



## DIVERSITY STUDIO

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## MISSION & VISION

Diversity Studio is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing artistic enrichment activities to members of the disabled community.

As a studio, we aim to empower and enrich the lives of those with developmental and intellectual disabilities, enabling them to grow as dignified people and enrich their lives through art.

We support the discovery and development of a self-defined, supportive and participatory culture, and identity for those with disabilities or as we like to say, unique abilities!

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## DIVERSITY STUDIO

### – PROGRAM OVERVIEW –

Diversity Studio was launched in 2017, founded by Toni Sheppard, a personal support worker for members of the special needs community. The program was born out of a deficit of activities available and affordable to our clientele, many of whom are on a fixed income or are reliant on state assistance.

Diversity Studio is currently divided into three classes: arts and crafts class has been the longest running and provides a variety of materials and processes for making art, including painting with water colors and acrylics, as well as pottery, usually with a seasonal flavor. These classes follow a general -outline, but artists are encouraged to experiment and follow their inspiration.

Our second class is the John Owre Memorial Garden, so named for our departed friend and artist, which recently concluded its first season providing gardening activities for our artists who can learn about growing food, as well as produce for those same artists and their families. At Diversity Studio, we believe in the importance of healthy, locally sourced foods for everyone regardless of income.

Our third class is dance, which is the most recent addition to Diversity Studio and is taught by professional dancer Nika Kermani. We believe in the power of movement for our health and happiness.

### – GIVING OPPORTUNITIES –

#### VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are a commodity we desperately need. Come teach a class, lend your knowledge to our artists. Not sure you want to teach or help make art? We need people who want to help us with our website, fundraising, transportation and many other things that help a nonprofit run smoothly. We are always looking for people to come and be apart of our community. Our Artists are apart of your community and once you meet them you realize how much they bring to the table!

#### DONATIONS

We are always in need of art supplies and money for art supplies. We are always looking for new materials and projects to give the Artists. So please if you have anything you want to donate contact us and we will let you know if we can use it!

#### THE BARN

Diversity is lucky enough to have a space to operate in but it needs help! We are looking for some local support to build and insulate a room in our barn to provide classes to our community in, a place where we have more control of when and what is available to us.

With this space comes so much potential growth and stability! We can have our art supplies stored safely and always available. Have a steady schedule and even hours of operation to offer to many students who maybe can't come to certain classes. There is nothing bigger on our to do list then this building, it could change the program in so many ways all for the better!