

*ANNUAL
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REPORT
2020*



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ARTTogether

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C *CHANGE IS CONSTANT. AND LEARNING FROM THAT CHANGE HAS ALLOWED US TO GROW AND DEEPEN OUR CONNECTION TO OUR COMMUNITY. THE WAY FORWARD IS TOGETHER.*

COMMUNITY CREATIVITY GROWTH SUPPORT

2020 has tested us. It has been a year that has separated us physically, but brought us together in our determination to tackle difficult situations, and made us realize anew the importance of collective action. At ARTogether, we have adapted our programs to the changing needs of our community, and found creative ways to deepen our engagement and strengthen our ties across the Bay Area. We have examined the values that shape our organization: **community, creativity, growth and support**, and renewed our goals to live up to these ideals. As we grow, it is imperative to keep at the forefront the reason we are doing this—to build a more compassionate society where refugees and immigrants can flourish.

And so, our Annual Report this year is split into four sections, each highlighting activities based on different values we hold dear. Where we can, we have shared stories and quotes from participants, artists, teachers, and volunteers; the people that give this endeavour purpose and joy.

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***I AM HUMBLLED AND
 GRATEFUL TO LEARN
 FROM OUR RESILIENT
 COMMUNITY. THIS YEAR
 HAS MADE US EVEN MORE
 DETERMINED TO PURSUE
 OUR MISSION OF CREATING
 OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFUGEE
 AND IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES
 TO FLOURISH.***”

In a few days, 2020 will end. None of us could have predicted the magnitude of events we have faced **this year**. We experienced fear, pain, loss, anger, and the unknown. We also found new ways to connect and celebrate the small things in life. We learned how to keep our hope alive even when the light at the end of the tunnel seemed unreachable. Our members became our role models and, once again, we learned to respect the collective wisdom of our community.

ARTogether started 2020 with a bold plan, clear program goals and ambitious growth predictions. The first two months were great. We celebrated the opening of our biggest public exhibitions yet on March 6th, an event attended by more than 200 people, and we were preparing to launch our third after-school art class when California began its first lockdown.

It didn't take long for us to understand the devastating effects of this pandemic on our community of immigrants and refugees. We immediately initiated a relief fund for artists and moved many of our programs online to stay connected with those who felt isolated and scared. Yet again, we found art to be a necessity in times of trauma and uncertainty.

Like many other small, young organizations, we faced hardship this year. We were not able to secure government support and some of our grant makers shifted their priorities. But despite these challenges, ARTogether has continued to grow. We added to our paid staff, welcomed three new board members, and started building a coalition with new communities. This report is a summary of what our team has accomplished.

Back in March, one of our community members, a genocide survivor, remarked that refugee communities, those who survived wars, torture, famine, and genocides, would overcome the pandemic. I smiled, but I didn't see the relevance of his words. Here we are dealing with an unknown contagious disease, I thought. But now, nine months into the pandemic, I finally understand what he meant. Our community is not immune to disease, but we know kindness and care will carry us through.

I am humbled and grateful to learn from our resilient community. This year has made us even more determined to pursue our mission of creating opportunities for refugee and immigrant communities to flourish. Thank you for your trust and support.

With Gratitude,



Leva Zand
 Executive Director

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CREATIVITY

First came the art. As a way to get people in the same room, and talking, and sharing. Even when they didn't speak the same language. Even when they had no artistic background or formal learning. Just as art has value in and of itself, so does the act of creating art. Whether as a way to acquire a new skill, make something personalized for a friend, a family member or yourself, a means of self-expression, or even just a way to stay busy while swapping stories, the value of creating art is unbound by age and expertise. The following ARTogether events are ones that put creativity at the forefront, creating a space for new talents to be seen and new voices to be heard.

- *A Deepest Blue*
- *Reflections on Home Exhibition*
- *From Killing Fields to Sanctuary*
- *Imagining the Future Workshop*
- **EATogether**
- **Monthly Art Contest**



“

Born to Khmer refugees, Prumsodun Ok rose from the poverty-stricken inner city of Long Beach to become the new face of Khmer dance. He uses art to heal, illuminate, and empower, reviving the spirit of his people from the enduring forces of conflict. Seen by many as a champion of Khmer culture, he works as an artist, teacher, and writer to shape a world where everyone can blossom into their fullest selves.

Reflecting his realities as a Khmer American—as someone born in, of, and between many different cultures, communities, and worldviews—Ok draws upon many different languages and disciplines to

reflect and shape the world around him. His training in experimental filmmaking, photography, poetry, and sound expand his expressive capacities and accentuate the singular nature of his visions, which are grounded in rich personal experience and conceptualized with a deep curiosity of history, ethnology, mythology, and religion. Ok strives to create work that is fearlessly honest, local in character and global in significance.

As the child of Khmer refugees who survived a genocide, having grown up surrounded by narratives of loss and brokenness, for me, creation is a protest against a legacy of violence and trauma. Creation is an act of healing that forges new paths and possibilities, for our individual selves, our communities, our traditions—and for survival itself.

”

A DEEPEST BLUE

Drawing upon a founding myth common to Cambodia and Japan, *A Deepest Blue* dives into the primordial depths of the ocean.

In the next two years and in partnership with ARTTogether and the Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants (CERI), Cambodian-American artist and cultural activist Prumsodun Ok will design, develop and perform *A Deepest Blue*. Bringing together artistic and spiritual traditions that are more than 1,000 years old, the project will feature the art form of Khmer classical dance alongside Japanese gagaku music and 3D holographic imagery.

The project was selected as one of 10 recipients of 2020's Hewlett 50 Arts Commissions grant, receiving \$150,000 in funding that will help make this ambitious new project a reality.



“I talk about issues that are difficult for a lot of people. I like working with them. And I think this kind of exhibition creates a safe space to have conversations, especially between people and countries that are in conflict.”

—Kiana Honarmand, Exhibition Artist

REFLECTIONS ON HOME EXHIBITION

In collaboration with the Oakland Asian Cultural Center and GAMA (Gathering All Muslim Artists), ARTogether curated *Reflections on Home* exhibition which featured the work of 18 female-identifying artists of color living in the Bay Area. Through photography, calligraphy, origami, painting, and mixed media, each artist explored the themes of “home” and “belonging,” themes selected for their resonance with many in our refugee and immigrant communities.

Participating Artists

Angela Bau, Bushra Gill, Durba Sen, Farnaz Tasbihgoo, Fatima Zehra, Kacy Jung, Kiana Honarmand, Kim Sweeney, Lisa Fong, Manizeh Raza, Meriam Salem, Nga Trinh, Nimisha Doongarwal, Paola de la Calle, Patricia Rojas-Zambrano, Roya Ebtehaj, Salma Kandil, Samira Akbari, and a special presentation by Shahrazad Squad.

REFLECTIONS ON HOME
EXHIBITION/

Opening Reception, March 2020, Oakland



FINDING HOME/
By Patricia Rojas-Zambrano

REFLECTIONS ON HOME EXHIBITION/
Opening Reception, March 2020, Oakland



“I don’t see an end to these [social justice campaigns]. There’s no telling when ICE will stop. There’s no telling when any of this cycle will stop... If we don’t keep going, we will keep living in this cycle.”

—Kanley Souet-Pich

FROM KILLING FIELDS TO SANCTUARY

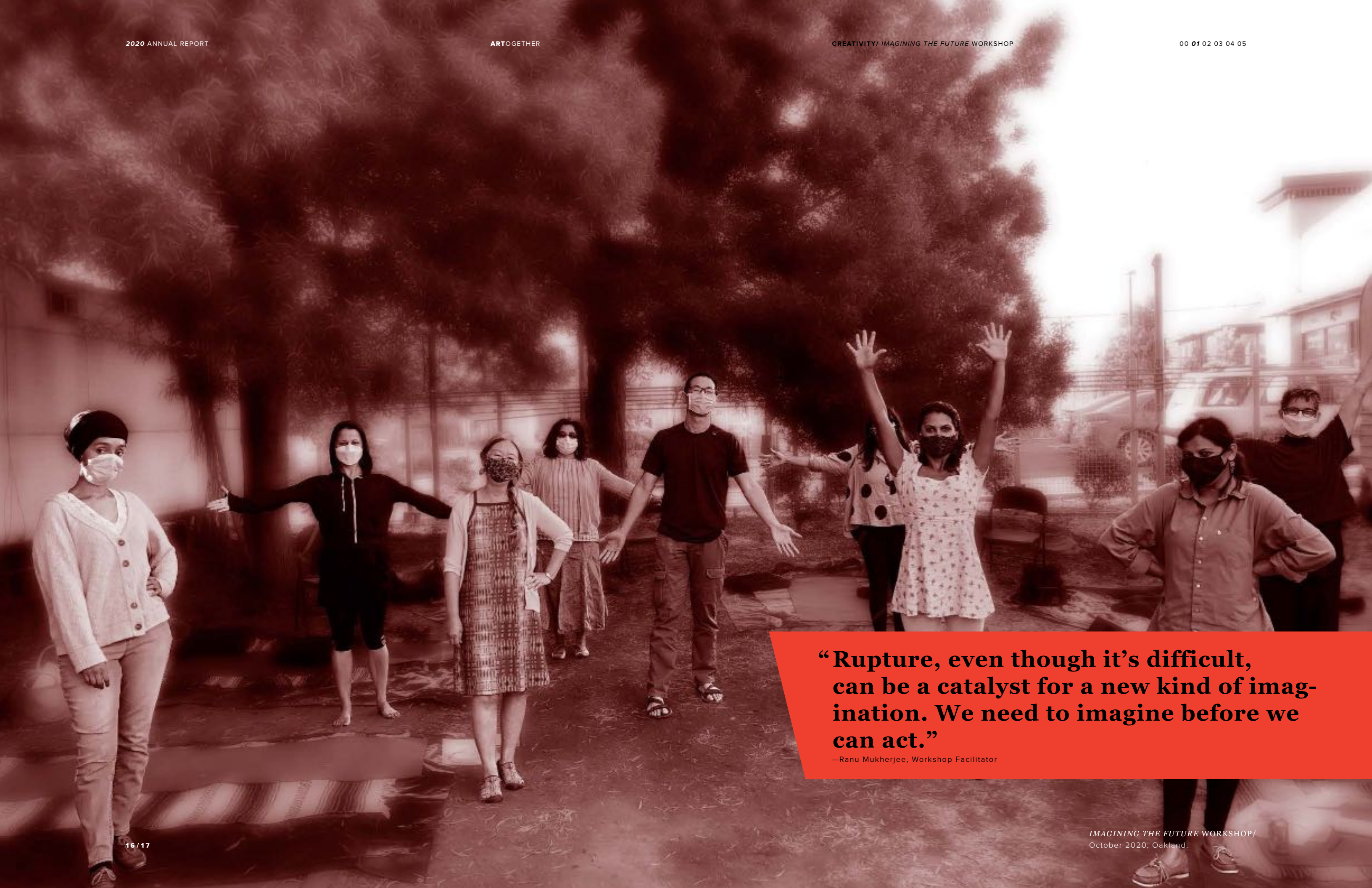
From Killing Fields to Sanctuary is a multimedia short documentary project that will combine recorded interviews, photography, online resources, documentary film and community dialogues to tell the story of Cambodian refugees as part of California’s cultural fabric.

Directed by Ido Bartana and Nadim Badiie, with support from California Humanities, the documentary will center around Kanley Souet-Pich and her family,

following their journey after the arrest and detention of Kanley’s husband by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, better known as ICE.

Currently being filmed, the project has evolved with the changing conditions of the pandemic, allowing us to follow the lives of our film’s protagonists during COVID-19 and the social unrest of the Black Lives Matter protests this summer.





“Rupture, even though it’s difficult, can be a catalyst for a new kind of imagination. We need to imagine before we can act.”

—Ranu Mukherjee, Workshop Facilitator



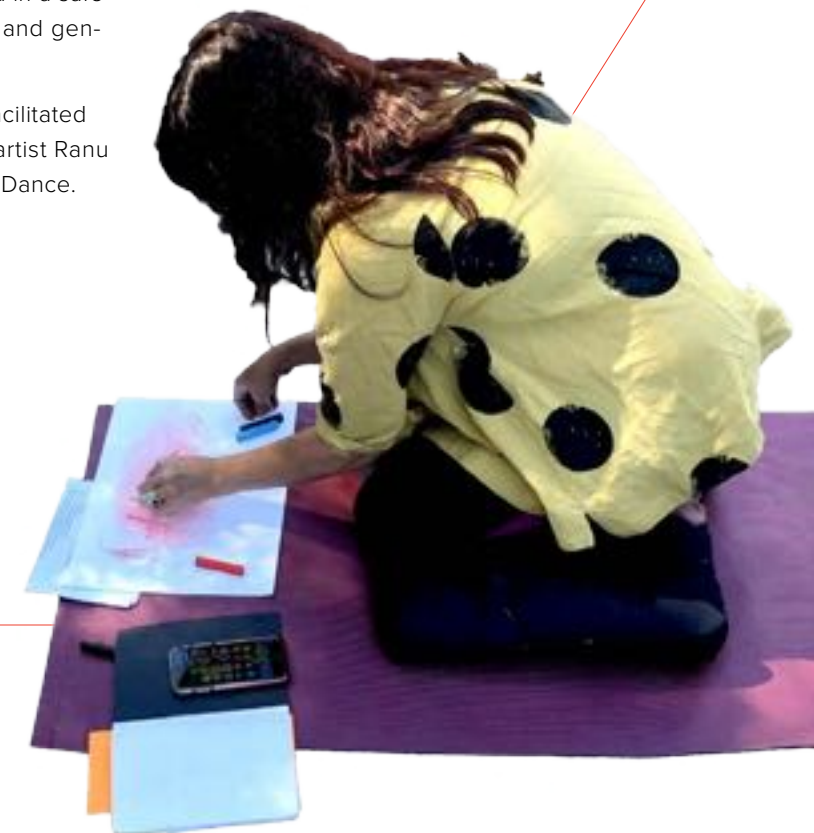
“This workshop really enabled me to look at my role in society, not only to look at it in the here and now, but how it relates to my ancestors, and the future.”

—Samia Karimi, Participating Artist

An in-person, socially-distant story-building workshop for refugee and immigrant artists, designed to open up space for artists to share their stories and collaborate. Together, artists learn how to express their artistic experiences and desires through writing, movement and visual art, grounded in a safe and experimental environment to explore and generate new ideas.

The *Imagining the Future* Workshop was facilitated by choreographer Hope Mohr and visual artist Ranu Mukherjee, in partnership with Hope Mohr Dance.

IMAGINING THE FUTURE WORKSHOP



Anthony Anousone Singhavong shares with us the Laotian culinary tradition of pork larb.

A dish popular in Laos and parts of northern Thailand. | PORK LARB



“Haemul Pajeon is one of my favorites on evenings when I don’t want to cook a full meal but I want something yummy, and especially, and especially in cold, rainy weather. Koreans think that the noise of the sizzling Pajeon or any type of pancake in oil resembles raindrops, so when it’s raining, and it’s cold, they think of eating Pajeon.”

—Sarah Kim-Lee, Culinary Instructor

EATOGETHER

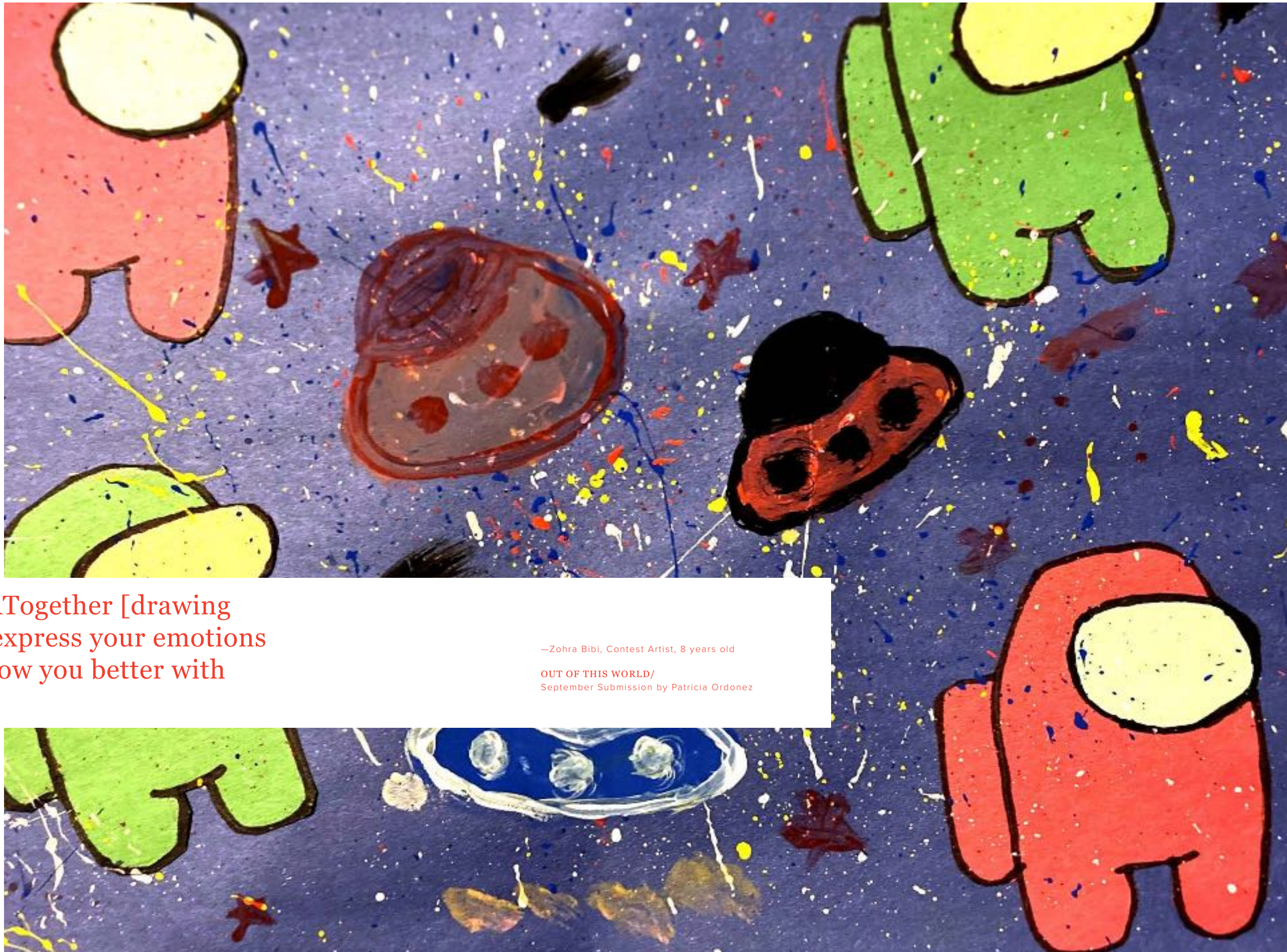
An online cooking series that showcases the culinary diversity of immigrant and refugee chefs and home cooks in the Bay Area.

At a time when people are homebound, EATogether seeks to create conversations around personal food histories, and have people come together over a meal, just in a new way.



EATOGETHER VIDEO/
Sarah Kim-Lee, October 2020, Oakland





MONTHLY ART CONTEST

To get our youngest members excited about drawing, painting and film while at home, ARTTogether has been hosting a monthly art contest for children and young adults aged 5–17. Students are delivered art supplies for free on request, and all participants receive a prize for sending in their entries, with a new theme each month to inspire their art.

“What I like about the ARTTogether [drawing contest] is that you can express your emotions and people can get to know you better with your drawings.”

—Zohra Bibi, Contest Artist, 8 years old

OUT OF THIS WORLD/
September Submission by Patricia Ordonez



MY HOLIDAY/
October Submission by Amy Juarez
HELLO SUMMER/
July Submission by Sofia Caminos



COMMUNITY

At the core of ARTogether's work is the belief that having a community, having people to share one's life and stories with, is central to healing. Even as our interactions turn virtual, we have strived to create spaces that nurture open dialogue and conversation. Spaces to laugh and relax, and let go. But also spaces to have complex, sometimes difficult conversations. When protests broke out after the murder of George Floyd, our weekly Afghan Women's Craft Circle became a safe hub to talk about race, and the myths and rumors surrounding the protestors. These conversations have led to others—about issues that plague refugee, Native American and African-American communities disproportionately: displacement, poverty, lack of access, and environmental inequity.

In this section, we are featuring events and activities where building a strong collective and showcasing the stories of our community is the primary focus.

- Artist Meet-Up
- Valentine's Day Couples Dance Party
- Mid-Autumn Moon Festival
- CommUnity Quilt Project
- Watercolor Workshop Series
- Women's Craft Circle



Contemporary Dance Performer, Choreographer and Teacher

JULIANA MENDONCA

“

Juliana Mendonca is a Venezuelan contemporary dance performer, choreographer and teacher specializing in contemporary dance, Latin dance, as well as yoga and body expression for children and adults. She graduated with a degree in dance from the University Institute of Caracas, Venezuela in 2005, and is also a certified Yoga instructor. She taught in the Performing Arts Department of the University of the Andes in Mérida, Venezuela from 2012-2015 and at the Traditional Dance Program of the National University for the Arts in 2008. In 2005, Juliana co-founded Raíz de Agua, a music and dance company, which is her principal artistic endeavor. Though she is primarily a solo artist, Juliana has worked in the Bay Area

in collaboration with other artists and companies such as “Ranko Ogura Dance”, at the “Combustible Residency 2019 with Mabel Malvidiezo”, and at a dance and painting project with artists Ella Noe and Benjamin Arizmendi. She is currently a choreographer and interpreter of the dance and technology project ‘Synthetic Nature’, directed by the Argentine artist Andres Concatti.

Juliana teaches yoga and dance to children at a number of preschools in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is a Latin Rhythms teacher at a number of studios. She is also working on “Liquidanza” a solo contemporary dance project taking place in water. Juliana is currently based in Oakland, California and is one of ARTTogether’s affiliated artists.

I love the opportunity to meet new artists, and be in spaces with people I don’t normally engage with. I joined because I wanted to engage with artists whose identity and work are closely tied, I stayed because building an art community is really important for me and my continued development as an artist.

—Paola de la Calle, Artist Meet-Up Participant

”

ARTIST MEET-UP

During the pandemic, many artists have lost income, as well as the public spaces where they can present their art. But just as important, they’ve lost their community, and the creativity and support that comes from artistic collaboration and exchange.

The Artist Meet-Up is our attempt to meet these needs. An intimate, monthly Zoom meet-up for refugee and immigrant artists living in the Bay Area, each Meet-Up offers a safe space for artists to share ideas and challenges, with lively discussions, artistic showcases and even a live performance or two.



Dots Mr. Farmer

By Romina Zabihiyan



Unmute

Stop Video

Participants

Chat

Share Screen

Reactions



VALENTINE COUPLE DANCE PARTY/
February 2020, Concord

VALENTINE'S DAY COUPLES DANCE PARTY

Our version of Valentine's Day wasn't about candy hearts and roses. But it *was* special. It was a day for families and friends to take some time off from their busy schedules, and while their children were at daycare, let loose and dance the night away. ARTogether offered this special date-night workshop in collaboration with the Cesar Chavez Center & The Unity Council in Concord, CA.

“I wanted to say a big thank you for your support and awesome Valentine's celebration! The families that came were the ones that have been on our priority list for needing extra emotional support services, so thank you for allowing them to reconnect and have a night off!”

—Jacqueline Smith, Family and Community Partnerships
Coordinator, The Unity Council



MID-AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL

ARTogether's booth at the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival in Oakland featured live mural painting for children and adults, led by Oakland-based queer artist Sen Mendez, known throughout the Bay Area as Queen Sen Sen. Organized by the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce, the festivities are a way for children and families to celebrate the harvest moon together and with their community.

MID-AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL/
September 2020, Oakland





MID-AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL/
September 2020, Oakland





COMMUNITY QUILT/
March 2020, San Francisco

COMMUNITY QUILT PROJECT

Our community quilt-making project brought children and adults together to create beautiful pieces of quilted art together. Led by artist Polina Marso and held at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, the workshop brought together members of the community for an afternoon of joyful creativity and celebration.





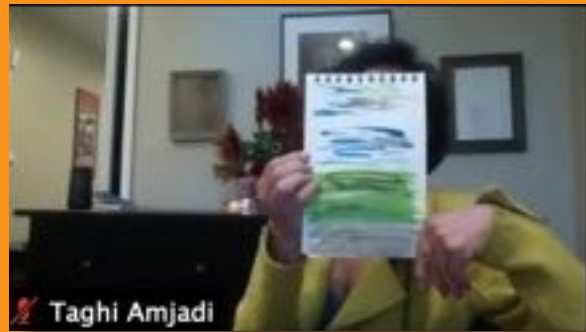
WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP SERIES/
October 2020, Zoom Meeting

“I am drawing and painting my mom tonight. I recalled a memory of being a child in Hong Kong with my mom. We were refugees and I was five. I remember the dress she is wearing in this picture [that I’m painting]. It was a traditional Chinese dress, a *qipao*, which she had many beautiful dresses of. She passed away young. But 40 years later after my dad passed, we discovered that he had kept them all.”

—Angela Bau, Workshop Participant

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP SERIES

A free watercolor workshop series for refugees, immigrants and their allies. Offered in collaboration with StoryCenter, these Zoom workshops are a creative space for the communities of refugees, immigrants and allies to paint, chat, listen to music (we have a DJ!) and share stories.





WOMEN'S CRAFT CIRCLE

ARTogether's longest-running workshop series, the Women's Craft Circle creates a welcoming space for women to make crafts, share stories, listen to music, and sometimes even dance! For the last three years, the workshop has been held at the Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants (CERI), and since the pandemic has been expanded and offered online to a group of Afghan ladies in Oakland from Refugee and Immigrant Transitions (RIT).

During the harshest months of the pandemic, the Women's Craft Circle made and distributed hundreds of masks throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, working alongside ARTogether and RIT with support from the Center for Craft.



“I am looking forward to this class every Friday. Talking to my friends and doing hand crafts is comforting... [The Circle] gives us a space to talk and enjoy doing art together.”

—Workshop Participant

GRO WITH

GROWTH AND
ADAPTABILITY

Change is constant. And this year has been all about change. And though that change is hard, our ability to adapt and grow in these times has determined where we are today. This section highlights examples of our existing programs, remodeled to suit the current situation, and new programs, borne out of our unprecedented times.

- *Intersecting Indigenous, Black and Refugee Lives*
- Grant-Writing Workshop
- Youth Art Camps
- After-School Art Classes
- Etsy Art Shop



Musician, Composer and teacher

TAL ARIEL

G

“

Several years ago I was trying to start a scholarship program in Oakland for those who wanted to study music but couldn't afford it. When I met Leva and learned about ARTogether, I saw that as an opportunity to bring that idea to fruition. We originally launched "Music Studio" as an after-school class at Oakland International High School. Our first semester we had 7 students in the class, and that grew to around 20 in the second semester. Then Covid landed on us and everything was put on hold. We tried re-launching the class as an online offering, but that wasn't working out. So we decided to revert to my original idea of offering a scholarship to an individual who was truly interested in making music. We found that student in JiaYing.

JiaYing was already registered for the previous semester of "Music Studio" and demonstrated all the right characteristics. She was curious, passionate, engaged and always followed through. I was impressed by her from the start. Especially consider-

ing she was a recent immigrant from China, and the language barrier was significant. When I offered her the scholarship, she was very excited and immediately accepted.

JiaYing and I have been working together on several tracks simultaneously. We started learning Pro Tools software, exploring the various elements to modern music production - live audio, MIDI, loops and samples, and more. In addition to the technology component, we are also delving into music theory -melody, harmony, rhythm, scales, etc. We've been working together one-on-one and I'm very excited. I expect greatness from JiaYing!

—Tal Ariel, Musician, Composer and Teacher

Indigenous tribes, the names they had for their communities—Lakota, Cherokee, Sioux—even though they're in different languages, all translate to "the people". Indigenous folks remember, that we are "the people" first. We're trapped in this Western culture of capitalism and individualism, and we know that they want to keep us divided. They sow dissent in our movements, because they know we're stronger together. And divided, we don't stand a chance.

—Rhatura Bowden, Artist and Activist

”

INTERSECTING INDIGENOUS, BLACK AND REFUGEE LIVES

A series of panel discussions revolving around race, immigration, and coalition-building. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter protests following the murder of George Floyd, our aim with these conversations is to understand the complex issues involved in building meaningful coalitions between communities of color and to find a path forward for creating a more just, equitable future.

“Thank you so much for organizing the workshop! It was super helpful and I’m a smidge less intimidated and now more motivated to forge forth.”

—Midori, Workshop Participant

GRANT-WRITING WORKSHOP

To help artists navigate the process of grant-writing, ARTogether organized a free, online workshop for Bay Area artists of color, exploring the different stages of writing a successful grant.

SUMMER ART CAMP/
July 2020, Oakland



“I absolutely loved being a counselor over the past week at ARTogether and CERI’s art camp. Everyone was so engaged with the camp and all of the activities... We were all able to participate not only in interesting and varied art activities, but many of the kids took some of the activities a step further and were incredibly vulnerable in sharing past and present personal life experiences and perspectives. This openness allowed a much stronger community to be formed, and created an environment in which everyone felt comfortable sharing more of themselves.”

—Avrah Ross, Camp Teacher

YOUTH ART CAMPS

Our children’s art camps have been a mainstay of ARTogether’s programming since its first year. This summer our art camp offered online to children aged 7–10 and 11–14 and we added an exciting winter camp to bring excitement, fun and creativity to the holiday season.

Both camp events were offered in partnership with the Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants in Oakland.



SUMMER ART CAMP/
July 2020, Oakland



PAINTING AND WATERCOLORING
AFTER-SCHOOL CLASS/
October 2020, Zoom Meeting

AFTER-SCHOOL ART CLASSES AT OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Since 2019, ARTogether has organized after-school art classes for Oakland International High School, tweaking and developing new programs based on the interests and the needs of the students. The program began with classes in Music Studio Production and Creative Storytelling, adding additional classes each semester. This year, as all learning moved online, we changed the style and structure of our classes, offering classes such as Painting and Digital Photography that work well in an online format.

As the program has evolved to meet this unpredictability, our arts program has benefited tremendously from the support of partners such as the Morris Stulsaft Foundation, the Mockingbird Foundation, the California Arts Council, and the inspiring teachers and staff of Oakland International High School.





MUSIC STUDIO PRODUCTION/
February 2020, Oakland



ETSY ART SHOP

The loss of artists' income during the pandemic was not only severe, but painfully sudden. To help generate income for refugee and immigrant artists, ARTtogether has launched an online art shop to sell original paintings, photography, and digital prints by Bay Area artists. Though still in its early stages, the Etsy store already features the works of three artists, as well as chic ARTtogether merchandise.

SUPPORT

COLLABORATION AND
SUPPORT

Support comes in many-forms—financial, logistical, emotional. A majority of ARTTogether’s programs promote community-building and collective action. But these communities are made up of individuals, who often need individualized support. The programs in this section have filled a need for our artists on a more one-on-one basis, many of whom have faced a particularly long and difficult road this year.

- **Emergency Relief Fund for Artists**
- **Grant-Writing Support**
- **Mini-Grants for Artists**
- *Khamsa*



Visual Designer, Painter, and Illustrator

SOMAIYYEH AMIRI

“

Somaieh Amini is a visual designer and illustrator based in San Jose, California. Somaieh was born in 1981, spent her childhood and adolescence in Isfahan, Iran, and earned her B.A. in Painting at the University of Al-Zahra in Tehran. Between 2001 and 2007, she worked with multiple animation companies as a Concept, Background, and Layout Artist, and worked for television shows and movies as a Matte Painter. In 2009 Somaieh left her life in

Iran to move to Rome, Italy, continuing her studies to earn an M.A. in Painting at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma. In 2012, Somaieh moved again to the United States, a second relocation that took an emotional toll that impacted her art. Since her relocation, Somaieh has dedicated her artistic career to painting and illustration. Somaieh currently works as a visual designer and illustrator, winning ARTTogether's Mini-Grant for Artists in 2020.

I am not alone in this world! I also want to help people. All is well with your care and help—I am painting and full of optimism!

—Kanat Ibragimov, Artist and Emergency Relief Fund Recipient

”

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND FOR ARTISTS

Following shelter-in-place, many artists feared losing their main source of income. For refugee and immigrant artists, many were not able to accept any government support whatsoever, fearing it could endanger their green cards or citizenship applications.

In response, ARTTogether launched the Emergency Relief Fund for Artists, providing essential financial support to refugee and immigrant artists to pay their rent and utilities. This accompanied a public cam-

paign, urging institutions and individuals to honor their existing contracts with artists. With support from the San Francisco Foundation, The Global Whole Being Fund and the East Bay Community Foundation, our efforts have grown to provide broader support to refugee and immigrant artists, forming lasting connections that we have built on to offer more lasting support to artists in our community.

“I am very grateful for all the support and energy put into this grant. I love the contribution of your ideas and the writing of the proposal... I am very happy and excited about this collaboration. Congratulations to the entire ARTogether team for the wonderful work you are doing in these strange and new times. It has been a great motivation and inspiration for me.”

—Juliana Mendonca, Dancer, Choreographer and Teacher

GRANT-WRITING SUPPORT

To help artists find funding, ARTogether has offered grant-writing support and grant partnerships to artists, support which has become more essential as other sources of art-based income have dried up. This year, ARTogether worked with individual artists on grant applications, helping them to develop and outline their projects, and providing organizational support and resources to strengthen their applications.



DIGITAL STORYTELLING/
March 2019, Oakland



KHAMSA

Khamsa is a visual and musical journey through the five stages of grief, encouraging the audience to explore different aspects of trauma's universality.

A collaborative creation led by Muslim artist, community organizer and activist Guled Muse in partnership with ARTogether, *Khamsa* will be a multimedia installation with five separate rooms, each addressing a different stage of the grieving process: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Collaborating artists will include musicians and

visual artists of color from across the United States. The vision of *Khamsa* is to spark new narratives around grief and trauma, using different media and disciplines to present new perspectives on mental health.

Khamsa is the latest of ARTogether's collaborative art projects, partnering with refugee, immigrant and BIPOC artists to fund and create new artistic efforts.

DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT AND METRICS

The Pandemic did not stop ARTogether's organizational growth. This year, we have added three members to our Board of Directors, developed our Strategy Plan, developed a system for donor management and engagement, significantly improved our measurement and evaluation system for member feedback, launched our first official fundraising drive, finalized our insurance policies, and developed and launched our new website.

- Impact
- Financial Report
- What to Expect in 2021
- Acknowledgments



January 2020 Oakland

ARTOGETHER'S BOARD TRAINING AND RETREAT



Dear Friends,

When I joined the board of ARTogether back in January, I was excited at the opportunity to put my professional corporate background to use towards growing this wonderful grassroots organization. Little did I know that 2020 would become such a constant learning experience on embracing change instead.

Throughout the year, I have been constantly inspired by the leadership of our Executive Director, and the determination of our staff, volunteers, and board members. Our community has been hit hard by the effects of the Covid pandemic, both emotionally and economically. But in the midst of uncertainty, we looked inward. We acknowledged that, even though we can not foresee what the future will bring, we can seek guidance in our mission and in the strength and wisdom of our communities.

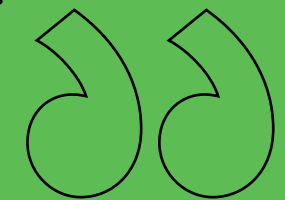
This year was also a time of reckoning for all of us. As continued and intolerable police violence against Black individuals and communities culminated in the Black Lives Matter protests, we reflected on our role in the fight for social justice and the importance of speaking out and taking action. This fall, we launched the Black and Refugee Coalition-Building Project to foster an intersectional conversation about community engagement and the role of art in building solidarity and unity; a first step in an ongoing journey towards collective action, learning, and building equity.

When I look back at all we did this year, I can't help but feel both deeply grateful and hopeful for our future as an organization. We listened to our community, shared our struggles, and grew to become better allies to each other. No matter what the future looks like, ARTogether's values of empathy, dignity, and respect continue to make us stronger and more united.

With hope and gratitude,

Celeste Tretto
Chair of the Board

When I look back at all we did this year, I can't help but feel both deeply grateful and hopeful for our future as an organization. We listened to our community, shared our struggles, and grew to become better allies to each other.



IMPACT

We share stories because no list of numbers can truly depict the strength of our community. Or the impact of art and conversation on those who feel isolated and exhausted. However, they are a useful summary, a snapshot of our efforts and accomplishments.

- Total Number of Programs/ **27**
- Total Number of New Programs/ **19**
- Number of Events and Sessions/ **112**
- Community Partners/ **11**
- First-Time Participants/ **225**
- Returning Participants/ **835**

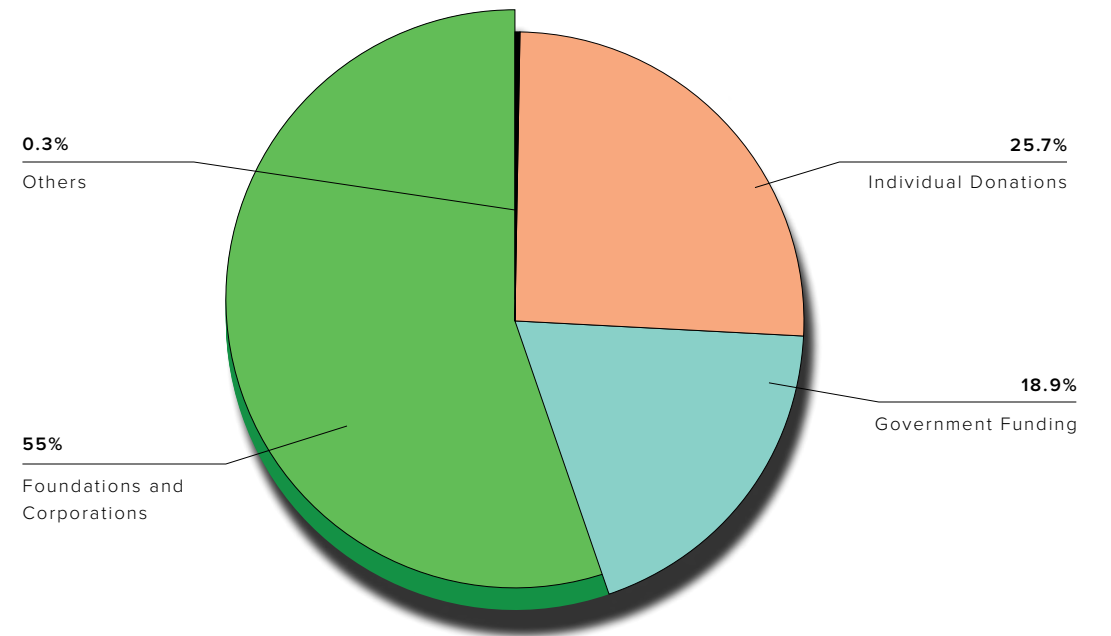
FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE	
Individual Donations	\$39,000
Government Funding	\$28,674
Foundations and Corporations	\$83,339
Others	\$500
Total Revenue	\$151,513

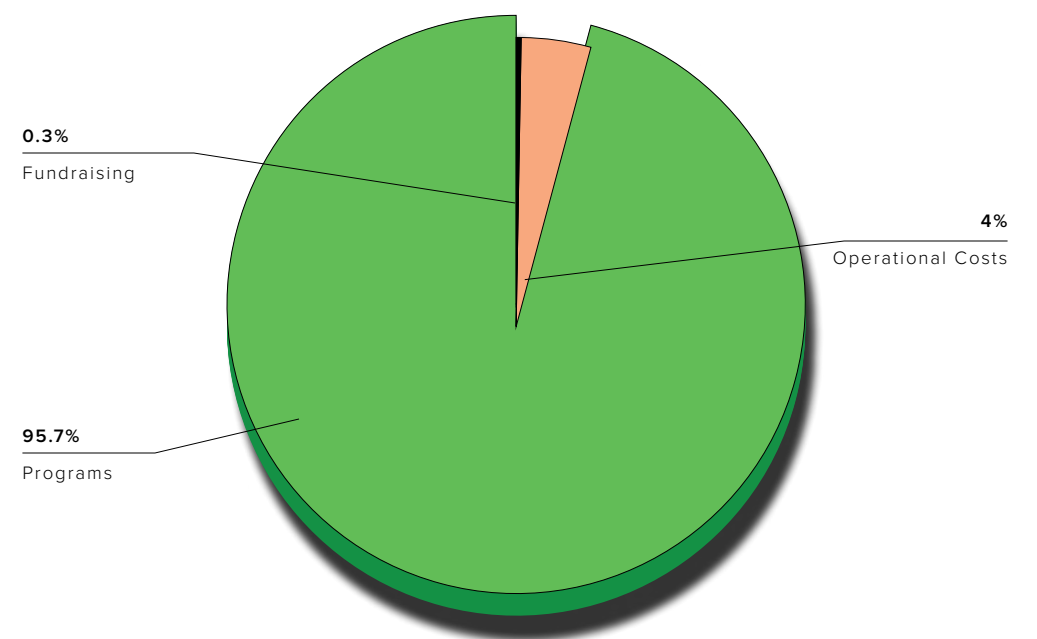
EXPENSES	
Operational Costs	\$5,312
Programs	\$128,540
Fundraising	\$399
Total Expenses	\$134,251

FINANCIAL GROWTH 2017-2020				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Revenue	\$6,301	\$47,171	\$76,052	\$151,513
Expenses	\$6,031	\$15,880	\$52,756	\$134,251

REVENUE



EXPENSES



WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2021

While 2021 may have more unpredictability in store, ARTogether has developed a number of programs we plan to launch during the upcoming year.

- Our new Artist Mentorship Program, pairing emerging BIPOC artists with seasoned artists, while providing group support in marketing, best practices, research, grant-writing and more.
- Expansion of ARTogether’s arts program at Oakland International High School, launching our new Occupational Therapy Program for students experiencing depression and difficult mental health issues.
- The debut of our short documentary *From Killing Fields to Sanctuary*, to be launched alongside the project’s gallery exhibition, panel discussions, and (pandemic-permitting) community events.
- A new community mural painted in Oakland, with developing plans at the Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay (VACCEB) in Clinton Park.
- The launch of the Muslim Women’s Support Group, a new project which will provide an unfiltered, unapologetic, safe, and confidential environment for Muslim women to discuss mental health issues as they create art together.

ARTOGETHER TEAM/
JANUARY 2020, San Francisco



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to bring ARTogether through this tumultuous year.

STAFF

Leva Zand, *Executive Director*/ Miles Markstein, *Deputy Director*/ Vilasini Roy, *Supporting Artists Director*/ Hector Murillo, *Project Assistant*/ Suriya Shuhrat, *Creative Director*/ Winston Vicente, *Social Media Coordinator*

VOLUNTEERS

Eric Calogne, *Writing Assistant*/ Julia Yu, *Social Media Coordinator*/ Aman Gupta, *Photographer*. Polina Marso, *Project Assistant*/ Céleste Cebra Kotevich/ Bahareh Taebi

INTERNS

Joyce Chan/ Andrew Wilson-Towan/ Aida Buder/ Melisa Nazzal/ Gigi Jackson/ Carley Weiler/ Julia Harrison/ Hailey Park/ Daniel Orona/ Van Lam

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Polina Marso/ Tal Ariel/ Juliana Mendonca/ Somaieh Amini/ Aman Gupta/ Emilee Koss/ Olivia Baker/ Avrah Ross/ Thomas Paul/ Sen "Queen Sen Sen" Mendez

SPECIAL THANKS

Selma Abinader/ Mona Afary/ Nadim Badiee/ Ido Bartana/ Maria Pilar Bratko/ Cece Carpio/ Andre Carothers/ Shawn Sockie Chizito/ Catherine Fung/ Shirley Gee/ Andrea Guskin/ Võ Hai/ Rhummanee Hang/ Helen Hansel/ Taro Hattori/ Amy Hill/ Thavery Hov/ Iranian Studies Initiative of UC Santa Barbara/ Akemi Imai/ Tiffany Kang/ Kiana Karimi/ Jennifer Teng Jian Kennedy/ Sarah Kim-Lee/ Sean Kirkpatrick/ Raj Lakhotia/ Terri Le/ Rachall Lee/ Saly Lee/ Daryna Loch/ Abbas Mohamed/ Hope Mohr/ Ranu Mukherjee/ Guled Muse/ The Office of Councilmember Nikki Fortunato Bas/ Prumsodun Ok/ QTViet Cafe Collective/ Rhatura/ Patricia Rojas-Zambrano/ Piyali Samanta/ Mayssam Sayyadian/ Kajal Shahali/ Jacqueline Smith/ Kanley Souet-Pich/ Anthony Anousone Singhavong/ Negar Tayyar/ Jennifer Tran/ Kate Wadsworth/ Barbara Kimport/ Amy Lam/ Jodi de la Peña/ Shima Islami/ Bahareh Rezaeian

Our success was only possible with the support of community partners and grants from generous foundations. Thank you all for believing in our organization, and helping us to launch new programs to meet this year's challenge

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants/ East Bay Refugee and Immigrant Forum/ Oakland International High School/ Oakland Asian Cultural Center/ StoryCenter/ Head Start & The Unity Council/ Refugee & Immigrant Transitions/ Gathering All Muslim Artists/ Samuel Merritt University

GRANTMAKERS FOUNDATIONS

California Arts Council/ The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation/ California Humanities/ City of Oakland/ Alameda County Arts Commission/ The Nicholson Family Foundation/ Furthur Foundation/ Center for Cultural Innovation/ The Mockingbird Foundation/ East Bay Community Foundation/ San Francisco Foundation/ Center for Craft/

Finally, thank you to everyone who supported us in 2020 by donating to our programs and efforts. We could not have done it without you.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Alast Ahmadi/ Mona Ahmadi/ Minoo Akbarian/ Aric Allen/ Stephen Allison/ Sara Ameri/ Shabnam Amini/ Sahba Aminikia/ George Apostolopoulos/ Nili Ariel/ Meghan Arnold/ Liza Ashbrook/ Alast Ahmadi/ Mona Ahmadi/ Minoo Akbarian/ Aric Allen/ Stephen Allison/ Sara Ameri/ Shabnam Amini/ Sahba Aminikia/ Nili Ariel/ Meghan Arnold/ Liza Ashbrook/ Tannaz

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APPENDIX

VIDEOS

THE LANGUAGE OF ARTOGETHER

youtu.be/psDQIgdwTCc

OPENING RECEPTION OF THE *REFLECTIONS ON HOME* EXHIBITION

youtu.be/xr0Af2FZ1LU

IMAGINING THE FUTURE WORKSHOP

youtu.be/yiWjFKmWuP0

EATOGETHER VIDEOS

youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjZbwzNihMjB_mH-rEqI-gueNh4B1IcIk

VALENTINE'S DAY COUPLES DANCE PARTY

youtu.be/IgJrkEDfuco

"MUSIC STUDIO PRODUCTION" AFTER-SCHOOL ART CLASS

youtu.be/xdXmfze9Aoc

DOCUMENTS

ARTOGETHER'S THEORY OF CHANGE

arttogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/TheoryofChange.pdf

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

arttogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2019.pdf

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