



**ART Together**  
annual report 2017  
[www.projectarttogether.org](http://www.projectarttogether.org)



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Together beyond borders*

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## Letter From the Executive Director



*Art invites conversation, laughter, storytelling, and a sense of belonging to the refugee communities.*

As ARTTogether's first year draws to a close, I look back with pride on how much we have been able to accomplish in such a short time. The year began in the wake of the shocking election of Donald Trump in November, 2016. Like many citizens, I was horrified by the then - president - elect's flagrant misogyny and anti - immigration campaign platform. It was then on the eve of the Women's March in January, 2017, that the idea for ARTTogether was born.

As the Trump administration continues to undermine the U.S. refugee program, I feel increasing urgency to find ways to support the refugee communities. These are people that have over come extreme trauma and tremendous hardship - first in their home countries and then in transtion. Many refugees have been forced to leave their lives, homes, and families, by factors entirely beyond their control. They face many more obstacles as they begin the process of starting over in a new country.

I myself entered the United States as a refugee in 2004, resettling in California. Guided by my experience, I felt that art could provide a simple and unstigmatized path toward healing for the refugees of my own community. However, I discovered that, while many organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area brought art programs to youth and low - income residents, there was no mechanism which linked such programs to refugees, and no programs that accommodated many of these communities' quite specific needs.

With the help, support, and encouragement of many friends, I created ARTogether to fill this void. ARTogether is a creative arts resource center for refugees and refugee artists. We provide art workshops, and facilitate social gatherings, family picnics, and other community - building activities. We aim to raise awareness, and to foster relationships based on understanding and acceptance between the refugee community and the broader public. We also support refugee artists who might otherwise find it impossible to sustain their work after resettlement. We provide assistance with grants, free space to practice art, and a platform to showcase creative work .

Since our first event in June, ARTogether has offered 36 workshops and social gatherings, involving over 100 refugees. We have partnered with four different refugee agencies in three different counties in the Bay Area. Nearly all of our instructors belong to under represented groups: immigrants, refugees, people of color, and women; and all are paid by ARTogether. In spite of limited resources, we established non - profit legal status, applied for non - profit tax status, created legally binding contracts for our teachers and consultants, and established accounting and finance platforms. This report will summarize many of these accomplishments.

The reaction and support of our friends and community have been overwhelming, and we are truly heartened by the encouragement that we have received. Having had a glimpse of what we can accomplish, we believe more than ever in ARTogether's impact and potential. I expect this to be only the first of many annual reports we will send you, as we continue to cross challenging milestones and touch beautiful lives.

*Leva Zand.*

## Art Builds Communities



# 2017 Milestones

*Jan*

*Feb*

*Mar*

*Apr*

⋮  
Launch website

⋮  
First public event  
in partnership with  
Catholic Charity  
of Santa Clara

*May*

*Jun*

*Jul*

*Aug*

*Sep*

*Oct*

*Nov*

*Dec*

⋮  
Form the first  
leadership team

⋮  
Hire the  
first Intern

⋮  
▶ Start partnership  
with Center for  
Empowering Refugees  
and Immigrants  
(CERI)  
▶ Host the first  
social gathering

⋮  
Start partner ship  
with International  
Rescue Committee  
(IRC) Oakland

⋮  
▶ Start partnership with  
Jewish Family and  
Community Service  
Center - East Bay  
▶ Start partnership  
with Golestan  
Immersion School  
▶ Form the first  
board of directors  
▶ Form the first  
advisory board  
▶ Register ARTTogether  
as an independent non  
- profit in California

⋮  
Apply for  
501(c) status

⋮  
▶ Present ARTTogether  
in a joint event with  
Participants Media  
and Jewish Family and  
Community Service Center  
▶ Draw contract (pro bono)  
with Cooley Law firm

# Accomplishments



*Art is the universal language of healing.*

ARTTogether is the only creative arts program that specifically serves refugees in the Bay Area. In collaboration with artists, ARTTogether develops and facilitates a variety of workshops, after - school art programs, summer camps, parenting work shops and social gatherings, which feature creative and artistic activities for the refugee community.

### **Out Community Partners:**

- Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants (CERI )
- Jewish Family and Community Service Center
- East Bay International Rescue Committee,
- Oakland Catholic Charity of Santa Clara
- Oakland International High School

**34**

Different workshops for more than 100 refugees, survivors of wars and genocide, who are resettled in the Bay Area

=

**1**

.....

Parenting Workshop

+

**2**

.....

Social Gatherings

+

**4**

.....

Expressive Art Support Group for Men

+

**5**

.....

After School Expressive Art Workshop for teens at risk

+

**7**

.....

After school summer camp arts and craft workshops

+

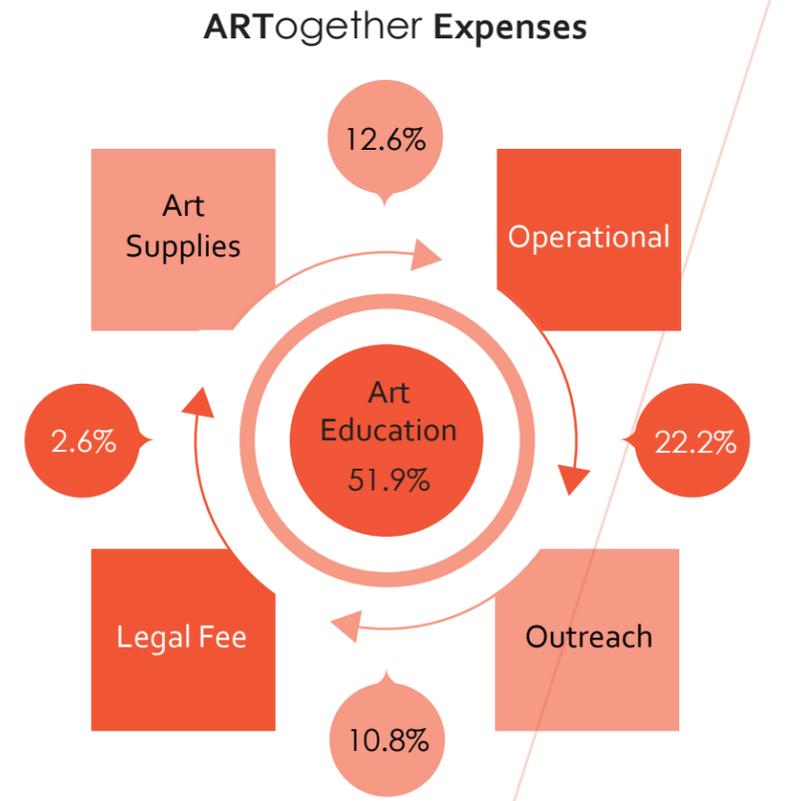
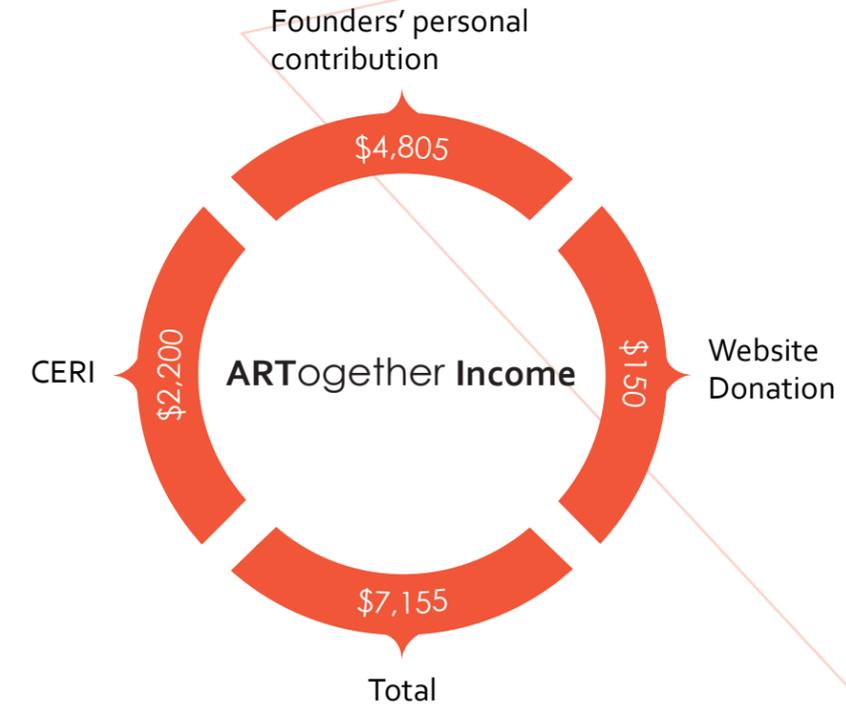
**15**

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Women's Craft Circles

**Activities**

# Finances



## Future Plans



## Fundraising

### Grants

ARTTogether's mission and non - profit status make us eligible for various federal, local, and private grants. We will seek consultants and interns to assist us with completion and submission of grant proposals.

### Investors

With non - profit tax status, we hope to attract long - term investors in social impact. We will benefit from professional leadership in these fundraising efforts. ARTTogether will use a portion of these funds to sponsor individual workshops and projects.

### Donations

We will continue to collect donations through our webpage, and other online tools. Toplatforms.

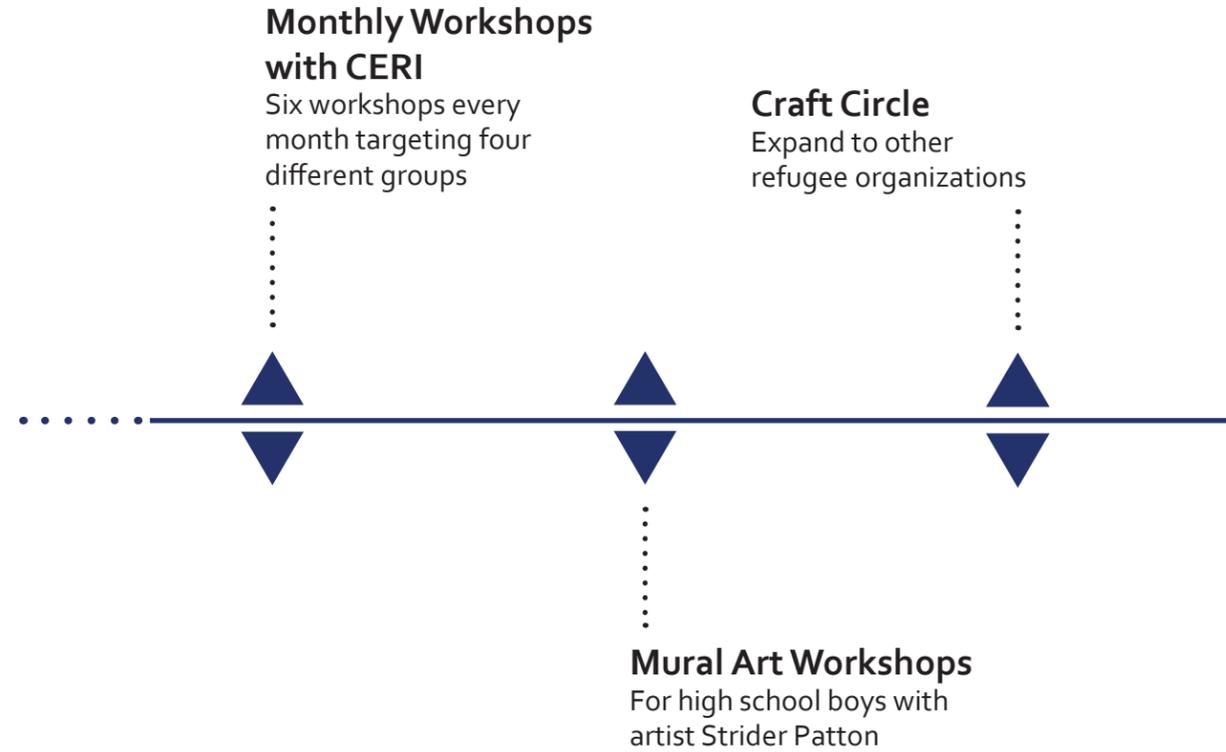
### Online market

ARTTogether will market a selection of participants' art pieces, with the dual purpose to raise funds for ARTTogether and to introduce participants to the marketing process. We will also invite local artists to market partial sales of their work for donation to ARTTogether.

As we grow our creative arts programs for the general refugee community, we are developing services for refugees who were artists by profession in their countries of origin. These artists face numerous obstacles to practicing art after resettlement, especially in a location as prohibitively expensive as the Bay Area.

### Support and celebrate refugee artists

ARTogether plans to offer a range of resources to assist refugee artists who are starting over in the Bay Area. We want to provide them with access to a network of established resident artists, as well as assistance in applying for funding that supports their creative work. We have embarked on this mission by hiring immigrants, refugees, and asylees with professional art backgrounds to be instructors for ARTogether's workshops.



## Workshops and Activities

### Exhibition

At least one exhibition for refugee artists. awareness about refugees in at least two events



### Dance Summer Camp

In collaboration with cultural dance group. DanceVer si tyawareness about refugees in at least two events

### Vision Project at IRC

Participant for second year of the Vision Project

### Oakland International High

Continue activities in Oakland International High School

# Team and Acknowledgement



## ARTTogether Team in 2017

### Staff:

*Leva Zand  
Alexandra Pettet  
Hossein Namazi*

### Board of Directors:

*Leva Zand  
Alexandra Pettet  
Hossein Namazi  
Mona Ahmadi  
Shabnam Amini*

### Advisory Board:

*Mona Afari  
Heather Rastovac  
Kathryn Winogura  
Jacqueline Adams  
Sahba Aminikia*

## Acknowledgement

### Art Education:

*Negar Asef  
Farnaz Tasbihgoo  
Somayeh Amini  
Sophia Sattar  
Alice Pennes  
Shimana Sadeghi*

### Interns and Volunteers:

*Juliet Swanson  
Paula Carrizosa*

### Thank you:

*Mayssam Sayyadian  
Gelareh Khoshgozaran  
Maryam Farmand  
Sahar Sedighpour  
Negar Tayyar  
Nelia Jafroodi  
Kaveh Khojasteh  
Raha Shirazi  
Yalda Mobasher  
Maryam Attai  
Samira Akbari  
Aisan Hoss  
Diane Stark  
Kelliane Craig*

*Sean Garner  
Lina Nazar  
Mohammad Sedighi  
Mojgan Saberi  
Niloofer Khosravani  
Romina Zabihian  
Sohi Lahichini  
Sreyneang Lim  
Jennifer Jastrab  
Raeshma Razavi  
Sasan Amini  
Jennifer Barnette  
Arielle Friehling*



