MAKING SPACE 4 ART IN 2021

After the pandemic shock of 2020, 2021 was a year of uncertainty, with hopes for a vaccine-driven return to “normal” undermined by wild oscillations in the trajectory of the virus, and a political divide that threatened both public health and a shared understanding of facts that underlie America’s 245-year-old experiment with democracy. In San Diego, leaders stood shoulder to shoulder to follow the science, suppress the virus, and keep everyone safe. The region’s strong public-health policy and outdoor culture spared us the worst.

Against this backdrop, Space 4 Art and other local art organizations moved cautiously to reopen to the public with in-person gallery shows, performances, and other art experiences. At Space 4 Art, we kept our community of resident artists affordably housed through an extended rental freeze and flexible rent-payment plans, and welcomed 14 new tenant-artists in 2021. We also expanded our artist-support services and infrastructure by upgrading our IT system and signing on as an official City of San Diego fiscal sponsor for artists and organizations without the required nonprofit status.
On the financial front, Space 4 Art is proud to have come through the pandemic stronger than ever, with stable revenue, manageable expenses, and lower debt service. **Thanks to the Parker Foundation, we were able to hire a Development Coordinator**, Sarah Cusey, who will help us spread the good news about all we do and raise funds to expand our programs and services. With local schools open for the first time in more than a year, we are developing new partnerships to bring arts programming to the kids who need it most.

Finally, 2021 brought both crisis and opportunity to our long-term goal of building a wholly-owned, large-scale, multidisciplinary Arts Center that will stabilize our mission, secure our future, and expand our programs. The COVID shutdown scuttled our plans to sell our vacant lot on Market Street to fund the purchase of a more affordable property on which to build out the Arts Center. But with the commercial real-estate market heating back up, we have re-listed the property and begun the search for a more favorable site. Join our mailing list to stay tuned for more news on that front soon!

On the educational front, we continued our mission to provide arts to schoolchildren through our **online S4A TV series and an in-person program that brought healing-arts workshops to migrant girls, aged 10-18, housed at San Diego’s Emergency Intake Shelter**. Using collage, colored pencils, and lots of imagination, our bilingual artists guided the children in creating portraits of places and loved ones left behind, and murals to decorate the temporary walls surrounding the cots on which they slept. With colored string, the girls made weavings and jewelry to share with friends old and new. And they reveled in hand-tying and stringing colorful pompoms, allowing anxious minds to rest and overstimulated nervous systems to recalibrate.

**Join our mailing list!**

ds space4art.org

---

**IN GRATITUDE,**

Robert S. Leathers, Board President

Jennifer de Poyen, Executive Director