



2022

# Annual Report



“ All of us here are like a mosaic ourselves. We’re all a little broken but when we’re here we’re one big beautiful piece. ”

Piece by Piece Participant Artist  
**Margarita M.**





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LETTER FROM THE  
FOUNDER & BOARD CHAIR  
**Sophie Alpert**

## Dear friend of Piece by Piece,

Piece by Piece began with an idea that creating art out of recycled materials could be an avenue for individuals rebuilding their lives. Now, 16 years later, we have seen recycled art create a new cycle of life for so many individuals. I am always inspired by the passion, courage and creativity of the Piece by Piece participants. It's an honor to support our artists on their journeys of self-discovery, healing, and growth while empowering self-reliance.

As an organization, we also experienced significant growth in 2022. We moved into our new permanent home at Broadway Village II last April. I would like to thank our landlord Deep Green Housing for their support and belief in our mission. When we returned to in-person classes in May, the studio came to life with the vibrancy and creativity of the participants and staff. As excited as we were to be able to be back in person, we were also aware that not everyone could comfortably attend, so we have continued our zoom classes as well. We had over 569 seats filled in our in-person classes, with 30 new participants discovering Piece by Piece, and over 1500 views of our online classes, demonstrating the great need for art and community in the lives of our participants.

In 2022 our social enterprise generated more earned revenue than any prior year, with a growing number of participants creating and earning income. Our large scale commissions included: 200 Ocean, The City of Paramount, and The Trust for Public Land - Urban Orchard mural. These murals are truly works of art and I encourage you to visit them.

The artists also created many awards for both longtime supporters and new clients. Thanks to our partnership with

LightHouse ArtSpace, Piece by Piece mosaics continue to be offered for sale at their magical immersive shows. Contemporary abstract painter, Laura Letchinger invited Piece by Piece to be a part of her gallery show in Long Beach offering a beautiful venue to showcase our work and an opportunity for participant artists to experience the excitement of an opening night.

Behind the scenes, our staff grew to support all of these classes and commissions. We welcomed Tasha Pimental as Program Assistant and Josh Provost as our Operations Manager. I appreciate the energy, support, and kindness they have added to our team. I also wish to acknowledge all of our staff and instructors for their continued commitment and passion. They are the heart of Piece by Piece, and I am truly grateful to each of them.

In addition to all of this, we were able to engage with our community through outreach events, pop-up sales, and events all over Los Angeles. We were also able to provide several cultural outings for our participants to explore LA.

All of this contributed to a transformative year for the Piece by Piece Artists. Thank you for your ongoing support. Because of you, Piece by Piece participants have been developing the skills, resources, and support needed to transform their lives.

With gratitude,

Sophie Alpert  
Founder & Board Chair



# By the numbers

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.

1,610

people reached through community events

1.75

tons of recycled materials used

985

mosaics created and sold by participants

100%

of program participants are low-income or below according to HUD data

\$308,000

earned through commissions and sales

\$160,000

donated by 147 individuals

\$270,000

In grants recived from:

Perenchio Foundation • Orange County Community Foundation Council  
District 9 • LA Department of Cultural Affairs  
The SAM Initiative • Bob & Nita Hirsch Foundation  
Universal Discover a Star Foundation • ECMC Foundation  
National Endowment for the Arts • Kelley Clarkson Show  
Water Buffalo Club

1,298

hours of volunteer time donated

750

meals served



Watch a video on our year in review



# Meet Our Artists

Hector and Vicki are just two of many Certified Piece by Piece artists transforming their lives! Certified Artists have progressed through the Piece by Piece class offerings and certificate program, demonstrating their perseverance and skill. They are now engaged with the Piece by Piece social enterprise. Artists have the opportunity to create and produce both personal and commercial work.



## HECTOR G.

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!

### How did you hear about Piece by Piece?

I was on my phone, and I was scrolling on social media to see if there were any free art events near me, and I saw a post on my Facebook feed about free basic mosaic classes for the residents of south LA, and I signed up!

### 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.

### What materials do you like to use in your mosaic work?

I like recycled tesserae so I'll use any material that is recyclable or that is donated here. It's my favorite to use recycled material and give it a second home.

### 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 improve so much 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.

### What has Piece by Piece and creating mosaics added to your life?

Piece By Piece has given me hope and a voice. It's very inspirational to be able to tell my story by putting broken recycled tesserae pieces together. Being able to create art is something beautiful.



Learn more about Hector G. by scanning here

## VICKI M.

Piece by Piece supports participant artists as they heal from past trauma, focus on their mental wellbeing, and build community as they learn the art of mosaics. Each individual is unique and brings a wealth of life experiences. The one commonality they all share is their steadfast commitment to rebuilding their lives through art! We are pleased to share Vicki's recent interview with you.

### 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 Ray and it had brochures and mosaics from Piece by Piece - they were part of the decor in that office!

### What do you like about Piece by Piece?

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—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.

### What inspires you?

So many things! Just the world itself. I think that as I complete each project, I get more inspired. Each project represents my development, my achievement, and I get excited to start the next project. You can just get inspired by the process.

### What materials do you like to use?

I'll use anything! I've mostly stuck to our standard, ceramic and glass. I feel more confident using things that I have more product knowledge about. How to clean it right, how to adhere it. I like to stick to what I know a bit more.

### What do you want to learn more about?

There's so much stuff! I would say working bigger for myself. I'm at the point where I can do more individual projects so I am working on that. We once did a show that was at the main museum and I wrote the intro for the show. They were so focused on studio space, especially in Skid Row, which is hard to come by. So I have the idea to work bigger.

### Do you participate in other creative arts?

Oh yeah, I paint, I do pottery, anything that's out there I'll do! Music, I just do art period. Over the years I've been extremely varied.

### What can/do you contribute to the Piece by Piece community?

This is a place with so many people rotating in and out, and I see myself as part of the DNA. The time I've spent here, my uniqueness, my education. I've been very devoted to art for such a long time.



Thanks to Piece by Piece, I have learned to push doubts to the back of my mind and to move forward into new areas of development with learning and security.



Learn more about Vicki M. by scanning here



# Social Enterprise Highlights

The Piece by Piece Social Enterprise had an amazing 2022. The team of 19 artists led by Dawn Mendelson and Luz Mack created over **985 mosaics**, including **5 large scale commissions** and **40 personal commissions/award orders**. Participant artists earned over **\$130,000 in supplemental income**, more than any prior year! Much of this was possible thanks to a SAM Initiative grant that funded the addition of our social enterprise Operations Manager, Jadie Delgado.



## Metro

Piece by Piece is honored to be working with Metro on a mosaic mural design for a section of the National Veterans Mural, created by artist and U.S. Navy veteran Peter Stewart. The mural was originally dedicated in 1995. A portion of the mural will be decommissioned during the construction of the future Westwood/VA Hospital Station.

## 200 W. Ocean

Piece by Piece had the good fortune to work with architect Hai Lin to create a unique piece of artwork for the spa and pool area of 200 Ocean Apartments in Long Beach.



## Sarah Carpenter Memorial Gardens

The Piece by Piece artist team recently completed a series of California Native mosaic butterflies for the Dr. Carpenter Memorial Garden, in honor of the late Dr. Sarah Carpenter, who was an inspiration as both a leader and a physician at the Sandy Segal Youth Health Center.



## Brilliance of Community

Our team was proud to create this unique mural for an active community/senior center in the city of Paramount.



## Urban Orchard

The Trust for Public Land commissioned Piece by Piece to work on a 50 ft mural that will be installed in mid 2023 in the City of South Gate.



## Awards

Piece by Piece artists love making awards for our clients. This year we were honored to share in the celebrations and events for Women's Leadership Network, Leadership CA, Eisner Health, Chrysalis, SWANA, Discovery Cube, California Parks & Recreation, United Way, and more.



## LITTLE PIECES YOUTH WORKSHOPS

The week of Thanksgiving Piece by Piece hosted our first ever holiday break youth workshop! With support from The Water Buffalo Club, Piece by Piece has launched a series of workshops for children ages 7-18. The free mosaic workshops will be held during breaks and after-school aligning the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) schedule. We have created these classes for students in our South LA community and surrounding areas. We were inspired to do this after finding there were not many free arts enrichment opportunities for local youth during these breaks.

In our first cohort, we welcomed students ranging in age from 7-17 and they all enjoyed the chance to learn about mosaics and create mosaics of their own. Classes were led by Piece by Piece's Artistic & Program Director Dawn Mendelson and Instructor Julie Williams.

The classes had an educational component where the students learned about the history of mosaics, but most of the time was spent creating mosaics, and having fun. One 5th grade student shared, "This is really relaxing and fun. It is helping me feel calm. It's not like school." Students were able to make their own ornaments and frames. They chose their materials, created their designs, and even grouted their pieces to create lasting keepsakes.

Piece by Piece is continuing to offer these classes throughout 2023.



Scan here to visit the Piece by Piece events page.



# Programs & Workshops

In May of 2022, we were able to welcome participant artists back to in-person classes in our new studio in South LA. It was wonderful to have both returning and new participant artists creating in the studio. We also continued to offer Zoom classes for those who are not able to attend in person. We had **569 seats filled** in our in-person classes and **1600+ views** of our online classes. The visiting artist series also returned to in-person workshops. This program brings renowned mosaic artists from all over the United States to Piece by Piece. These master-artists lead workshops that provide hands-on instruction in advanced mosaic art techniques to program participants.



## 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!



## Visiting Artists

The Directed Studies series brings visiting artists to Piece by Piece. These nationally renowned mosaic artists lead workshops that provide hands-on instruction in advanced mosaic art techniques to program participants.



## Metamorphosis Art Show & Open House

On June 22, 2022 we welcomed guests for an art show and open house at our new location. Due to the pandemic, this was the first time in over two years that we could celebrate together! It was wonderful to see so many friends and supporters.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Our Social Enterprise Is Growing

Building off a successful 2022, the social enterprise is looking to increase the number of paid artists by 25%, allowing us to increase capacity and take on even more commissions.

### Supporting More Artists In Classes

Creating more opportunities for healing through art is a key goal for Piece by Piece. In 2023, we are expanding our roster of instructors to accommodate our goal of 30% increase in class attendance.

### Adding Resources

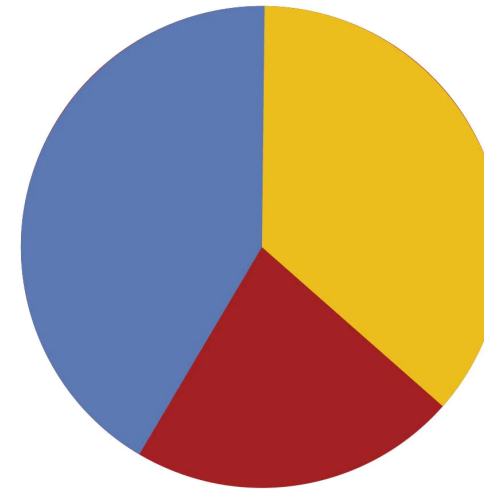
Our mosaic classes and workshops are the cornerstone of what we do. In 2023, we are excited to build off our base and add more resources for our participant artists including new local visiting artist classes and soft skills presentations and workshops.

### Strengthening Connection To Community

Thanks to the Piece by Piece Advisory Board we have focused on community outreach to encourage more individuals whom have experienced homelessness or economic insecurity to engage with our programs.

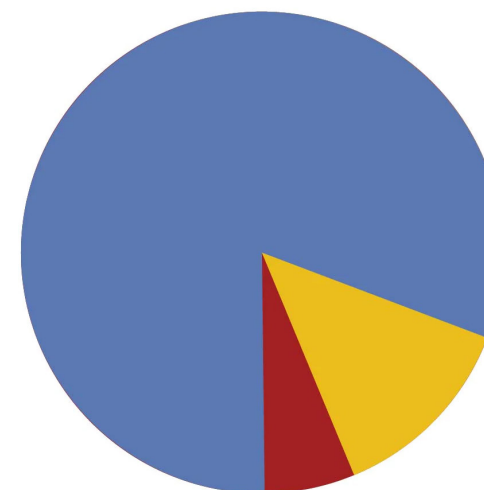
## FINANCIALS

### REVENUE



● Earned Revenue/Social Enterprise	\$ 314,369
● Grants	\$ 271,800
● Donations	\$ 176,171
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 762,340</b>

### EXPENSES



● Program	\$ 535,715
● Administrative	\$ 93,689
● Fundraising	\$ 34,362
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 663,766</b>

Piece by Piece is grateful for our partners in the community who help support and promote our mission.



Thanks to their eye for community partnerships Piece by Piece artists were able to sell votives, frames, ornaments and custom pieces at the Immersive gift shop in Hollywood. This meaningful partnership has increase visibility for Piece by Piece and also helped increase sales.



Thanks to a long time partnership with NBC Universal, Piece by Piece once again made centerpieces for their annual event and was invited to sell products at their subsidized employee holiday market.

## HAUSER & WIRTH

Hauser & Wirth are a long-time partner who sells Piece by Piece art in their gift shop. Hauser & Wirth presents art exhibitions, events, and learning activities which connect with the local community in a vibrant architectural space. We are grateful for their ongoing support.



Contemporary Artist Laura Letchinger once again invited Piece by Piece to exhibit along side her at her most 2022 gallery show "Moment to Moment". This built awareness of our programs and offered a new avenue for sales.

## FUNDING PARTNERS

- |                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Perenchio Foundation               | Universal Discover a Star Foundation |
| Orange County Community Foundation | ECMC Foundation                      |
| Council District 9                 | National Endowment for the Arts      |
| LA Department of Cultural Affairs  | Kelley Clarkson Show                 |
| The SAM Initiative                 | Water Buffalo Club                   |
| Bob & Nita Hirsch Foundation       | Impact Assets                        |





# Support Piece by Piece

It is because of you that Piece by Piece artists have the tools to transform their lives — thank you! We invite you to volunteer, donate, and share our mission to support the needed scaling of our offerings. Your support will increase the number of artists who will gain the skills needed to heal from trauma, creat mosaic art, and earn income in 2023.

## Piece by Piece Team

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sophie Alpert, Board Chair  
Alan Alpert, Treasurer  
Derek Alpert, Secretary  
Wendy Colman Levin

### ADVISORY BOARD

June Cigar  
Jose Morales  
Luz Mack  
Bea Jones

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF


Maggie Bohlman, Executive Director  
Dawn Mendelson, Artistic & Program Director  
Jadie Delgado, Operations Manager  
Josh Provost, Operations Manager  
Tasha Pimentel, Program Assistant

### TEACHING ARTISTS

Luz Mack, Social Enterprise Manager  
Dawn Mendelson, Artistic & Program Manager  
Bea Jones  
Ellen Dinerman  
Betty Rosen  
Jose Morales

### VISITING ARTISTS

Kelley Knickerbocker  
Monica Currie-Johnson

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