

Newsletter

Fall 2016



Doing Art Together has returned to its roots, and has set out an ambitious agenda for the future.

After a period of change that included replacing our executive director earlier this year and appointing several new board members in recent months, we have added more partner schools and youth programs to our list of 43 sites.

This fall, Doing Art Together has been working closely with returning principals to help shape and personalize the art curriculum. Together, we are striving to create an environment where every student is engaged, whatever the material or medium. With the help of our extraordinary teaching artists, and faithful to our philosophy of process over product, we are giving students and their families the tools to discover the joy of learning with the visual arts.

In the coming months, Doing Art Together will lead more visits to cultural institutions, introducing students to and guiding them through New York City's diverse artistic wonders. Returning to another core principle, we will work to add more parent-child programs, including Saturday, holiday and summer classes, using art as a way to strengthen and transform the family bond.

The joy that children show after finishing their creations should always be celebrated. For our part, Doing Art Together will place more of an emphasis on our end-of-year exhibitions, in which parents and caregivers join in to celebrate the students' accomplishments. Another noticeable change is our re-energized board of directors, which includes several new faces to go with those who have dedicated years of service to our organization.

Doing Art Together is grateful to those who served so well over the years as mentors. Our board members and active volunteers will get to know partner schools and sites by meeting with principals, teachers,



Photo by Philemona Williamson

A student at Restart Academy in Manhattan creating a collage.

students, and parents to discuss their progress. Along the way we will spotlight some of our teaching artists, who will share what inspires and moves them. Additionally, we will feature in-depth looks into the schools, alternative education institutions and outreach centers in the five boroughs that comprise Doing Art Together's program partners.

Helping us accomplish our goals will be Doing Art Together's executive team, which has continued to show steady leadership. Executive Director Nina Tantillo Elton has been instrumental in securing grant funding for the future, while Board President Elena Sarkissian's tireless efforts over the last six years have enabled our organization to grow and thrive. Co-Founder/Creative Director Electra Askitopoulos-Friedman has provided guidance and direction, re-establishing connections with our partner schools and working to bring in new partners.

Doing Art Together's core belief, established by Co-Founder/author Muriel Silberstein-Storfer more than 34 years ago remains our guiding light principle: Spark a person's imagination and you will open the mind, ultimately transform life, and enrich the community.

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