

# Impact Report January 2025

Where community and creativity come together

**Bellforge Arts Center**



# Bellforge Board of Directors

- Jessica Thompson Somol, *President*
- Brian Grimm, *Vice President*
- Randy Rogers, *Treasurer*
- David Yuknat, *Clerk*
- Patrick Casey
- Peter Dolan
- Gary Dunning
- Jacqueline Evans
- Andrew Flynn
- Brian McCormick
- Jennifer Paxton
- Kirsten Poler
- Jeremiah Potts
- Aaron Rosenberg
- David Scott Sloan
- Mark Swirbalus
- Bob Tormey
- Khushbu Webber



## You made this possible

Bellforge 2024 season at a glance

**28** programs  
welcomed over  
**12,000** attendees

More on page 2-3

Project milestone:  
Roof membrane for  
future education  
center

More on page 4-5

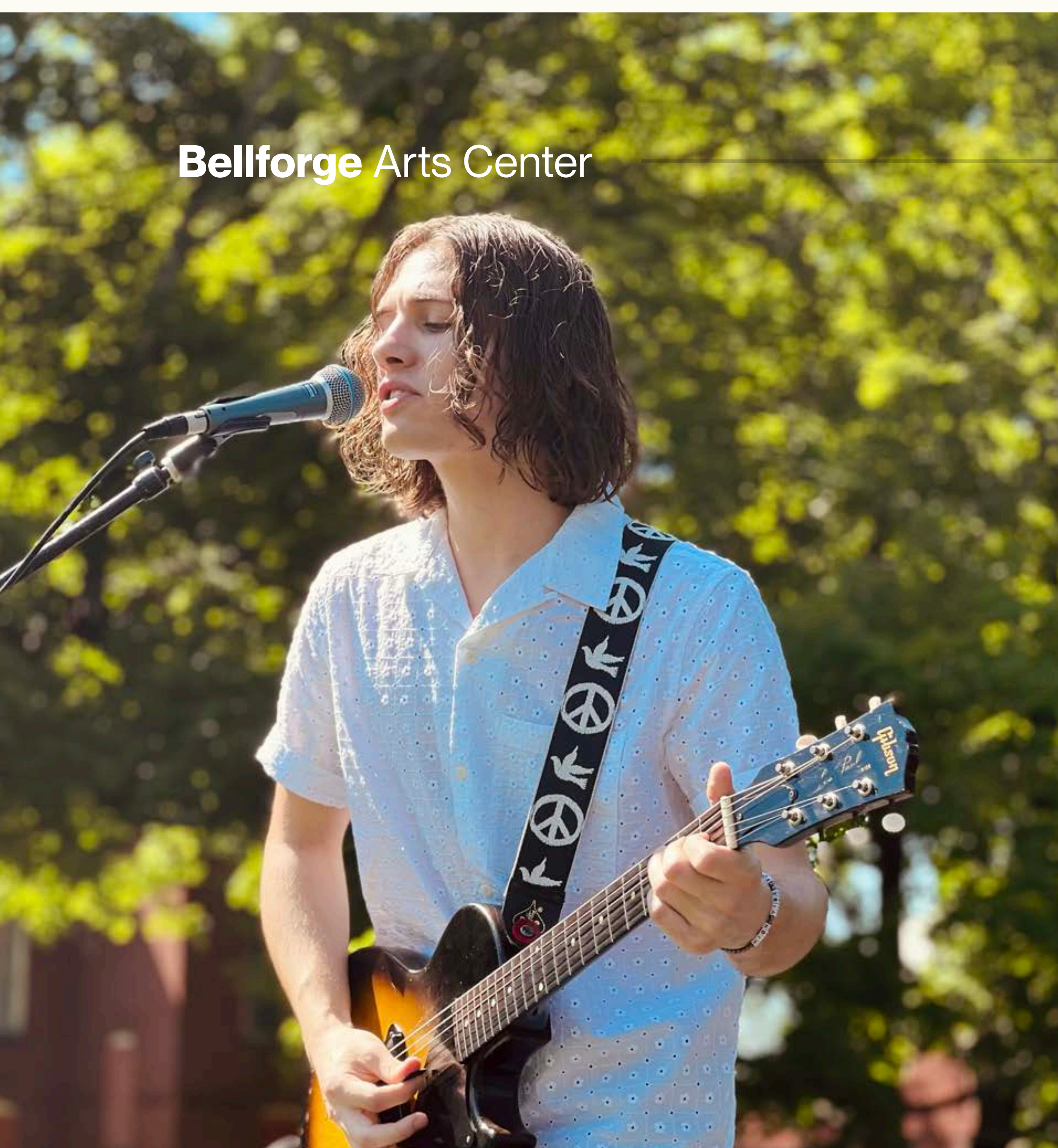
New pilot initiatives:  
Summer Camp and  
Art + Food Program

More on page 6-7

Community and  
artist impact

More on page 8-9





# Programs

The third season of programs at the Bellfor Arts Center featured 28 events showcasing 75 artists, 52% of whom were BIPOC performers, and welcomed over **12,000 attendees**.

Until the arts center is open and fully operational, the Bellfor Arts Center outdoor programs have been successful in growing awareness and community engagement.

The Bellfor was featured in numerous media publications and programs including:

- WBUR**
- WGBH**
- CBS News**
- Boston Globe**

Bottom photo: Jean Mineo, Bellfor Arts Center's Executive Director, at the Community Foundation for MetroWest's Inspiration Breakfast panel with WGBH's Jared Bowen, Barr Foundation's Jim Canales, and Community Foundation for MetroWest's Jay Kim.

Image credit: Community Foundation for MetroWest.

Where community and creativity come together



# Growing audiences: By the numbers

## 520

This season, program attendees came from 520 different zip codes

## 90,202

The Bellforge Arts Center surpassed 90k location searches on Google Maps

## 120,177

The Bellforge Arts Center website received over 120,000 page views



# Project milestone: Roof membrane for future education center

The roof of the building that will become the Education Center was in poor condition, allowing water to leak inside and cause further damage to the interior of the historic building. Thanks to your support as well as grants from The Savage Family Foundation and the Massachusetts Historic Preservation Matching Grant Program, administered by Preservation Massachusetts in partnership with The 1772 Foundation, a protective membrane was successfully installed on the slate roof to prevent further damage before the next winter.





# New Initiatives: Summer Camp

The Bellforge has partnered with Rehearsal for Life, an organization with 25+ years of experience in youth arts programs, to launch the first summer camp. The program focused on strengthening young people’s social and emotional skills for every stage in life through dialogue, creativity and performance. Throughout the session, campers participated in all aspects of creating and putting on a theatrical play, which they performed at the Bellforge Arts Center stage.



# New Initiatives: Art + Food Program

With access and equity as key priorities for the organization, and with its aim to promote wellness for the individual as a whole, the Bellforge launched a new initiative to provide access to a meal and the arts. The Bellforge has been providing vouchers to local food pantries to share with their clients, who are then able to use them for a meal on the campus while attending an event. In this way, they are not only being nourished with food but are also exposed to the many benefits of participating in an arts and culture experience. As the authors of the book *Your Brain on Art* remind us, “the arts offer a range of effective treatments for individual mental-health challenges, as well as our collective emotional zeitgeist. They improve our psychology by offering enhanced self-efficacy, coping, and emotional regulation. They improve our physiology by lowering stress-hormone response, enhancing immune function, and increasing cardiovascular reactivity. And that's just the beginning.”

Where community and creativity come together





# Community and artist impact

The Bellforge Arts Center has seen enthusiastic community engagement and received strong, positive responses, highlighting the community’s desire for a dedicated, accessible multi-arts venue that supports both artists and diverse audiences.

97%

of the people surveyed said Bellforge Arts Center positively impacts the region

Bellforge was accepted into the state’s Art Pharmacy program. Art Pharmacy’s services enable healthcare providers and other care team members to prescribe arts and culture participation to individuals with a range of health concerns. Arts-based social prescribing is an effective way to support patients with mental health needs and reduce social isolation/loneliness, among many other benefits.



“The Community Foundation for MetroWest is grateful to have Bellforge Arts Center as a partner in creating a more vibrant and equitable MetroWest. Under the leadership of Jean Mineo, Bellforge has made remarkable strides in developing and expanding accessible arts and culture opportunities for all our MetroWest neighbors. We are proud to partner with and support them and look forward to their continued success and growth as a destination for the arts in the region.”

**Jay Kim, Executive Director of Community Foundation for MetroWest**

“The Bellforge provides a unique concert experience that feels really historic and special. It also serves to connect the musical community in a new way, providing more opportunities for artists and audiences to come together.”

**From an artist who performed at the Bellforge**

“We love the Bellforge!! My family and I look forward to seeing what events take place there every weekend and usually you will find us there, meeting up with friends. We are so happy to see what the Bellforge has become and are excited to continue to see it grow because we know this is just the beginning. We are life long supporters! Thank you for everything you’ve done for arts in our community!”

**From a Bellforge event attendee**



# Campaign Supporters

The Bellforge Arts Center is deeply grateful to the campaign donors and supporters whose contributions are essential to making the new arts center a reality.

Anonymous (2)  
The Aegon Transamerica Foundation  
Karen and Sean Aiken  
Dan and Sarah Allenby  
Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund  
Andrew Modest and Beth Arndtsen  
Jeannette Atkinson  
Don and Carol Aucoin  
Josh and Wendi Ayer  
Bay and Nick Bancroft  
Nancy Banker  
Barr Foundation  
William and Ingrid\* Barrett  
James and Edith Bastian  
Philip and Beth Bauman  
Marla Beck  
Veronika and Nathan Berkowitz  
Jonathan Bernstein  
Jennifer Bethel and Erik Sirri  
David and Katherine Bingham  
Karen M. Birmingham  
John Blyzinskyj  
Tim and Linda Bonfatti  
Caroline Boynton  
Kathleen Brennan and Jerry Cianciolo\*  
Judy Brodkin  
Richard Brody  
Sam and Mitchell Burman

Karen Burns White  
James T. Campbell  
Shelley S. Cantor  
Pat and Carolyn Casey  
Bob and Susie Caspar  
Cathy and George Chung  
Gus and Heather Coldebella  
Jed and Laura Collins  
Community Foundation for MetroWest  
Thomas Connors  
Laureen and David Cronin  
Gay and Gene Crowley  
John and Liana Dalton  
Dancing Tides Foundation  
The Debin Family  
Dedham Savings Community Foundation  
Ross Demont  
Sean and Elizabeth Devlin  
Tom Dixon  
Peter and Sheree Dolan  
Gary and Anne Dunning  
John and Gayle Edgar  
Elizabeth Enright  
Rob and Jackie Evans  
Catherine and Fulvio Fabrizi  
Henry and Kathleen Faulkner  
Joseph and Jodi Feeney  
Michael and Martha Festa  
Judith Fischer  
Barbara H. Fleming  
Andrew Flynn  
Amy Hyson and Oedipus  
The Frankel Family  
Tom and Jill French  
Carol and Stephen Geremia  
John and Margi Goetz  
Susan Gorog  
Ged and Wendy Gove

Kristin Graham  
Grayce B. Kerr Fund  
Mitchell and Lisa Green  
Rob and Ginny Gregg  
Angela Gregory  
Brian and Rebecca Grimm  
Mark Gronemeyer and Melanie Guerra  
Jane Hackett  
Gabriele and Warner Harrison  
Tom and Christine Heer  
Heidi and Peter Heiland  
Roger Hobby  
Rich and Susan Holbrook  
Heather Horan  
Barbara and Amos Hostetter  
Andy and Kim Hyland  
Jeff Hyman  
Theresa and Juan Ibla  
The Ilene Beal Charitable Foundation  
Ralph Jaccodine  
Lynn Jameson  
Deanna Jantzen  
Lynn Judge  
Paula Kavolius  
Renana and Josh Kehoe  
Liam and Jenny Kennedy  
The Kenneth Rainin Foundation  
Russell and Sarah Kiser  
Polly Kornblith and Michael Newman  
Becca and John Kornet  
Laura Kunkemueller  
Michael and Leanne LaBelle  
Elizabeth and James LaRowe  
Deb Lawrence and Ned Grandin  
Hong Le-Bruno  
Nancy Lee  
George and Blanche Lester  
Lisa Fitzgerald Lewis

Carol and Alan Lisbon  
Emily and Timothy Lowney  
M&T Charitable Foundation  
Bob Macleod  
Alexandra Maider-Porter  
Ted Maloney and Claire Newton  
Hiren Mankodi  
Margaret Stewart Lindsay Foundation  
MassDevelopment's Underutilized Properties Program  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Masur Family Charitable Fund  
Mattina R. Proctor Foundation  
Austin and Tiverton McClintock  
Brian McCormick  
Scott and Kelly McDermott  
Kate and Warren Mead  
Melitta S. and Joan M. Pick Charitable Trust  
Gilbert Menna  
Mike Metzler and Peg Doyle  
Middlesex Savings Bank  
Frederick T. Miller  
Susie Miller and Fred Baird  
Jean Mineo and Lou Masella  
Miss Wallace Minot Leonard Foundation  
Sarah Monaco  
Martha Moon  
Kimberly and Richard Mooney  
Ginny and Stan Moran  
Needham Bank  
Nancy Nelson  
New 'N Towne Club of Medfield  
Lisa and Tom Nightingale  
Steve and Marie Nolan  
Dan and Annette Nova  
Ben Nye and Jenny Pyle  
Darrah O'Connor and Sarah Schochet-Henken  
Ken O'Flaherty and Adele Ugliadoro  
Tim and Jamie O'Loughlin



# Campaign Supporters

Bill and Sue O'Malley  
Michael Oliveri and Eric Aho  
Doug and Maureen Olsen  
Dan and Susan Ott  
Bradley Palmer  
Hope Pascucci  
Jen and Mike Paxton  
David R. Peeler  
Mike Piispanen and Wendy Horn  
Pilgrim Church Book Group  
Beth Pinals  
Kathleen Pittman  
Kirsten and Dwight Poler  
Carolyn and Dana Pope  
J. Brian Potts  
Jerry and Chris Potts  
Carol Powell  
Kathy Powers  
Preservation Massachusetts  
James J. Quagliaroli  
Ramsey McCluskey Family Foundation  
Sarah Raposa  
Linda Rath  
Peter Raymond  
Monica and Greg Reid  
Jessica M. Reilly  
Anne B. Robb  
Dwight and Margaret Robinson  
Anne Marie and Randy Rogers  
Matt and Bernadette Santangelo  
The Savage Family Foundation  
Nancy Schaad  
Penny Scheerer and John Schwanbeck

David Schottenfeld  
Rene Schweickhardt  
Dr. Bernard Schweizer  
Kathryn S. Scott  
Betty Sherratt  
Errin Siagel  
Randi Simons  
Steve and Jen Slesar  
Robert and Molly Sliney  
David and Katherine Sloan  
Eve Smith  
William Sobo and Wendy Ludwig  
Jessica and Mark Somol  
John and Denise Sortor  
Kathryn Stack  
State of Massachusetts  
Daniel and Hayley Stokes  
James and Sarah Stuart  
Cathy and John Sullivan  
Mark and Robin Swirbalus  
Fie Andersen and Cyrus Taraporevala  
Matthew Taverni  
Nicholas and Marianne Tawa  
Michael and Theresa Taylor  
Sean Teehan  
Carol Terry  
Beth and Mac Thomas  
Carol and John Thompson  
Kathleen and Newton Thompson  
Sally Tipton  
Bob and Kate Tormey  
Joanna and Nigel Travis  
Trinity Financial Charitable Fund, Inc.  
The Triple T Foundation  
Angela Turner  
Robin Tweedy and Ned Shadek  
Phil and Kathy Boole  
Khushbu Webber

Lori and E.J. Whelan  
Greg and Dana White  
Joan Whitman  
Natalie Williams  
Jonathan Wolff  
David and Marcy Yuknat  
Read Fleming and Nancy Zacks

# Corporate Supporters

Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Blue Moon Bagel Cafe  
Lovell's Florist & Nursery  
Makena Capital Management  
MFS Investment Management  
Music Go Round Boston  
Nvidia  
Overbay Capital Partners  
Roche Bros. Supermarkets

# Rosemary Fund

In honor and loving memory of Rosemary Sortor of Sherborn, this fund supports the Bellforge Arts Center construction and campaign.

Liz Anderson  
Nancy Banker  
Jennifer Bethel and Erik Sirri  
Karen M. Birmingham  
Karen Burns White  
James T. Campbell  
Shelley S. Cantor  
Joseph and Jodi Feeney  
Michael and Martha Festa  
Jane Hackett  
Heather Horan  
Lori Howe  
Lynn Jameson  
Deanna Jantzen  
Lynn Judge  
Paula Kavolius  
Nancy Lee  
Bill and Sue O'Malley  
Pilgrim Church Book Group  
Carol Powell  
Kathy Powers  
Margaret Powicki  
Anne B. Robb  
Dwight and Margaret Robinson  
Nancy Schaad  
Kathryn S. Scott  
Eve Smith  
John and Denise Sortor  
Kathryn Stack  
Sally Tipton  
Joan Whitman  
Lindy Williamson  
Jen Ziskin





**Bellforge.org**

**Follow us online:**

[facebook.com/bellforgearts](https://facebook.com/bellforgearts)

[instagram.com/bellforgearts](https://instagram.com/bellforgearts)

[linkedin.com/company/bellforge](https://linkedin.com/company/bellforge)

**Bellforge Arts Center**

45 Hospital Road  
Medfield, MA 02052

**Office**

258 Main Street, Unit 1  
Medfield, MA 02052

[info@bellforge.org](mailto:info@bellforge.org)  
(508) 350-7801