2019 Annual Report. Gent Glas began as an idea scribbled on a piece of paper, long before there was any chance of it becoming reality, and before I even stepped foot in Belgium. So, it is incredible to reflect on how much we have grown and matured over the past 5 years, to the extent that this publication is an organic next step in our evolution.

I am a founding member of Gent Glas, the only one to remain. I have seen the struggles overwhelm some, while offering motivation for others. I have witnessed and been a part of the growth of this dynamic artistic community. And I am incredibly proud to be here now, working alongside friends and colleagues to sustain an organization that has become an important staple in the lives of many people, and a blossoming cultural resource for Ghent and beyond.

2019 marked a significant year for the professionalization and sustainability of Gent Glas. We saw immense growth across all areas of the organization including subsidies granted, new programs implemented, and expansion in workshop participation - bringing new members into our community. We nearly doubled in size which presented new challenges but also clarified the importance of our mission. We engaged with and formed a new board of directors who are working selflessly to push the organization forward and help envision Gent Glas as a leading cultural institution and glass center, one unique and exceptional in Europe.

What started in 2015 as a collective of artists working together around the medium of glass has taken many steps forward to become a sustainable community of artists, hobbyists, enthusiasts, students, and entrepreneurs. We have grown beyond our own comforts and borders time and time again, moving ahead steadily with no end in sight. I look forward to sharing our next steps with you, as members of the Gent Glas community.

Sincerely and humbly,



John Moran
Managing Director and Founding Member
Gent Glas vzw

CONTENTS

1	Welcome
3	Board of directors
4	Team members
<hr/>	
6	Who we are
7	Mission
8	Core values
<hr/>	
9	Financial statement
11	Support
<hr/>	
13	Education and outreach
15	International visibility in the arts
17	Infrastructure and expansion
19	Community in focus
<hr/>	
22	Bringing glass to a new generation
23	Looking forward

BOARD of DIRECTORS



Chairman:
Evert Van Laere
Entrepreneur and owner of JOSCH
Just One Stop for Cooling and Heating



Secretary:
Wouter De Bock
Entrepreneur and antiques dealer
Glass making enthusiast



Brian Howard
Head of development
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance



Jeroen Maes
Artistic director / curator of Glazenhuis Lommel
Co-founder / co-owner of Tideline

Interim Treasurer:
John Moran
Founding member and manager of Gent Glas
Independent artist and glass maker

TEAM MEMBERS



John Moran
Freelance managing director



Maurice La Rooy
Freelance studio coordinator



Bries Geerts
Outreach coordinator



Marta Byrdziak
Volunteer / Coldshop coordinator



Bavo Cremers
Volunteer / Fabricator



Bloe Van Eeckhout
Volunteer / Instructor



Frank Vandaele
Volunteer



Frederik Rombach
Volunteer



Niko Daelemans
Volunteer



Fred Schatteman
Volunteer / Founding Member



Laure Fradin
Volunteer

"I was never really into the arts, but when a friend introduced me to Gent Glas and I saw the glassblowers handling the hot glass, I was sold. After attending the live events and taking all the available workshops, I was then invited to be part of the FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE team that demonstrates every Friday night. Three years later and I am a board member and I cannot remain silent about glass and the glass community to my friends, family and colleagues."

- Wouter De Bock

Who We Are

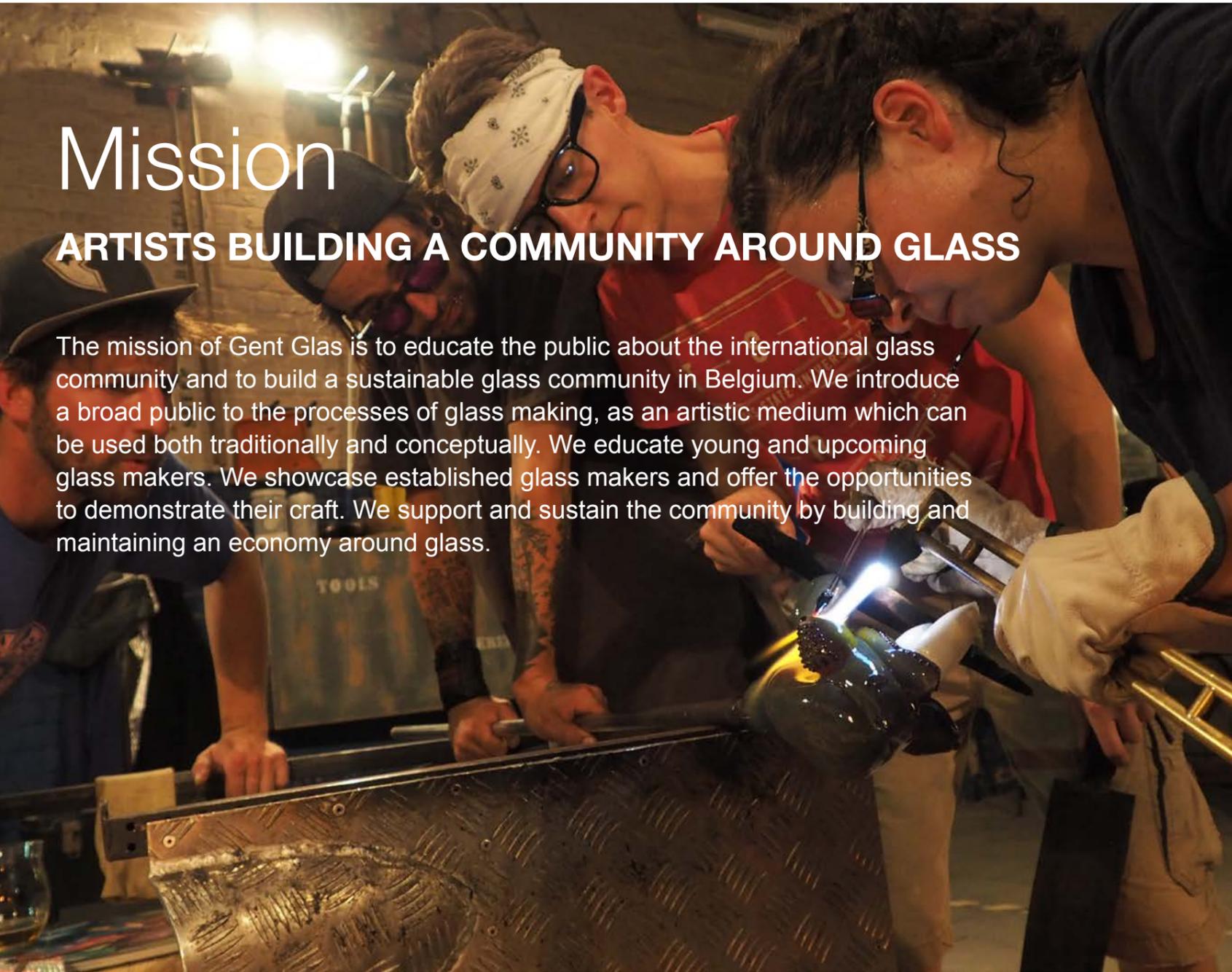
Gent Glas is a unique professional and public glass studio, gallery, learning community, shop, and café located in Ghent, Belgium. Since 2015, we have grown from a small local group of hobbyists into a team of international professionals.

Through public demonstrations of expert glass making and a range of hands on workshops, we have built a diverse community dedicated to our live events. Weekly demonstrations highlight our teamwork and artistic expression free of charge as visitors enjoy a local Belgian beer while watching the show. The studio receives an enthusiastic audience of as many as 40 to 60 visitors per week for FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE and in 2019, we also opened publicly on Thursday evenings with demonstrations during Thirsty Thursdays.

Since our founding we have hosted more than 45 visiting artists who have demonstrated for the public and worked closely with our local glass community. Our recent visiting artists have included: Ondrej Novotny, Christiaan Maas, Steven Ciezki, Charlyn Reynolds, Angus Powers, Deborah Czeresko, Kim Harty, Jocelyne Prince, Einar and Jamex de la Torre and more. We have worked with several Belgian artists and designers including Koen Vanmechelen, Frederik Delbart, and Laure Prouvost, and we offer high quality commissioned works for private individuals as well as designers and artists.

Since 2015, Gent Glas has offered more than 850 people the experience to work with hot glass directly, and thousands more the opportunity to witness glass making through our live events. We offer hands-on workshops from a complete introduction to learning experiences for those with previous knowledge. Gent Glas is a unique place and an important fixture for Ghent. It is an open glass studio accessible by the public and free to enter, common in the United States but an extremely limited commodity in Europe. In line with our intention of building a sustainable community, our members have nearly doubled and our community is continuously growing.





Mission

ARTISTS BUILDING A COMMUNITY AROUND GLASS

The mission of Gent Glas is to educate the public about the international glass community and to build a sustainable glass community in Belgium. We introduce a broad public to the processes of glass making, as an artistic medium which can be used both traditionally and conceptually. We educate young and upcoming glass makers. We showcase established glass makers and offer the opportunities to demonstrate their craft. We support and sustain the community by building and maintaining an economy around glass.

Core Values

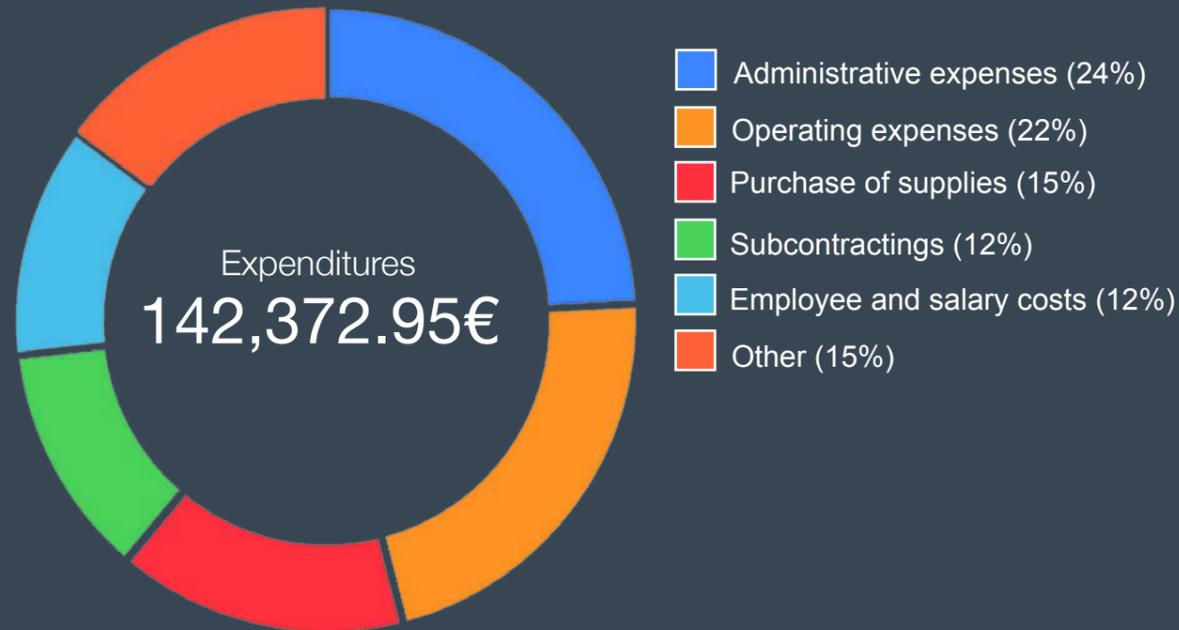
Gent Glas is the first public glass studio in Ghent. The choice to work with glass is due to the artistic, traditional, and community-bound potential inherently engrained in the material. Gent Glas operates entirely with our four main values in mind:

1. Gent Glas is an accessible studio for the professional 'glocal' community of artists, designers, craftsmen, students, and hobbyists, reflecting both local and global considerations.
2. Gent Glas promotes the highest quality in every aspect of our being. We strive towards customer service and satisfaction.
3. Gent Glas remains an open workplace, available to the general public, local residents, culture lovers, and tourists to enjoy the spectacle of glass making. It is an open place for all people who follow the guidelines of our community to come together for the love of glass.
4. Gent Glas works towards sustainability in all of our operation, from an economic and ecological standpoint. We work to be a leading voice in the European studio glass community.

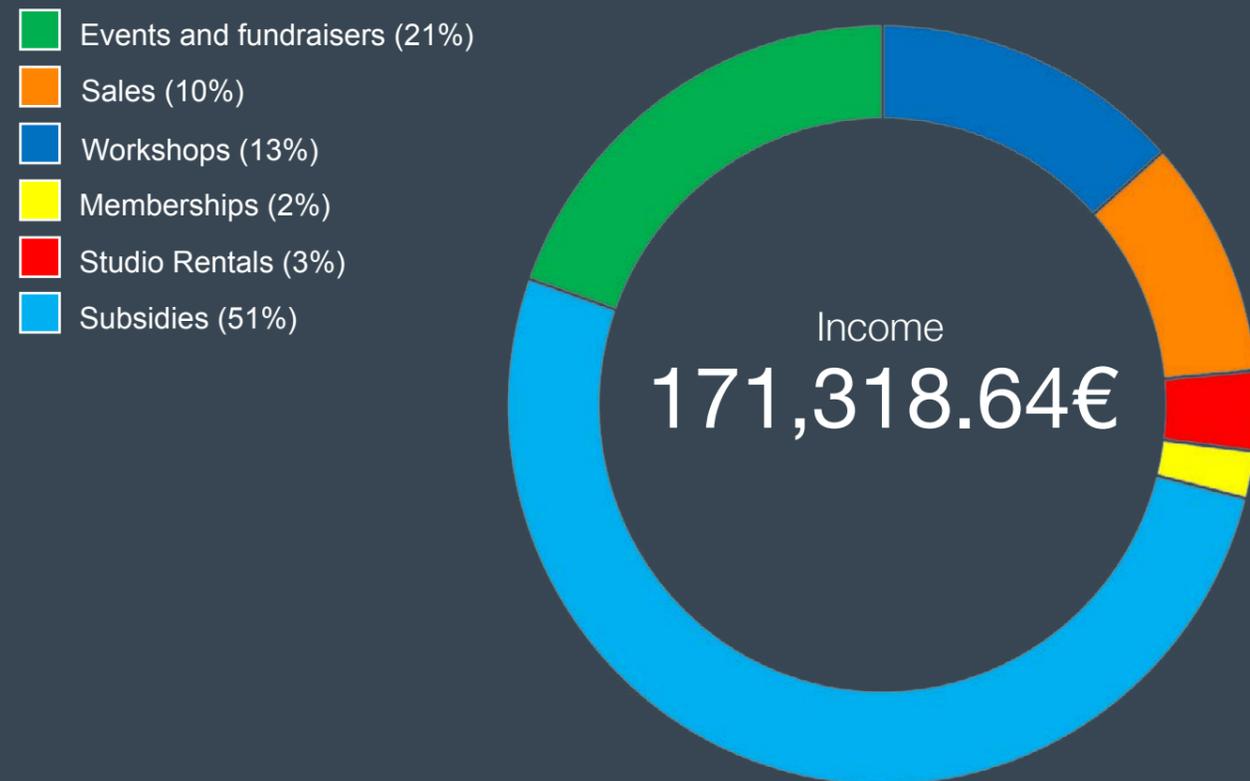
Gent Glas does not tolerate any criterion of exclusion or discrimination in its operation, be it of an ethnic or social nature, gender, religion, philosophical or political convictions or any other criterion. This applies as long as they are in accordance with the International Declaration of Human Rights. Gent Glas is a multilingual association that respects the use of different languages both from a local profiling (where a diversity of Ghentians are welcome) and from an international profiling (where artists / designers, craftsmen and visitors from any country are welcome). Due to the nature of our international community, most of our business is done in English with the utmost focus on communication.

Financial Statement

Costs Per Category



Income Per Category



Total Revenue 2018
81,846.46€

Total Revenue 2019
171,318.64€

Operating Costs 2018
78,213.64€

Operating Costs 2019
142,372.95€

Operating Results 2018
3,632.82€

Provisional
Operating result 2019
28,461.72€

Stable Growth

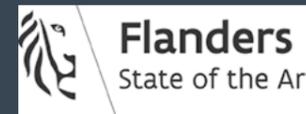


Support

Gent Glas would like to express its sincerest gratitude for the generous support of Flanders, the City of Ghent, our sponsors, and especially our community members. Without you we do not exist.

Subsidies granted
87,870.40€

Subsidy Givers



INSPIR[E](REN) -
 INSPIRATI(E)[ON]

Transitieregelement
 Departement Cultuur,
 Jeugd en Media
 2018 / 2019

CoCreatie

Transitieregelement
 Departement Cultuur,
 Jeugd en Media
 2019 / 2020

Doorbraak in Glas

Experimenteel Jeugdwerk
 Departement Cultuur, Jeugd
 en Media



Fragments

Gentse Feestensubsidie
 Departement Cultuur,
 Sport en Vrije tijd

#Banka
 Szkło van de Straat

Projectsubsidie Cultuur
 Departement Cultuur,
 Sport en Vrije tijd

To Be Continued...

Tijdelijke Invulling
 2018 / 2019

Building the Future

Tijdelijke Invulling

Fundraising and Member Support

First Annual
 Pumpkin Patch

raised for Apprenticeship and
 Educational programming

Annual Christmas Sale

raised for Apprenticeship and
 Educational programming

Membership Support

raised for in support of Gent
 Glas programming

Fundraisers and Sponsors
13,615€

In Kind Sponsors



Doorbraak in Glas
 Glass color donation
 in support of the Youth programming

Setting A Fire

Education and outreach

91

Workshop participants between the ages of 14 and 30

11

New workshops added to our existing programming schedule

9

Participants exhibited their work in the exhibition: Fragments

176

Total workshop participants

33

Participants continued on to the next level

Workshop Programming

Gent Glas expanded our workshop offerings to include a wide variety of introductory, beginner, and intermediate sessions. Our goal is to build and maintain an ongoing trajectory for individuals interested in pursuing glass as an artistic or craft medium.

Doorbraak in Glas

Gent Glas offered different artistic workshops focused around various artistic techniques including drawing, glass sculpting, glass painting, and glass fusing to the local youth. The project offered guidance during the workshops, and encouraged collaboration, group-work, and artistic expression in young people. The project is growing and has extended into 2020.

Fragments

During the Gentse Feesten, Gent Glas organized and curated an exhibition together with the participants of the Doorbraak in Glas workshops. Nine of the workshop participants transformed the studio into a contemporary art exhibition, showcasing their highlighted artworks. The exhibition received approximately 150 visitors during the ten day display.

Gent Glas co-curated an exhibition together with NerdLab. Participants from our collaborative workshop Glass and Tech, A Love Story, curated an amazing display of works utilizing the illuminative qualities of glass and their collective wealth of technological knowledge. The festival had nearly 2000 visitors during the lead event, Bring Your Own Beamer.

ARTISTIC CLARITY

International Visibility in the Arts

7
Visiting Artists
or Artists in
Residence

9
Artists working at
Gent Glas

11
Exhibitions by
members of Gent
Glas or sponsored
by Gent Glas

Fragments. Group Exhibition.

#Banka Szkło van de Straat

Internationally recognized
artist Kalina Banka (PL)
visited Gent Glas as an
artist in residence.

Visions in Glass

John Moran and Marta
Byrdziak demonstrated hot
glass sculpting during the GAS
Conference in St. Petersburg,
Florida.

Florentine Syndrome

A solo exhibition for
internationally renowned
artists, Jamex and Einar
De La Torre co-organized
with SiC! Gallery of BWA
Galleries of Contemporary Art,
Wrocław, Poland. Co-curated
by John Moran and Dominika
Drozdowska.

INSPIR[E](REN) - INSPIRATI(E)[ON]

Recipients from the open
call for an artistic residency:
Jocelyne Prince, Monali Meher,
Katarzyna Klich.

CoCreatie Open Call:
Simone Fezer (DE) and Katherine Huskie (UK) - 2020.

SUSTAINABILITY ON SITE

Infrastructure and Expansion

Through the generous support of the City of Ghent, Gent Glas invested in the future of our community with important upgrades to our facilities.

Over
25,000€

Invested in workplace improvements and more efficient equipment.

To Be Continued...

Through the support of the City of Ghent, Gent Glas updated the facilities in our cold shop, creating a safe and usable space and creating the possibility for future workshops. In addition, we were able to purchase new cold working equipment.

80m²

Additional workspace for the cold shop and tech room.

Building the Future

Also through the generous support of the City of Ghent, Gent Glas purchased and installed a more efficient and safer burner system on one of its main working ovens. This step towards a more ecologically sound operation and a more sustainable use of energy puts Gent Glas at the forefront of green thinking in the European glass community. This step is the first of many towards one of the foundations of our organization – creating a sustainable future for the glass community.

45%

The conservative estimate of the new *Wet Dog Glass* temperature controlled burner system is that it uses 45% less gas than the previous system. Greater efficiency = greater savings = greater sustainability.

"I look forward to sharing my passion with new members of the community."

- Bavo Cremers

Gathering Together

Community in Focus

Over
2150
Visitors to our live events

A Unique Offering

Gent Glas is one of the only places of its kind. As a public glass studio and educational facility, we are open to the public free of charge two evenings a week for live glass demonstrations. Through these events, we introduce the international glass community to a broad audience not familiar with the passion that we all have for working with this material.

Our team is made up of a mix of amateurs and professionals, who work together voluntarily to increase their professional competencies and are committed to growing their own skill set beyond expectation. Our public events have continued to garner international attention in the glass community.

Pumpkin Patch

Over 200 glass pumpkins were made by volunteers, raising over 10,000€ to support our growing community

Thirsty Thursday

Over 350 visitors throughout the year including Drink and Draw Ghent and theSquare. Ghent expat drink

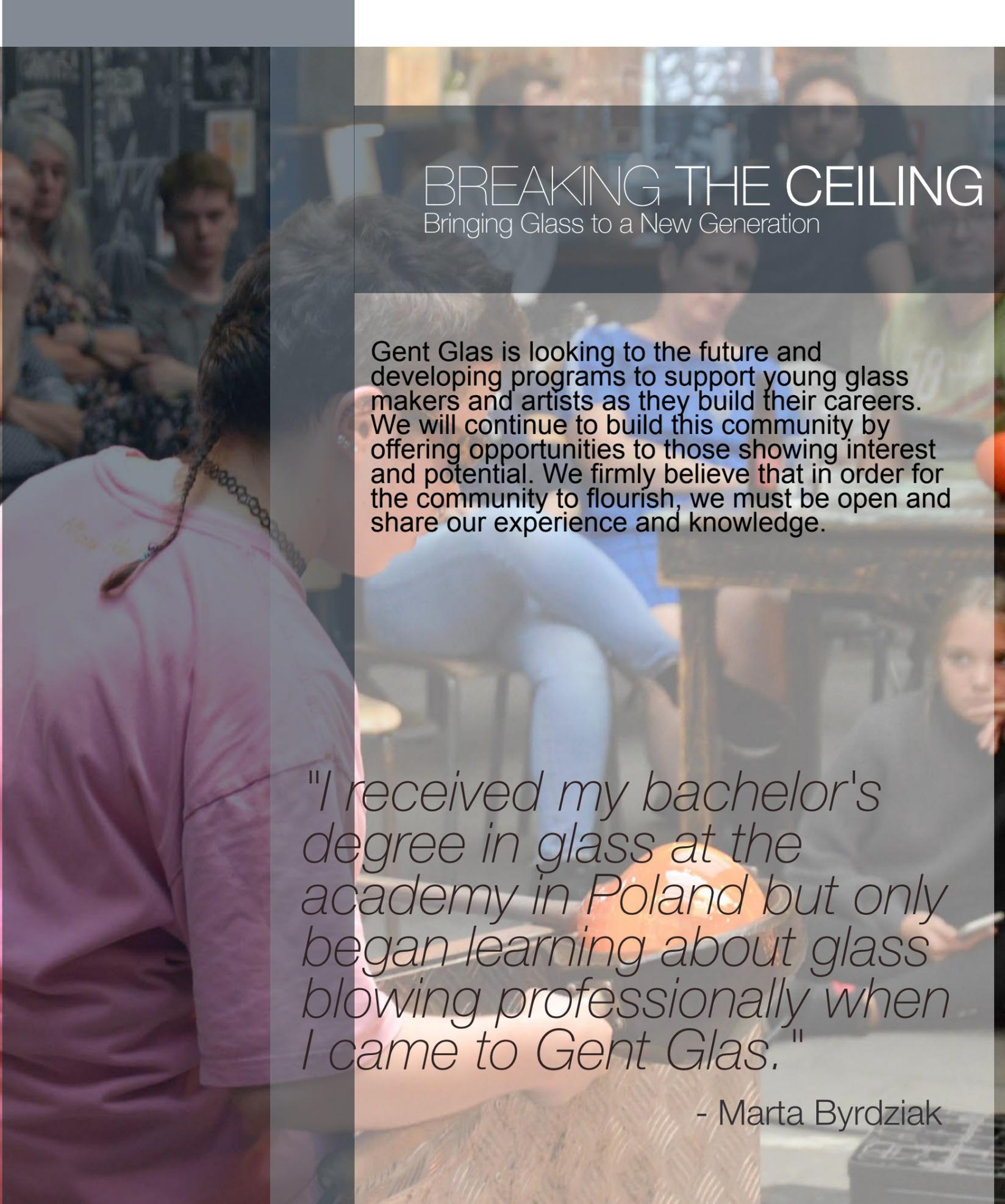
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Over 1800 visitors throughout the year to our flagship event



"Gent Glas gives me the opportunity and freedom to explore the material even further, surrounded by professional artists who encourage and support me every day."

- Bloe Van Eeckhout



BREAKING THE CEILING

Bringing Glass to a New Generation

Gent Glas is looking to the future and developing programs to support young glass makers and artists as they build their careers. We will continue to build this community by offering opportunities to those showing interest and potential. We firmly believe that in order for the community to flourish, we must be open and share our experience and knowledge.

"I received my bachelor's degree in glass at the academy in Poland but only began learning about glass blowing professionally when I came to Gent Glas."

- Marta Byrdziak

LOOKING FORWARD

Each year since our inception, we have nearly doubled our turnover, staff members, offerings, and community members. Moving forward, we are working more strategically to efficiently grow the organization and programming. We are focusing on six levels of expansion and development.

Goals

50%

Growth in our community offerings and engagement

2x

Growth in our capacity and educational programming

-50%

Energy usage and waste through efficiency and reusable materials

Leadership
through expertise in the field

Employment
of staff with experience and vision

Community
focus on inclusion and accessibility

Programming
geared towards education and knowledge sharing

Capacity
for more visitors and glass makers

Sustainability
through efficient and economic thinking

Artists Building a Community Around Glass

We are not shy about our vision to become an internationally renowned, contemporary glass center. Each year we will continue to grow and adapt as we take the necessary steps towards achieving this goal and leaving a long lasting resource for Ghentians and international glass makers alike. As each year passes and our community grows, we are able to offer more in depth programming and adapt to fit our growing infrastructure.

We are continuously working towards the ability to offer more employment opportunities to community members. We are also currently searching for a permanent location so we are able to make bigger investments to support infrastructural development for the workspace. We are striving to create a free place for creative thinking, which is open to the public and offers affordable access to the glass community.

Expand

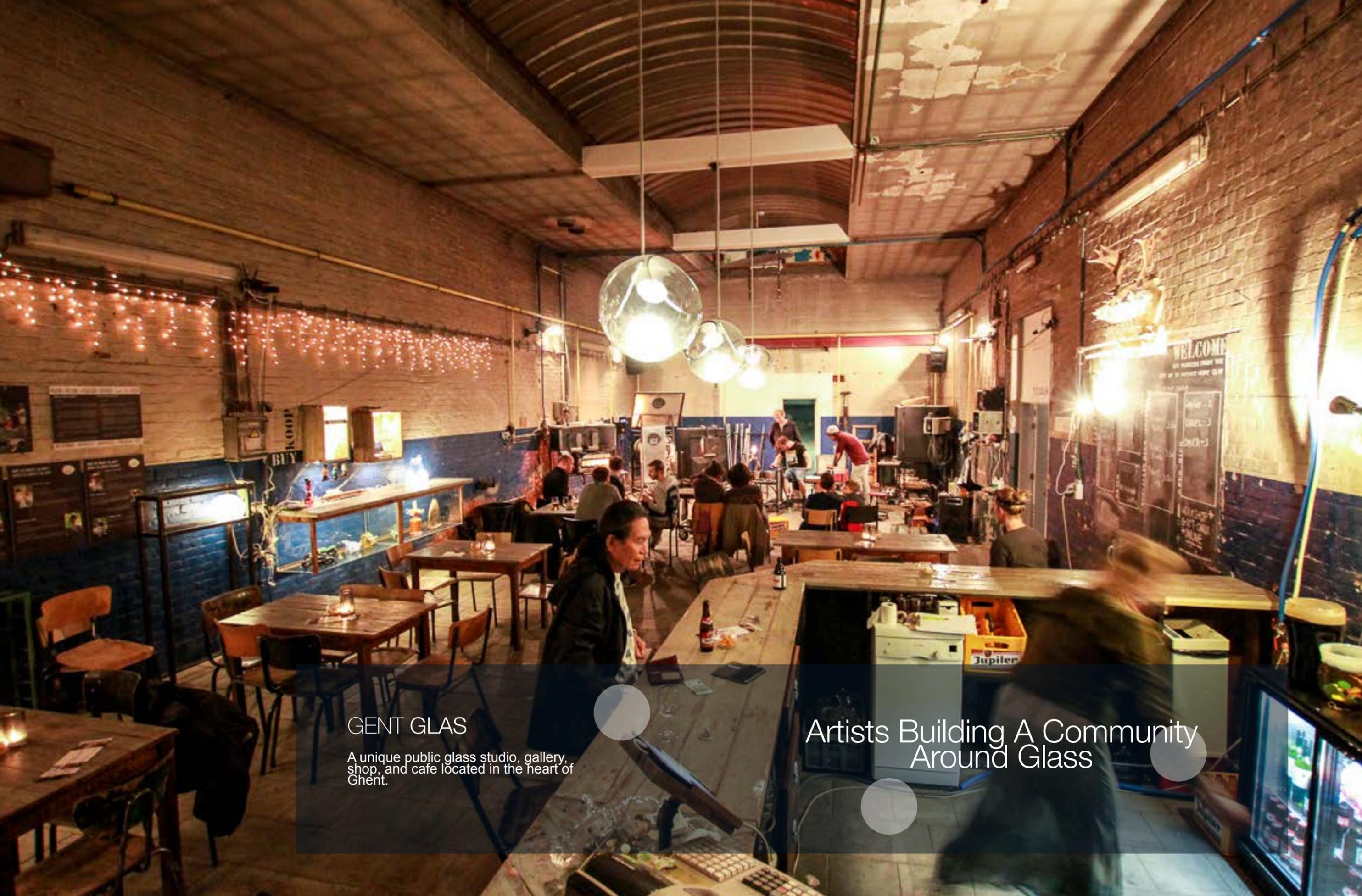
- Board of directors
- Studio capacity
- Public open hours
- Educational programming
- Artist in residence program

Grow

- Workshop participants
- Renters and studio usage
- Visitor engagement
- Artistic community
- Beyond our own organization

Sustain

- Economic security
- Realistic goals and setpoints
- Investments in efficiency and towards a greener working environment



GENT GLAS

A unique public glass studio, gallery, shop, and cafe located in the heart of Ghent.

Artists Building A Community
Around Glass



GENT GLAS

Gent Glas vzw 2019

