

In 1985 **AS220** opened

with a **simple mission:**

to **provide a venue** where

all Rhode Island **artists**

could **show their work.**

Over the past fifteen years,
AS220 has grown to provide Rhode Island with...

Rhode Island's busiest venue for the arts

AS220's performance space and cafe are alive with activity **seven nights a week**, and the five gallery spaces are booked two years in advance. Add in events like the annual **Fools Ball** and the **Action Speaks** forum series and you have the most **eclectic, inclusive and active** venue in Rhode Island.

Community leadership

Bustling with vitality day and night, AS220 is the high-profile **gateway to the Providence Arts and Entertainment District**. When tourists, visiting politicians and reporters from **national media** like CBS, Esquire Magazine and National Public Radio search for the **heart of the Providence Renaissance**, AS220 is their first stop.

Vital youth programs

The AS220 Muse Union provides **high school students** with monthly opportunities to **get on stage** and to **exhibit artwork**, as well as a semi-annual magazine, a summer photography class and other **opportunities for self-expression**. And in 2001, the Broad Street Community Studio will open, providing a much-needed transitional **arts program for juvenile offenders** from the Rhode Island Training School.

Priceless creative resources

AS220's **darkroom, screenprinting studio** and **computer lab** make capital-intensive equipment available to the public at **extremely affordable** rates, and these programs also provide a **national model** for how to run simple, self-sustaining programs that touch **hundreds of people each year**.

A lively community

With 21 resident artists, hundreds of regular performers and countless volunteers, AS220 provides **inspiration and opportunity** to hundreds of people's social, professional and creative lives.

2000 Membership Drive

discover

1985

AS220 was created to be an alternative space that would remain relevant as the needs of the arts community changed.

1986

During the first five years of AS220's

1987

existence, the open mission was

1988

shaped, tested and reconfirmed as

1989

Rhode Island – and the rest of the

1990

world – discovered AS220.

1991

August 1985

AS220 welcomes its first visitor at 220 Weybosset Street

1992

1993

Disneyland welcomes its 250 millionth visitor.

1994

April 1986

AS220 moves to the second floor of 71 Richmond Street

1995

1996

November 1986

Details of the Iran Contra scandal begin to surface

1997

1998

June 1987

Worcester Arts Group is established using AS220's bylaws

1999

2000

January 1988

Prozac becomes available in the US

April 1988

The Cabaret of the Oddly Normal begins a ten-year run as AS220's monthly experimental showcase

August 1988

AS220 hires Umberto Crenca as its first fulltime employee

March 1989

Exxon Valdez spill threatens the Alaska coast

April 1989

Rhode Island Objects Show is an AS220 gallery highlight

November 1989

Berlin Wall falls

January – March 1990

Waves of artists are evicted from their Providence studios, inspiring conversations that eventually lead to AS220's purchase of 115 Empire Street.

September 1990

The Simpsons debuts

January 1991

Governor Bruce Sundlun enters office, shuts down 42 RI banks and credit unions.

June 1991

Build AS220 capital campaign begins

October 1991

Anita Hill accuses Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment

February 1992

Empire Street is identified as the new site for AS220

April 1992

Four L.A. policemen are acquitted in beating of Rodney King, sparking riots

May 1992

Green Day performs at AS220 as part of Poor Richard's Mammoth

June 1993

AS220 hosts its first performance at 115 Empire Street

President Clinton establishes the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy

September 1993

Mosaic, the first common web browser, is released

January 1994

AS220 Cafe opens at 115 Empire Street

Barnaby Evans debuts First Fire, the precursor to Waterfire

February 1994

AS220 hosts the Overflow Show, accepting all entries rejected by RISD's exhibition of Rhode Island artists

August 1994

Green Day headlines Woodstock '94 alongside Bob Dylan and Nine Inch Nails

September 1994

Donald King arrives as AS220's first artist-in-residence and establishes the Xodus series

January 1995

Pork Chop Lounge theater/cabaret series begins at AS220

OJ Simpson trial begins in L.A.

April 1995

First AS220 Fools Ball annual fundraiser is held

September 1995

AS220 website debuts; public computer lab opens

October 1995

Action Speaks, AS220's topical forum series begins

build

AS220 came of age during the Build AS220 capitol campaign, when hundreds of volunteers came together to purchase 115 Empire Street, renovate the space and ensure that new artists would always find their own way to help build AS220.

USE

Secure in the new building, AS220 began an aggressive campaign to reach out to new artists and audiences. The focus has been on building more community-accessible resources, increasing AS220's capacity, and guaranteeing that all Rhode Islanders know that they can use AS220.

April 1996

City of Providence hires AS220 to create the Arts and Entertainment portion of their website

August 1996

First Gallery Night trolleys art lovers throughout Providence

September 1996

TV220, AS220's public access cable show debuts

Donald King opens Providence Black Repertory Company

June 1997

Convergence Film and Video Festival debuts at AS220

James Cameron's *Titanic* premieres

November 1997

Youth In Action, a community non-profit, moves into the second floor of AS220

March 1998

Viagra is approved by the FDA

August 1998

AS220 is awarded a \$325,000 grant from Lila Wallace-Readers Digest Fund

December 1998

AS220's Community Printshop opens for public use

March 1999

AS220 Muse Union is established, bringing together high school students from throughout Rhode Island

September 1999

Providence Place opens

December 1999

AS220 Muse Union publishes the first 24-page Muzine, a collection of youth writings and artwork.

August 2000

The Sundance Institute announces plans to open a cinema in downtown Providence.

September 2000

Teachers are chosen for the Broad Street Community Studio, an arts program for youth from the RI Training School, to open in January 2001

15th Anniversary Membership Drive

In the fall of 2000, AS220 celebrated its 15th anniversary. That's right, it's been that long since AS220 opened with an all-volunteer staff, \$800 in the bank, and a month-to-month lease at 220 Weybosset Street.

Not only has AS220 outlasted other notable innovations like new Coke, or the *Back To The Future* films, it's grown in ways no one would have dreamed possible.

This fall, AS220 launches its 15th Anniversary Membership Drive, calling once again for your support. This Drive is a key part of this year's budget, and by participating, you not only help pay the bills, you also send a clear message to AS220 that you support the work it does in the community. Please take a minute to return the enclosed card with your generous donation.

Give \$30 and receive

All AS220 mailings
Four free passes

Give \$60 and receive

All AS220 mailings
Six free passes
A Membership Card
good for
20% off admission

This year's edition of
the AS220 t-shirt

Give \$120 and receive

All that plus
A Membership Card
upgrade to
Free Admission!

Give \$250 and receive

All that plus
A Lifetime Pass
to AS220!

Give \$500 and receive

All that plus
Two Lifetime Passes
to AS220!

Yes! I must join AS220 to keep building a permanent home for the arts!

Sign me up for:

\$30 \$60 \$120 \$250 \$500

I have enclosed a check made payable to AS220

Please charge my Visa/Mastercard

#

exp.date

I decline my benefits to maximize my contribution

I prefer to be anonymous.

Please do not list my name.

My company has a matching gift program and I have enclosed the forms.

I would like to receive more information about:

Volunteer opportunities

Booking a performance

Booking a gallery show

name

address

city/state/zip

phone

my favorite AS220 event is:

AS220

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