



A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Yet as ARTogether has sought new directions, as we have developed and grown, the foundation of our work has remained untouched: Our programs should answer our communities' needs. This has been, for everyone, a year of new normals, new realities, new governments, and new challenges. Yet as ARTogether has sought new directions, as we have developed and grown, the foundation of our work has remained untouched: Our programs should answer our communities' needs.

This ethic was instrumental to our work in light of the events in Afghanistan over the past year. Shortly after the fall of Kabul, ARTogether hosted a community gathering with Afghan families of the East Bay. They told us that even just an hour or two, a moment to "rest their brains," would be an incredible gift.

Our larger ambition, to be part of building a more compassionate society where refugees and immigrants can thrive and flourish, propels us forward

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into 2022. We continue striving to stay attuned to the voices of our communities, so that we may best understand and respond to their diverse and ever-changing circumstances and challenges.

This report is intended to shed light on services and events that ARTogether has provided and organized over the year 2021, as well as a glimpse into our plans for the coming year. Yet it is first and foremost a reflection on how our efforts have been, and will continue to be, guided by those we aim to serve.

Thank you for being a part of our journey and continue supporting our team and our community. We hope you enjoy reading ARTogether's 2021 annual report.

With Gratitude,

Leva Zand Executive Director

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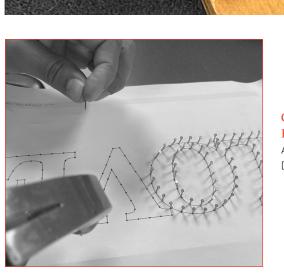
70 Donors

80 Names

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for Healing



COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAM/ Afghan Family Gathering, December 2021, Fremont, CA



Art is a great tool for maintaining health and engaging in activities that can both bring joy and help us heal, individually and as a group.

-Goli Hashemi, OTR/L

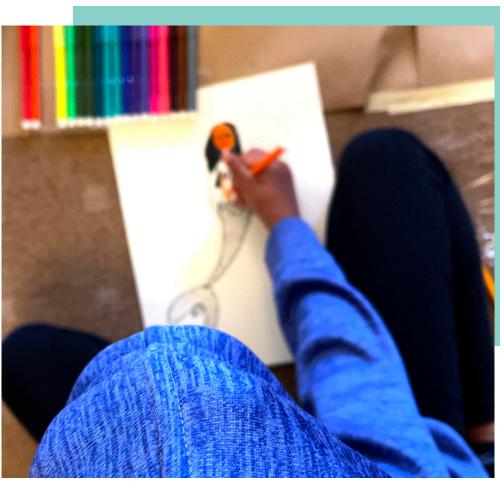
Occupational therapists specialize in developing activities and challenges optimized to address the specific problems interfering with their clients' essential life functioning. ARTogether has been partnering with the Department of Occupational Therapy at Oakland's Samuel Merritt University since 2020. This collaboration has since launched numerous programs merging the expressive arts with occupational therapy. Therapists ensure that activities provide

challenges that are balanced for both engagement and enjoyment by all participants, spanning diverse abilities and languages.

The 2021 ARTogether programs which featured an Occupational Therapy component include: **Expressive Arts Based Occupational Therapy at** Oakland International High School, Summer Art Camps, Afghan Community Wellness program, and retreat events for service providers.

> COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAM/ Afghan Family Gathering, December 2021, Fremont, CA





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SUMMER ART CAMPS/ July 2021, Oakland, CA

Afghan Community

COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAM/ Afghan Family Gathering, August 2021, Fremont, CA

Our Afghan Community Wellness Program is a creative approach to supporting Afghan refugees. These new and recent arrivals' stress level remains critical as they struggle to support families in the face of high costs of Bay Area living and in the absence of their familiar communities. Drawing on the expertise of faculty and students through our collaboration with the Occupational Therapy Department at Samuel Merritt University, we offer welcoming spaces with wraparound therapeutic

Wel Program

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support and art-based activities. The broader community is encouraged to engage with Afghan families through inclusive forums for conversation and healing. Our gatherings include donation distribution, extended mental wellness support, and art retreats for Afghan service providers.

FUNDERS/ City of Fremont and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

Wellness Iram

COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAM/ Afghan Family Gathering, August 2021, Fremont, CA

The most important thing that I like is that I meet Afghan families. I made a connection [at an ARTogether event] and found an apartment through this connection –Participant

This was the first time I enjoyed myself since I came to this country nine months ago.



-Participant

We provide support for our communities when we serve those who serve them. Since 2019, in partnership with the Unity Council in Concord, we have provided relaxing expressive programs to teachers from schools with large numbers of refugee and immigrant students.

This year, in collaboration with the Occupational Therapy Department at Samuel Merritt University, we designed two service provider retreats for teachers from the Unity Council and Afghan social services providers.

Retreats for Service Providers

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COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAM/ Art Retreat for Service

Providers, December 2021, Oakland, CA

I like painting with the quiet music, feeling calm, and using a toothpick to paint really small. It was a sensory experience.

-Participant

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Storytelling is one of the most basic and direct forms of self-expression. It provides a means of understanding, compassion, and healing across cultures and communities.

In May, in partnership with Asian Health Services (AHS), ARTogether hosted the event Storytelling And The Creative Journey to Wellness. A panel featured three artists and two AHS clinicians who are working to bridge the health and equity gaps in our communities.

Speakers included writers Edward Gunawan (Press Play), Michelle Lin (A House Made of Water), Esmé Weijun Wang (The Collected Schizophrenias), and AHS clinicians Dr. Jennifer Chen, PsyD and Shirley Chen, APCC.

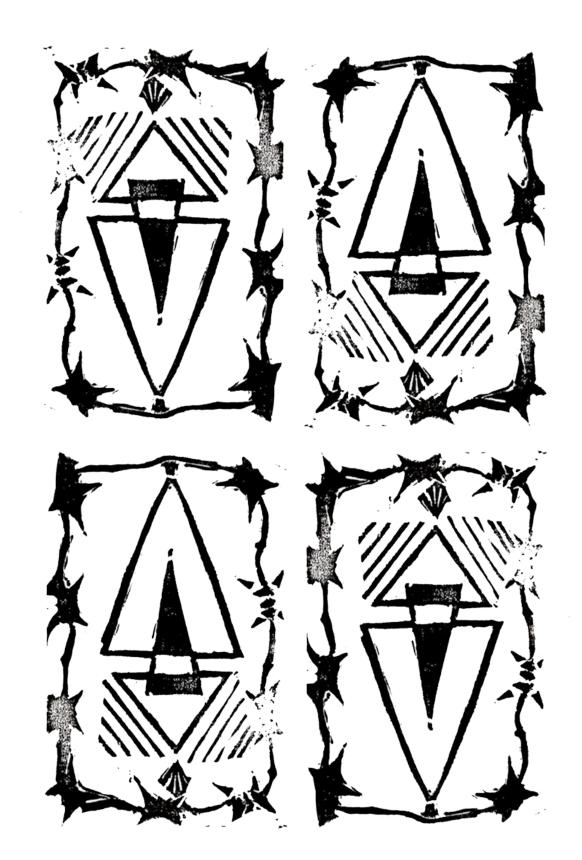
Y(OUR) LEGACY BLOCK PRINTING WORKSHOPS/ September 2021, Oakland, CA

The Y(our) Legacy workshop series invites and honors the re-creation and reimagination of the meaningful—and sometimes painful—stories of our lives. Participants are asked to explore ten symbols to tell a visual story of survival, resilience and self-acceptance through printmaking. A final exhibition showcases the work of participants who wish to share their legacies.

The Stories We Tell







Y(OUR) LEGACY BLOCK PRINTING WORKSHOPS/ September 2021, Oakland, CA

communities.

—Edward Gunawan, Artist

19

What a privilege and a great joy for me to join ARTogether's Storytelling and the Creative Journey to Wellness. These collective awareness-raising efforts are crucial in bringing about positive changes in our

ARTOGETHER

Expressive Arts for Children





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EXPRESSIVE ART CLASS FOR CHILDREN/ March 2021, Oakland, CA

You made me feel warm and welcome. I feel like you are my family now.

-Young Participant

The Expressive Arts for Children program features classes that bring together kids aged 6-11 from immigrant and refugee backgrounds for self-expression through art and creative activities. Group leaders follow the principle of guiding rather than directing, fostering a stress-free environment that nurtures exploration, independence, and vision.

FUNDERS/ The Betsy Gordon Foundation and the Oakland Art Association



SUMMER ART CAMPS/ July 2021, Oakland, CA

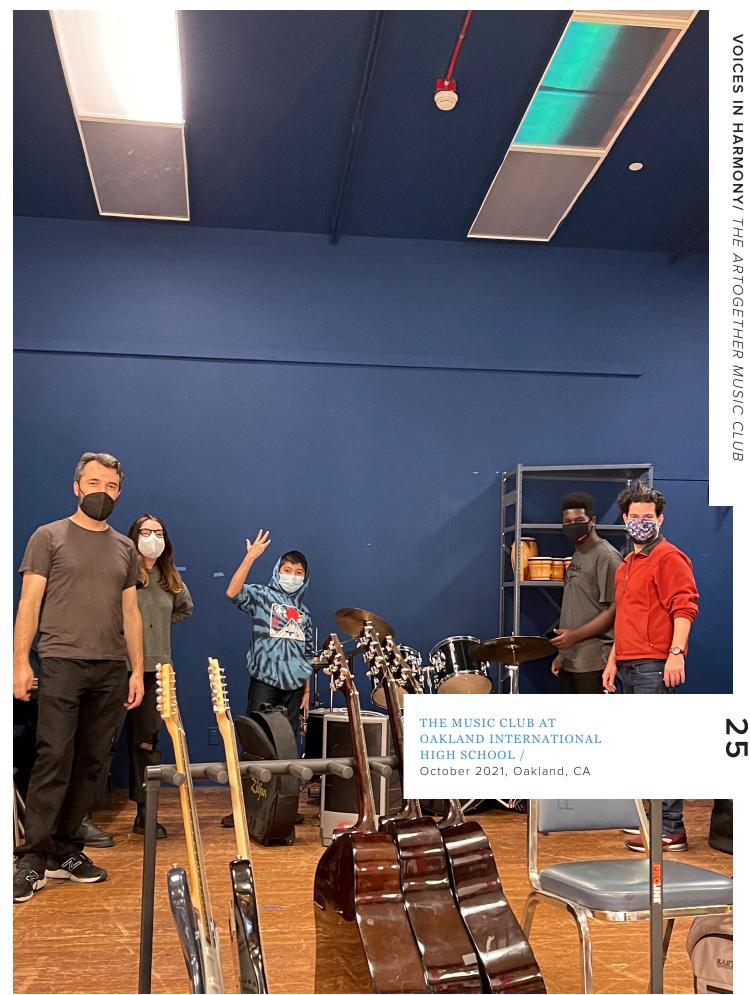
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VOICES HARMONY

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ARTOGETHER

The ARTogether Music Club





THE MUSIC CLUB AT OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL / October 2021, Oakland, CA

When I ask a student what their favorite song is, I get a response like 'Oh, it's not from the U.S., you wouldn't know it.' I'll look up the song and start playing it for them, and their eyes get wide—in real time we both realize the possibility of representing their culture through music.

-Nick Kanozik, Artistic and Music Program Director

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Launched in 2019, our Music Program has since blossomed into one of our featured student offerings.

The ARTogether Music Club meets twice per week at Oakland International High School (OIHS). The stage on campus has transformed into a rehearsal and performance space, and we have provided two professional, weighted, digital pianos and newly repaired guitars, bass and amps. The overwhelming majority of students have no prior musical training, but this doesn't get in the way of their interest as they learn to play instruments, produce digital tracks, and make music together in a fun, welcoming environment.

FUNDERS/ The Teichert Foundation, the Barrios Trust, the Morris Stulsaft Foundation, the Betsy Gordon Foundation, the Rex Foundation, and the Joseph & Vera Long Foundation

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AT OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL/ June 2021, Oakland, CA

ARTogether provides scholarships for private instruction to students eager to deepen their musical fluency and experience. Selected students for this program are given one-on-one mentoring and support to help them grow as young aspiring musicians. We are delighted that one of our recipients, a recent graduate of OIHS, went on to join the Composition program at San Jose State University in Fall, 2021.

ARTOGETHER MUSIC Schola Program







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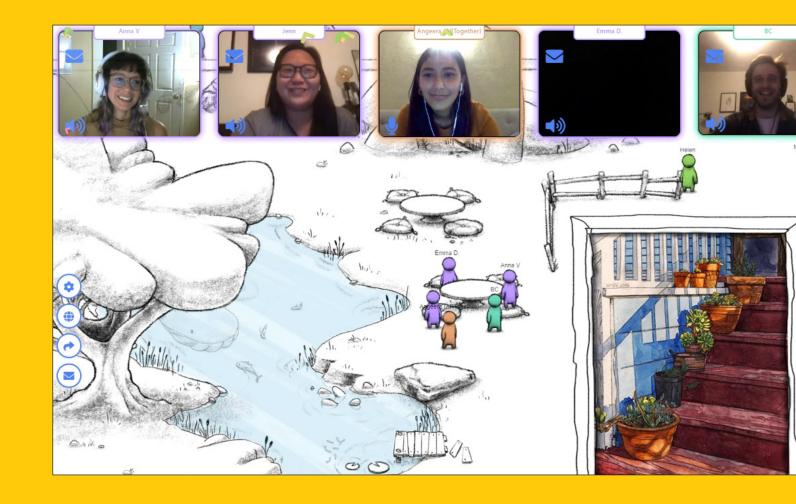
MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AT OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL/ June 2021, Oakland, CA

VOICES AMPLIFIED

This virtual event was fascinating! I loved navigating through the exhibition. I'm loving how art organizations like yours are adjusting and pivoting to handle our current Covid-culture.

-Virtual Exhibition Visitor

Overlap/ Home, Immigration and Identity

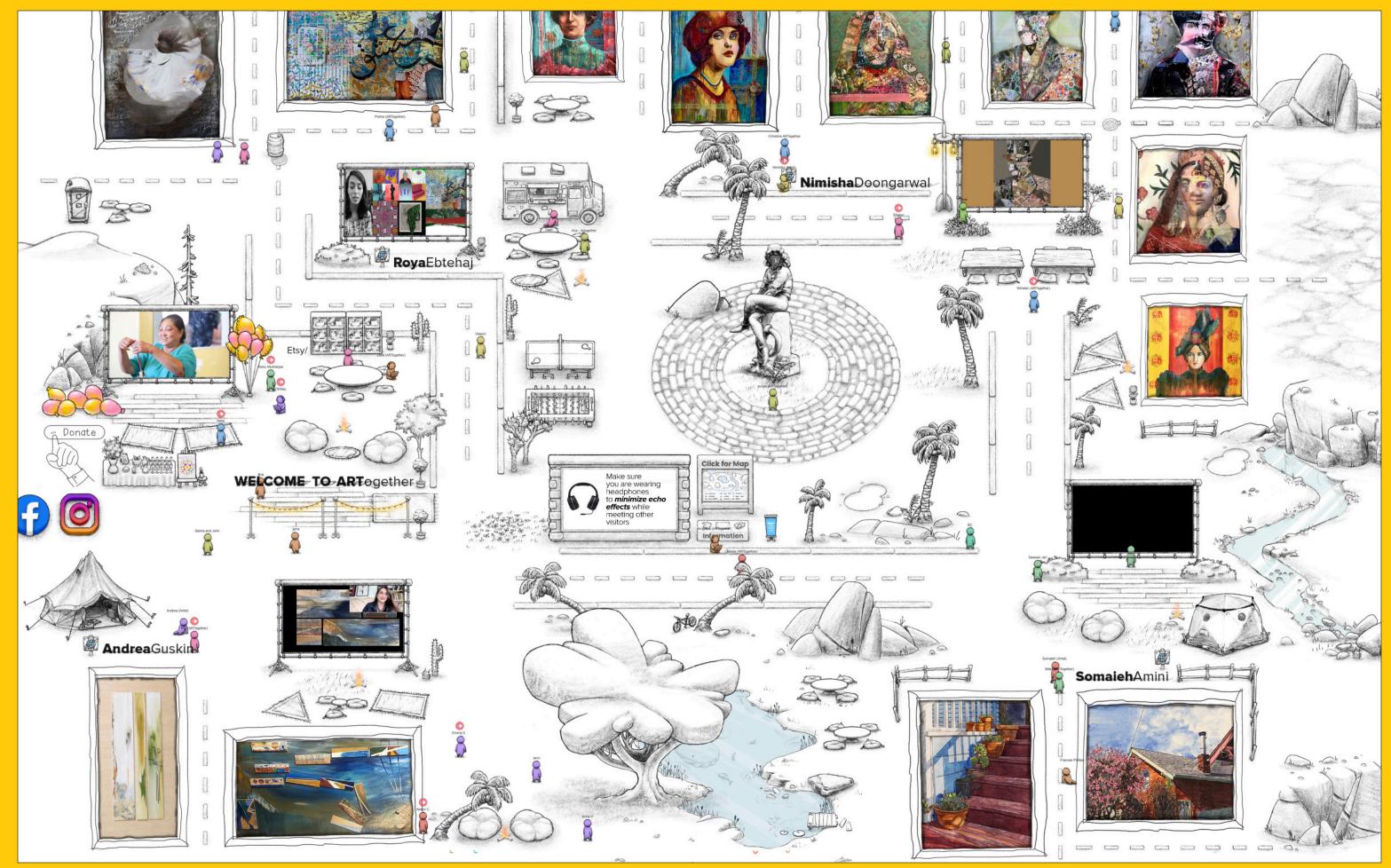


Our 2021 art exhibition, *Overlap: Home, Immigration and Identity,* forged a visual conversation on the immigrant experience, celebrating the evolving and multifaceted identities that convey a powerful sense of origin, history, and personal story. The exhibition featured the work of Somaieh Amini, Roya Ebtehaj, and Nimisha Doongarwal, and Andrea Guskin.

Hosted at the Bayfair Center in San Leandro between February and May 2021, *Overlap* was ARTogether's first interactive virtual art exhibition.

OVERLAP: HOME, IMMIGRATION AND IDENTITY VIRTUAL EXHIBITION/ February 2021

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ARTOGETHER



"It has been beautiful to see how ARTogether has been growing. I love the constant activity where immigrant artists can connect." During the pandemic, she said, having a community of artists was especially valuable: "When someone is down, we build each other up."

Artist Meetups began as a way for artists to connect and share their art during the worst months of the pandemic. As Covid-19 continues to impact our communities, artists are still grappling with inequities the pandemic has only deepened. Our Artist Meetups have developed into an incubator for workshopping ideas and projects, engaging in lively discussion, sharing challenges, offering support, and contributing to artistic showcases.

Artist Meetups

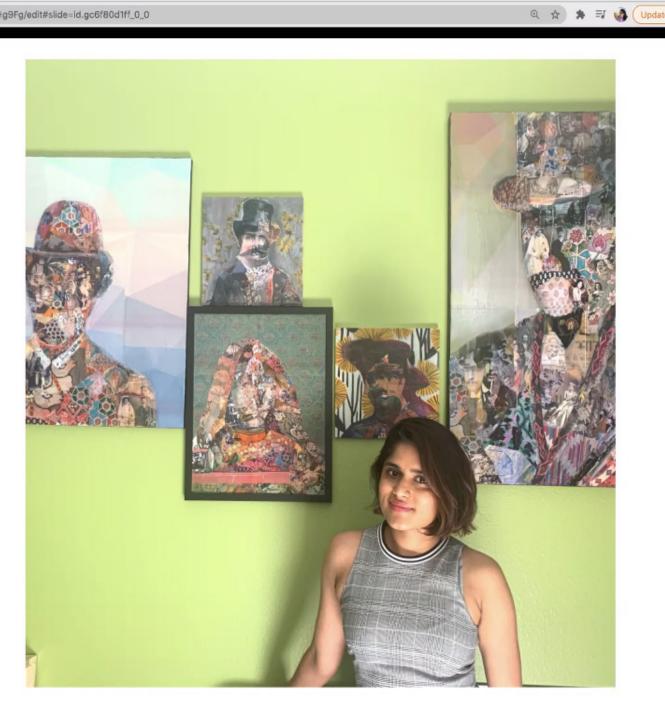
-Juliana Mendonca, dancer, choreographer, teacher, and performer

ARTWORK BY PIYALI SAMANTA/ Artist and Artist Meetup Participant

C a docs.google.com/presentation/d/1GcJvbm_JRu9DJe4buOSRHVG5E3_GfqdfO-s8YNHg9Fg/edit#slide=id.gc6f80d1ff_0_0

About me: Nimisha

- Indian Immigrant
- Engineer by profession
- Artist by passion





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Mini-Grants for Artists

ARTogether's monthly Mini-Grant awards support Bay Area refugee and immigrant artists with projects in development. Each month artists are awarded \$500 for artist supplies, equipment, costumes, and compensation for fees for editing or similar professional work.

Our 2021 Mini-Grant recipients included artists creating new works in photography, textile arts, printmaking, film, music, and other multimedia forms.

FUNDERS/ CINEOLA and Frameline.

2021 Mini-Grant Recipients

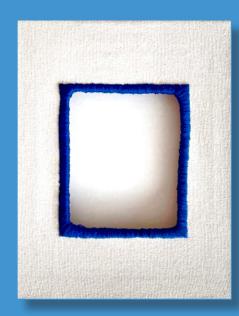
Inti Batey Allison von Hausen & Divija Mohan Kacy Jung Sunroop Kaur Ray Koh dani lopez Sen Mendez Juliana Mendonca Gazelle Samizay and Labkhand Olfatmanesh Palija Shrestha Romina Zabihian

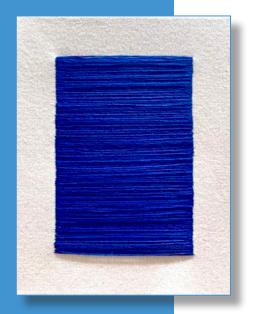
I get so much joy from making, but as an artist getting their first grant for a project, this was such an accomplishment for me. I felt a sense of pride and support I haven't felt in a while.

-dani lopez, Artist and Mini-Grant Recipient

VOICES AMPLIFIED/ MINI-GRANTS FOR ARTISTS

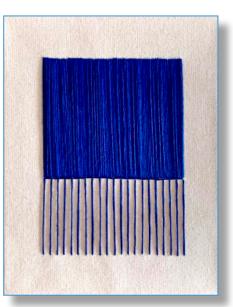






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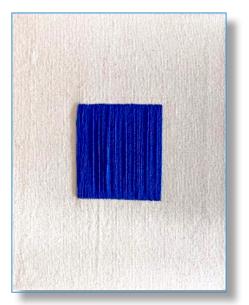








ARTWORK BY SUNROOP KAUR/ Artist and Mini-Grant Recipient



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FIRST COHORT OF ARTOGETHER'S ARTIST MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMARTISTS/

- 1 Somaien Amini
- 3 Roya Ebtehaj
- *4* Ruta Ghebrewold*5* Bushra Gill
- 6 Edward Gunawan
- 8 Sunroop Kaur
- 9 Juliana Mendonca
- 10 Palija Shrestha
- **11** Gazelle Samizay
- 12 Romina Zabihian

ARTogether's Membership Program connects and supports refugee and immigrant artists across the Bay Area. Member artists receive free and early access to our "calls for artists," professional development workshops, regular artist meetups, low-rate fiscal sponsorships for projects, and other opportunities to help support and promote their art in the community.

Artist Gevelopment workshop low-rate fiscal sponsor opportunities to help s in the community. Program



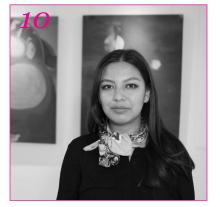
























ARTogether supports Bay Area refugee and immigrant artists with innovative and impactful art projects with grant-writing support and guidance. ARTogether's support ranges from fiscal sponsorships to partnerships on major art projects, helping artists to find funding and support for their art.

Grant-Writing Support for A

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Artists

WORK TOGETHER

Our Partnerships





Partnerships and collaborations with organizations whose missions are well-aligned with our own is an essential component to bringing us closer to the communities we serve, and to deepening and broad- Preeti Vangani, Nidhi Jaisoor, ening the impact of our work.

This year we had the privilege of working with these amazing organizations,

ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES/ Storytelling and the Creative Journey to Wellness Panel Discussion OAKLAND ASIAN CULTURAL CENTER/ ILLUMINATION: Literary Works Imagining New Light (A Diwali Celebration)

KOREAN COMMUNITY CENTER OF THE EAST BAY/ Lunar New Year Live Cooking Workshop **STORYCENTER**/ Watercolor Workshop Series OAKLAND ART MURMUR/ Grant-Writing Workshop, Artist Mentorship Program

SAMUEL MERRITT UNIVERSITY / Afghan Community Wellness Program, Expressive Arts for Kids, Youth Art Camp

THE UNITY COUNCIL/ Valentine's Day Dance Event, Teachers' Art Retreat

ILLUMINATION ARTISTS/

Anita Felicelli, and Karthik Sethuraman

OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL/

The ARTogether Music Club HOPE MOHR DANCE/ Imagining the Future Workshop CENTER FOR EMPOWERING REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS/ Southeast Asian Street Art Workshops, Youth Art Camp, Expressive Arts for Kids KEARNY STREET WORKSHOP/ APAture 2021: Embrace Film Screening OAKLAND VIETNAMESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/ Moon Festival—Hot Cocoa in the Park and Holidays Gift Give away **BAYFAIR CENTER**/ Overlap: Home, Immigration and Identity Virtual Exhibition **REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT TRANSITIONS/** Holiday Craft Workshop at Fremont High School







Magic still happens! This year, we found ourselves in the midst of a City of Oakland meeting for cultural affairs. There we met Jean Marie Durant, President of Oakland Art Murmur (OAM)—a non-profit bringing widespread public awareness to the city's arts and culture scenes—who asked us to contact them di-

New Space

ARTOGETHER'S SHARED OFFICE WITH OAKLAND ART MURMUR/ Oakland, CA

rectly about a shared office opportunity. And just like that, in just two months, we joined OAM at their location in Downtown Oakland. While we are still looking for a community space to conduct many of our programs, we now regularly use our shared office with OAM for our meetings and daily work.

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SPEAKING OF 2022

TEND YOUR ORCHARD/

Artists Cece Carpio and Miguel "Bounce" Perez created this mural to YBCA's glass passageway in collaboration with SOMA Pilipinas

With support from the California Arts Council, and the Office of Councilmember Nikki Bas, ARTogether will partner with muralist Cece Carpio to bring members of the community together to design and paint a mural that reflects the diversity and cultural richness of Oakland's San Antonio neighborhood.

FUNDERS/ California Arts Council and the Office of Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas



Community Mural ហ

UNTITLED MURAL BY ARTIST PAT KONG/ Oakland, CA

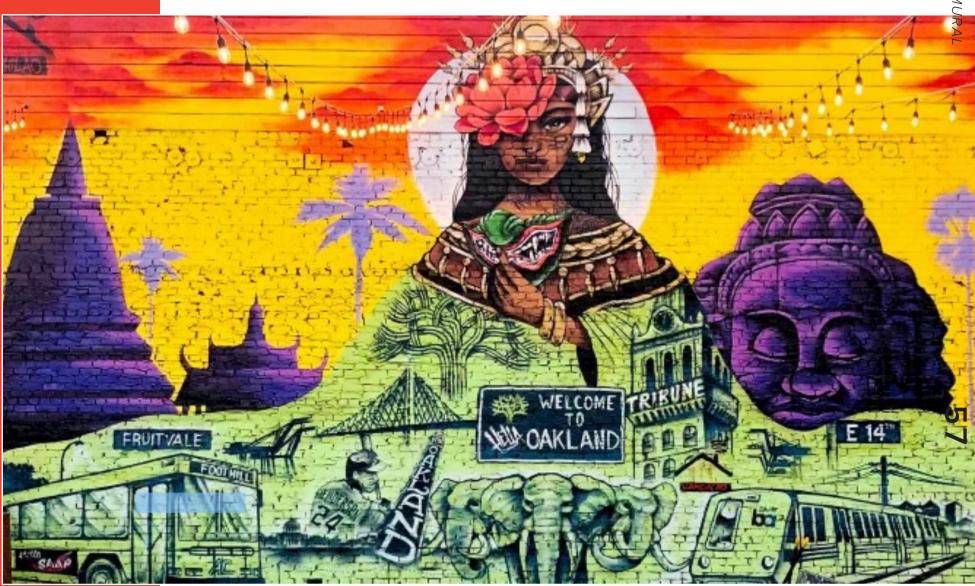
FUNDER/ California Arts Council

painting of a public mural in East Oakland.

In partnership with the Center for Empowering

gathering for students aged 11–17 from Southeast Asian backgrounds. Intended to support youth whose lives have been impacted by systemic inequality and the incarceration system, participants will explore the art and culture of murals, graffiti, and street art.

Southeast Asian Street Art Workshops





The vision of artist Taro Hattori, *Pedaling Point* will tap into shared human experiences through story and song, aiming to spark communication between refugees and non-refugees of our community. Hattori's inspired installation will forge a context for these connections within an interactive setting. Our hope is that audiences will be drawn into an exchange of ideas and a breakdown of barriers, working from an underlying belief that conversation—even with its inevitable uncomfortable truths-heals more powerfully than isolation.

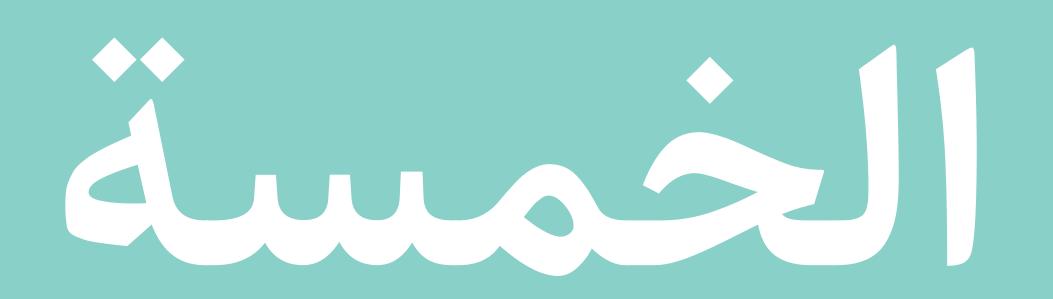
FUNDERS/ The Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation and the Creative Work Fund (a program of the Walter &Elise Haas Fund supported by the William&Flora Hewlett Foundation)

Pedaling point

ROLLING COUNTERPOINT/ By Taro Hattori

Khamsa

Named after the Arabic word for "five," Khamsa is a visual and musical journey through the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Led by Guled Muse—Muslim artist, community organizer and activist—in partnership with and mental health. ARTogether and Gathering All Muslim Artists (GAMA), this collaborative multimedia installation will explore



different aspects of trauma's universality. We seek to find harmony in humanity's shared stories; to bridge differences between cultures, beliefs and histories; and to reveal new perspectives on trauma

FUNDERS/ Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art

The Artist Mentorship Program invites artists at various levels of experience to connect within a safe, intimate, and creative space. Immigrant and refugee artists at the beginning of their professional development will have access to resources for developing their creative skills and business acumen through a combination of individual and group activities.

Artist Mentorship Program

SPEAKING OF 2022/ ARTIST MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

THE VOICES ARTOGETHER





POLINA MASO Program Assistant and Social Media Coordinator

As an immigrant myself, I was searching for community, support and where I could fit in. ARTogether is more than just an organization, it is indeed a family, and I am grateful to be a part of it.

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Board of Directors



KELLIANNE CRAIG ARTogether Board Member 67

Helping to support the outreach and growth of ARTogether has been an incredible learning experience and truly an honor. I am constantly amazed and inspired by the mission-driven focus and efforts of the [ARTogether] team to provide the highest quality creative programming for ARTogether's [our] community members.

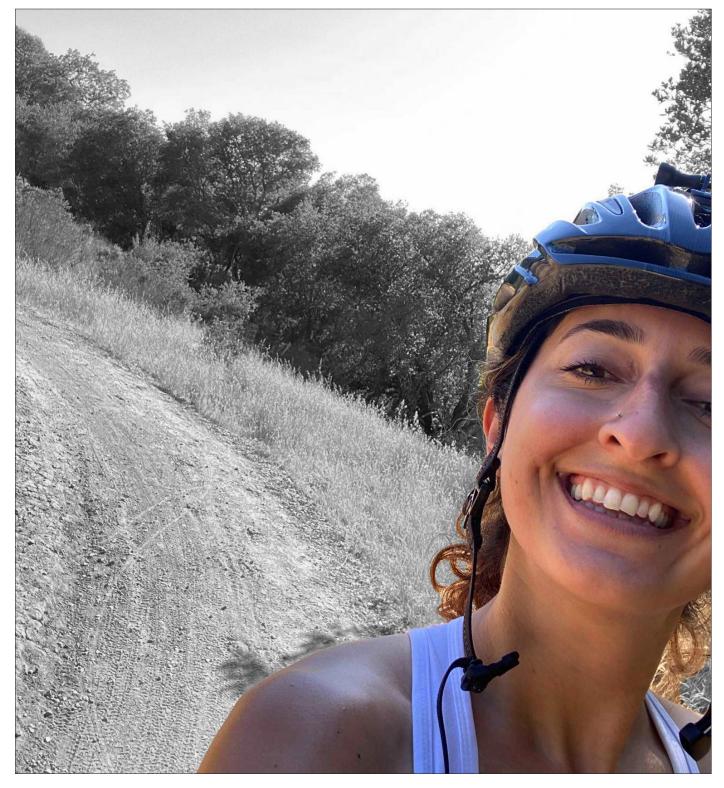




HANNAH JEFFERS Exhibitions and Research Intern (University of San Francisco)

The warm, inclusive environment at ARTogether provides a space for me to learn from and network with arts professionals and successful colleagues. I find myself learning so much in so many different disciplines. Not only was I able to work towards the goal, but I was also able to see the fruits of our labor in the community of artists that has surrounded the organization. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with ARTogether and proud to be a part of the organization.





SHIRIN TOFIGH Monthly Donor I donate to ARTogether because I believe that everyone should have the access and resources to creative expression—and because it's as healing for the artist as it is for society.





TIFFANY CHENG Organizer of a Birthday Fundraiser for ARTogether 73

Project ARTogether's work in fostering compassion and connection through the arts and providing a healing space for our local refugee and immigrant neighbors is community in action. I'm proud to support the organization and help the Project ARTogether family grow!

IMPACT

ARTOGETHER

Programs/ Reach & Financial Report

IMPACT/ PROGRAMS/REACH & FINANCIAL REPORT

PROGRAMS/REACH

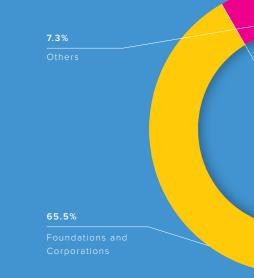
ARTogether provided **31** unique programs (a total of **134** sessions) to our community and a total of **858** individuals participated in our workshops and events! See below how we improved our programs and participation over the last five years.

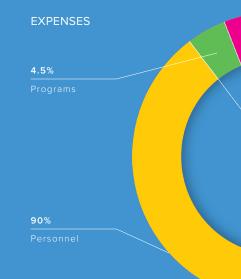
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Programs	6	10	18	27	31
Sessions	34	77	144	112	134
Participants	384	1021	730	835	858

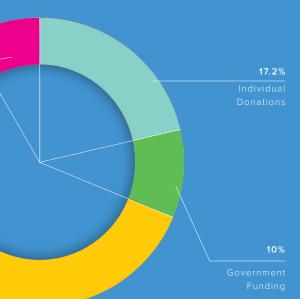
FINANCIAL REPORT

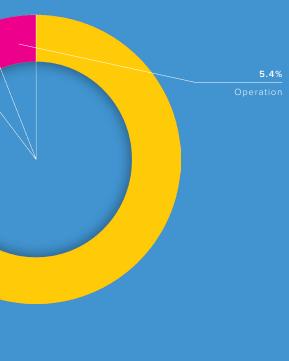
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenue	\$6,301	\$47,172	\$76,052	\$305,192	\$374,423
Expenses	\$6,300	\$15,912	\$51,528	\$239,864	\$243,825

REVENUE









IMPACT/ PROGRAMS/REACH & FINANCIAL REPORT



2021 ARTogether is grateful to have been awarded the 2021 East Bay Innovation Awards in the category of Arts and Culture. East Innovation Awards

ARTOGETHER THANKS YOU

VOLUNTEERS AT COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAM/ December 2021, Fremont, CA

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





OPERATION TEAM

Leva Zand, Executive Director/ Miles Markstein, Development Director/ Suriya Shuhrat, Creative Director/ Polina Marso, Program Assistance and Social Media Coordinator/ Nicholas Kanozik, Artistic and Music Program Director/Liz Forbes, Human Resources/ Ryan Samn, Project Coordinator/ We are grateful for Angeera Khadka, Christine No, Winston Vicente and Hector Murillo

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ADVISORS

Helen Hansel/ Sahba Aminikia/ Mona Afary/ Charise Fong/ Meklit Hadero/ Julie Fry

EAST BAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

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FUNDERS

The Barrios Trust/ Betsy Gordon Foundation/ California Arts Council/ California Humanities/ City of Fremont/ City of Oakland/ Creative Work Fund/ Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art/ East Bay Community Foundation/ Fleishhacker Foundation/ The Joseph & Vera Long Foundation/ The Kapor Center/ Miner Anderson Family Foundation/ Morris Stulsaft Foundation/ National Endowment for the Arts/ The Nicholson Family Foundation/ Oakland Art Association/ Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation/ Rex Foundation/ Boston Foundation/ Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence/ Teichert Foundation/ Walter and Elise Haas Fund/ Zellerbach Family Foundation

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