

# Have you Heard?

An arts program for silent stories.

*Because everyone deserves to be heard.*



Greetings!

Happy almost-spring! I hope you are starting to see longer days, colorful flowers, and maybe even warmer weather. It's been an odd winter weather-wise for sure, and spring always brings feelings of hope!

And speaking of hope, we've got so much going on that I hope you will take pride in. After all, YOU are the reason we can do what we do! Your support, donations, comments, and goodwill keep

us working and motivated. Thank you! Here's our latest and greatest:

Remember way back in September when we told you about KickstART, our partnership with the Ohio Arts Council to bring our "[5 Steps to Local](#)" model of hiring local artists to support local needs in Ohio communities? We've grown to two projects - one in Portsmouth and one in my hometown of Bellefontaine.

- The Portsmouth group has created "Take pART" which is a community-wide sidewalk and building painting project. Think paint-by-number across your city, with the drawing created by artists and the colors filled in by the community. Isn't that the most creative, fun thing you've ever heard of? This art group in Portsmouth amazes me. They truly get things done!
- And in my hometown, their "Stress Less" will use artists to help kids in grades 5-12 with mental health goals. There's so many moving parts to make this happen, and this group is on it! Every time we meet I'm blown away by what they have done.
- Would you like to see this in your community? It doesn't have to be in Ohio. [Email me](#) and let's talk!
- And in yet another way expansion, Heard is tiptoeing into offering virtual art classes to those in the carceral system outside of Alexandria and Arlington, Virginia. We started our first improvisation series with a detention center in Winchester, Virginia, and it was a huge success. And, slowly, we are reaching out to other facilities, one email at a time.
- And to repeat the last question, Would you like to see this in your community? It doesn't have to be in Ohio. [Email me](#) and let's talk!

And finally, Spring2ACTion is April 26 this year! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we hope you will continue to support us as we bring art to those who feel unheard. Please look out for a few updates next month, and consider helping us as we expand Heard's reach!

Next time you hear from me it will be spring! Talk then,

# Jane



## *Creative Corner - experience our clients' creations*

For Presidents' Day, our visual artist teacher [Sharmila Karamchandani](#) asked the kids at [Casa Chirilagua](#) to issue an executive order if they were president for a day as they build President Lincoln's log cabin from index cards. What do you think of their responses?

- 1) "The first thing I will do is kick out all the boys out from US"
- 2) "I will end poverty"
- 3) "I will end homelessness"
- 4) "I will remove all the rules"
- 5) "I will make everything free"
- 6) "I will build more playgrounds"
- 7) "I will make education free"

We think there's some politicians in the making here, don't you?



Late last year we re-partnered again with the [Carpenter's Shelter](#), one of Virginia's largest shelters and advocates for those seeking housing. We love their mission and knew that our artist teacher Alison McHugh would be a perfect fit for our monthly classes with them. Alison wasted no time in helping them create their one-word mantra to begin the new year. Stability! Motivation! Peace! Push!

Imagine beginning your day with a deep breath and your hand-picked mantra to guide you.

I've taken these classes with Alison and have a daily reminder to be gentle to myself.

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**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.](#)**

