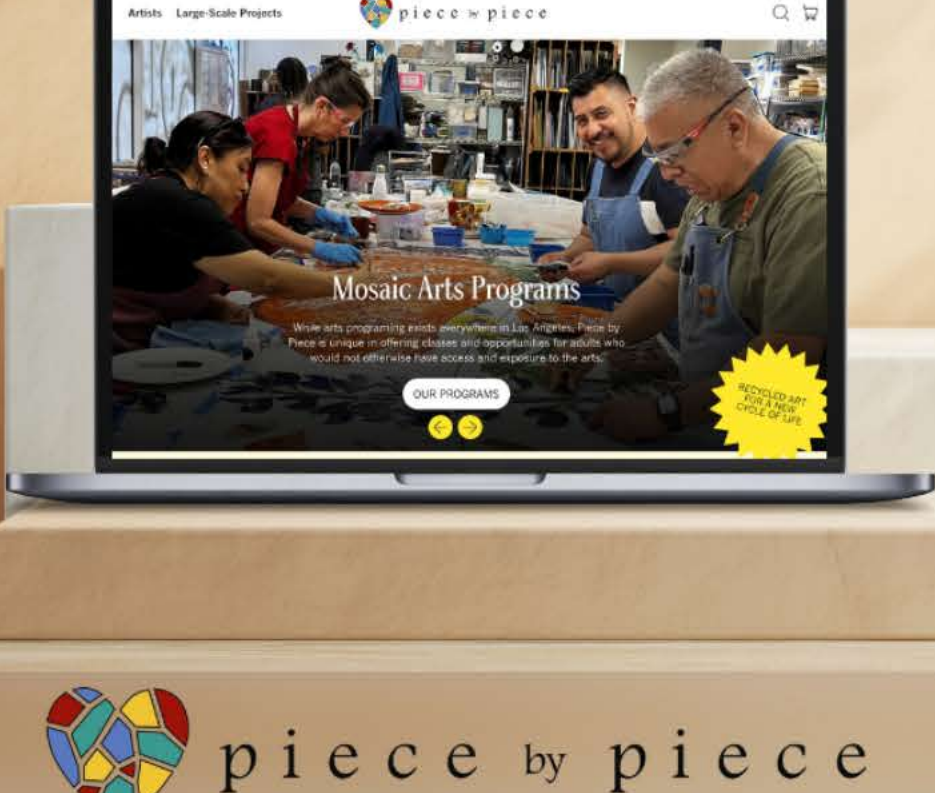


Newsletter



During this season of gratitude, I am grateful to each of you for your support and interest in Piece by Piece. I am excited to share the latest edition of the Piece by Piece newsletter, a celebration of gratitude for our amazing community. Your support continues to empower lives through art and creativity.

- There are some beautiful stories and updates in this edition:
- Meet two newly certified mosaic artists - Jonathan and Andrea
- Learn about the long-term support Piece by Piece provides for participants
- Read about Patricia, an amazing Piece by Piece volunteer
- Meet our new Board members, Donna and Virginia
- Look at what we have planned for Black Friday and Small Business Saturday

Please help us enhance your newsletter experience by participating in the [brief survey](#) below. And, as always, I welcome your questions and suggestions. Your insights are invaluable to us.

Thank you for being a part of this meaningful journey.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Sophie Alpert
Founder



CONGRATULATIONS

Newly Certified Mosaic Artists

Congratulations to Andrea and Jonathan, two of our newly certified artists at Piece by Piece. Andrea found more than art here; it was a healing journey, transforming her challenges into creative expressions through mosaic art. Her certification is a triumph over life's trials, showing the power of art as therapy. You can read more about her journey [here](#).

Jonathan reconnected with his artistic passion through Piece by Piece, which he discovered through a friend. Mosaic art became his medium to express complex ideas in tangible forms. His certification marks a significant step in his creative resurgence, underlining the importance of community and artistic exploration. You can read more about Jonathan [here](#).

Together, they remind us that art transcends skill—it's about personal growth and shared experiences. Congratulations to both for their dedication and inspiring achievements in mosaic art.



A Mosaic of Support



All of the participants at Piece by Piece have experienced homelessness, economic insecurity, or significant trauma. For these often overlooked individuals, Piece by Piece offers much more than just an opportunity to create art—it offers a chance at a new chapter in life. This program stands out because it isn't a one-time intervention; it's a commitment to long-term success and stability, offering a depth of support not found elsewhere.

A Home for All Artists

Piece by Piece is an inclusive community, embracing everyone from beginners to advanced artists. It's a nurturing ground that recognizes the unique journey of each participant, providing a personalized learning experience. Here, every person who qualifies finds their place, their pace, and their pathway to growth. This past year, Piece by Piece proudly extended its reach to include veterans, honoring their service by offering the support and community they deserve.

Lifelong Learning and Support

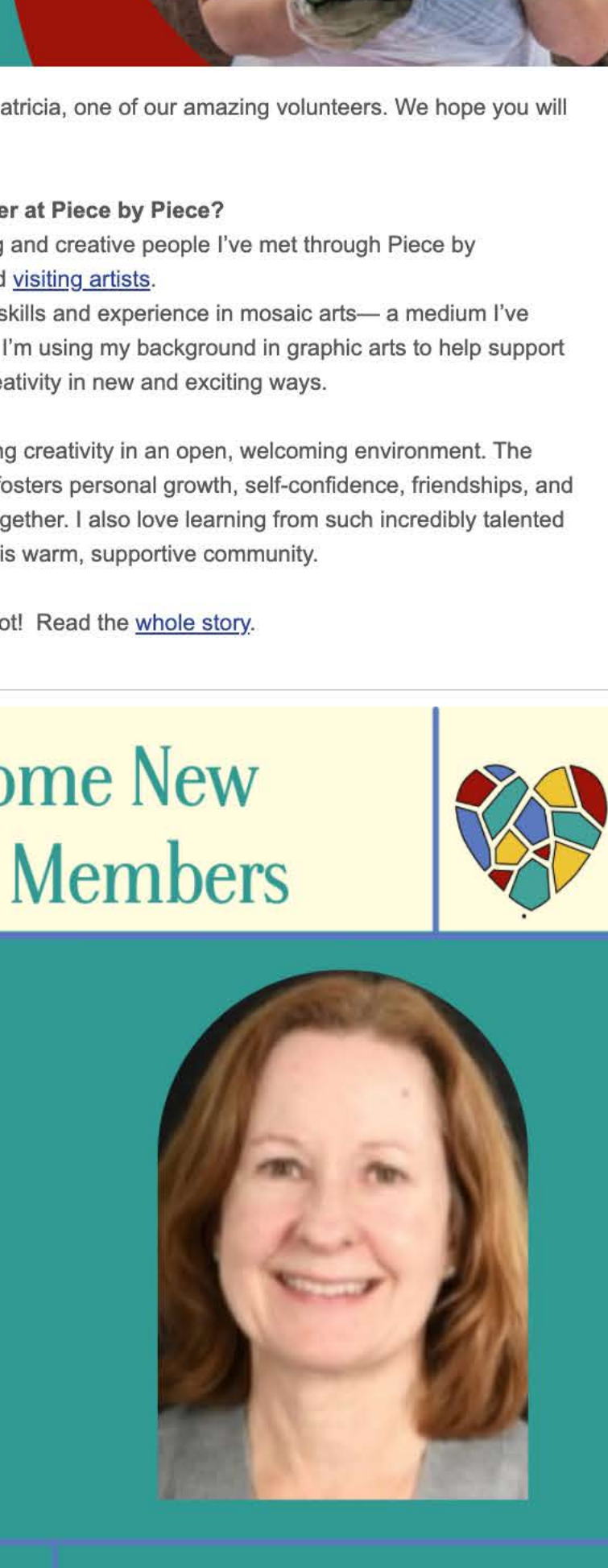
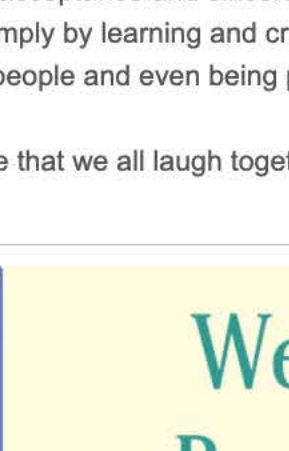
The program's life skills classes, art workshops, open studios, and mentoring ensure that each step taken by the participants is steady and sure. Over the past two years, thanks to the generosity of donors, Piece by Piece has enhanced its offerings, expanding the scope of services that foster self-sufficiency and empowerment.

Continue reading [here](#).

VOLUNTEER

SPOTLIGHT

PATRICIA BOBIK SEZNA



Recently, we took some time to sit down with Patricia, one of our amazing volunteers. We hope you will enjoy what she had to say as much as we did.

What do you enjoy doing when you volunteer at Piece by Piece?

I really enjoy interacting with the many inspiring and creative people I've met through Piece by Piece: [teachers](#), [students](#), [staff](#), volunteers, and [visiting artists](#).

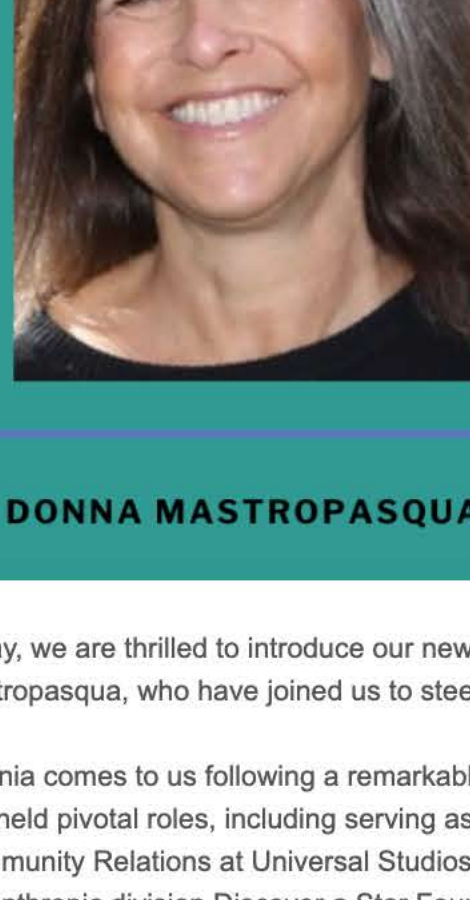
I truly cherish this amazing opportunity to gain skills and experience in mosaic arts—a medium I've always admired but never previously explored. I'm using my background in graphic arts to help support and encourage others while challenging my creativity in new and exciting ways.

I greatly benefit from sharing ideas and nurturing creativity in an open, welcoming environment. The atmosphere of acceptance and sincere caring fosters personal growth, self-confidence, friendships, and camaraderie simply by learning and creating together. I also love learning from such incredibly talented and generous people and even being part of this warm, supportive community.

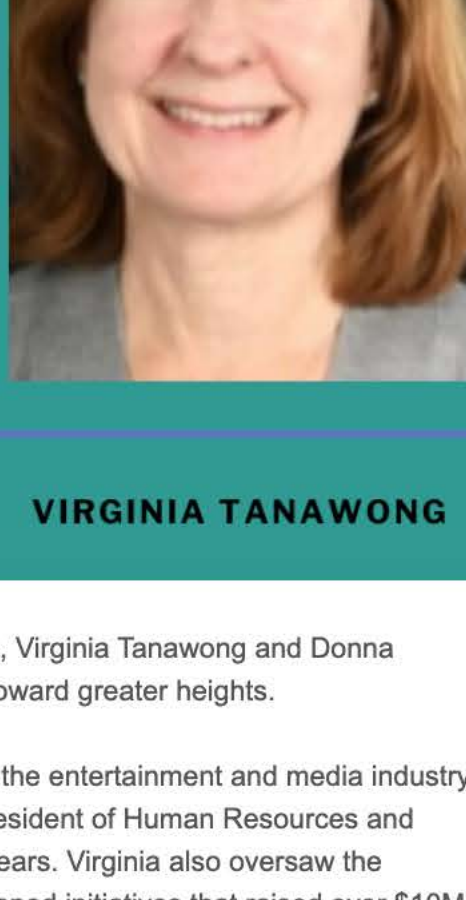
I especially love that we all laugh together – a lot! Read the [whole story](#).



Welcome New Board Members



DONNA MASTROPASQUA



VIRGINIA TANAWONG

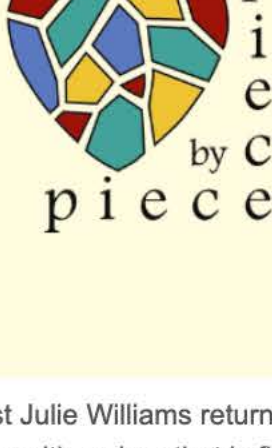
Today, we are thrilled to introduce our newest board members, Virginia Tanawong and Donna Mastropasqua, who have joined us to steer our organization toward greater heights.

Virginia comes to us following a remarkable 35-year career in the entertainment and media industry. She has held pivotal roles, including serving as the Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Community Relations at Universal Studios Hollywood for 15 years. Virginia also oversaw the philanthropic division Discover a Star Foundation and championed initiatives that raised over \$10M to aid local nonprofit organizations.

Donna brings to our board an astounding 37 years of experience in media, marketing, and loyalty. She has been the force behind several successful initiatives, including launching [Ilove.org](#) for Bob Marley's family and spearheading strategic partnerships at the Chopra Foundation with a vision to impact 1 billion people.

Read more about Donna and Virginia [here](#).

Mosaic Sculpture Workshop



Visiting artist Julie Williams returned this month to teach her very popular workshop, [Mosaic Shoes](#). This project starts with a shoe that is first cleaned and then covered in plaster. Participant artists had to carefully and delicately cover the shoe while retaining the shape. Some artists worked on stilettoes, while others worked on boots. Some shoes were personal, from family, while others were from a local thrift store.

Artist Vateria had been waiting for this workshop since she arrived a Piece by Piece a year ago this month. "I love the fact that I had an interest in something, and Piece by Piece made it happen," she said. At the end of every year, all participants, staff, instructors, and volunteers gather to envision the new year, choosing the skills artists want to hone and projects they want to create. Mosaic Shoes was one of the most requested workshops.

After the plaster has set, participant artists set about coming up with designs and applying mosaic to the shoes. Because of the complex shape of a shoe, the pieces need to be much smaller and intricate. Everyone took great joy in finding just the right adornments to accent their designs.

"The instructor, Julie, was awesome and very attentive," said Vateria. "I definitely will be making more shoes! I am making seven flip-flops for members of my family." We can't wait to see them!



Holiday Shopping



BLACK FRIDAY SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

www.piecebypiece.org

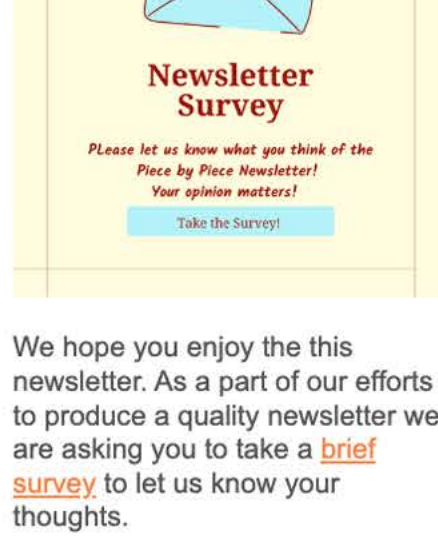
As we embrace the holiday season, extend your support to a cause that truly changes lives. Purchasing unique, [one-of-a-kind gifts](#), play a crucial role in our mission. We empower individuals who have faced homelessness or economic insecurity, offering them hope and transformation through the art of mosaic making.

Our free mosaic art workshops provide more than just a space for creativity. Participation in our classes is a stepping stone to building confidence, financial stability, wellness, and an improved quality of life.

Black Friday Special: Enjoy a 10% discount on any item in the Piece by Piece shop. It's our way of saying thank you for supporting our mission. Every item reflects the unique journey and talent of the Piece by Piece artists, making them heartfelt gifts that truly make a difference. Gift code **BLACK FRIDAY** is valid only on 11/24/23.

Small Business Saturday Surprise: On November 25th, we're adding a little extra excitement! Make a purchase on Small Business Saturday, and you'll be entered into a raffle to win a Piece by Piece gift card. It's a wonderful opportunity for you to explore more of the artists' creations while contributing to their success.

Join us in celebrating the holiday spirit by giving gifts that change lives. [Shop](#) with Piece by Piece on Black Friday and Small Business Saturday, and be part of our community's transformation.



Commission a recognition award for your corporate gala or to honor someone special. artwork may be customized to include imagery or a theme specific to your event.

We hope you enjoy the this newsletter. As a part of our efforts to produce a quality newsletter we are asking you to take a [brief survey](#) to let us know your thoughts.

If you have cardboard boxes or packing bubbles that are in good shape, please consider donating them to Piece by Piece. To arrange to drop them off, please [email us](#).