Annual Report FY22 July 2021-June 2022

creativity explored ART CHANGES LIVES



Mail art. At-home sketchbooks. Runways. Smiles in zoom squares. Temperature taking. Transportation. Old friends, reunions, new artistic discoveries. Resiliency. Intention.

That was Fiscal Year 2022 at Creativity Explored.



Dear Friends.

2022 was a year when we reunited in real life to make art, to view art, and to celebrate—with great care and much planning. A year when days at our studios, our *Mode Brut* show at the Museum of Craft and Design, a trip to the Outsider Art Fair in New York, our Art Changes Lives gala, all gave us ground for reconnection.

In the midst of change, it was a year of seeds planted.

We centered diversity, equity and inclusion-and finding new ways to listen to and be influenced by the dreams, plans and

hopes of our artists. And we doubled down on the practical as we grew our finance and operations team and with it our capacity to respond to new opportunities and dreams.

Our community has been with us on the journey, bringing advice, partnerships, donations and passion for the work of CE's artists. Thank you for your belief in Creativity Explored and the disabled adult artists who are at the center of our work. We do this work with you.

Gratefully.

Linda Johnsor **Executive Director**



\ Our year

JUL 2021

On July 21, 2021, the CE studios officially reopened welcoming over 75 CE artists back in person.



AUG 2021

The story behind the Creativity Explored pandemic digital archive, represented by artist-teacher duo Joseph "JD" Green and Glenn Peckman, was told in a Dropbox national advertising campaign called "All Things Worth Saving."





DEC 2021 Our holiday pop-up shop opened at the iconic Ferry Building.



MAR 2022

In honor of 30 years of the Outsider Art Fair, Creativity Explored returned to New York City for *Creating Legacies*, an exhibition featuring both rising stars and veteran artists.

SEP 2021

Mode Brut debuted at the Museum of Craft & Design.





APR 2022 After nearly three years, the community gathered to celebrate at Art Changes Lives.

NOV 2021

Sakura of America teamed up with Creativity Explored to support the creative visions of neurodiverse and disabled artists.





MAY 2022

Art by CE artist Laron Bickerstaff was featured on local Whole Foods Market tote bags.

In July 2021, **Creativity Explored's** two studio locations reopened for CE artists.

Artists with disabilities could continue participating remotely, rejoin the in-person studio – or both!

Nita Hicks signs up to rejoin the in-person studio program

Portraiture takes on a new visage in the hands of Nita Hicks. Known for her lively and thoughtful depictions of renowned female artists and public figures, Hicks is as much a visual storyteller as she is an illustrator. A woman of few words, Hicks often starts her days in the studio silent and focuseddiligently perfecting her work. On days she needs inspiration, Hicks will often flip through National Geographic articles that depict Indigenous cultures and fashions.

Hicks began her journey with CE in 1996 and deeply values her community in the studio, which includes long-standing friendships with fellow artists and staff.

Since she didn't participate in CE's remote programs, Hicks quickly signed up to rejoin her beloved studio community in July 2021.



Over the past two years, virtual programming has allowed artists like John Patrick McKenzie to bring their craft to an accessible space. McKenzie joined CE in 1989 and quickly became known for his intricate works of abstract visual poetry. McKenzie's process is based on a sequencing of calligraphy that adds layers of nuance to his chosen subjects, which are most often people and objects from pop culture and his daily life. Having moved to the United States from the Philippines in 1964, McKenzie finds power in his cultural heritage. Much of McKenzie's subject matter references and highlights the intersection of the Filipino experience with American pop culture. McKenzie focuses intently while creating his layered works.

McKenzie enjoys the comfort and focused solitude of working in our virtual programs.

Even after we reopened our studios, he has chosen our online workshops and independent study sessions.





Remote work continues for CE artist John Patrick McKenzie



In September 2021, the highly anticipated Mode Brut opened at Museum of Craft and Design

After 18 months of sewing and mending, Creativity Explored's *Mode Brut* debuted in September 2021 at the Museum of Craft and Design. Featuring unique designs by over 50 Creativity Explored artists, *Mode Brut* inspired viewers to redefine "fashionable."

The exhibition encouraged viewers to consider accessibility, gender roles, and identity through the lens of work by artists with developmental disabilities.

The large-scale exhibition featured four independent collections of work each made by teams of designers centering the creativity of developmentally disabled artists. Our designer partnerships included a Creativity Explored studio team led by teaching artist and designer Victor Molina, community art collective Bonanza, queer advocate and model Ayana "Yanni" Brumfield, and San Francisco-based haute couture fashion brand Tokyo Gamine.

In creating the fashion behind *Mode Brut*, Creativity Explored artists and our design partners thrived in collaboration during a global pandemic even in the face of logistical challenges. When this project first began our teams expected to be able to create art together in person. In problem-solving through the major obstacles of the pandemic, innovation and creative thinking emerged as the heart of this collection. The curation of *Mode Brut* was executed by Cléa Massiani and Ariel Zaccheo.

The fina here.







The final virtual show can be viewed



\ Our Gallery Exhibitions

JUNE 29, 2021 - AUGUST 29, 2021

Blackiful

This group exhibition responded to an ongoing need for Black sanctuary space. Featuring artwork by self-identified Black CE artists, co-curated by the CE Blackiful collective members Alissa Bledsoe, Gerald Wiggins, Joseph Omolayole, Vincent Jackson, Joseph "JD" Green, and d. Wright.







SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 - OCTOBER 30, 2021

Mode Brut Atelier

Mode Brut Atelier was an evolving installation fashioned as an accessory to the Mode Brut exhibition produced in collaboration with the Museum of Craft and Design.

A hybrid "textile exhibition" and "clothing design workshop," *Mode Brut Atelier* invited viewers to explore the creative processes of CE artists working in fiber art and fashion design.







JANUARY 14, 2022 - MARCH 26, 2022

To the Place that I Grew Up

The first solo exhibition for CE artist Peter Cordova, who has been at CE since 1996, was curated in collaboration with his long-time teaching artists Paul Moshammer and Gilles Combet. The mini-retrospective featured over 60 drawings and paintings on paper, matte, and chipboard, as well as Cordova's larger-than-life ceramics.



APRIL 8, 2022 - JUNE 11, 2022

The Mail Art Club

The Mail Art Club exhibition showcased dozens of original drawings, collaborative multimedia collages, and text-based work mailed and exchanged between participants of the ongoing class.

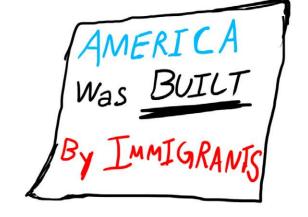
Co-curated by Michael Napper and CE board member Cheryl Ward with assistance from teaching artist Judith LaRosa and volunteer Sylvie Carnot, the exhibition focused on artworks by a core group of artists who regularly attend the class: Ada Chow, Joseph "JD" Green, James Nielsen, Joseph Omolayole, Yukari Sakura, Amani Swalim, and Miyuki Tsurukawa.





In July 2021, Creativity Explored launched a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Since our inception, Creativity Explored has provided cutting-edge services for people with disabilities and worked tirelessly to shape supportive services to better serve their needs and desires.



Working with the Latinx community was an early focus at Creativity Explored. CE was one of the first places where undocumented immigrants with developmental disabilities could receive services.

CE remains resilient in a dramatically changing city decades after its inception, committed to alignment with diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion of disabled adults.

Our artists represent the diversity of the Bay Area and 77% are people of color. Committed to amplifying the voices of CE artists of color, CE has expanded opportunities to center the identities represented in our studio, and support cultural pride and allyship. In the summer of 2020, six Black CE artists met with visual artist and former CE teaching artist d. Wright. What began as a threeweek roundtable series quickly expanded into ongoing practice and led to the group exhibition *Blackiful* which opened Juneteenth 2021. The Blackiful group has been and continues to be a way for Black artists at CE to study, discuss, and support one another during the pandemic and in light of the ongoing movement for Black Lives and racial justice. In 2021, CE established a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) committee to further focus our efforts. Since its establishment, staff have participated in several professional development workshops to further assist our team in working with our diverse community. Staff explored topics such as building trusting circles for sensitive conversations with Kevin Fong, cultural competency in the workplace with Beatrice Thomas, and an Indigenous People's Day celebration with Jaclyn Rossel from the Navajo Nation.

We know this work is ongoing, and we will continue to invest in and focus on JEDI practices to support our artist community.



"CE artists are outstanding by any standard, and CE pursues collaborations with corporations and nondisabled artists to bring appreciation for the work of disabled artists into the greater community!" –CRISANTA DE GUZMAN, CE DONOR



\ Our Artist Community

✤ =Say hello to our new artists

Gloria Aburto lan Adams Zacharv Adams Rosemary Attridge * **Charlie Barthelet** Maria Berrios Laron Bickerstaff Andrew Bixler Alissa Bledsoe Alexander Bliss Wecley Borges Julien Borromeo **Eric Boysaw** Olivia Byers-Strauss Valerie Bvrd **Trevor Cartmill-Endow** Robert Cheng Kira Chmelewski Ming Choi Jennifer Chong ***** Vicki Chong Ada Chow Connie Chu Kevin Chu Elana Cooper Kevin Cordoba Peter Cordova Linda Davenport Peter De Lira Samedi Djeimguero Albert Duong Ruby Ensor *** Ricardo Estella** Kathy Finn-Gamino

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	Max Wocher-Marcus
	Andrew Wong
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	Ann Yamasaki
-Kilgore *	Yang "Buurin" Yu-Zhen
	Alexander Yeap
	Doris Yen
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	IN MEMORIAM:
I	Gordon Chin
	Paul Gee
wa	Steven Geeter
	Andrew Lee
lon	Jose Nuñez

Our staff

₩ =Retired staff

Star Barker **Community Development** VISTA Member Johnny Brewton Exhibitions Associate Victor Cartagena **Teaching Artist** Suda Changkasiri **Teaching Artist** Ajit Chauhan **Teaching Artist** Zoe Chotzen-Tsuruda Program & Development Associate Gilles Combet **Teaching Artist** Leeza Doreian **Teaching Artist** Laura Figa **On-Call Teaching Artist** Juhi Gupta Marketing Coordinator Alexander Hernandez **Teaching Artist** Kate Hope Care Companion Megan Hover **Development Director** Lacey Johnson **Teaching Artist** Linda Johnson **Executive Director** Ann Kappes **Director, Art Partnerships**

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Teaching Artist

Roshann Pressman Social Services Manager Enrique Quintero **Teaching Artist** Eliot Rattle Care Companion Patricia Rubio **Teaching Artist** Hannah Werthman **Development Coordinator** Jaime Wong Gallery Coordinator Mai-Thy Vuong Director, Finance & Operations

\ Our board members

※ =Say hello to our new board memberes

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Greg Price Larry Rinder * Mary Ruppert **Enrique Sanchez** Ravneet Uberoi **Craig Vaughan** Cheryl Ward **Rachel Williams** Pia Zaragoza *

"Creativity Explored is without a doubt the most marvelous place on earth. It is a rich, thriving, vibrant creative community filled with talented, generous, heart-forward people that lift each other up through a practice of mutual support, art-making and radical inclusivity.

I am honored to serve on the board and humbled to fan the embers of the organization's efforts to change the face of the contemporary art world."

-ARIANNA ORLAND, BOARD PRESIDENT







Our partners

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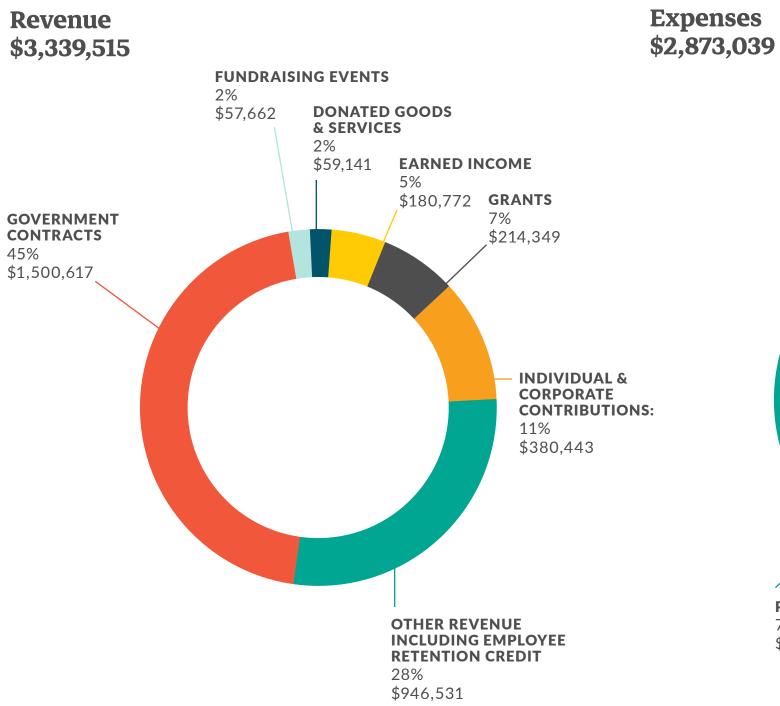
Two luxury wallpapers by She She featuring Cheryle Rutledge's hearts launched on Valentine's Day, 2022.

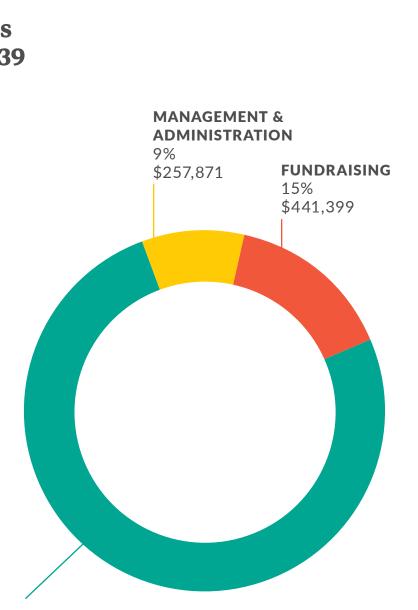
Known for her hearts of varying sizes, Rutledge's signature hearts came to life in two wallpapers named after ancient Greek words for "love" - Eros and Agape.

"We gravitate toward Cheryle's artwork due to its warmth and honesty. Her hearts truly do make us feel warm when we look at them and we really appreciate that. We pulled icons from her existing pieces to create two all over patterns inspired by two types of love, Eros and Agape, each with their own colorway." -Kate & Jenny, She She

Our finances







PROGRAMS 76% \$2,173,769

C_e

"Every time I meet a Creativity Explored artist, I'm always blown away by their talent. I joined the Creativity Explored Board because I wanted to support the ongoing work to ensure that the artists and their work are celebrated in the art world and beyond."

-PIA ZARAGOZA, BOARD MEMBER

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Our donors

🙂 =Donors who support our work through recurring donations. We regret any errors or omissions.

\$25.000+

California Arts Council The Creative Work Fund, a program of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund that also is supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation The Cox-Vadakan Foundation Golden Gate Regional Center The Jay Allen 65th Birthday Fund at Inland Empire Community Foundation, Where Giving Grows John & Gwen Smart Family Foundation John & Marcia Goldman Foundation Gail McCabe San Francisco Grants for the Arts U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

\$10.000-\$24.999

Anonymous

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"Once you walk through the doors, you never want to leave... people need to see this work. If I have to plaster it to my front door for the world to see, I will!"

-Cheryl Ward, CE board member and donor

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"Being a Board member at CE is an awesome way to stay connected to the glorious, mind-expanding energy of art. The CE artists set an example for us all of what a positive, creative, mutually supportive community can be. l love it!"

-LARRY RINDER, BOARD MEMBER



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"While scrolling through the many pages of available artwork online, my mom and I stumbled upon an artist's drawing of a village in the Philippines. My mom was born and raised in the Philippines, and this piece really resonated with her... It sparked a lot of conversations I've never had with her before."

-Justine Higueras, CE board member and donor

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onor of David	Robin Bolds Dozier

"As I was settling into San Francisco in my 20s, working in design and meeting a lot of awesome fellow creatives, I saw that a lot of my friends were buying CE artwork. The work, in addition to being incredibly beautiful, was affordable for 20-somethings living in the city."

-Dina Dobkin, CE partner



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	Sharon Rohwer
bb	Tania Rose
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	John Ross
	Misty Ross
t and	Sara Rudner
	Cathy Rundell
onor of Paula 🙂	Selig Sacks
	Albert Sammons
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:	Dorothy Saxe
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	Yitzchak Schwartz
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