

ARTOGETHER

2018 IN REVIEW



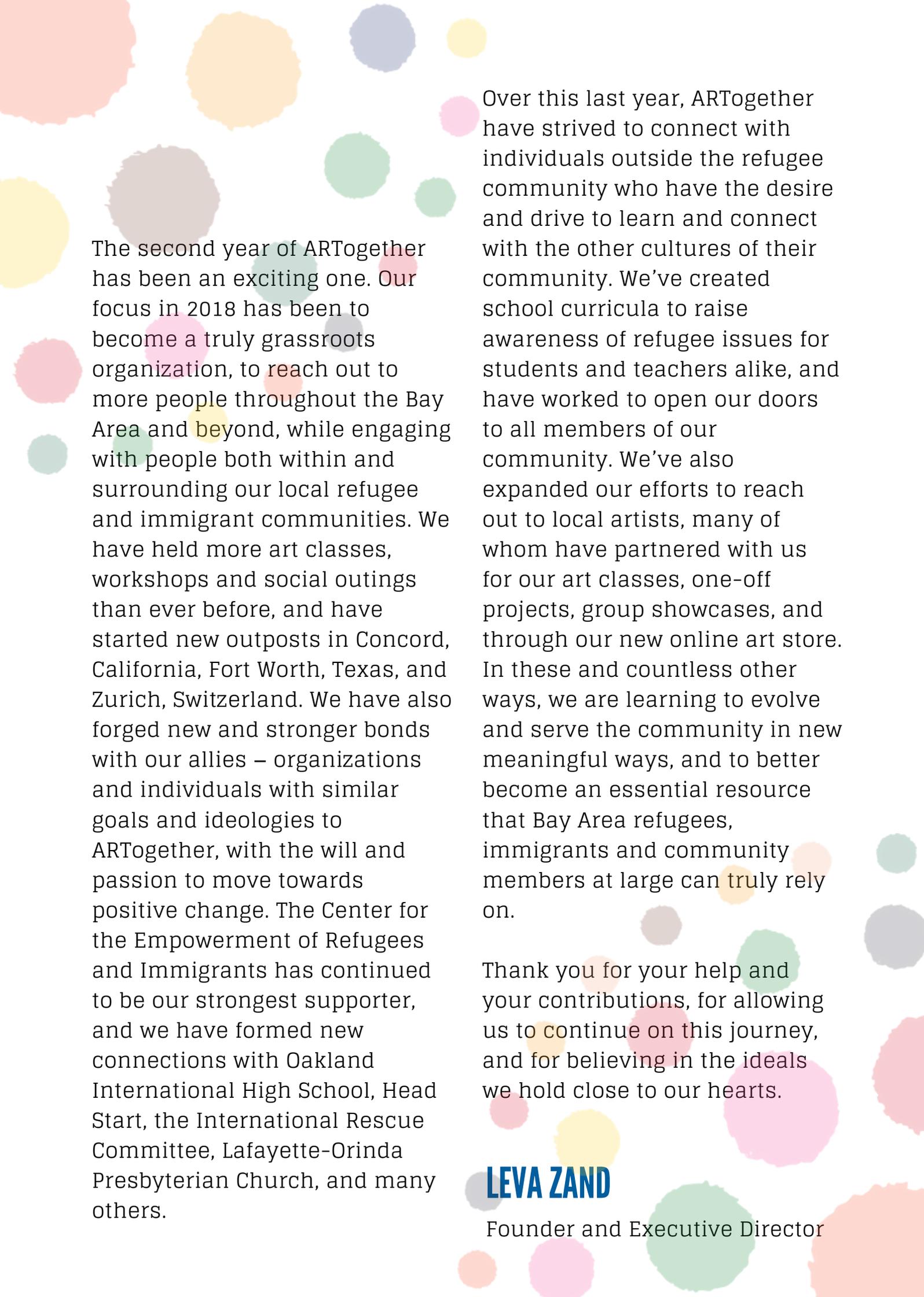


My heart is full and words can not express my gratitude for Saturday's event. I watched parents and their children bond, work together, communicate...and more importantly...I witnessed zero phone, tablet, and social media interactions from our participants.

This quilt represents the pride and diversity within our community. My families created a moment rather than purchasing things. We are forever grateful!

- Jacqueline Smith

Family and Community Partnerships Manager, Concord Head Start



The second year of ARTogether has been an exciting one. Our focus in 2018 has been to become a truly grassroots organization, to reach out to more people throughout the Bay Area and beyond, while engaging with people both within and surrounding our local refugee and immigrant communities. We have held more art classes, workshops and social outings than ever before, and have started new outposts in Concord, California, Fort Worth, Texas, and Zurich, Switzerland. We have also forged new and stronger bonds with our allies – organizations and individuals with similar goals and ideologies to ARTogether, with the will and passion to move towards positive change. The Center for the Empowerment of Refugees and Immigrants has continued to be our strongest supporter, and we have formed new connections with Oakland International High School, Head Start, the International Rescue Committee, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, and many others.

Over this last year, ARTogether have strived to connect with individuals outside the refugee community who have the desire and drive to learn and connect with the other cultures of their community. We've created school curricula to raise awareness of refugee issues for students and teachers alike, and have worked to open our doors to all members of our community. We've also expanded our efforts to reach out to local artists, many of whom have partnered with us for our art classes, one-off projects, group showcases, and through our new online art store. In these and countless other ways, we are learning to evolve and serve the community in new meaningful ways, and to better become an essential resource that Bay Area refugees, immigrants and community members at large can truly rely on.

Thank you for your help and your contributions, for allowing us to continue on this journey, and for believing in the ideals we hold close to our hearts.

LEVA ZAND

Founder and Executive Director

It is true that the children and I bond over our time spent on creating art, but the strongest value we achieve together is trust. They trust me to return every week and bring along something new we can explore and I trust in them with our friendship."

Shima Sheikholeslami

Zurich Chapter Coordinator and Art Educator



2018 IN NUMBERS

- 77 WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS
- 25 VOLUNTEERS
- 1021 PARTICIPANTS
- 13 COUNTRIES
- 10 TEACHERS
- 8 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Compare with 2017:

34 Workshops
7 Volunteers
384 Participants
7 Countries
6 Teachers
2 Partner Organizations



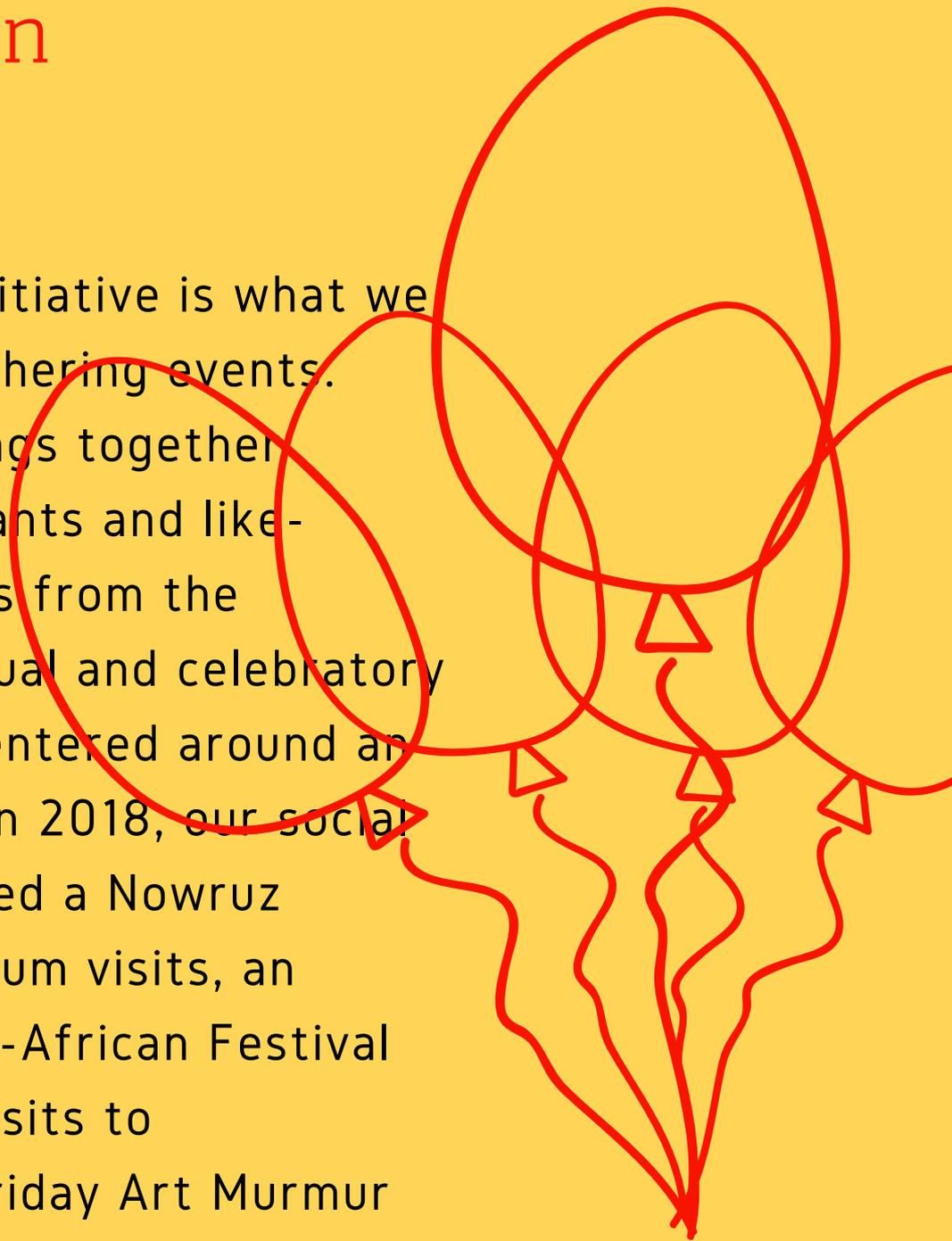
“I was comfortable the first day I came here, and that is not normal for me. I am very very very very awkward on first days! ... I usually hide behind my friends and usually take a few meetings until I feel comfortable to talk. But here I was comfortable from the first day. I was myself from the first day here.”



Red Ballon Initiative

The Red Ballon Initiative is what we call our social gathering events.

This program brings together refugees, immigrants and like-minded individuals from the community in casual and celebratory settings, often centered around an artistic activity. In 2018, our social gatherings included a Nowruz celebration, museum visits, an outing to the Pan-African Festival in the Park and visits to Oakland's First Friday Art Murrur events. These gatherings provide a chance for our participants to bring along their families and friends, and to see showcased crafts, food, and cultural activities from across the globe.





“It is like hearing my own stories from others. They talk about how everything was so hard at the beginning, when they first came, and I feel ‘these people understand what I am going through.’”

The background of the page is a top-down view of an art workspace. It features several small white containers filled with different colors of paint (red, yellow, blue, green). There are brushes with orange and blue handles. A hand is visible in the lower right, holding a brush and painting a globe on a piece of paper. The overall scene is bright and creative, with various colorful splatters and brushstrokes scattered across the white surface.

Global Chapters

This year we set up our first international outpost in Switzerland.

Artist and teacher Shima Sheikholeslami holds regular classes at Notunterkünfte, Zurich's emergency shelter refugee camp, providing a regular and reliable space to create art amid uncertainty and unstable conditions.

Our newest outpost is in Fort Worth, Texas, where artist and social worker Bahareh Rezaeian has begun regular craft circles and weaving workshops with refugee and immigrant women.

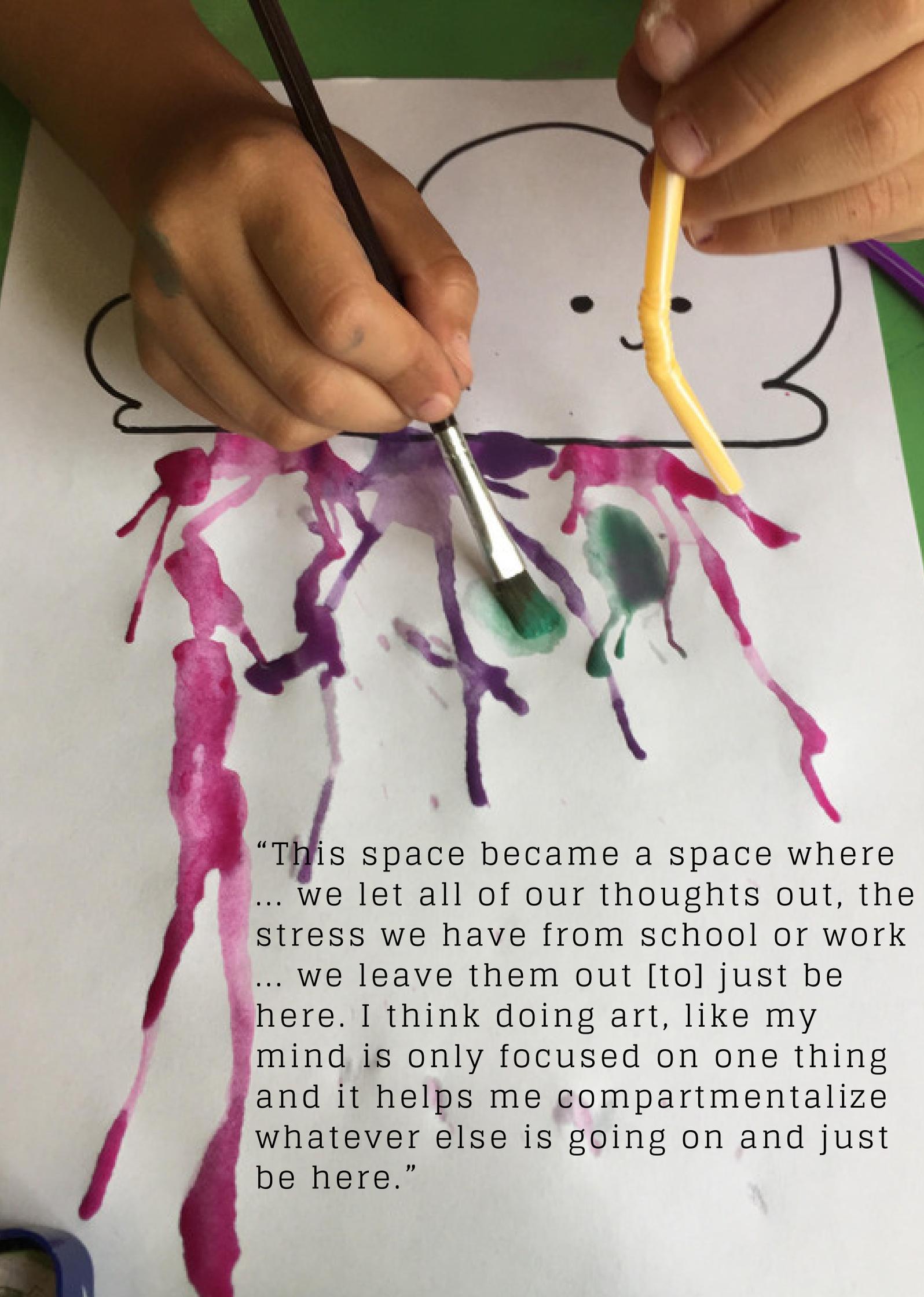


Zurich: 19 Classes
Fort Worth: 2 Classes

CommUnity Quilt Project



In collaboration with award-winning New York-based artist Lexy Ho-Tai we held a textile project at Head Start. The multi-generational workshop involved children and parents as they made squares for a quilt, each square representing a personal or cultural element for the families, to be displayed at the Head Start center in Concord, CA.



“This space became a space where ... we let all of our thoughts out, the stress we have from school or work ... we leave them out [to] just be here. I think doing art, like my mind is only focused on one thing and it helps me compartmentalize whatever else is going on and just be here.”

We celebrated the works of our artists and participants in three exhibitions and display:

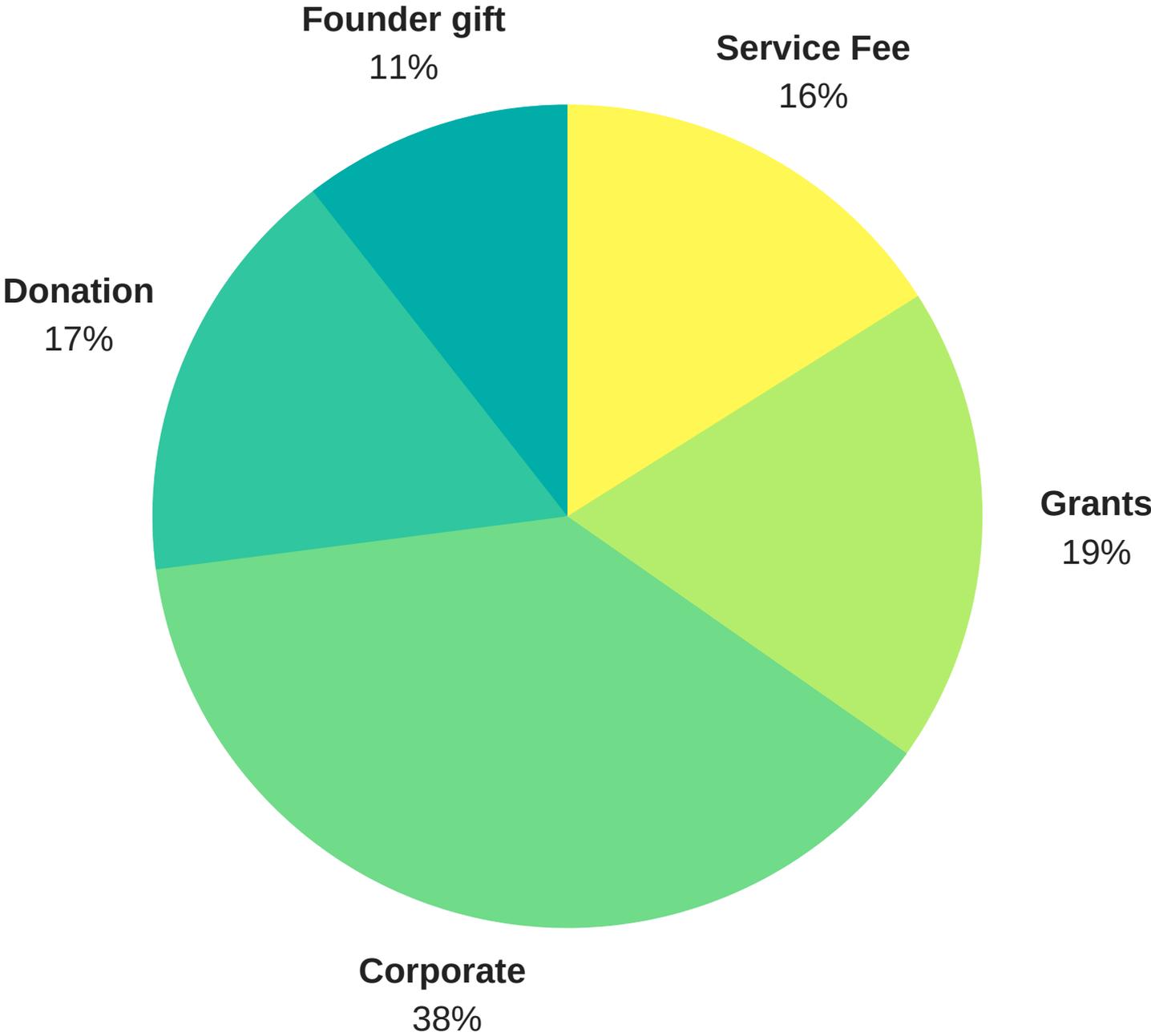
- Cafe Zoe, Menlo Park
- Partnership for Trauma Recovery, Berkeley
- Re:Home, San Francisco





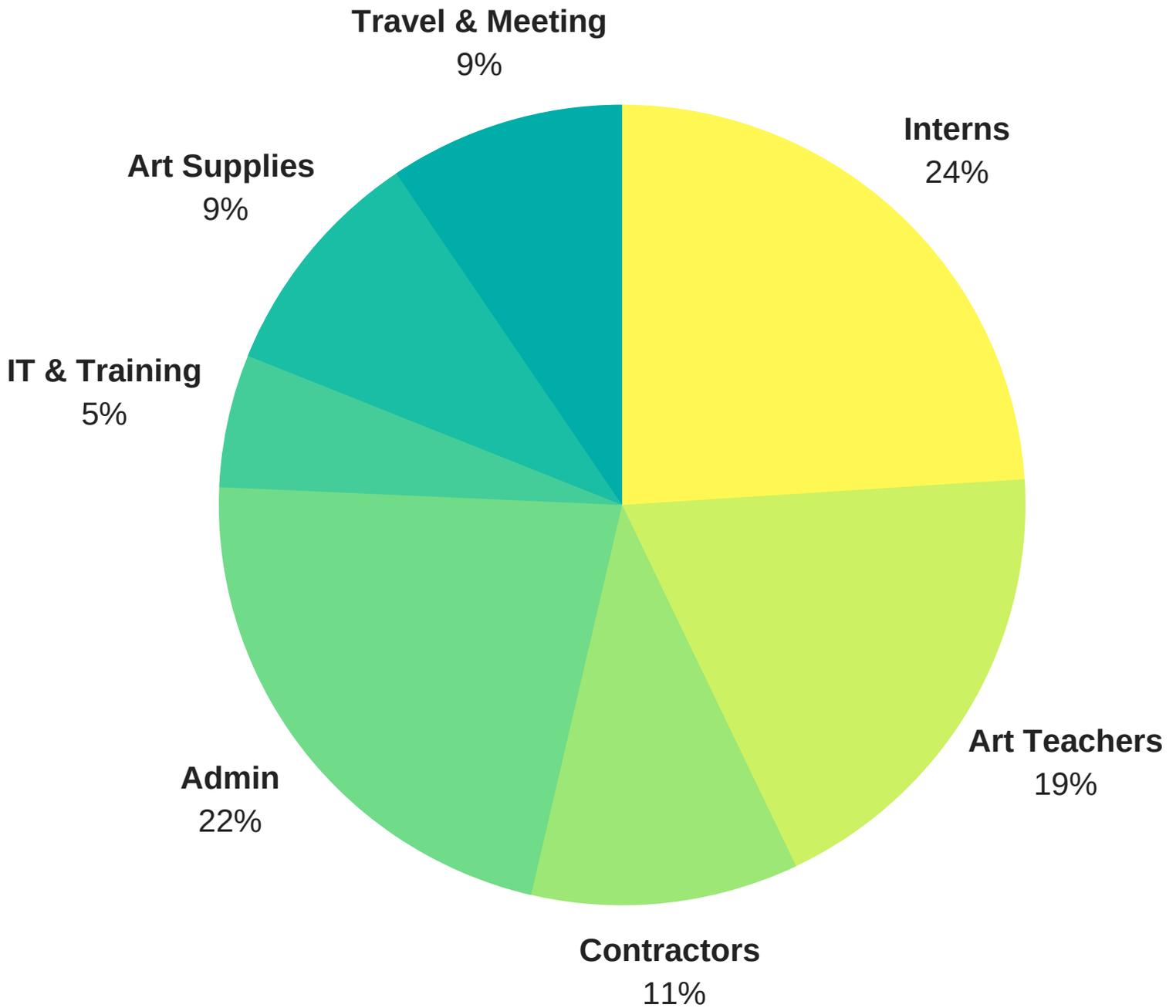
“I didn’t want to come to this group. My wife forced me to come. But now I am happy that I am here. I heard stories today that made me realize I am not alone in this process.”

Total Cash Revenue: \$47,171



We received worth of \$140,795 of In-kind Income for services including salaries, rent and utilities.

How We Spent our Money



Major Donors

- Neda Nobari Foundation
- Lowell Berry Foundation
- The Oath Foundation
- The Palo Alto Network Foundation
- The Walmart Foundation
- Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church Summer Camp Program
- The Further Foundation
- Hodes Family

The ARTogether shop brings together pieces made by local artists as well as our participants and teachers. All benefits go to the artist and to support our programs.



Coming in 2019

ARTogether, in collaboration with the School of the Art Institute Of Chicago, is creating educational curriculum packages for schools, to help create more welcoming and equitable classrooms and to help raise awareness of refugee and immigrant issues, helping students and educators to feel safe, welcome and prepared to succeed.

We are also excited to broaden the scope of our partnership with Oakland International High School (OIHS) in 2019. OIHS is a full service community high school providing quality education to newly-arrived immigrant and refugee students. ARTogether plans to engage with students from the school with three distinct projects: an after-school storytelling workshop, an ARTogether internship chapter, and an after-school project with both OIHS and two other partner organizations, focusing on teaching English, storytelling through dance, and creating visual art.





Our Team

- Leva Zand: Executive Director
- Miles Markstein: Deputy Director
- Vilasini Roy: Development and Writing
- Rebecca Voropaef: Marketing
- Marianne Almero: Social Media
- Melisa Mottola: Newsletter
- Juliet Swanson: Website Editor
- Corey Owen: Graphic Design
- Negar Asef: Shop

* Each of our team members has worked on a volunteer-basis throughout 2018.

Our Art Teachers

- Farnaz Tasbihgoo
- Isobel Marcus
- Lexy Ho-Tai
- Samira Akbari
- Shimana Sadeghi
- Somaieh Amini
- Sophia Sattar
- Tina Ekhtiar



Upcoming Board of Directors

- Alexandra Pettet
- Jennifer Brown
- Lori Robinson
- Okhtay Azarmanesh
- Tal Ariel



We are thankful for the financial support from

- Barbara Tucker
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- Celeste Tretto
- Deborah Hodes
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- Jeanie and Jeff Shaw
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- Romina Zabihiian
- Sara Rubenstien
- Samia Karimi
- Sofia Sedighpour
- Sohi Lachini
- Susan Hodes O'Leary





We also would like to thank

Alaleh Naderi

Alice Pennes

Amanda Kanter

Amy Kisch

Amy Lam

Arielle Friebling

Armin Ashouri

Ashley Chen

Baharak Khaleghi

Becca Devlin Kelly

Behnaz Khaleghi

Beth Saiki

Caitlyn Cournale

Chandra Pech

Chloe Michelle Rahimzadeh

Christopher Barrett

Daniel Nguyen

Darien McMillan

Elijah Chumm

George Lan

Glenard Sulicipan

Gwen Sanders

Hadi Ansari

Hina Nabi

Hossein Namazi

Jacqueline Adams

Jacqueline Smith

Jennifer Barnette

Joe Pech

Joseph Rogers

Kate Anne Dumbleton

Kate Goodin

Kate Wadsworth

Kathryn Winogura

Kelliane Craig

Kelly Rice

Kiana Simone Beasley

Leah Spelman

Lori Robinson

Mariana Castro

Maryam Atai

Maryliz Ann

Mona Afary

Mona Ahmadi

Nadim Badiee

Nasim Abdi

Negar Ghobadi

Nicole Garzino

Niloofar Mehr

Nima Dehghani

Noelle Guarin

Olivia Buch

Paul Spicer

Reashma Razavi

Sahba Aminikia

Samia Karimi

Sean Kirkpatrick

Shabnam Amini

Sohi Lachini

Sophal Yin

Tabitha Meadows

Tara Moslemi

Unsa Kazem

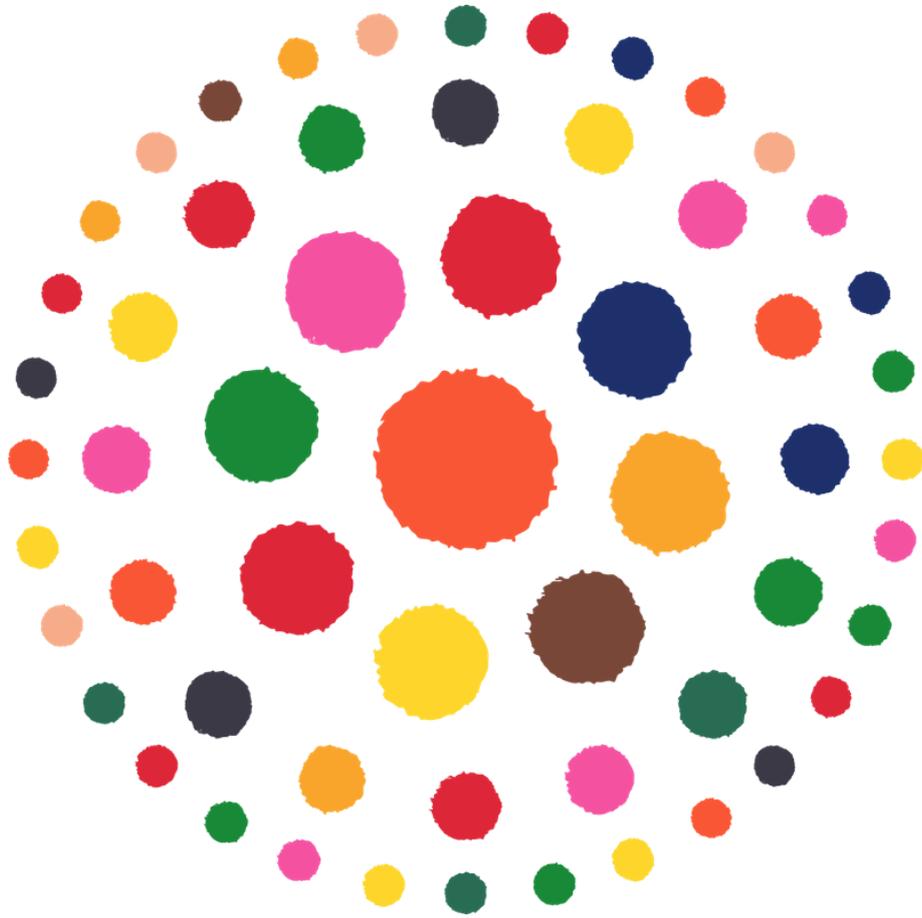
Yalda Mobasher

Yoho Lin

Zeferino Rincon



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