



# JOIN THE MECHANICS' HALL BOARD!

We're seeking dynamic, community-oriented individuals to support one of Maine's oldest arts and humanities organizations.

Help shape our mission for future generations!

*4 positions available*

## WHO WE ARE

Mechanics' Hall is a vibrant cultural organization celebrated for its historic library and performance space. We offer diverse programs that support and educate our creative community, serving as a resource for arts and humanities. We house the 8th oldest member-supported library in the U.S. and are part of the Membership Libraries Group, alongside esteemed institutions like the Athenaeum of Philadelphia and the New York Society Library.

In recent years, Mechanics' Hall gained recognition from the National Parks Service as a Nationally Significant building, supported by federal funding. We're renewing our interior space with a concept design plan by Epstein-Joslin + Picardy to better serve our community.

Our mission emphasizes diversity, equity, and inclusion across all aspects of Mechanics' Hall, from leadership to programming.

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## OUR MISSION

Mechanics' Hall strives to make knowledge, ideas, and arts accessible to all. We engage the community through cultural events and educational programs, preserving our landmark building as a place to gather, celebrate, and learn.

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the last year, we've significantly expanded our role as an arts incubator by hosting music and dance residencies and finding new opportunities to offer our space to our creative community in ways that elevate discourse, experience wonder, and inspire discovery. **Some highlights include hosting 40+ book launches and literary events, collaborating with an artists' collaborative from Cape Elizabeth, hosting residencies for NOISEFLOOR, and monthly creatives gathering by Signature Soul.**

*Mechanics' Hall adds so much to the cultural conversation in Portland. Thank you for all you do!*

**- Lily King, award-winning novelist**

*I can't imagine life without Mechanics' Hall. It's a quiet haven for writing, filled with a splendid array of new and old books. It's where I joyously celebrated the release of my debut novel. Attending events there has introduced me to cherished new friends in the audience. Bringing newcomers to the space is a delight—the universal, awe-filled response is, "Why didn't I know about this before?" I'm so grateful it exists.*

**- Keziah Weir, author, The Mythmakers**





## THE BOARD

Our board comprises diverse thinkers and leaders who collaborate closely with our Executive Director and staff. We're committed to our strategic plan and the legacy of Mechanics' Hall.

## WHY JOIN THE BOARD?

- **RICH HISTORY AND CULTURAL IMPACT**  
Contribute to an organization deeply tied to Portland's history, making significant contributions to arts and humanities.
- **LEGACY PRESERVATION**  
Help preserve and grow Mechanics' Hall's legacy, driving ongoing transformation.
- **ARTS AND HUMANITIES ADVOCACY**  
Foster empathy and critical thinking in Portland's cultural landscape.
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
Support diverse programming and shape cultural conversations.
- **NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION**  
Connect with passionate individuals contributing to arts, community, and history

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

**Founding (1815)** Mechanics' Hall traces its roots back to the Maine Charitable Mechanic Association (MCMA), founded 209 years ago to support Maine's creative community, which at the time included blacksmiths, coopers, artists, innovators, and creators.

### Building Construction (1857-1859)

Mechanics' Hall, constructed during this period, is a testament to Portland's architectural and cultural history. The building opened doors for individuals with limited access to creative professions, books, and craftsmanship. Our mission today still maintains that everyone should have equal access to the arts and humanities.

## WHAT DOES A MECHANICS' HALL BOARD MEMBER DO?

- **DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDRAISING**  
Secure investments for growth.
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
Enhance our presence within the community.
- **MARKETING**  
Support initiatives to raise awareness.
- **ARTS ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS PLANNING**  
Contribute to strategic development.

## PRACTICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- **BIMONTHLY MEETINGS**  
Actively contribute to decision-making.
- **VOLUNTEER AVAILABILITY**  
Participate in collaborative initiatives.
- **ENTHUSIASM**  
Bring dedication to your role.
- **FUNDRAISING COLLABORATION**  
Work on initiatives to secure resources.



*Performing at Mechanics' Hall was a rare and wonderful experience, thanks to their genuine support for queer Latinx art and the delightful, accommodating team. I'm incredibly grateful and I can't wait to come back!*

**- AJ Paramo, cast member performing as AJ/DANCAIRO, double agent ICE officer in CarmXn**

Join us in impacting communities through arts and humanities programming. Reach out to [admin@mainemechanics.org](mailto:admin@mainemechanics.org) if you're passionate about our mission.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to be part of Mechanics' Hall!