ProjectArt
MIAMI

2021-2022 YEAR IN REVIEW
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Dear ProjectArt friends,

As I reflect upon the past year of ProjectArt classes in Miami, I am in awe of our resilient and imaginative students. Each week, students and teachers met in virtual and in-person classrooms, finding innovative ways to build community. Students shared their life experiences and collectively embraced new creative explorations.

I recall an interaction with a family recently that inspired me. A young mother who works long hours was unable to bring her child to class, and reached out to me to ensure she could remain in the program. Her daughter was convinced she would not be able to return due to this absence. Of course, I reassured her that her spot in the program was safe. I joined the following class, in which the instructor had requested prior that students come ready in “painting clothes.” That day, the child showed up wearing a wonderfully creative dress- which she had already marked with painted letters that read “This is My Painting Dress.” I was profoundly touched by the level of pride the child had in showing her teacher this dress, who enthusiastically celebrated her work and presence. Immediately, you could see this child felt she was in a safe space that she could return to, week after week, with a teaching mentor she admired. It’s impossible to quantify the impact moments like this—moments of compassion and connectivity generated by our programming—have on the future well-being of our students and our shared humanity.

With the support of our generous donors, ProjectArt has been able to provide a safe space in which students have the capacity to realize their potential. As one of our ProjectArt Miami parents recently shared, “I have absolutely loved the teacher’s engagement and encouragement with my artist. My artist is considering starting an art club and using this program’s lessons to help others learn and express their creativity.”

Thank you for your ongoing support, faith, and confidence in the work we do. We could not do this work without you. Without question, accessibility to exemplary arts education in Miami is essential.

Sincerely,

Danielle Steele
Program Director, Miami
Our History

In 2016, ProjectArt Miami launched with five library branches in partnership with Miami-Dade Public Library System. As a 2017 Knight Arts Challenge Miami winner, ProjectArt expanded beyond the original five branches to eight locations: Arcola Lakes, Culmer/Overtown, Hispanic Branch, Homestead, Kendall, Model City, North Central, and Shenandoah. Support from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and private foundations, such as The Batchelor Foundation and the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, has been integral to the program’s sustainability. Additionally, working with local libraries has the inherent benefit of specialized and neighborhood specific community building which is at the core of our mission. ProjectArt continually cultivates symbiotic relationships with MDPLS and the librarians, who welcome our students and resident artists year after year, into their space. As the program develops, we rely on our robust partnerships within Miami-Dade including particularly strong ties with dedicated classes for Miami Bridge, a local youth homeless shelter, and Easter Seals Head Start.

ProjectArt Miami is currently held both in person and on our robust on-line learning platform for system wide classes in Miami-Dade.
ProjectArt Miami Data

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1. 240 Students
2. 240 art kits
3. 7 Teaching Artists
4. 420 classes
5. 7 libraries: Arcola Lakes, Culmer/Overtown, North Central, Model City, Shenandoah, Kendall, Naranja
ProjectArt Miami Data

STUDENT EVALUATION SURVEY 2021-22

1. Have your art skills improved in this class?
   YES 100%

2. Do you feel confident when making projects in this class?
   YES 89%

3. Are the activities in this class teaching you new ways of expressing yourself?
   YES 87%

4. Do you enjoy seeing other student’s artwork in this class?
   YES 83%

5. Do you want to continue attending ProjectArt next semester?
   100%
What ProjectArt Miami
STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY

Something that I like about attending art classes is that I [can] be myself and show how I feel in my drawings. I like that I can show my creativity to different artists just like me. When in art class I also like the activities we do and new things that we learn.

Our class worked on building a portfolio, exploring watercolor, and drawing portraits. Overall, I’m having fun. I’m trying to be compassionate towards myself for making art mistakes. I really liked collaging my portfolio and painting in watercolor.

What ProjectArt Miami
PARENTS HAVE TO SAY

Alena was so happy last night! Around clean up time Ms. Kerry had asked if the kiddos were going to work through the night as a joke, and Alena agreed that that’s exactly what she wanted to do! I told her she would be in class every Tuesday, and, as she went to bed last night, she told me she wished tomorrow was Tuesday too. Thank you so much for this opportunity! I know you’re probably tired of me saying that, but it really doesn’t do justice to my appreciation. I’d been searching for a while for something for her to do, but everything that offered any kind of structure (in time or “curricula”) seemed to fall short. What you, the teachers, and Project Art provides is so amazing! I feel like a kid at Christmas with the best gift ever.

Radley already really liked your class, but today was the most excited I’ve seen him about art in a minute! It was really fun to see him start with the basic smiley face but then get more and more into it and detailed. Thanks for all you do!

I would like to thank you so much for everything that you have taught Naomi while she has been in Project Art. She really looks forward to the weekly classes. She has even began exploring a lot of the art forms taught in class on her own personal time. This class has really encouraged her to explore her world in an entirely new way.
Student Art 8-12 yrs

[Images of various student art pieces]
Student Art 13-18yrs
Class is in session 4-7 years old

Class is in session 8-12 years old
ProjectArt Miami recently collaborated with Superblue Miami, a highly interactive museum, to facilitate a five-day workshop for our students at Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services. Superblue artist Yinka Ilori and ProjectArt team members guided students as they designed and built skateboards, which yielded an installation in Superblue’s immersive art space titled, “The Stories We Ride On.”
Angela Bolaños
is a Honduran born, Miami-based artist. Using textiles, reflective surfaces, found objects, food items, traditional media and experimental techniques, Angela creates work centered in the act of making. Focusing on organic and geometric shapes, patterns, color, visual and tactile texture, the process is fluid, and in collaboration with the materials, driven by a sense of discovery.

Laura Prada
is an artist exploring ideas in sustainability and fashion, using photography as a medium of expression. Born and raised in Cuba, she began her career as an artist and a performer from early on. She’s created work both in performance and visual form, collaborated with other artists and showcased work in local galleries. Her artistic expression has evolved into unifying and expressing both worlds, the visual and the somatic, which is her main source of inspiration as an educator in the arts.

Kerry Phillips
is an installation artist whose artwork borders on performance and social practice. Phillips’ work with found objects is intuitive, often site-specific and steeped in remembrance and storytelling. She uses common objects in unexpected ways, working collaboratively with viewer-participants to reveal an exchange of value, the importance and limitations of memory, and the vitality of play.

Nicole Combeau
is a photographer, trauma-informed expressive art educator, and paper artist living and working in Miami, Florida. She believes in cultivating a culture of care by bringing artistic expression to classrooms and other communal spaces. She teaches workshops on meditation, zine and book making, photography and collage art, among more.

Pangea Kali Virga
is an enthusiastic creator whose work spans many sides of the art and fashion industry. She is a fiber artist, fashion designer, stylist, curator, creative director, teacher, and producer with high standards and a conceptual spirit. Her aim is to build collaborative inclusive networks and moving experiences through her work and all of her projects.

Tori Scott
is a multifaceted visual artist who originates from Miami, Florida. Growing up as an underrepresented minority, Scott became devoted to embracing her black identity and culture. Her love for bold colors and symbolism became a key aesthetic in much of her later work. The bulk of her work often examines the black experience and promotes positive imagery.
ProjectArt’s Miami Director, Danielle Steele, a Miami native has worked for nearly a decade in non-profits as an arts education administrator and advocate. Danielle holds a B.A. in Fine Arts and Art History from Florida State University. Her post graduate studies include earning a Trinity CertTESOL in Barcelona teaching English. With deep ties to her Miami community and Cuban roots, she connects with ProjectArt families and partners to elevate their voices. Danielle works closely with stakeholders including the Miami-Dade Library system, community partners, donors, and families to uphold the highest standards of programming. As Resident Artist supervisor, she provides professional development opportunities along with regular formal observation sessions. This role also requires her to review curriculum and lesson plans, communicate with families and teachers, facilitate evaluations and assess data, and implement programmatic strategic plans.
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