



Welcome to the latest edition of the Piece by Piece newsletter! Thank you for being part of our vibrant community and supporting our mission to empower lives through creativity and art. I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to our new program assistant Elian Lima and Wendy Viscarra our Picerne Foundation Artist Outreach Instructor. This month I am also happy to share some interesting updates including:

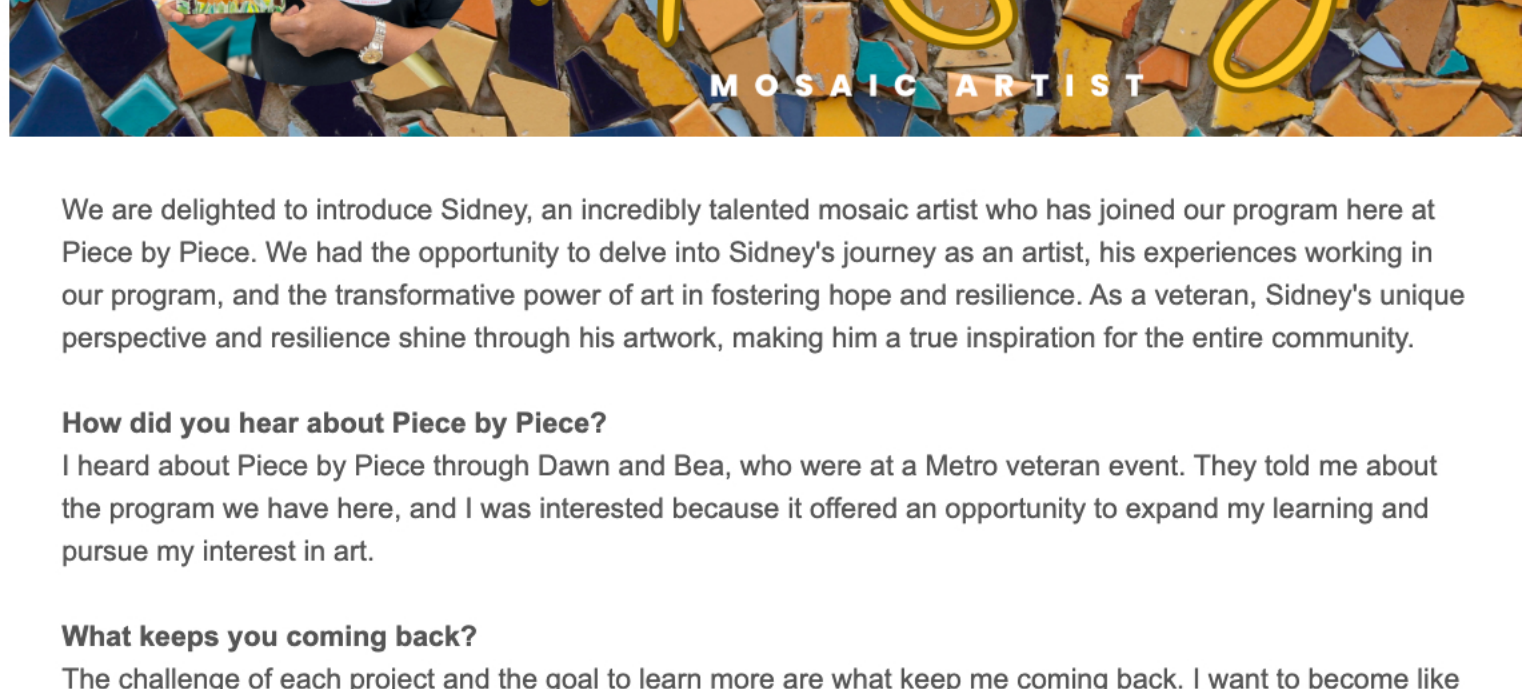
- An interview with new participant artist Sidney
- A look at our recent micromosaics workshop
- Updates on some new beautiful mosaics in the shop
- An opportunity to give us some feedback on this newsletter through a brief [survey](#).

We hope our Summer Newsletter brings you inspiration, insights, and a deeper connection to our artistic community. If you have any questions, feedback, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to [reach out to us](#).

With gratitude,



Sophie Alpert
Founder



We are delighted to introduce Sidney, an incredibly talented mosaic artist who has joined our program here at Piece by Piece. We had the opportunity to delve into Sidney's journey as an artist, his experiences working in our program, and the transformative power of art in fostering hope and resilience. As a veteran, Sidney's unique perspective and resilience shine through his artwork, making him a true inspiration for the entire community.

How did you hear about Piece by Piece?

I heard about Piece by Piece through Dawn and Bea, who were at a Metro veteran event. They told me about the program we have here, and I was interested because it offered an opportunity to expand my learning and pursue my interest in art.

What keeps you coming back?

The challenge of each project and the goal to learn more are what keep me coming back. I want to become like the other artists here at Piece by Piece. I learn a lot from each individual in the program, and their contributions are instrumental in my growth. It's a collaborative effort that drives us all.

Since coming to Piece by Piece, how have you seen yourself change or grow?

Being part of Piece by Piece has helped me apply myself to the style and concept of mosaic art. I have learned that it's not a rush and that perfection isn't necessary. Mosaic art has taught me the value of time and patience. By being surrounded by fellow artists, I have witnessed some phenomenal work. Seeing the dedication others put into their pieces inspires me to work harder and invest more time into my own creations.

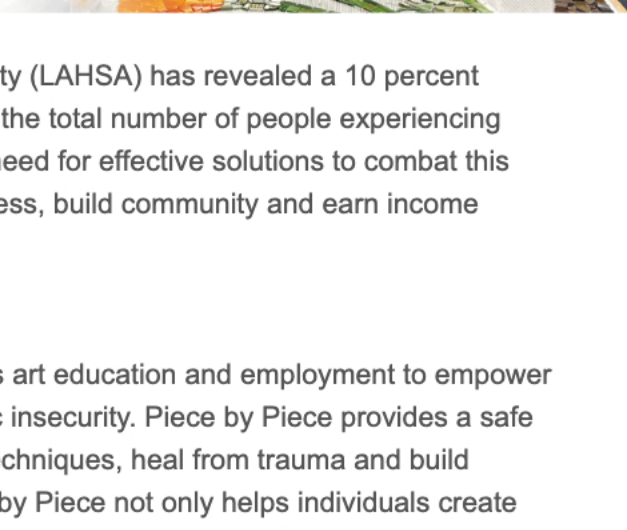
Continue reading [here](#).



In June, Piece by Piece participants studied micromosaics, a style of mosaic using small rods of glass to create tiny figurative images. While traditional Italian micromosaics are extremely intricate, in this workshop, instructor Ellen Dinerman guided artists to create more simple designs. Everyone created a series of sketches first to develop their ideas and select colors. By starting simple, artists were able to focus on the process for their first pieces.

Once they had the experience of using tweezers and other methods to embed pieces into the adhesive, they could turn their attention to more detailed designs. Using a variety of materials including millefiori, filati, and tiny ceramic tiles, each artist created several small pendants. While some designs were geometric, others were more abstract or nature-inspired.

In addition to the hands-on experience in the classroom, Ellen also did a series of virtual presentations for participants on the history of micromosaic as well as looking at several professional artists' work. "The historical point of origin is very interesting," said artist June. "I am looking forward to learning more." This well-rounded historical and practical series of workshops brought new skills to Piece by Piece artists, both new and experienced.



The latest report from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) has revealed a 10 percent increase in homelessness within the City of Los Angeles, bringing the total number of people experiencing homelessness to over 46,000. These figures highlight the urgent need for effective solutions to combat this crisis. Piece by Piece helps individuals improve their mental wellness, build community and earn income supporting them as they transition out of homelessness.

Supporting Stability through Social Enterprise

Piece by Piece operates as a nonprofit organization that combines art education and employment to empower individuals who have experienced homelessness and/or economic insecurity. Piece by Piece provides a safe and supportive environment where participants learn mosaic art techniques, heal from trauma and build community. Through an innovative social enterprise model, Piece by Piece not only helps individuals create beautiful mosaic artwork, but also equips them with the tools and resources they need to thrive.

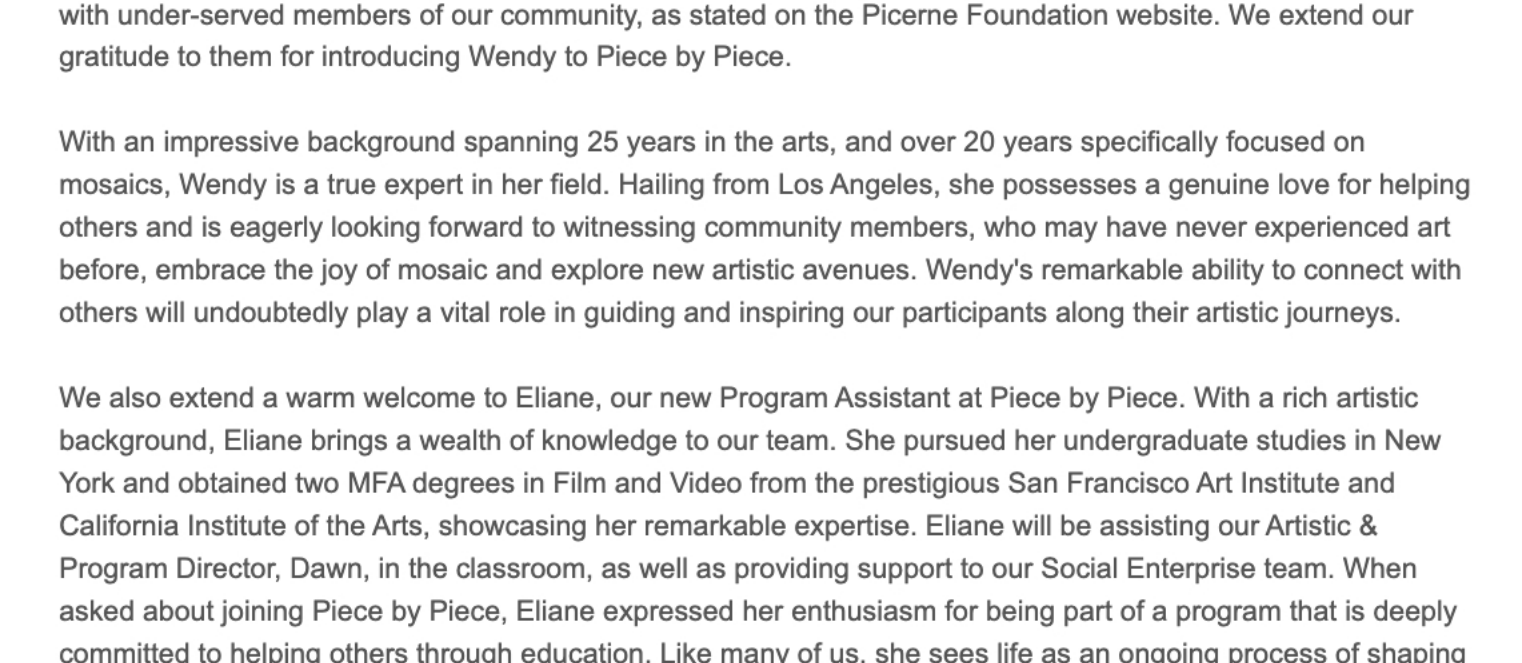
Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness

Piece by Piece is dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness and housing insecurity by providing unique supports to individuals who have recently transitioned into permanent housing. Securing housing is only the first step in building a healthy future. The challenges of maintaining stability can be overwhelming. By offering a structured program that includes art workshops, job training, and ongoing mentorship, Piece by Piece addresses the multifaceted needs of participants.

Empowering Individuals Through Art

Mosaic art serves as the centerpiece of Piece by Piece's program. Participants learn various mosaic techniques, from design and cutting to grouting and finishing, enabling them to create stunning artworks. The creative process fosters self-expression, boosts confidence, and promotes a sense of accomplishment. The artworks produced by the participants are then sold through exhibitions, galleries, and other channels, generating income that goes back to the artists.

Keep reading [here](#).



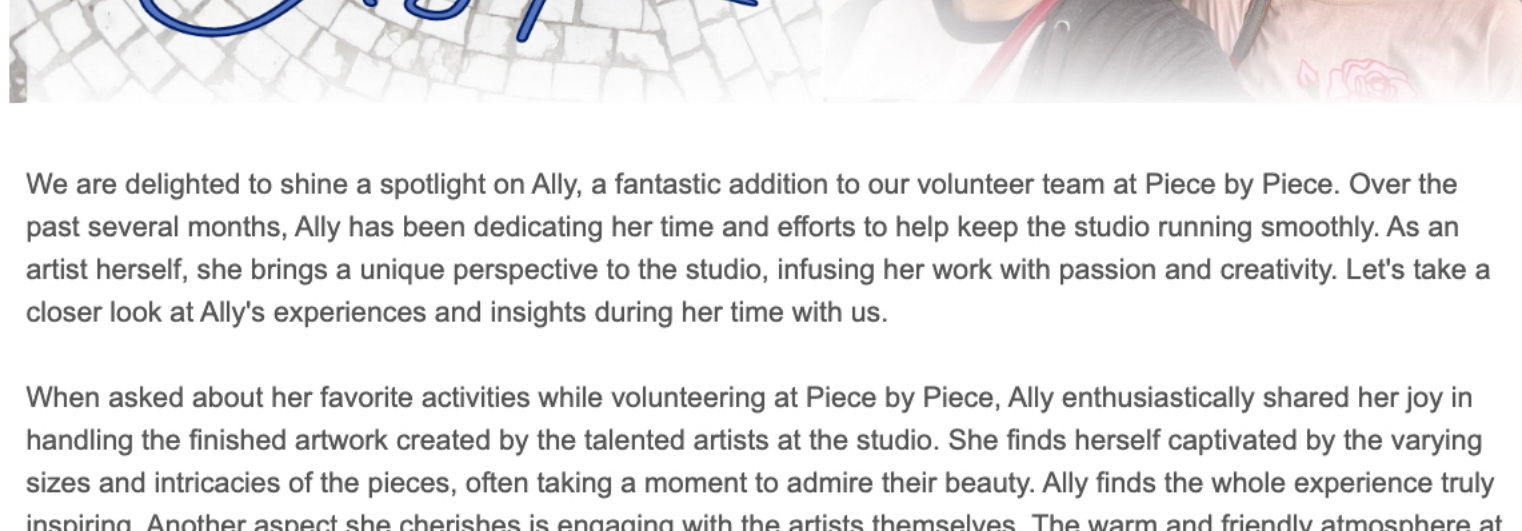
We are delighted to introduce two exceptional individuals who have recently joined our esteemed team at Piece by Piece. Join us in celebrating the arrival of Wendy, our Picerne Foundation Artist Outreach Instructor, and Eliane, our Program Assistant. Their passion, expertise, and unwavering dedication are invaluable assets to our organization's mission of empowering individuals through creativity and art.

Wendy comes to us through the Artists Outreach Grant from the Picerne Foundation, bringing with her a wealth of accomplished visual, performing, and literary artists with the opportunity to share their passion and expertise with under-served members of our community, as stated on the Picerne Foundation website. We extend our gratitude to them for introducing Wendy to Piece by Piece.

With an impressive background spanning 25 years in the arts, and over 20 years specifically focused on mosaics, Wendy is a true expert in her field. Hailing from Los Angeles, she possesses a genuine love for helping others and is eagerly looking forward to welcoming community members, who may have never experienced art before, and embrace the joy of mosaic and explore new artistic avenues. Wendy's remarkable ability to connect with others will undoubtedly play a vital role in guiding and inspiring our participants along their artistic journeys.

We also extend a warm welcome to Eliane, our new Program Assistant at Piece by Piece. With a rich artistic background, Eliane brings a wealth of knowledge to our team. She pursued her undergraduate studies in New York and obtained two MFA degrees in Film and Video from the prestigious San Francisco Art Institute and California Institute of the Arts, showcasing her remarkable expertise. Eliane will be assisting our Artistic & Program Director, Dawn, in the classroom, as well as providing support to our Social Enterprise team. When asked about joining Piece by Piece, Eliane expressed her enthusiasm for being part of a program that is deeply committed to helping others through education. Like many of us, she sees life as an ongoing process of shaping and growth, piece by piece.

With Wendy and Eliane on board, Piece by Piece is poised to reach new heights in our mission to empower individuals through art. Their expertise, dedication, and shared values will undoubtedly make a profound impact on the lives of those we serve. We invite you to join us in giving Wendy and Eliane a warm welcome as they embark on their new roles. We are excited to witness the positive change they will bring to Piece by Piece and, most importantly, to the lives of our participants.



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Shop Mosaics!

This Spring brought lots of new energy, growth, ideas and creativity to all of us that are lucky to have this rich mosaic community. To reflect this season, we launched a series of new pieces for the Piece Shop: ornaments, butterflies, and glass on glass hangings.

New and seasoned artisans had a lot of fun making ornaments that LAHSA favorite Spring critters: bees, lady bugs, small butterflies, snails, a few flowers, and some mushrooms. Each artisan chose their favorite shape and added their own spin to it. Our butterfly wall hangings are one of a kind and feature colorful fantasy wings that were the canvas of expression for our artisans. All materials used for these beautiful hangings are recycled and/or repurposed. Lastly, we have glass hangings that started as a class. This project opened the door to learning the skill of glass cutting as in making stained glass art. Many chose to create a flower as their first piece and then developed more intricate designs.

We hope you enjoyed these special and seasonal pieces. Each time we launch a new series, it is an opportunity not only to share with our supporters the talents of the participant artists, but it also provides a way for them to further their skills and find new ways of expression. Now, on to Summer! Please stop by our website to shop our mosaics.

We are delighted to shine a spotlight on Ally, a fantastic addition to our volunteer team at Piece by Piece. Over the past several months, Ally has been dedicating her time and efforts to help keep the studio running smoothly. As an artist herself, she brings a unique perspective to the studio, infusing her work with passion and creativity. Let's take a closer look at Ally's experiences and insights during her time with us.

When asked about her favorite activities while volunteering at Piece by Piece, Ally enthusiastically shared her joy in handling the finished artwork created by the talented artists at the studio. She finds herself captivated by the varying sizes and intricacies of the pieces, often taking a moment to admire their beauty. Ally herself the whole experience truly inspiring. Another aspect she cherishes is engaging with the artists themselves. The warm and friendly atmosphere at the studio makes her feel like she's among a close-knit group of friends, despite her initial shyness.

So, what does a typical day of volunteering look like for Ally? She arrives in the morning, just as the studio starts to come to life. After signing in, Ally heads to the office for a briefing on the day's agenda and the tasks she can assist with. Throughout the morning, artists arrive, and Ally occasionally greets them at the door, an act that always boosts her spirits. In the beginning, Ally had the opportunity to try out various tasks to determine where her strengths lie. She thoroughly enjoys organizing the artwork in the storage room, considering it akin to an exciting treasure hunt due to the constant movement of the artwork between rooms.

Continue reading [here](#).

At Piece by Piece we write this newsletter to share with you what has been happening around the studio, and we are curious to know what would make these newsletters more informative and more engaging for you. Please take this brief survey to share your thoughts. Thank you in advance for taking the survey.

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.

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](#)

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](#).

Donate!

Platinum
Transparency
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Candid.

