



BAGI Mission

The Bay Area Glass Institute (BAGI) is the only public access, fully-functional glass studio in Santa Clara County. BAGI is an educational resource: we offer affordable glassblowing, fusing and flameworking classes; rent studio time to students, hobbyists and artists; and bring glass art to the community through events in the facility and throughout the Bay Area. BAGI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Our goal is to provide a way for the public to become familiar with fine art glass and the processes used in its creation. BAGI supports established local, and global artists, as well as beginning-level students to follow their passion for creating glass art.

About Bay Area Glass Institute

BAGI was founded in 1996 to fulfill three main goals:

- Educate the public about glass art and its multi-thousand-year history.
- Provide affordable studio space for emerging and established glass artists enabling pursuit of their artistic endeavors.
- Promote events that unite the public and artists to encourage the exchange of ideas, production, and collection of original glass art.

These activities are designed to generate community participation and excitement about glass art, we provide an opportunity for BAGI to demonstrate glass-forming techniques, answer questions, and allow the public to interact with glass artists.

BAGI rents studio time, giving artists a place to hone their craft. Emerging artists are afforded the chance to show their work by being a part of BAGI's public demonstrations, as well as participating in BAGI's large-scale exhibitions such as the Great Glass Pumpkin Patch® and the Great Glass Auction.

Facts and Stats

- Over 17,000 people have direct exposure to hand-made art through BAGI annually.
- 10,000 people visit and participate in our Great Glass Pumpkin Patch® and Santana Row patches each year.
- 3,000 visited us in 2015 at the San Jose History Park Mini Maker Fair®.
- 2,500 are in contact through social media.
- 1,000 Bay Area employees participate in corporate events annually.
- 750 children annually participate in glass activities.
- 500 adults take educational classes each year.
- 30 local and globally-renowned glass artists blow glass regularly in our facilities.



BAGI serves a diverse group of people; students, emerging/established artists, and the general public.



Rich Small

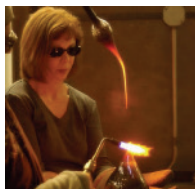
has been blowing glass for 15 years. He never thought of glass as a medium of artistic expression until he visited the Corcoran Gallery in Washington DC and blown away by a Dale Chihuly chandelier. He had always been

fascinated by glass, but hadn't been exposed to glass as art until this watershed moment.

When he returned home he remained fascinated, and then stumbled upon BAGI as a moth to the flame.

Since BAGI already had the reputation of the Great Glass Pumpkin Patch, he flourished in making his own unique style of pumpkins, gifts, and potential future archaeological finds.

Rich has grown artistically, and in his own words, "sometimes I don't completely suck." He even has his young son with him in the studio as an apprentice every once in a while.



Diane Weiss

is a smart and successful technology professional. She manages complex programs, and product manages software. Most of her days and nights are spent on her computer writing

emails, product requirements, and project plans.

Diane discovered glass blowing by taking a class six years ago and caught the glass art bug. Time in the studio allows her to step away from the day-to-day grind, and work as a team with others designing beautiful things. She enjoys the physical aspects, and finds it relieves the tension in her body. When you deal with glass on fire you must pay close attention and the immediacy takes you away from the stress in your outside life, allowing you to focus on the moment — you must stop writing business plans in your head and enter a meditative state.



Kelton

Fascinated by the heat and glow of molten glass, Kelton, age 9, was thrilled to be able to take a pumpkin making class at BAGI. He enjoyed the experience so much that he and his mother began making glass blowing a weekly

part of homeschooling.

Kelton wakes up on glass blowing day excited to get into the shop and work with the hand tools. He says it's hard work that pays off because you get to make what your mind sees.

After a year of classes, he and his mother are able to work in the shop independently and are planning to participate in the Great Glass Pumpkin Patch. Kelton and his mother have found an extremely welcoming community of folks at BAGI who are eager to work with a young curious student and help both of them collaborate to become glass blowers.



Treg Silkwood

As a child, Treg knew that he wanted to work with his hands. He studied pre-med at the University of Montana before deciding to pursue a career in the arts.

Treg has demonstrated and taught glassblowing at numerous institutions and various glass shops and schools across the United States and abroad, including: Alberta College of Art and Design, Canada, Kent State University, Ohio, and The Corning Museum of Glass, New York.

A world-renowned glass artist, he has worked with many prominent glass artists, including Martin Blank, Michael Shunke, and Karen Willenbrink-Johnsen.

In 2008, Treg was honored to be the second of two artist invited by Steuben to have a Solo Show at The Steuben Flagship Store on Madison Avenue in New York City. From May through October an exclusive collection of over one hundred pieces of his sculptural work was featured in the "Steuben Selections Series," which was established to showcase the world's foremost artists in glass.

Since 2005 he has been working as an independent glass artist and instructor at the Bay Area Glass Institute.

