



Piece by Piece Newsletter

This is our first newsletter of 2023 and I want to personally thank you for your ongoing support. We could not do the important work we are doing in the community without your incredible generosity and faith in our program. 2022 was a year of recovery and growth for Piece by Piece. We credited into our new studio and welcomed participant artists back to in-person learning. We are very grateful to once again be able to bring the Piece by Piece community together for our collective journey of healing and growth through art. You can read more of what we accomplished below.

While it is only February, a lot has happened this year. We have celebrated several artists passing their certification test, and you can read about one of them below. We have also launched a new creativity series introducing participant artists to varied artistic mediums to further their artistic growth. And, thanks to your valued input, we have improved our web store making it even easier for you to shop for yourself, find the perfect gift or order a custom commission.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Piece by Piece newsletter. Thank you for your continued support and for being a part of our Piece by Piece family.

With gratitude,



Sophie Alpert
Founder



The Making of a Custom Commission

One of the things that brings us great joy at Piece by Piece is creating custom commissions that bring the ideas of our customers to life. It's a simple and straightforward process that anyone can request. Whether it's a custom piece to honor or celebrate a person or event, or whether you want to create something meaningful from a special collection of china that has been damaged, the Piece by Piece team is eager to help. We know you will have a lot of questions such as:

- How Do I Start the Process?
- What Information Do I Need to Share?
- How Does the Fabrication Process Work?
- How Do I Get My Artwork When It's Finished?

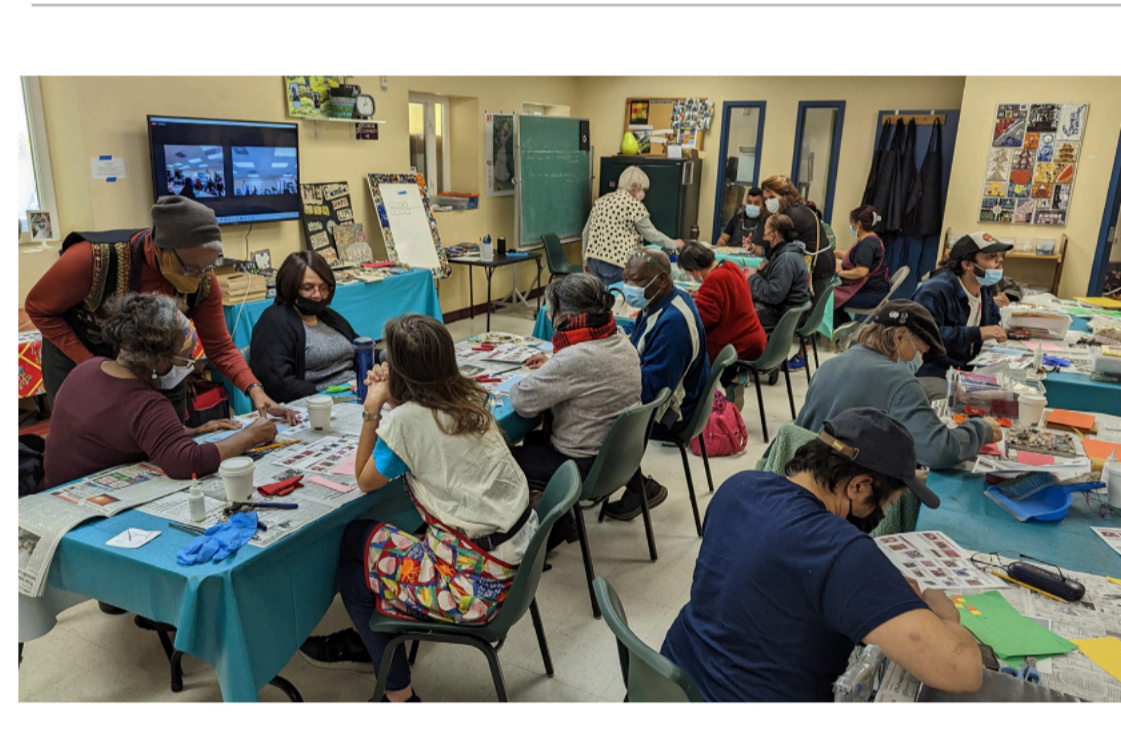
Find the answers to all of these and see a commission in progress [here](#).



Celebrating Black History Month with Mosaics by June C.

Mosaic art is a great way to celebrate Black History Month as it allows us to create stunning visual representations of the accomplishments and struggles of African Americans. The medium of mosaic art has been used to memorialize and honor the work of iconic African Americans such as Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Senator John Lewis, as well as many others.

Through the use of mosaic art, we can honor and share the stories of African Americans who recognize the importance of their contributions to our culture. Mosaic art can also be used to celebrate the victories and milestones achieved by African Americans throughout history, and to recognize the beauty and diversity of the African diaspora. Read the full article to see June's mosaics, her thoughts on each portrait, and a brief bio on each of these African American Icons. Read the full post [here](#).



Piece by Piece Artists Embrace Natural Materials

Piece by Piece started the new year by experimenting with a variety of natural materials including stone, marble, wood, seashells, precious stones and minerals. This workshop was part of our January theme of natural materials. Instructor Ellen Dinerman, brought the group back to mosaic roots, using a limited palette of muted and organic colors rich with texture. Some artists infused a bit of modern materials to add verve to their work.

This workshop also presented the opportunity to understand the special qualities of these natural materials. While some rocks and stones can be easily chipped, others require a more precise tool to shape the material. Participants tried their hand at the traditional hammer and hardie, tools dating back thousands of years to create mosaics. Precious stones and minerals, which cannot be broken or chipped, were incorporated and featured as special elements to their work. Read the full article [here](#).



Local Visiting Artists Series Kicks Off With Zentangles

Piece by Piece has a new addition to our program - The Local Visiting Artist Series. This new workshop series infuses a variety of other mediums, including watercolor, collage, photography, and drawing. Based on input from participants during the end of year survey, there was an interest in exploring other modes of creativity to inspire and motivate artists.

As part of this new series, instructor Bea Jones led the group in making Zentangles, a type of design using a collection of patterns. The participants had been introduced to the style by instructor Betty Rosen during the pandemic and several artists embraced the unique doodle exercises. The process is meditative and relaxing, and has been known to increase self-confidence, relieve stress, and improve eye-hand coordination, as well as foster creativity.

Continue reading [here](#).



Find the Perfect Gift at Piece by Piece

Our mission is to empower residents who have experienced homelessness or economic insecurity by providing free mosaic art workshops enabling them to build confidence, earn supplementary income, promote wellness and an improved quality of life. You can support our mission and the participant artists who rely on Piece by Piece by purchasing mosaics from our [website](#).



Piece by Piece Welcomes Our Newest Certified Artist - Hector!

Join us in congratulating Hector for becoming Piece by Piece's newest Certified Artist. Hector is a bright spirit who brings a layer of fun and creativity to every workshop he joins. We talked to Hector and here's what he had to say about his work at Piece by Piece!

Who inspires you?

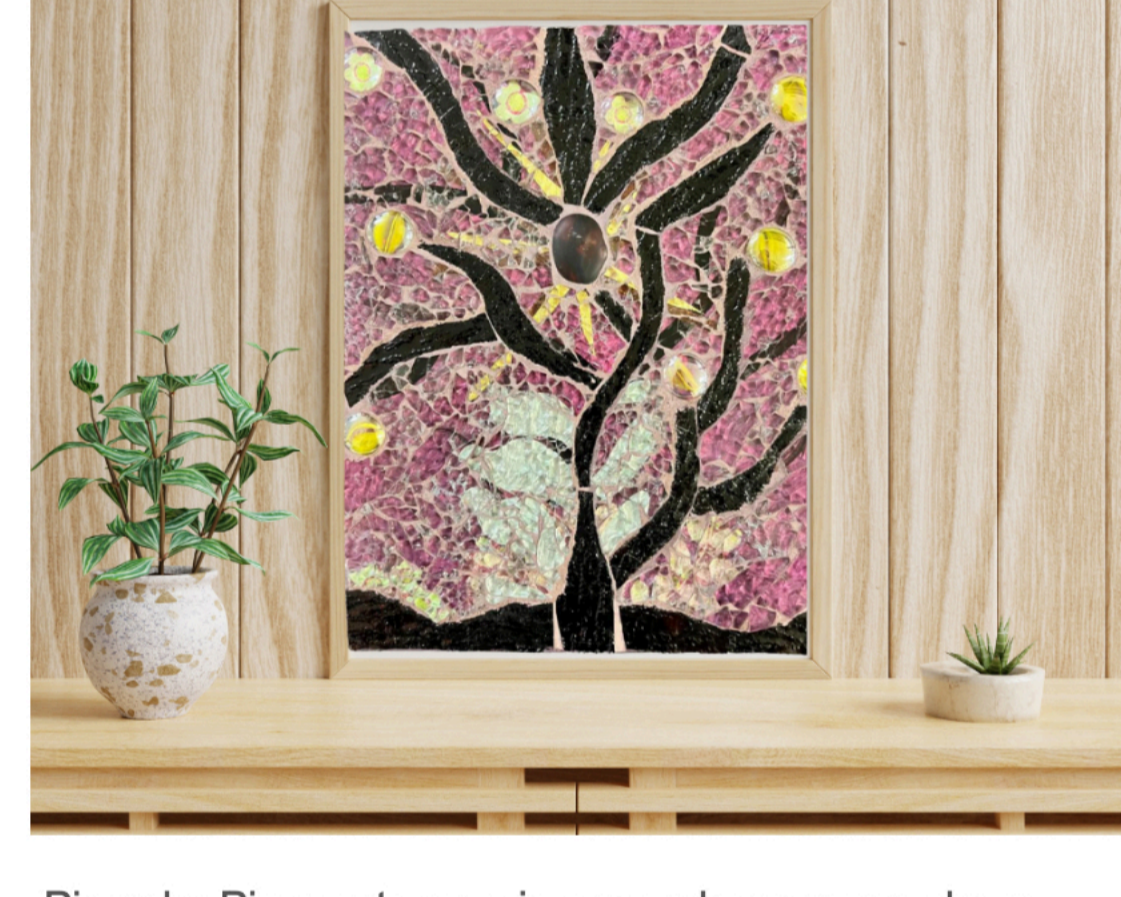
People inspire me. Everyone around me inspires me, and I always learn something new from talking and listening to people. I grew up in South Los Angeles with many diverse people from different backgrounds, cultures, etc. and that has helped me be open-minded.

How have you grown as an artist and a person since joining Piece by Piece?

I've never done mosaics or knew what mosaic was until I came to Piece by Piece. At first, I was very nervous about cutting the tesserae pieces, and I struggled to figure out where to place my tesserae pieces, and my pieces would fly everywhere. Coming to the basic mosaic classes on Wednesdays and learning from Dawn, Bea, and the other instructors have helped me so much improve as an artist, and I have gained so much knowledge and skills about mosaics that I feel comfortable and at peace.

What does Piece by Piece mean to you?

Piece by Piece means family and not a competition. I do feel sometimes like life is a competition but my colleagues show me that we're all here and we all have struggles and because of that we know that it's ok to be ourselves. Read more [here](#).



Piece by Piece arts earn income when you purchase one of their mosaics from the website. They also earn a wage when they work on commissions, awards and home goods. You can support the participant artists by ordering a [custom commission](#) or when you choose Piece by Piece to make your next [corporate awards](#).

On the [website](#) you can shop by category or collection. Whether you are looking for a unique hostess gift, a housewarming present, a gift for a special occasion, or just because, we know you will find something special!

2022
at a glance

1,610

People reached through community events

1.75

Tons of recycled materials used

\$308,000

Earned through commissions and sales

750

Meals served

985

Mosaics made and sold by participants

1,298

hours of volunteer time donated

2022: A look Back

As we head into 2023, we wanted to take a minute to look back at 2022, and all that was accomplished at Piece by Piece. Thank you for your ongoing support, none of this would have happened without your investment in the Piece by Piece mission. Here's a look at some 2022's highlights:

New studio - Moving into our new studio at Broadway Village 2 set the stage for much of what was accomplished this year. A huge amount of gratitude goes to Deep Green Housing, our landlord who has donated the space to Piece by Piece, and board member Alan Alpert for his efforts to finalize the lease. In addition, instructor Julie Williams coordinated the move for Piece by Piece and we are grateful for her project management skills.

Return to in-person classes - For the first time since COVID, in May we were able to start in-person classes again. Online classes have also continued for those that are not able to attend in person. It is wonderful to have people back in the studio and creating together!

New and returning artists, and new certified artists - We are beyond grateful for the wonderful community of participant artists in our classes and workshops. It is truly a collaborative, welcoming and safe space where so much more than art happens! This year we welcomed many new participant artists and Hector became our first certified artist since Covid! Congrats Hector!

And so much more! Read the full story [here](#).

Call for boxes, packing materials, bubble wrap, packing peanuts, etc. Drop-off days are Mondays & Wednesdays from 10-2 or by appointment at the Piece by Piece Studio 5101 S. Broadway LA

Stay abreast of all the events, pop-ups and shopping days at Piece by Piece through our [events page](#). We hope you will come join us at an upcoming event and celebrate the power of community.

Do you know someone who would benefit from the our free mosaic classes? Classes are offered weekly in a welcoming community focused environment. Eligibility requirements and interest form can be found [here](#).

Our Contact Information
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