

MAKE STUDIO

**DISABILITY
PRIDE
ARTS FEST**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2023**



"A MAKER'S DOZEN"

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with a deep sense of gratitude and pride. We began 2023 with a special sense of good fortune, celebrating our "Maker's Dozen" anniversary—our 13th year of making art, building community, and supporting artists. With fewer than 30% of nonprofits reaching their tenth anniversary, we know how lucky we are to still be here, still pursuing our mission, and still empowered by your incredible support.

This year, more than ever, we have felt the collective power of our community. Your generosity has enabled us to take bold strides in empowering artists and making art accessible to all. As we close out this year, we do so with immense pride in our work and our impact.

In July, we hosted the inaugural Disability Pride Arts Festival—an event that drew nearly 300 attendees and highlighted the contributions of disabled artists. This was the first arts event of its kind in Maryland and the first-ever Disability Pride Month event in Baltimore. We are incredibly proud of how this festival showcased our commitment to inclusion and artistic expression.



It was a true celebration of our mission and values, as well as the future we are building together.

The "Maker's Dozen" theme isn't just about our anniversary; it also reflects the richness and diversity of the creative work we do. Each artist at Make Studio is part of a collective of makers who bring their unique perspectives and talents to the world. Your support empowers a full, inclusive, and ever-growing community of artists who are empowered to share their authentic selves with the world.

In this year's annual report, below, we briefly highlight the three – of the very many – community-building endeavors that shaped the course of 2023.

We invite you to continue this journey with us—supporting our mission and helping to create a more inclusive world through the transformative power of art. Together, we'll make the next 13 years as impactful as the last.

With gratitude and pride,
The Board of Directors
Make Studio





13TH ANNIVERSARY
FEBRUARY

In February, another fantastic Make Studio anniversary entered the books! We were grateful to the many friends and fans - old and new - who turned up for the two-part Lucky 13 Anniversary Celebration! There were many notable introductions and reunions over the weekend, and just as many satisfied art buyers.

The many artists in attendance out-did themselves with their welcoming remarks, including a charming original poem by Nadine Baldwin. We were also surprised and honored to receive a commemorative proclamation from The Baltimore City Council, presented in-person by our very own Councilwoman Odette Ramos.



Every anniversary show is the one, guaranteed exhibition of the year that features ALL of our artists and is ALL about them. An amazing assortment of 60 examples of the best of the best of everyone's work filled our gallery! Each year the process of putting together and sharing this special annual event is the true kick off of our program year, and reminds everyone what Make Studio is all about.





DISABILITY PRIDE ARTS FEST

JULY

Make Studio's Disability Pride Arts Fest in July, the first event of its kind to celebrate Disability Pride in Baltimore EVER, was a phenomenal experience. From everyone's fortitude in dealing with the heat, to the incredible energy and offerings from our presenting partners, the sweaty labors and flexibility of our crew (Board, fantastic volunteers from Exelon, and staff putting in overtime), the enthusiastic and art-hyping spirit of our attendees, and last, but opposite of least, the unveiling by Maryland Department of Disabilities Secretary Beatty of Governor Wes Moore's proclamation declaring July as Disability Pride Month in Maryland each and every person contributed to a beautiful day we won't forget.



After months of preparation and practice, guided by the expertise of community artist Valeska Populoh, Make Studio artists paraded a series of "Things You Need to Know About Disability" banners. Barrage Band Orchestra, Barrier-Free's musical maestros, and dance troupe RhythmXpress, Inc. provided further inspiring performances and pumped up the crowd. Journalist Danny Greenwald documented the event with audio material, ASL interpreters from HASA further enhanced the accessibility of the presentations, and our partners rallied and helped create the critical mass for this wonderful day: Art Enables, Abilities Alliance/ Equipment Connections for Children, Autism Society of Baltimore Chesapeake, Barrier-Free, Down Syndrome Association of Maryland, Itineris Baltimore, Paddling Foundation, and Walking Discovery.

We were humbled to have the support of all involved, and to Maryland Secretary of Disabilities Carol Beatty for surprising us that day with Governor Wes Moore's official proclamation marking July as Disability Pride Month, issuing this pivotal step forward for our State during our festival. We were honored to provide the venue for its first unveiling, and so happy to have our incredible partners with us

CORDIALLY INVITED VI

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

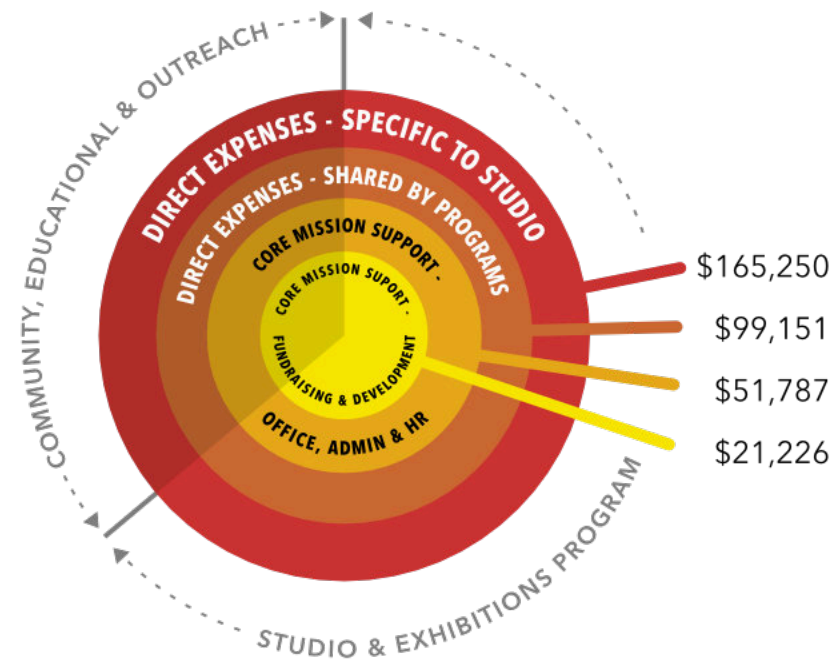


For the past several years, with our Cordially Invited exhibition and programming each fall we aim to shine a spotlight on artists working at progressive art studios, and the efforts of these studios to disrupt ableism, advance full inclusion, and first-and-foremost, to ensure that their artists' perspectives are centered and their original art is advanced and can be experienced by all.

Participating artists in this 6th installment, our biggest one yet, came from over 20 diverse studios located all over the U.S. and world, from as close as D.C. to as far away as Japan, with European participants in-between. Over 100 selected artworks were featured in our gallery, and even more appeared in an expanded digital exhibition online. Make Studio artists, following the lead of artist Tyrone Weedon, and visiting artists gave stirring remarks to a large crowd of enthusiastic exhibition-goers during this year's reception, and we continued to foster connection across studios and artists through our annual Mutual Admiration Society virtual presentation and discussion event.



FINANCIALS



Revenue & Contributions:

Program Income	\$152,577.00
Individual & Corporate Giving	\$ 59,477.00
Foundation & Government Grants	\$100,673.00
Artwork Sales	\$ 12,259.00
In-Kind / Misc.	\$ 10,150.00
Revenue Total	\$335,136.00

Support for Mission:

Personnel	\$185,847.00
Facilities & Utilities	\$ 88,288.11 *
Marketing, Events, & Sales Support for Artists	\$ 26,361.16
General Office, Finance, & Operations	\$ 16,554.00
Art, Studio, & Gallery Supplies and Equipment	\$ 13,777.73 *
Travel	\$ 6,586.00
Expenses Total	\$337,414.00

* Includes estimated costs of in-kind donations received

STAFF

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