

Have you Heard?

An arts program for silent stories.

Because everyone deserves to be heard.



Greetings!

It's so incredibly hard to believe that Heard is wrapping up year six, especially when our initial goal was to conclude after five years! Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that we would have the positive impact on so many people in need by bringing creativity to them – literally TO them – and allowing them to believe that they deserve to be heard.

This photo? It's of most of our Heard team celebrating at our annual cookie party held in my living room. It's small, intimate, and personal, just like Heard. Our art team, board, and supporters gather and chat with each other like family, because we *are* a family! That's how we operate and why we succeed.

I had thought that after six years we would stabilize, but no! We continue to set new records in the number of classes held and the number of participants. Just look at our 2022 stats:

- 230 classes – a record!
- 1,970 unique participants – a record! (Do you think we will break 2,000 next year)?

We also initiated a few "firsts" this year that we hope become permanent parts of our program:

- Our first Heard picnic in August.
- Our first established standardized outcomes for our clients, partners, and our organization, allowing us to define "success" and tools to quantifiably measure it.
- Our first training with the amazing **Tasha Golden**, which focused on offering tools for artists who work with traumatized clients.
- Holiday caroling with the youth at the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center.
- Our first expansion in conjunction with the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) implemented the Heard "[5 Steps to Local](#)" model of using local artists to support local needs with local funds. We are working with Trillium Project in Portsmouth, Ohio (that's all we can say now)! And, we hope to announce our second Ohio community partner next month.

By the way, if you are one of our Ohio fans and want to work with the OAC and me to create a project that supports artists as they support your community, please [let me know](#). I want to spread the "Heard word" far and wide across the country!

What an amazing year – and journey – this has been with our gifted, empathetic, committed, and overall amazing Heard family! And that includes YOU! Without your support, none of this happens. Please consider a [tax-deductible, year-end donation](#) to continue your support of the work we all do.

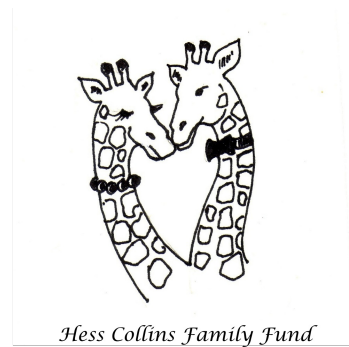
I just can't wait to see what 2023 brings!

With unending gratitude,

Jane

This program is funded by:

City of Alexandria Arts Grant Program



and generous donors like you!

Please Donate Here

Your donation supports our artists, who foster creativity, confidence, self-worth, and life skills to adults who are underserved, unknown, and unheard by offering them artistic expression through experiential instruction and participation. **We are grateful for your support. [Donate online through our secure website.](#)**



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