



## WHO WE ARE

North Pole Studio is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides supported art studio space and accessible, individualized educational and professional arts programming for artists with autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD); we serve individuals who are 16 years old and above.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to learn more about our [mission](#), [programs](#), [impact](#), [partnerships](#), and [Holiday Gala sponsorship opportunities](#).

To hear directly from our artists, families, staff and board please watch the impactful 5 minute video below.

[WATCH HERE](#)

web: [northpolestudio.org](http://northpolestudio.org) | instagram: [@northpolepdx](https://www.instagram.com/northpolepdx)  
address: 2516 NW 29th Ave. STE 8. Portland, 97210  
contact: [contact@northpolestudio.org](mailto:contact@northpolestudio.org) | 509.429.1430

# OUR REASON WHY

**85% of adults with autism are unemployed.** Among those who are employed, very few access jobs that are aligned with their strengths and dreams.

Historically, artists with disabilities have been siloed from their communities and continue to be underrepresented across recreational, professional, and educational creative spaces.

**We exist to ensure that artists with autism and I/DD access opportunities to thrive personally and professionally through art.**



# OUR STORY

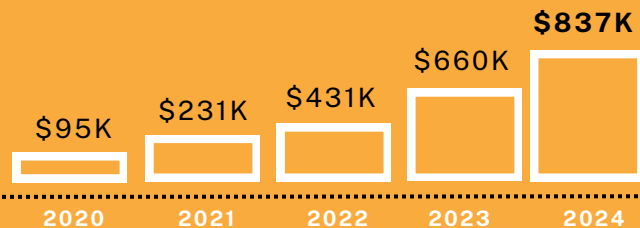
In the spring of 2020, Davis Wohlford, an autistic artist, co-founded North Pole Studio with the help of a passionate team of educators, artists, parents and advocates.

Our co-founders identified a critical need for accessible, supported art studio space in Portland's art community where neurodivergent artists could connect with one another and seriously pursue their art. A place where self-determination would be supported, creative risk-taking would be encouraged, and the dream of pursuing a fulfilling life and career through art would be nurtured.

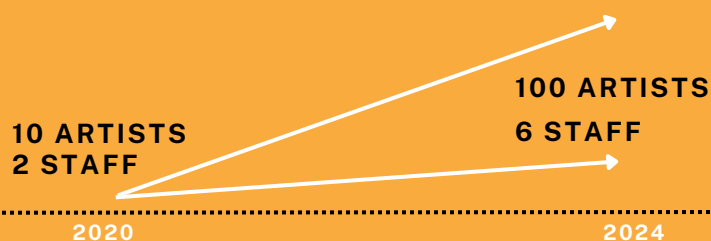
The studio began with 4 visionary artists, and now serves over 100 artists annually from our studio space in NW Marine Artworks, Portland largest professional studio collaborative.



FINANCIAL  
GROWTH



PROGRAM  
GROWTH



# OUR MISSION

North Pole Studio supports careers in the arts, and exists to increase opportunities for artists with autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities to thrive as active members of the arts community.

We foster self-determination and facilitate meaningful connections through total engagement in the arts.

# OUR OBJECTIVES



## PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH

For the artists at North Pole Studio, art is a primary communication tool. We provide a safe space for artists to share and express their complex experiences and feelings through art.



## CHAMPION MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

We work with community partners to champion meaningful employment through exhibition, commission, licensing, collection, and lecture or teaching opportunities.

## NURTURE SELF-EXPRESSION

We nurture self-determination, providing artists with the support to develop a unique creative practice and pursue opportunities aligned with their strengths and dreams.



## FOSTER COMMUNITY

We foster an inclusive community where artists are able to connect with like-minded peers. Through mentorship and collaboration, we facilitate connections between artists with and without disabilities.



# OUR PROGRAMS

We believe that art is for everyone, and are committed to providing accessible programming. We are proud to offer sliding scale across 100% of our programs thanks to an annual scholarship fund established in 2023.



## PROFESSIONAL STUDIO PROGRAM

This program provides local artists with the space, materials and support to create, exhibit and sell their work.

Artists receive individualized support to cultivate a self-directed personal and professional practice, developing a portfolio of exhibition-ready work.



## EXHIBITING ARTIST PROGRAM

This virtual program serves artists from across the country who work from home, live in services desert or face barriers to physical attendance.

Artists receive professional support with documenting, marketing and selling their work.



## ART CLASSES + WORKSHOPS

This program nurtures emerging artists' creative growth through exposure to and engagement with diverse mediums and techniques.

Artists access an inclusive community, develop skills and express themselves through art.

# 2023 IMPACT REPORT

Since our founding in 2020, we have grown from serving 10 to 100 artists annually, and expanded from a passionate staff of 2 to a dynamic team of 6. Here is a look back at the numbers from 2023!



103

ARTISTS SERVED  
ANNUALLY ACROSS  
PROGRAMS



14

EXHIBITIONS  
ACROSS LOCAL AND  
NATIONAL VENUES



13

PROFESSIONAL LICENSING  
+ EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES



45

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS,  
INCLUDING 25  
PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS



45K

IN ORIGINAL ART SALES,  
WITH 75% DIRECTLY  
INTO ARTISTS' POCKETS



45

WEEKLY CLASS AND  
WORKSHOP SESSIONS

# PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We believe in building lasting relationships with our community partners by engaging with them in creative and dynamic ways that both sustain the program and promote artists' success.

## DONATE IN-KIND

- Art Supplies + tools
- Furniture + office supplies
- Framing
- Campaign incentives
- Event + Auction

## DONATE \$\$\$

- Foundation grants
- Corporate sponsorship
- Fundraising campaign matching donations

## VOLUNTEER

- Teach art classes
- Mentor an Artist
- Event or exhibition support
- Administrative and organization

## TEACH/LEARN

- Hire an artist to teach a workshop or lead a DEI training about accessibility, neurodiversity and inclusion

## EXHIBIT

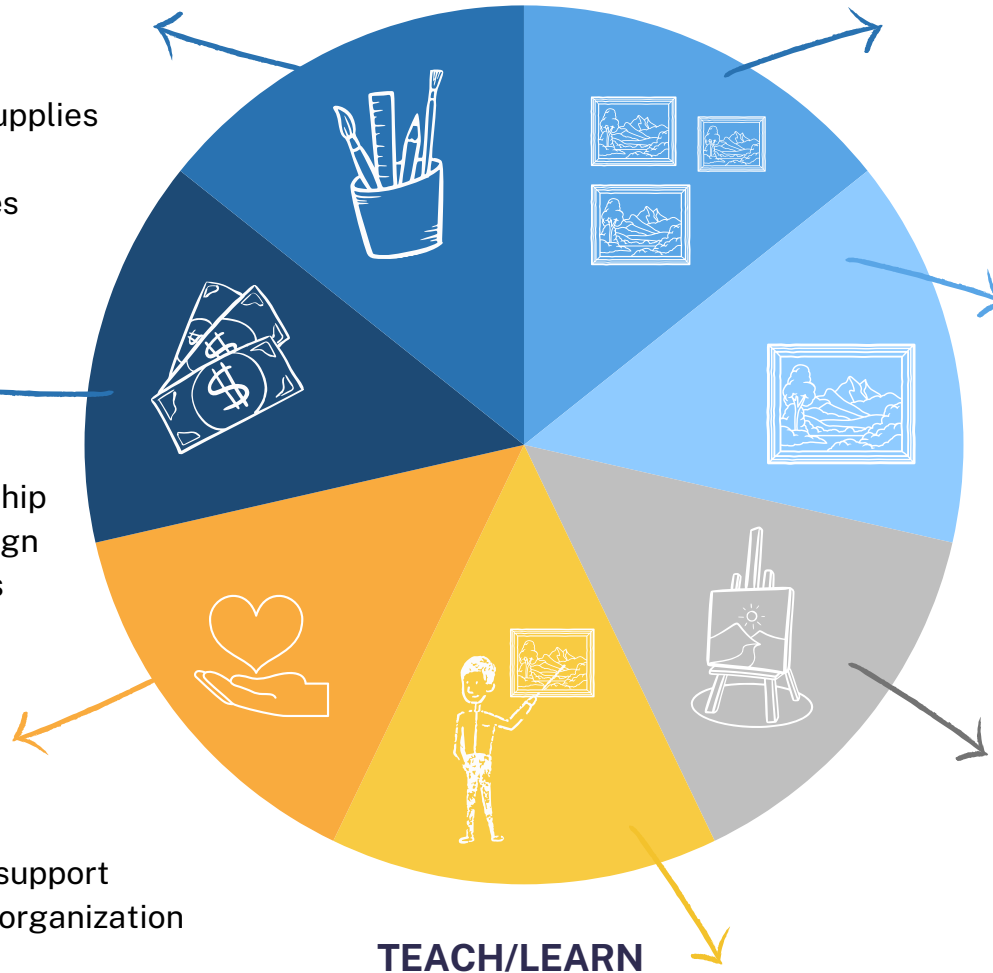
- Host an exhibition
- Display art at a special event

## COLLECT

- Purchase artwork for your home, office space, conference room, event space, etc.

## LICENSE/ COMMISSION

- Commission an artist for a custom artwork or product design
- License an artists' work for a product or special project



# OUR PARTNERS

A snapshot of some of our most impactful 2023 partnerships!

## DONATE IN-KIND

Local business, **Design Source Framing** donates materials and labor to frame artwork for exhibitions.



## VOLUNTEER

Designers from **Nike** taught a screenprinting workshop to artists at North Pole Studio



## TEACH/LEARN

**Hillsboro Parks & Recreation** paid artists to teach workshops and give lectures about neurodiversity and art.



## EXHIBIT

**Unitus Community Credit Union** hosts an annual exhibition in both their Portland and Salem branches.



## COLLECT

Local nonprofit, **Guardian Partners**, curated their corporate headquarters with a unique selection of work.



## LICENSE

**TriMet** licensed the work of three artists to wrap buses celebrating July's Disability Pride Month!



## COMMISSION

Local school, **Victory Academy**, commissioned an artist to make a drawing of their school to hang in the office.





# HOLIDAY GALA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH  
6:00 - 9:00PM  
AVENUE PORTLAND

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Hosted by Portland's own Drew Carney, this magical event includes a **beautiful dinner + drinks, art exhibit + auction, live auction, and a compelling program.** Please join us for this impactful evening to empower artists with autism and I/DD!

**AT EVERY LEVEL OF SUPPORT, WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE THROUGH MARKETING**

- Your name and logo displayed at the event and on all event marketing materials
- Social media content celebrating our partnership on Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook & Newsletter
- Your name and website linked on our site for 1 full year following sponsorship commitment

### PRESENTING SPONSOR

**\$20,000 AND UP**

Private Table + VIP Perks for 8 guests  
Premier Marketing Recognition  
Across All 2024 Events

### CHAMPIONING SPONSOR

**\$10,000 - \$19,999**

Up to 6 complimentary tickets  
Full Page Table & Easel Logo Display

### EMPOWERING SPONSOR

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Up to 4 complimentary tickets  
Half Page Table & Easel Logo Display

### SUPPORTING SPONSOR

**\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Up to 2 complimentary tickets  
Easel Logo Display

### ARTIST+FAMILY SPONSOR

**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Ensure artists and caregivers can  
attend the gala at no cost  
*Limited Spaces Available*



# THANK YOU

## 2023 HOLIDAY GALA SPONSORS



**NW Natural**



The Brague Law Firm

It's our honor to do this work in partnership with you.

## CONTACT

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, fundraising events or to pledge your support, please contact:

**Carissa Burkett**  
Executive Director

email: [carissa@northpolestudio.org](mailto:carissa@northpolestudio.org)  
phone: 260.224.3354



To learn more about exhibition, employment and all other creative partnership opportunities, please contact:

**Sula Willson**  
Director of Creative Partnerships

email: [sula@northpolestudio.org](mailto:sula@northpolestudio.org)  
phone: 509.429.1430



For all other inquiries, please email:  
[contact@northpolestudio.org](mailto:contact@northpolestudio.org)