

ALCHEMY ART CENTER

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Learning and growing through a year of uncertainty

We started Alchemy in 2018 because we know that art is important. Not just for culture, self-expression, and joy; but also for healing, relaxation, and connecting people to causes they care about. Art is an outlet. A place to get perspective and have new experiences. A place to be yourself.

We don't just like art, we need art. More and more, local mental health providers reach out to us to create opportunities for people to heal and find release. As the only community arts center on San Juan Island, we take our role seriously and are so thankful for your trust in us to provide this critical community service.

And we still need your help. Donations from people like you allow us to be flexible and quickly respond to what our community needs, not just what restricted funding will pay for. Donations, along with grants and program income, are an incredibly important part of what we do. So thank you for taking our classes, telling your friends, donating your time, money, and supplies - and for making all this magic possible.

In gratitude,



Glenn Hendrick and Maria Michaelson, Co-Directors of Alchemy Art Center



# Art in the Community

Our Art in the Park program connects professional visiting artists with local families. Last year we hosted free classes in Cyanotype/Botanical printing, Ceramic Planters, Monoprinting on Paper, Screen Printing on Clothing, Indigo/Shibori Dying, Clay face sculpting, Ceramic Beads and Jewelry, and Card Making. Each class was attended by 20 - 40 members of our community. To ensure that all kids have access to the arts we partner with the Family Resource Center, Island Rec, the San Juan Sculpture Park, the San Juan County Arts Council and the Farmers Market. **Together, we brought over 65 public arts events to the community at five locations in 2021!**



**“I wish art class was every day”**

-Art in the Park student



Artist in Residence Amy Simons (second from left) and students Shannon, Paula, and Jennifer hold up their monotype prints after class

In addition to our other programming, Alchemy hosts classes in ceramics, printmaking, photography, and more. **In 2021, we held over 30 multi-session classes** - and this year, with the support of people like you, we'll do even more.



Island Rec teacher Courtney leads a preschool group at Alchemy's campus

# Artists in Residence

Half of our Artists In Residence last year were print makers.

Our printshop began in 2018, when we received legacy gifts of printing presses from the families of local artists Virginia Van Camp and Maryanne Rock. We continued to collect more equipment and we opened the program later that winter.

We chose to add printmaking to our programs not only because of its beauty as an art form unto itself, but because its history as a tool for communication and social justice. Students of printmaking learn to share their ideas through text and images in ways that inspire others and create positive change. Engaging fine artists and DIYers alike, printmaking is art for the people.

Our Artist in Residence program, which includes printmaking and an array of other artistic disciplines, makes it possible for young and emerging artists to experience living on San Juan Island through subsidized lodging. Artists stay in cabins in the forest for a couple months, mastering their craft and teaching others. Thanks to donations from community investors, we can offer these fundamental opportunities that help artists hone their technical skills and learn more of what it means to be a working artist.



*Artist in Residence Katie Collier (right) teaches Intern Tamara Matthison (left) how to screen print*

"I learned so much from that experience, and it boosted my confidence to initiate and complete projects on my own"

Sulli (pictured right), a former Alchemy intern told us "Alchemy gave me not only the space and mentorship to develop my art, but also actively encouraged my independent learning and experimentation. I was in charge of all of the details in building a high-fire wood kiln, from the actual design, to sourcing the materials, to the construction" (kiln pictured right). "I wasn't confident in the beginning, but you trusted me" another intern told us, "you were so open, that gave me the opportunity to grow".

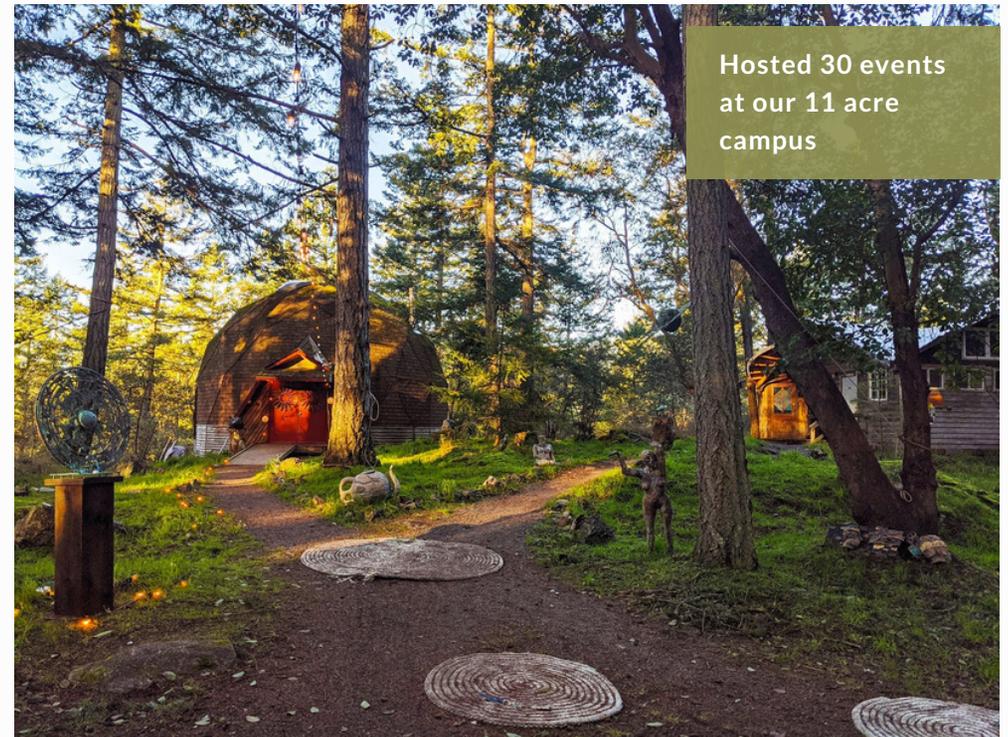
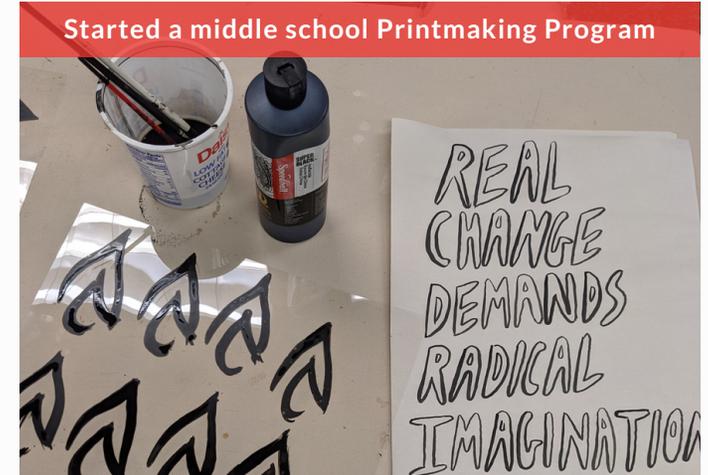
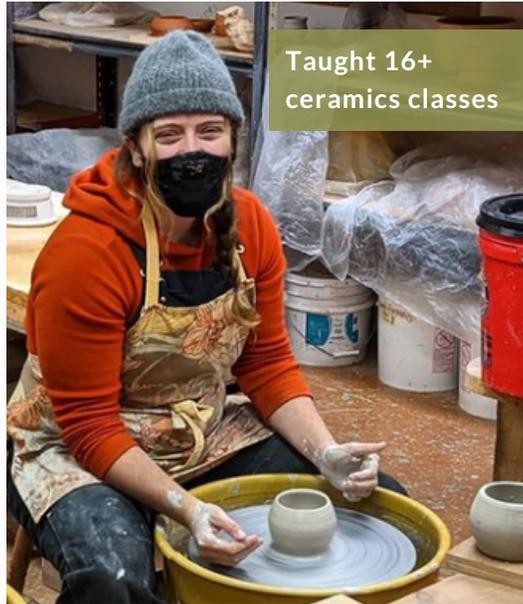
This is key to the Alchemy experience. We don't just make art, we support people where they are at so they can grow. We create vibrant spaces to nurture people to step outside of their comfort zone and develop their skills, not only in relation to art and self expression, but confidence, direction, and identity.

The experiences we provide at Alchemy are designed to give people the opportunity to be who they could be, and reveal who they are becoming.



Clay, ink, wheels, and printing presses are what art uses, but the process of discovering who you are and what you can do is what art is - and why art matters.

# 2021 Quick Facts



Our Ceramics Studio Membership offered a place to create and safely leave artwork! We were open all year, scheduling studio time to avoid crowding. Several of our members launched their businesses in our facilities.



Program Revenue - 48%  
\$61,245



# Income

"I donate because Alchemy creates a vibrant community culture on the island that attracts and sustains young people"  
- An Alchemy Supporter

"I retired to the island and I want to immerse myself in art and I'm so glad I found Alchemy"  
- A Ceramics Member

# Expenses

