



# piece by piece

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Rachel,

As 2022 comes to an end, I want to personally thank you for your support. We could not do the important work we are doing in the community without your incredible generosity and faith in our program.

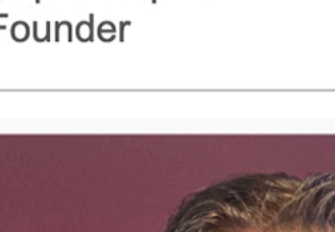
This past year, we were able to return to in-person workshops. After distancing and the many uncertainties of these past few years, the opportunity to work in community, learn new skills, be creative and form new friendships has been invaluable. In addition to the added income, our participants have benefited from the nurturing, therapeutic environment at Piece by Piece, which is needed now more than ever.

We've learned so much from the resilience of our participants and continue to be in awe of the beautiful art created in healing and strength. The stories of impact and transformation are a testament to the dedication of our amazing staff. They are truly the heart of our program. You can listen to some of the participant [testimonials](#) on our website.

We head into the New Year with optimism and excitement. With many new commissions and creative projects already underway, 2023 is going to be a wonderful and productive time.

Thank you for your continued support and for being a part of our Piece by Piece family.

With gratitude,



Sophie Alpert  
Founder



## MEET VICKI

Piece by Piece Artist

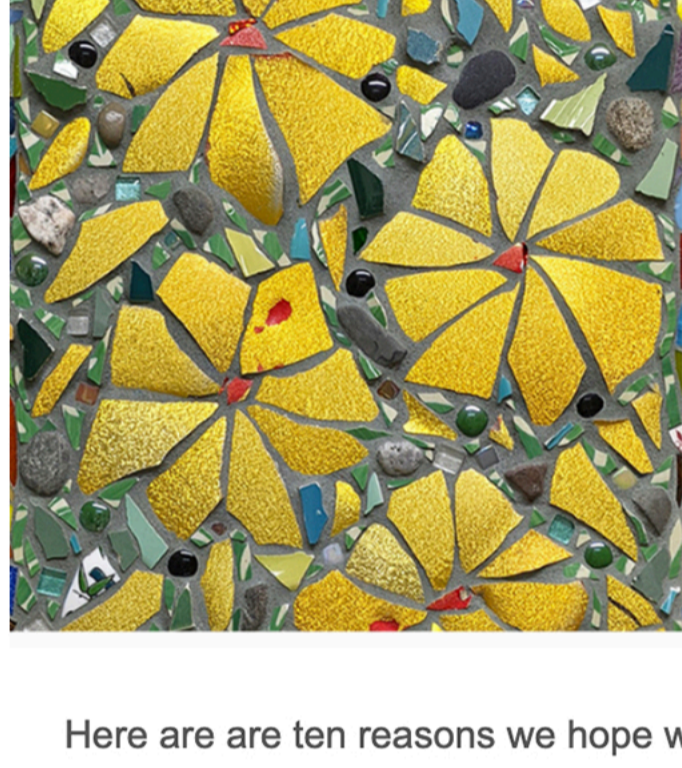
### How did you find out about Piece by Piece?

I found out about Piece by Piece before I started coming in the summer of 2014. I found out about it through the Economic Development Department because I was unemployed at the time. It was their old location in Marina Del Rey and it had brochures and mosaics from Piece by Piece - they were part of the decor in that office!

### What do you like about PXP?

There are so many things because it's such a large part of my life, I got an MFA in film production from USC and then came to Piece by Piece while unemployed and homeless and was going to try something different. Everything was changing all the time for me then and then I made my first frame (which I still have now)! After a little time I started talking about completing the certification program. Piece by Piece became an anchor for me. It helped me through that period. I had a lot of things going on, and it helped me have a more regular schedule. It helps with art therapy and I enjoy getting lost in it, and as your skills grow, you get more competent and get to practice completion. It's hard to complete things in transitions, and it's an opportunity to get back into completion mode and get things under control.

Want to learn more about Vicki? Read the full article [here](#).



## TEN REASONS

to shop at Piece by Piece

Here are ten reasons we hope will encourage you to [shop at Piece by Piece](#) either in person or online.

1. You will find beautiful and unique gifts.
2. Piece by Piece gifts are handcrafted by talented individuals overcoming challenges like homelessness, economic insecurity, trauma and loss.
3. You can learn about the artists you are supporting when you read their profiles, watch their videos and hear their stories.
4. You are supporting a small non profit social enterprise and helping the local economy of South Los Angeles.
5. Piece by Piece uses over two tons of recycled materials each year in the art that is created. Your purchase is reducing waste going into landfills!
6. Many of the pieces are designed by the artists and are one-of-a-kind works of art.
7. Purchasing from Piece by Piece creates local jobs.
8. If you aren't sure what your recipient will prefer as a gift, Piece by Piece also has gift certificates.
9. Your purchases support healing arts and wellness programs that local community members can access free of charge.
10. It will make you feel good!



## YOUTH WORKSHOPS

for Winter Break

Looking for something fun to do over the holiday break? Piece by Piece is excited to offer FREE classes to youth in our local community during the upcoming school breaks. [Contact us](#) to find out how you can participate or volunteer and share our love of all things mosaic with kids and families this holiday season!

The classes will be led by Mosaic Artist Ellen Dinerman, and will be offered at our studios in South Los Angeles. Classes are limited to 15 students to ensure individual attention as well as space to be creative. Classes will be offered Monday - Thursday, January 2nd - 5th. You may register [here](#).

**Youth 2nd Grade - 6th Grade**  
10:00am - 11:30am  
(Guardian please stay & support your child)

**Youth 7th grade and up**  
1:00pm - 2:30 pm

*Classes are limited to 15 students*  
These classes are presented in partnership with our funding partner  
[The Water Buffalo Club](#)



## METRO VETERAN'S PROJECT

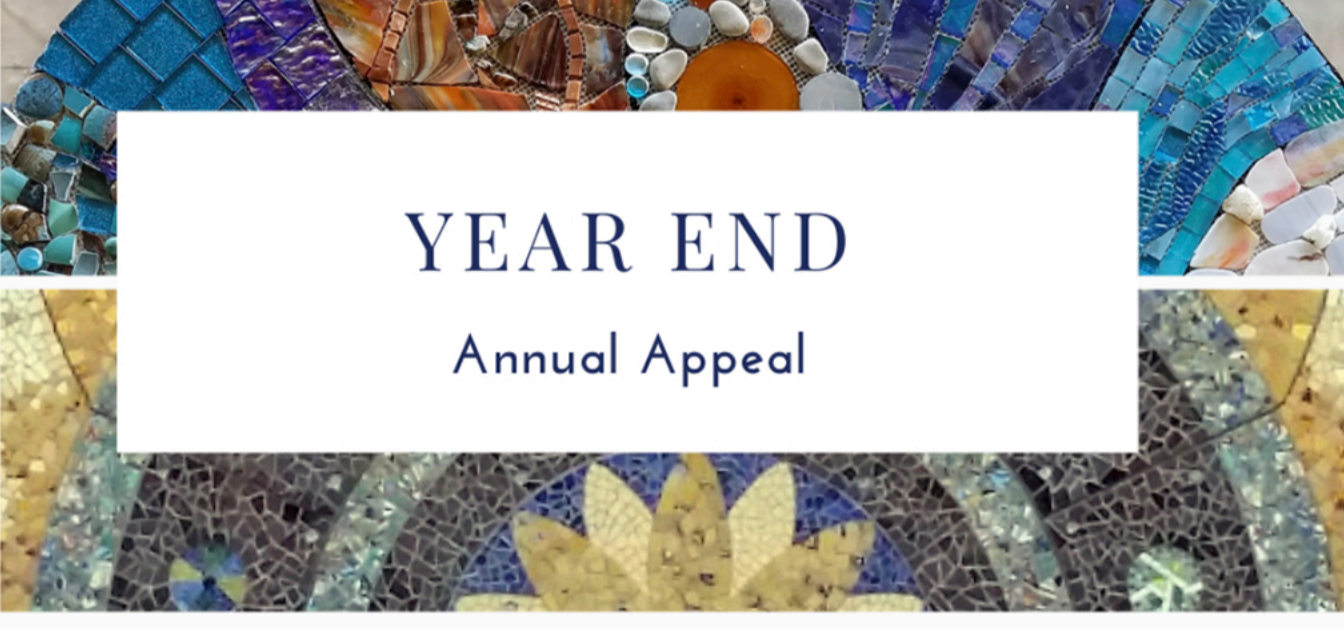
Creating in Community

### My Veterans Legacy Mural Journey by Patricia Bobik Sezna

I'm a guest artist currently collaborating with Piece by Piece on their Metro Arts Veterans Legacy Mural mosaic project. The story of my involvement with this project is rather incredible...considering it began nearly 30 years ago! In 1994 I was working at a West LA art supply store, having moved to Los Angeles from New York the previous year. I had received my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Illustration from Syracuse University and was actively networking within the local arts community to build my freelance illustration career.

It was during that time I met Peter Stewart, a local artist who held a free in-store airbrush demonstration. Following his presentation, I immediately myself and asked Peter more about his artwork. He told me that he'd created several murals in the Los Angeles area featuring rainforests and endangered wildlife, issues he cared deeply about. He'd also airbrushed his van with images to promote rainforest awareness, and he owned a pet parrot who went everywhere with him. Peter impressed me as a creative, interesting person with a kind, generous spirit.

I was surprised when Peter told me that he was a US Navy Vietnam war veteran, because to me he barely seemed old enough. He said a counselor at the VA Center had encouraged him to channel his artistic skills in a positive, productive way and that advice had inspired him to create a mural in Venice a couple of years prior dedicated to Vietnam POW/MIAs. At that time we met, he was the manager of proposing a new project for the VA for a large, multi-faceted mural to be installed in the underpass of the Wilshire Boulevard Veterans Parkway. The timing of our meeting was ideal; after viewing my illustration portfolio Peter invited me to assist him with his new project. I drove over to view both his Venice POW/MIA mural and the proposed site for his new mural at the VA Center, then called Peter to tell him I'd be thrilled and honored to assist him. To continue reading the article [here](#).



## YEAR END

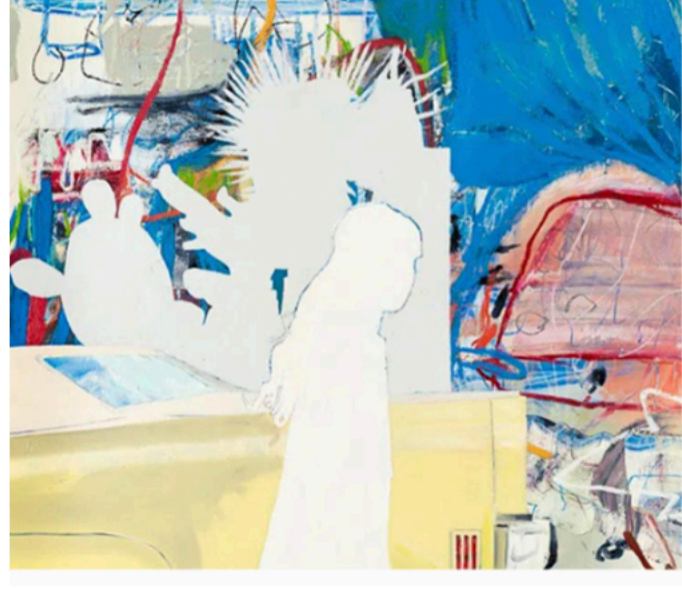
Annual Appeal

As an arts organization that intersects with homelessness, Piece by Piece has been able to extend its reach into the community by partnering with other organizations and providing our therapeutic mosaic art workshops.

Piece by Piece workshops provide a safe, nurturing environment where individuals that have been marginalized by homelessness or mental health issues can begin healing through creative expression and connection. Additionally, our Social Enterprise program enables participants to learn skills, build confidence and earn much-needed supplemental income. Piece by Piece artists are busy creating [unique mosaics](#) as well as [large-scale commissioned works](#).

As one of our participants recently shared: "I was able to get housed, come up with my first and last month's rent. Being able to buy decent food and the choices you can make when you have earned income, there is a certain pride attached to that. It's not so much the money, but it's a sense of comradery, of belonging. That's all I really wanted."

Please consider [making a tax-deductible gift](#) to partner in this life-changing work. Your support this year truly makes a difference.



## MOMENT TO MOMENT

Laura Letchinger w/ Piece by Piece

### A Note from Laura Letchinger

The past two years of the pandemic shifted not only my art business, but also my creative focus. Although as a painter I've mostly worked in an unplanned, abstract expressionist manner, during covid I soon felt like glass being shaped in fire . . . expanding and stretching, pulled towards something new yet undefined, and letting it happen moment to moment. Tragedy and heartache were and are everywhere, from the effects of the virus to climate change, to ongoing inequality, racism, sociopathic power-mongering and greed. Simultaneously though, air pollution from fossil fuels decreased drastically, even if temporarily. Many found a new appreciation for the great outdoors, for nurturing others in need, for the company of plants and animals, and for the freedom of living in the moment. The stark contrasts of this time were and are undeniable, differences inevitably ending up in new paintings, bound together by the constancy of hope.

I'm very happy to have been invited by Monica Fleming and Vinny Picardi, founders of the innovative Loiter Galleries, to do a solo show, and once again so excited to have South L.A. based nonprofit art organization Piece by Piece exhibit their beautiful mosaic artworks as my Special Guest. Our new collaborative artwork will be on view and I'll be donating 10% of my sales to this amazing community. I hope you will come and see the show which is running until January 7th, 2023. If you would like a peek at the show you can watch this [video](#) from opening night.



When you shop Amazon for your holiday gifts please make sure to use Amazon Smile and make Piece by Piece your charity of choice. You can check your charity designation [here](#).

The [Immersive Nutcracker](#) is a fantastic outing with family and/or visiting guests. You can purchase tickets [here](#). Make sure to look for Piece by Piece art work for sale in the gift shop!

Bring the Piece by Piece team to lead a team building workshop for your group. Experience the benefits of creating as a team! Learn more by reaching out to [Jadie](#) I'll be donating

**Our Contact Information**  
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