



Fall 2021 Newsletter



## A letter from our founder Sophie Alpert

Dear friend of Piece by Piece,

As we head into the season of giving, I, along with the entire Piece by Piece family, want to express my personal gratitude to you for your support. While we have continued to create and sell mosaic art as part of our social enterprise, I am most proud of the community that we have built together. It is our community that has truly sustained Piece by Piece this past year.

During COVID, Piece by Piece became a lifeline for many of our participants. Our virtual workshops helped ease the isolation, anxiety and depression that so many were experiencing. In addition to providing an outlet for creative expression, Piece by Piece provided a safe place to connect, belong, share and begin healing. We also found ways to partner with other organizations and provide art wellness opportunities to those in need.

We are looking forward to a new chapter of growth ahead. I'm thrilled to share that Piece by Piece recently hired Maggie Bohlman as our Executive Director. Maggie comes to Piece by Piece with significant leadership experience in the non-profit sector and joins our incredible veteran team of Dawn Mendelson (Artistic Director), Daniel Villa (Operations Manager), and our Artist Instructors, Luz Mack, Bea Jones, Julie Williams, Betty Rosen and Jose Morales.

Thank you for your continued generosity as we work together to fulfill our mission. We're honored to have your support in our shared commitment to transforming lives.

Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy and happy holiday, filled with many blessings.

With gratitude,

Sophie Alpert

## Meet Piece by Piece Artist Kim



Kim reached out to us in September of 2019, looking to be creative and infuse some arts wellness into her life. She joined our classes when she could for several months; then in February 2020, COVID-19 forced Piece by Piece—as well as the rest of the world—to shut down and shelter in place. We quickly pivoted to online workshops and reached out to the artists we had worked with that we could locate. Happily, we reconnected with Kim in late March, and she has been dedicated to honing her mosaic skills virtually ever since. She is an avid supporter of fellow artists, always present with positive input and comments. Through our online classes that have been both inspirational presentations and hands-on art making, Kim found a lifeline to finding purpose and creativity in her life. During the pandemic, she became a certified artist and contributed to the Village Well mural, her first large-scale mosaic project. [Read the full article here](#)

## A Community of Friends Mural



The Phoenix Rising is a mosaic and painted mural for A Community of Friends' Firestone-Phoenix Affordable Housing in Huntington Park. Piece by Piece has partnered with A Community of Friends (ACoF) on several projects throughout the years including the Villas at Gower in Hollywood and the Silver Star in South Los Angeles. With each project, we draw inspiration from the location and the residents of the buildings. This was one of our favorite projects, completed during the pandemic and yet still created by our team with dedication and enthusiasm.



The Firestone-Phoenix building was named after the mythical bird the Phoenix, symbolizing renewal and hope. A member of the team at ACoF said "...residents will have hope and faith to reenvision their lives with permanent supportive housing. It reflects the residents who are emerging from the challenges that they've faced. They are putting their pasts behind them and attempting to rise above their circumstances to a better future." With those words of wisdom to guide us, we developed a series of abstract feathers to represent not only the Phoenix but also to illustrate feathers, as seen in many cultures, as symbols of strength. A brilliant sun at the forefront represents life.



While we are still at the tail end of the pandemic, our team was able to work on this project in small groups in our studio, following all COVID-19 protocols to keep everyone safe. We used our signature variety of materials to create texture and convey the bright energy of a Phoenix.

With the mosaic complete, we headed over to the site to begin the installation. First, with the help of a great installer, we adhered the mosaic to the wall. Second, we cleaned and polished every piece. This was a great time to meet and visit with residents who came out to observe our work and have a chat.

We are grateful for the support of A Community of Friends and our new friends at the Firestone-Phoenix! Read the [full article and see more photos here!](#)



Have you been to the Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit in Hollywood yet? Piece by Piece is thrilled to share that [Impact Museums](#) and [Immersive Van Gogh](#) invited Piece by Piece artists to sell their work in Immersive Van Gogh gift shop! 100% of the proceeds go directly back to our artists. Please show our artists some love and shop their pieces at the gift shop! Make sure to let the team at Immersive Van Gogh know how much you appreciate their support of Piece by Piece Artists.



Donate!

This Giving Tuesday support Piece by Piece artists with your donation! Your support will go directly to offering cultural opportunities to the artists that they would otherwise never be able to experience. Trips to museums, galleries, artists studios and more are only possible because of you. For participants who have faced economic hardships your gift opens up a whole new world of experiences, hope and healing!

## Did You Know?

Piece by Piece served 288 individuals in 2020, and even during the pandemic 100% of them expressed improved esteem and motivation



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