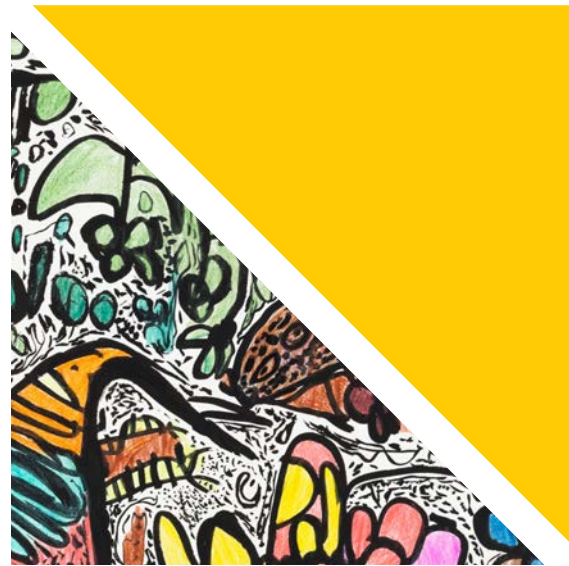




creativity
explored
ART CHANGES LIVES

Annual Report FY20
July 2019-June 2020



Our commitment

Mission

Creativity Explored is a San Francisco nonprofit that partners with people with developmental disabilities to create an artistic, studio-based collective where the creative capacity of any person can flourish. We do this by placing the work, needs, culture, and experience of artists with developmental disabilities at the center of the community in a way that honors humanity, respects self-agency, and nurtures creative potential.

Vision

At Creativity Explored, we see a future society with an enlightened understanding of its relationship with neuro-diverse people—one that has evolved from one-way support to mutually-enriching growth. We see a society strengthened by an authentic appreciation of all people’s creative contributions.

“What I think art can do to change the world is that it can help people think about stuff and art can make people happy and art is something that I think anybody can do.”

— JD Green



“We all experience doing art in a different way. We just need to give everyone the chance to show what they can do.”

— Isaac Haney-Owens



Dear Friends,

After a year of incredible growth in 2019, the dedicated team at Creativity Explored entered 2020 with high hopes, bold ambitions, and a devotion to CE artists. Then, just as it did for many of our partners, peers and friends, COVID-19 turned our plans upside down.

One day, we were celebrating at the San Francisco Art Institute, enjoying a collaborative installation created by Ana Teresa Fernández with CE artists. A few days later, we were calling every CE artist – all 130 of them – to let them know our studios would be closed until further notice. Over the course of a few weeks, our team worked tirelessly to connect our community with the technology they’d need for remote learning, to deliver art supplies to homes, and to offer practical support to navigate these challenging times.

This year was also a year to raise our voices. Whether it was responding to racial injustice in solidarity with our artists, or advocating for people with disabilities as they navigated the pandemic, we increased our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Like you, we never dreamed a global pandemic would change our lives completely.

Through it all, the tenacity of CE artists and staff has been an inspiration.

Our ability to innovate during times of uncertainty is in our bones—it’s at the core of our organization’s structure.

When the Katzes first introduced our revolutionary model in the 1970s and ‘80s in response to the nationwide deinstitutionalization of people with disabilities, they too had to be flexible and responsive to change.

Just like our founders, our community knows we are not limited by our current circumstances.

We look boldly towards the future and ask ourselves: how can we be nimble and innovative enough to meet what will surely be a growing need for the life-changing services that we offer?

Thank you for joining us on this journey, sharing our story, liking our posts, purchasing CE artwork, donating to our programs, championing our work, and advocating for CE artists. I’m tremendously grateful for this community and incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together.

In gratitude,

Lela Johnson

Linda Johnson
Executive Director



Our year in review

“It’s all of us together. Us artists and the public. We all like art, and we’re learning new things, and we keep growing.”

—Gerald Wiggins

Jul 2019

CE Gallery Opening for *Cityscape*, a group exhibition curated by CE artist and paid intern Isaac Haney-Owens, mentored by CE Studio Manager E. Francis Kohler.



Aug 2019

As part of the *Of Here From There | De Aquí Desde Allá* project, Leticia Hernández-Linares leads poetry workshops with CE artists, in both English and Spanish, and Ana Teresa Fernandez leads two public clay sculpture-making workshops at CE’s Imagine Saturdays.



Sep 2019

Gallery Opening for CE exhibition *Fragments and Resistance* featuring artists Joseph “Jay D” Green and John Iwaszewicz, curated by brothers Victor and Carlos Cartagena. The show focuses on artists’ experiences of navigating the distinctly American tensions of race, class, nationality, and identity.



Jan 2020

Creativity Explored participates simultaneously in UNTITLED, ART Fair in San Francisco and Outsider Art Fair in New York City.



Feb 2020

CE receives Gucci Changemakers grant for a fashion exhibition with Museum of Craft and Design.

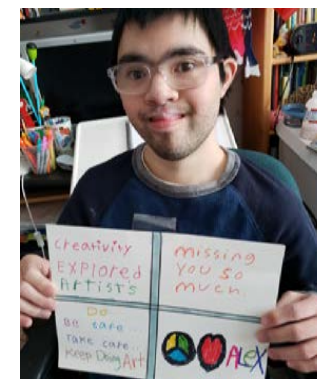


Mar 2020

March 6: *Of Here From There | De Aquí Desde Allá* Opening Celebration.



March 17: shelter in place mandate goes into effect, CE studio shuts down.



Apr 2020

On April 16, CE is featured on KQED for quickly adapting our programming to shelter in place conditions.



Jun 2020

The Creativity Explored community focuses on how to create equity within our organization and at the intersection of race and disability justice during bi-weekly staff Book Club discussions, schedules three racial justice trainings, and establishes a Black artist cohort.



Our exhibitions

CE GALLERY
JUL 18-SEP 5, 2019

Cityscape

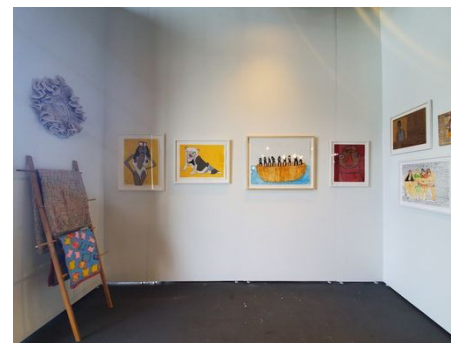
A group exhibition curated by CE artist and paid intern Isaac Haney-Owens, mentored by CE Studio Manager E. Francis Kohler.



SAN FRANCISCO
JAN 17-19, 2020

UNTITLED, ART Fair

Creativity Explored participates in UNTITLED, ART Fair in San Francisco.



CE GALLERY
SEP 19-NOV 7, 2019

Fragments and Resistance

A show focusing on artists' experiences of navigating tensions of race, class, nationality, and identity.



FORT MASON
MARCH 6

Of Here from There | De Aquí Desde Allá

Opening Celebration, March 6 2020.



LINKEDIN INCOMMON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPACE
OCT 15-FEB 29, 2020

See Me With My Own Eyes

Artists with developmental disabilities envisioned themselves, their peers, and other famous artists in their own unique visual vocabularies.



GALLERY CLOSED
MARCH 17

Despite the gallery closing we pivoted to host our shows online while keeping true to traditions and installing artworks in our physical space.

CE GALLERY
JAN 9-MAR 5, 2020

Thomas Pringle Ladies Man

Gallery Opening for *Thomas Pringle Ladies Man*, a solo exhibition highlighting CE artist Thomas Pringle.



HYBRID
APR 15-APR 29, 2020

What You Do

Originally intended to be exhibited at the CE studio in March, CE premieres *What You Do*, an online exhibition curated by Dena Beard featuring digital animations and videos from CE's history.



LEGION SF GALLERY
JAN 11-27, 2020

Many Faces

Featuring CE artists and showcasing a selection of portraits of people, this exhibit aspires to give the viewer an "in" to the artists' eyes, many of whom focus exclusively on human faces and bodies.



HYBRID
JUN 25-SEP 3, 2020

The park "a darling walk for the mind"

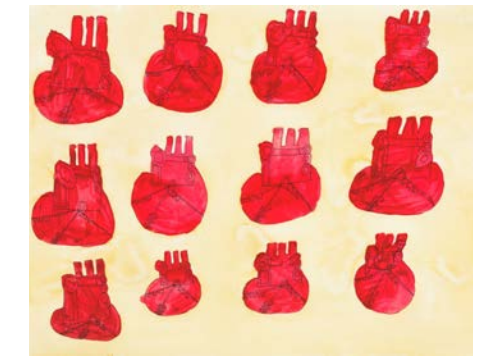
Online "opening" of *The park "a darling walk for the mind"*, a group exhibition curated by Ajit Chauhan, displayed in the CE gallery and available for virtual viewing.



NEW YORK CITY
JAN 17-19

Outsider Art Fair

Creativity Explored participates in Outsider Art Fair in New York City.



JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF SAN FRANCISCO
SEP 26-FEB 17, 2020

Big Bellies

Featuring the work of 18 CE artists, this expansive collection celebrating food sparks a larger conversation around cultural identity, family traditions, class, and nourishment.



Our remote programming at a glance

A virtual week in the life of a CE studio artist

Monday

Receives a call from their teaching artist to check in about overall well-being during shelter in place

Tuesday

Receives an art supply delivery



Wednesday

Joins the All Artist Community Meeting

Thursday

Attends an online artmaking class

Friday

Dances with their fellow CE artists on Zoom



Saturday

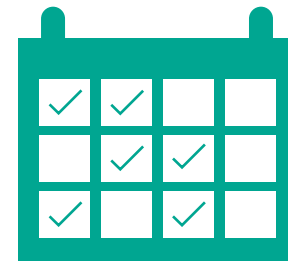
Leads an Imagine Saturday workshop

Sunday

Stamps and sends a mail art project to their teaching artist



Our accomplishments



24 virtual workshops taught each week (and counting)

\$115k of royalties and stipends paid to CE artists

200+ custom art kits safely delivered to artists to continue their at-home practice

6 days of community gatherings and art-making activities offered every week

\$9k in relief funding secured for CE artists

Dozens of mail art projects launched

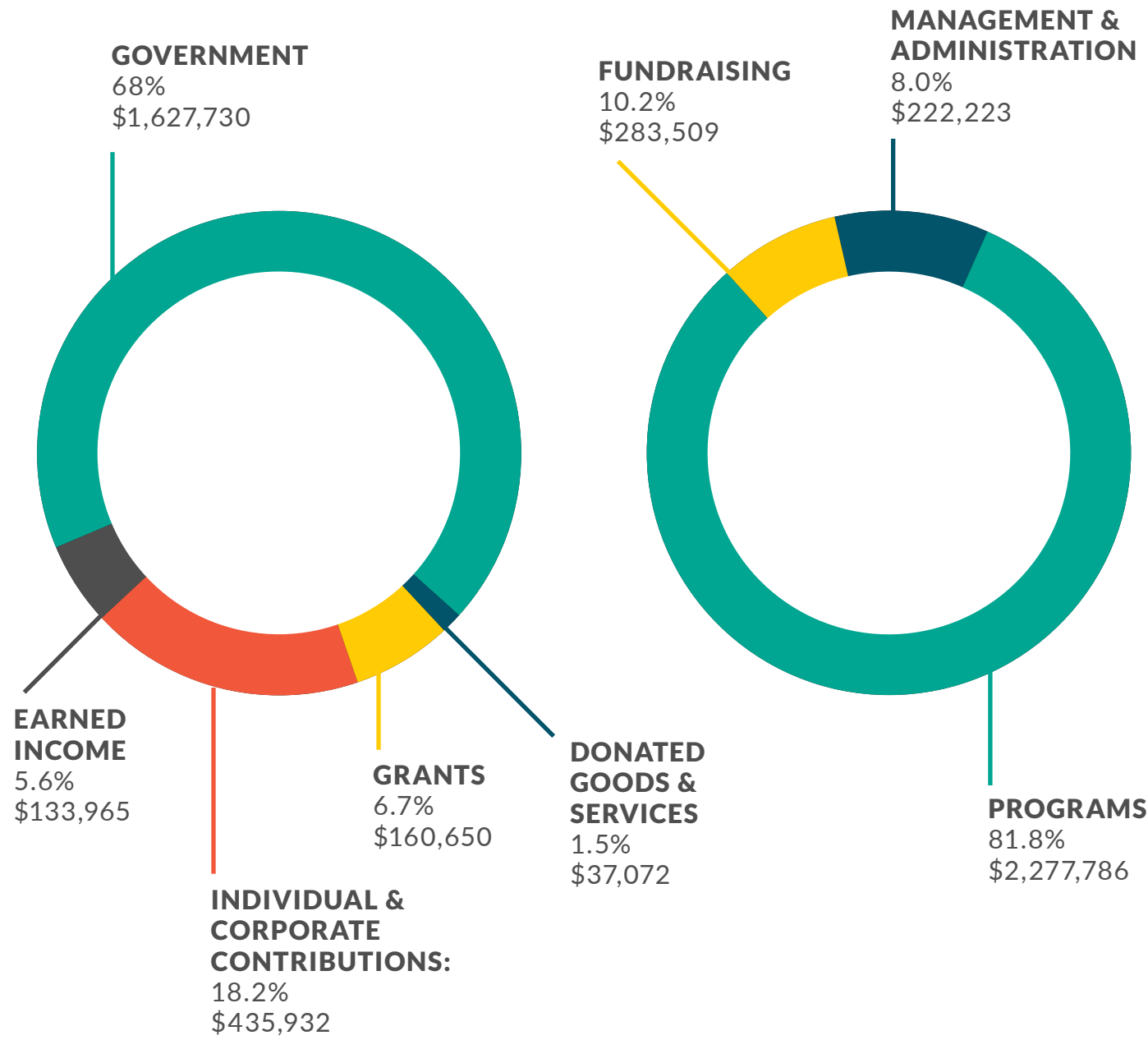
6 exhibitions hosted (2 online + 4 in-person)

19 iPads donated for CE artists to connect online

Our year in numbers

Revenue
\$2,396,005

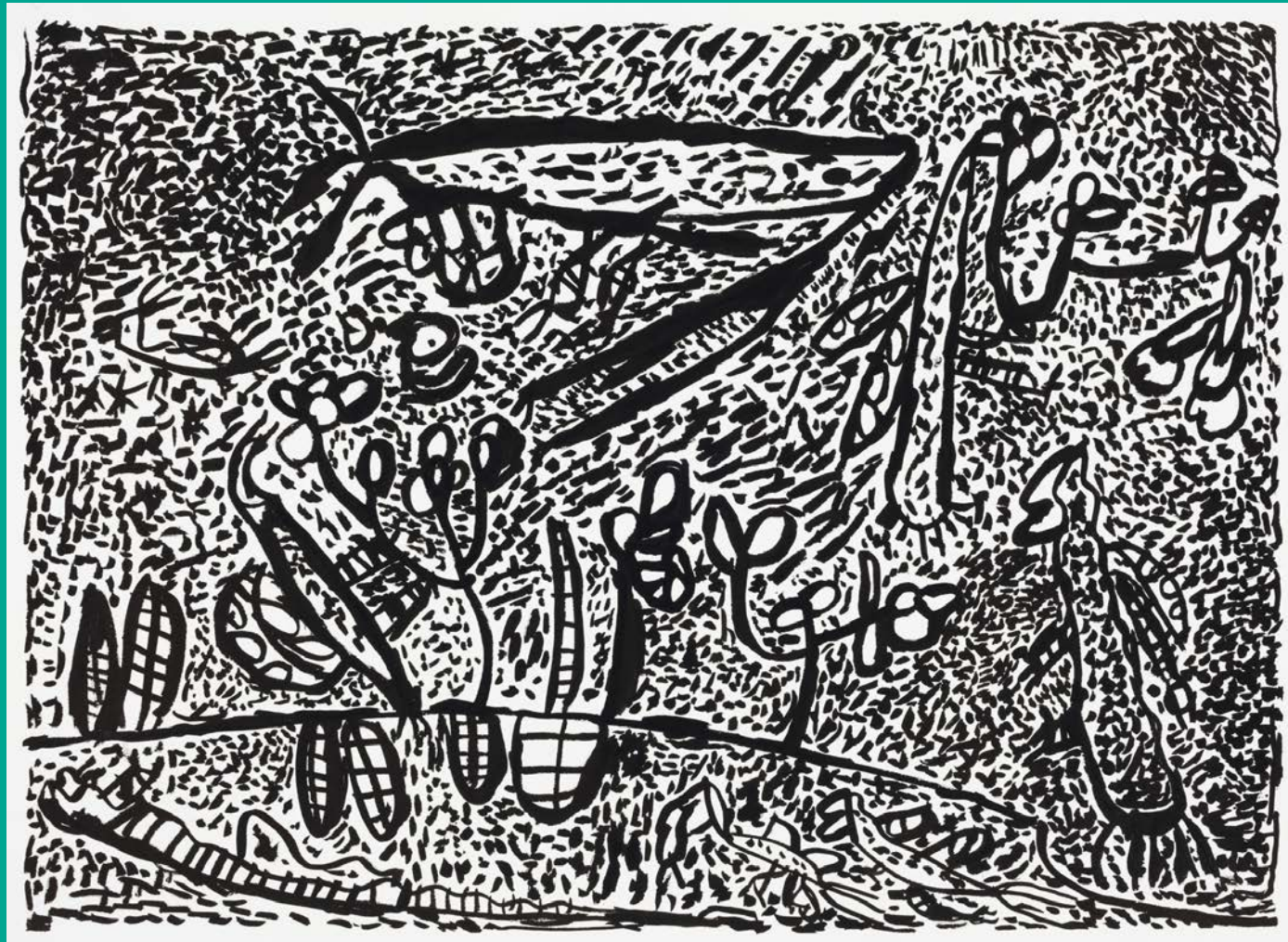
Lifesaving support from the CARES Act not yet reflected in the totals.



“The people here are like family. They’re like my second home.... I feel comfortable and safe. You got a lot of people that you talk with, you laugh with. You enjoy, it’s like you wish it never ends.”

— Guadalupe Ramos





Our year in acclaim

“We’re somebody in the community.
We’re somebody nationally.”

– Vincent Jackson

Awards:



SFBG
SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN

**SF BAY GUARDIAN
BEST OF THE BAY AWARDS**

Voted Best Nonprofit

Voted Best Art Gallery

Featured in:

[48hills](#)

[7x7](#)

[Architectural Digest](#)

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[Mission Local](#)

[NBC Bay Area](#)

[Raw Vision](#)

[San Francisco Bay Guardian](#)

[San Francisco Travel Association](#)

[San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[San Francisco Examiner](#)

and more

Our resilient artists

Ada Chow
Ade Lewis
Albert Duong
Alexander Yeap
Alissa Bledsoe
Allura Fong

Daniel Green
Daniel Li
Delia Liu
Donald Gruneisen
Doris Yen
Elana M Cooper

Irene Rivas
Isaac Haney-Owens
Isaias Gomez
James Miles
James Nielsen
Jason Monzon
Jay Herndon
Jesus Huezo
Joanna Sanchez
John Iwaszewicz
John Patrick McKenzie
José Nuñez
Joseph Omolayole
Joseph "Jay D" Green
Josue Izquierdo
Ka Wai Shiu
Kaocrew "Yah" Kakabutra
Kate Thompson
Katherine Finn-Gamino
Kathy Wen
Kevin Chu

Linda Davenport
Loren King
Mackenzie "Mack" Mesler
Marcus McClure
Maria Berrios
Maribel Guzman
Marilyn Wong
Max Woche Marcus
Melody Lima
Michelle Gonzales
Ming Choi
Mirian Munguia
Miyuki Tsurukawa
Musette Perkins
Nathaniel Jeung

Quintin Rodriguez
Ricardo Estella
Richard Gustanov
Roland Record
Rory White
Samantha Mathews
Samedi Djeimguero
Selene Perez
Stella Tse
Steven Liu
Taneya Lovelace
Thomas Pringle
Tonya Lewis
Trevor Cartmill-Endow
Ursula Matthews



“Get used to what you’re making, and make more of it.”

— Doris Yen

Amani Swalim
Ana Maria Vidalon
Andrew Bixler
Andrew Lee
Andrew Li
Andrew Wong
Angel Lara
Ann Yamasaki
Anne Slater
Anthony Reyes
Armando Sanchez
Calvin Snow
Camille Holvoet
Charles Stanberry
Charlie Barthelet
Cheryle Rutledge
Christina Fong
Claus Groeger
Clementina Rivera
Connie Chu

Emma Reyes
Eric Boysaw
Ernesto Sosa
Ethel Revita
Eunice Juarez
Gabriel Maduena
Gerald Wiggins
Gloria Aburto
Gregory Sams

“They looked at my art and I told them I am the artist — that felt good”

— Loren King

Guadalupe Ramos
Gustavo Urbina
Hiroshi Onodera
Hung-Kei Shiu
Ian Adams

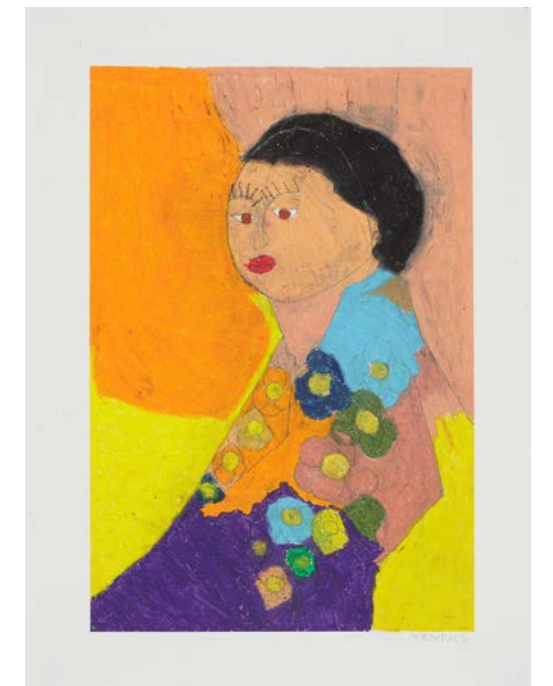
Kevin Cordoba
Kevin Roach
Kimberly Hutchings-Reyes
Kira L Chmielewski
Lakeshia King
Lance Rivers
Laron Bickerstaff
Lien Nguyen

“We are an art program. We make art here. We have a lot of different people with different disabilities — we are a variety.”

— Melody Lima

Nina Krietzman
Nita Hicks
Nubia Ortega
Olivia Byers-Straus
Pamela Pianchachi
Patrick Ng
Paul Gee
Peter Cordova
Peter DeLira

Valerie Jenkins
Vanessa Ruffin
Vincent Jackson
Wecley Borges
Yang "Buurin" Yu-Zhen
Yolanda Ramirez
Yukari Sakura
Zachary Adams



Our tenacious staff



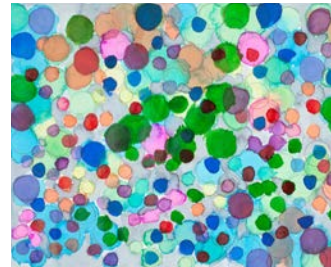
Gilles Combet
Teaching Artist



Leeza Doreian
Teaching Artist



Carole Fitzgerald
CCSF-DSPS Arts Instructor



Karyn Freer
Operations Manager



Andrew Gilson
Teaching Artist



Megan Hover
Development Director



Lacey Johnson
Teaching Artist



Linda Johnson
Executive Director



Eric Larson
Assistant Studio Manager &
Teaching Artist



Tom Leach
Teaching Artist



Christina Lo
Communications Associate



Aileen Louie
Gallery Associate



Larry Morace
Teaching Artist



Paul Moshammer
Studio Director



Michael Napper
Teaching Artist



Pilar Olabarria
Teaching Artist & Service
Coordinator



Victor Cartagena
Teaching Artist



Alayna Cate
Art & Business Development
AmeriCorps VISTA Member



Suda Changkasiri
Teaching Artist



Ajit Chauhan
Teaching Artist



Ann Kappes
Director of Art Partnerships



E. Francis Kohler
Studio Manager, Services
Coordinator, Teaching Artist



Michael Korcek
Director of Marketing &
Brand Partnerships



Judith LaRosa
Teaching Artist



Cléa Massiani
Curator & Exhibitions
Coordinator



Joe McGovern
Teaching Artist



Victor Molina
Substitute Teaching Artist



Geralyn Montano
Teaching Artist



Glenn Peckman
Teaching Artist



Roshann Pressman
Institutional Giving
Coordinator



Enrique Quintero
Teaching Artist



Patricia Rubio
Teaching Artist



Liliana Torpey
Development Associate



Horace Washington
Teaching Artist



Jaime Wong
Gallery Coordinator

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Ravneet Uberoi



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Cheryl Ward



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 SLATE Art
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 Sterling Graphics
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 Tartine Manufactory

The Google Artist in Residence program
 Twitter Able
 VIDA
 Yerba Buena Community Benefit District (YBCBD)



Exhibition Partners:

American Institute of Architects, San Francisco
 Arc Gallery, San Francisco
 Bay Area Video Coalition, San Francisco
 Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek
 Cutting Ball Theater, San Francisco
 Jack Fischer Gallery, San Francisco
 Jewish Community Center, San Francisco

KunsthauKann, Museum für Outsider Art und zeitgenössische Kunst, Münster, Germany
 Legion Projects, Healdsburg
 LinkedIn InCommon Space, San Francisco
 Make Studio, Baltimore
 Outsider Art Fair, New York City
 Parc 55, San Francisco
 Playspace Gallery at California College for the Arts, San Francisco
 Sage Studio, Austin
 San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco
 Studio Gallery, San Francisco
 Summertime Gallery, Brooklyn
 UNTITLED, ART Fair, San Francisco
 YBCA, San Francisco



“I like working here because... I get a sense of community. I don't have to be afraid here that people are going to say negative things about me or say that I'm weird.”

— Isaac Haney-Owens



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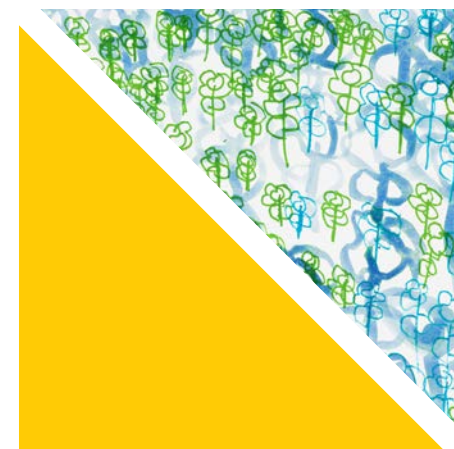
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 Gwendolyn Gibbish





Kelle Gilmore
 Sarah Ginther
 Brandy Godsil
 Malcolm Goldsmith
 Diana Goldstein
 Marcia Gonzalez
 Chuy Gonzalez
 Rachelle Goodfriend
 Roseann Gould
 Barbara Grob
 Paul Gross
 Dava Guthmiller
 Léonie Guyer
 Holly Hagen
 Margaret Hall
 Tammy Hall-Hawkins
 Allyson Halpern
 Eva Hannan
 Louise A. Harrison
 Maia Highsmith
 Andrew Hillis
 Tanya Hollis
 Lauren Howard
 Lynne Howe

Jane Hudson
 Angela Hunt
 Patricia K. Jackson &
 Daniel D. Gleich
 Colter Jacobsen
 Matt James
 Russell Janzen
 Mark Johnson in memory
 of Leigh Johnson
 Susan P. Johnson
 Garrett Joseph
 Mohan Kanungo
 Ann Kappes in memory
 of Bruno 😊
 Laura Kerr
 Mary King in memory
 of Zippy
 Sasinun Kladpetch
 Parker Klee
 Michael Knapp
 D. Ann Kohler
 Marilyn Zoller Koral
 Harriet Kossman
 Sandy Kovtun



Sarah Kremensky
 Martha Leche
 Marie K. Lee in memory of
 Greg Weiss
 Parker Lee
 Jonathan Lee
 Priscilla Leitner
 Sherry Linker
 Ellery Long & Rebecca
 Stern
 Bouwien Luppés
 Demetrice Madaris
 Stacey & Glenn Martin
 Ursula Matthews
 Alisa Maureen
 Deborah May
 Mary McCarthy
 Jim McDiarmid
 Rebecca McMullan
 Victoria Meyer
 Elizabeth Meyer
 Bernadette Meyer
 Michael Alicia Meyer
 Madison Moore
 Rhonda Moreno
 Annie Moriyasu 😊
 Natalie Mulford
 Dale Nelson

Paula & Mark Nokes
 Natasha Noltimier
 Bridget Nowosacki
 Barry O'Brien
 Andrea O'Callaghan
 Kelli O'Toole
 Diana Orozco
 Cynthia Oyang
 Marta Garcia Pagan
 Jamie Palmer
 Susan Pascal
 Monica Pasqual
 PayPal Corporate
 Chris Peacock
 Nancy Pearlman
 Alison Pebworth
 Bert Polacci
 Faye Pollack
 Natalyn Pow
 Alyssa Prowler
 Vanessa Pruiet
 Shirley Quan
 Patrick Quinn
 Eliot Rattle
 Ana Rauch
 Peter Rauch
 Jon Reimers
 Peter Rengstorff
 Jim & Ann Richter
 Rhonda Robertson
 Jake Robinson
 Manny Romero
 Nora Rosenthal
 Chloe Roth
 Joe Ruch
 Erin Ruch
 Jill Salzman
 Bonna Saperstein

Kathleen & Frank Schiler
 Melanie Schmidt
 Stephanie Schneider
 Suzanne Schwartz
 Leigh Scott
 Michele Sewell
 Lisa Shapiro
 Arti Sharma
 Laura Sheehan-Barron
 David Shoemaker
 Gae Shulman in honor of Pilar
 Stuart Siegel
 Marsha Silberstein
 Jason Siroonian
 Steve Sleczkowski
 Peggy Sloan
 Janet Smith
 Casey Jex Smith
 Sandy Songy
 Lauren Sorresso
 Courtney Sparks
 Jami Spense in honor of
 the artist, Yah
 Taylor Spivey
 Taylor Spivey
 Kim Spooner
 Louis Springer
 Theresa Stein
 Merideth Sterkel
 Sarah Stern
 Sharon Stillman
 Suzanne Strutner
 Susan Sutton
 Gargi Talukder
 Peng Tang
 Alicia Tarlen & Jeff
 Thompson
 Melanie Tercha

Lydia & Rob Thomson
 Jacqueline Tona
 Liliana Torpey
 Cynthia Traina
 Wendy Tyler
 Ravneet Uberoi
 Carmen Vega in honor of
 Michelle Marshall
 Jennifer Viale
 Michael Villaluna
 Waggl, Inc.
 Sue Walaszek
 Ernie Wasson
 Nicole Wendel
 Sam Whitney
 Burl Willes
 Brittanie Williams
 Sue Willows-Raznikov
 Nikki Willson in honor of
 Jaime Wong
 Maggie Wilson
 Emily Winslow
 Jeany & Jeffrey Wolf
 in memory of David
 vanDommelen
 Jason W. Wong
 Jaime Wong
 Heayoon Woo
 Alice Wu in honor of Leeza
 Dorean
 Diana Wynne
 Lisa Wranovics Yeagley
 Heidi Yount
 Anna Yu
 Allan Yu
 Kelly Yu
 Donna Yu-Nishimura
 Mara Zepeda in memory of
 Lori Brandel



Our future together

We are committed to supporting artists with developmental disabilities, and we can't wait to share more success stories with you soon.

Here's a sneak peek at some of our big plans:



Offer full-person services within a creative community to remove barriers to art-making



Promote artists with developmental disabilities as part of the established canon of contemporary art



Champion the Katzs' vision to build a movement in which people with developmental disabilities influence society at large through creativity



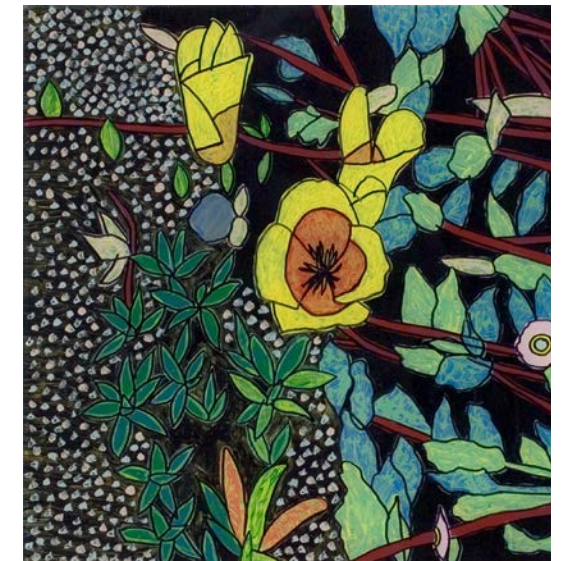
Build an equitable, diverse and supportive artist-staff-board culture where community members can reach their fullest potential



Acquire or expand a facility to meet organizational needs and elevate CE's status as an enduring community cornerstone

"When I make art, it makes me feel good because it's just right."

— Yolanda Ramirez



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