



THE CENTER FOR ARTS AT THE ARMORY

SOMERVILLE, MA





The Center for Arts at the Armory is Somerville's largest arts organization, serving around 250,000 people with 750+ events every year.



It is our mission to create space and opportunities for artists and cultural workers, bring diverse audiences together, enrich and transform lives, and promote the creative economy.



The repurposed Armory opened its doors as a community art center in 2008—anchored by Arts at the Armory, and the Performance Hall and Café that we operate.

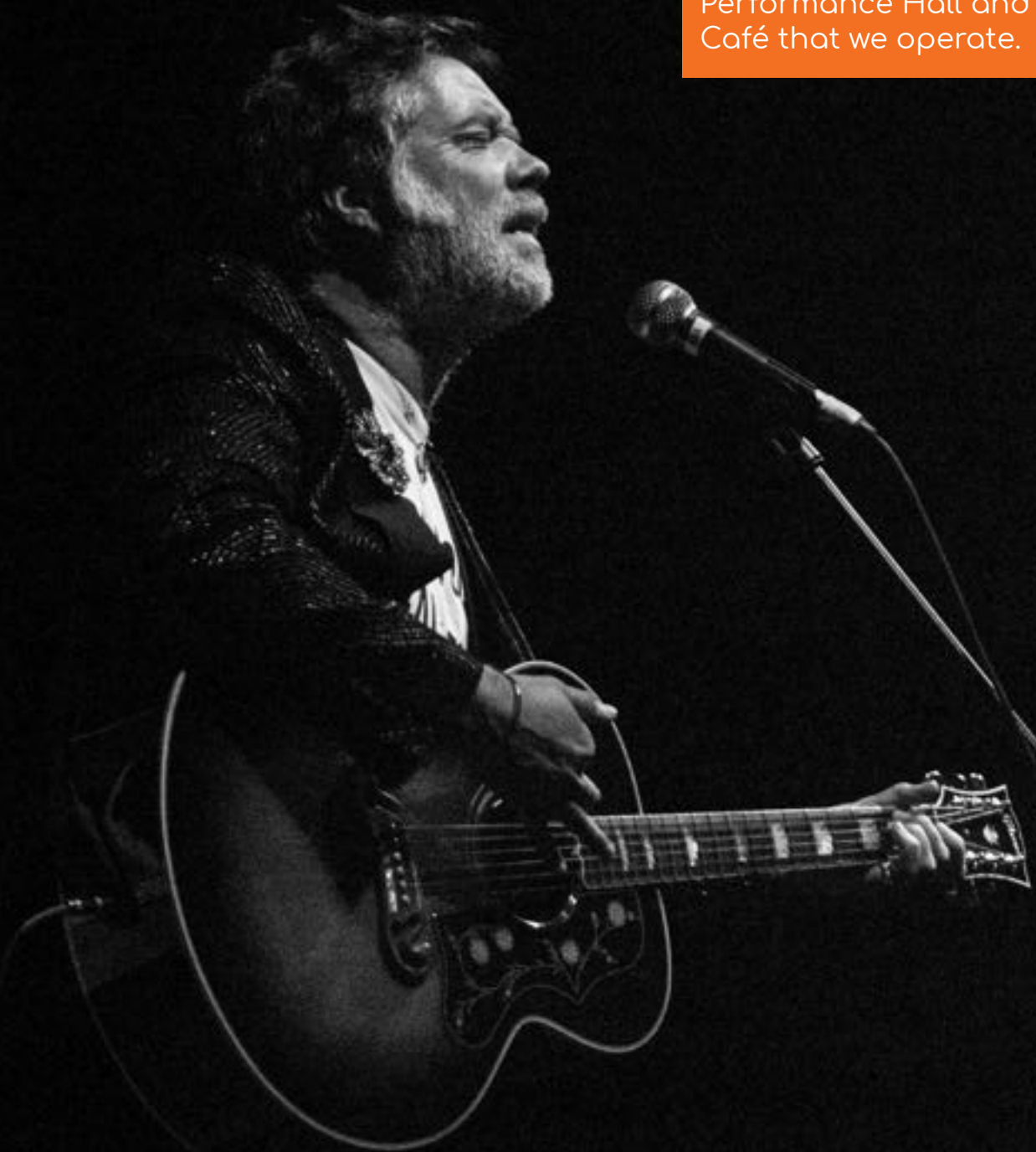
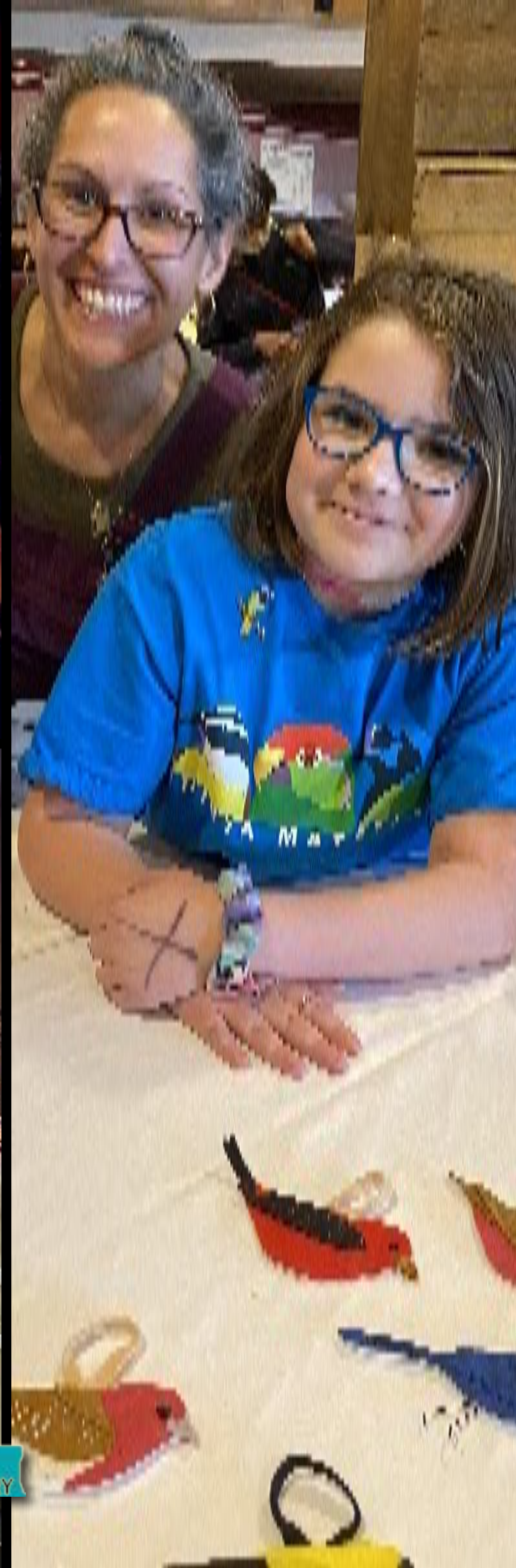


Photo of Rufus Wainwright by Leah Klein

We host everything from music, theater, dance, circus, and comedy performances, to film screenings, markets, private functions, visual art exhibitions, and community events. After a major upgrade in 2023—including new lights, sound, and projection—we are even better equipped to host artists, performers, and audiences in our Performance Hall (395 seated/495 standing).





We value our role as a *third space*—a community gathering place separate from home and work or school. Now just a 10-minute walk to the MBTA Green line, our spaces are even more accessible to the Greater Boston community.






Our Café provides free space to artists, cultural workers, and community event organizers, and is also used for meetings and private events.

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We work hard to maintain accessible rates based on a sliding scale, to have a trained staff at the ready to serve, and to outfit, upgrade and maintain our spaces in ways that are necessary and relevant to our community.





In addition to the many events produced independently of CAA, Arts at the Armory has five signature programs.





Since 2022, our Spotlight Series has presented touring artists that represent diverse communities, including the following GRAMMY winners: Blind Boys of Alabama, Rufus Wainwright, Ravi Coltrane, Shawn Colvin, Meshell Ndegeocello, John Scofield, Bill Frisell, iLe, and Riders in the Sky, among others.



Funds donated to our Performance Opportunity Program allow us to substantially cut our Performance Hall Booking rates for local artists and cultural workers.





In 2023, we launched Feet Keep the Beat, a multicultural percussive dance festival featuring Kathak, West African, Step, Irish, Flamenco and Tap.





Our rotating Visual Arts Exhibitions program displays work by diverse local artists in our café.

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Somerville Winter Farmers Market connects local farmers and small businesses with our neighbors in Somerville and across the Greater Boston area over local produce, the culture of food, and live music. One of the few winter farmers markets in the region, SWFM also offers a \$15 Match to SNAP-eligible customers, totaling more than \$25,000 each year.





Backed by a diverse Board of Directors, CAA's women-led co-directorship has grown the Center for Arts at the Armory from an annual budget of less than \$400,000 to over \$1.3 million, expanded the center's staff from 15 part-time members to 6 full-time and 23 part-time members, and completed a \$450,000 grant-funded renovation project in the Performance Hall.



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Photo of Ravi Coltrane by Michael Kurgansky