Open Studio Project

2013 Annual Report

Art Can Change Everything
Dear Friends and Supporters,

“Change” – it’s a word packed with drama, excitement, possibility, and sometimes fear. We’ve been thinking a lot about change here at OSP over the past year. Here’s why . . .

The Open Studio Process Changes Lives: Our unique Process of art & writing has helped thousands of people tap their inner creativity for life-changing personal growth.

With Change Comes Opportunity: This year, we experienced one of the most significant changes a nonprofit can face when OSP co-founder and Executive Director Dayna Block retired after 20 years of service. Our staff and Board of Directors has worked hard to ensure a smooth transition, and we have settled into our new roles and are looking forward to the future.

This year, I shifted from being a long-time participant, facilitator, and Board member to become OSP’s new Executive Director. Being a participant and a facilitator has given me two unique resources – the Open Studio Process itself and the community here that uses it. I am thankful that both the Process and the OSP community support me in this new role - the job of focusing on the business of the Open Studio Project.

Dayna Block is now an OSP Board member and also chairs the newly-formed Program Committee. We are elated that she is willing to share her expertise by leading program evaluation and engaging in an entirely different kind of agency oversight as a Board member. I am fortunate that Dayna is the perfect former director: she lets me make my own mistakes and is equally willing to guide and mentor when needed.

This year, OSP Board member Kay Israelite moved from Board Secretary to Board President. You may not know that Kay, as a former engineer, loves to analyze things – which comes in very handy in her new position! Kay is a true partner in managing and growing OSP, and I value our collaboration.

Also this year, longtime staffer Karla Rindal moved from her part-time position as Director of Facilitation to full-time. She manages and leads our Facilitator Training Program, and has expanded her role significantly into creating new programming as well as developing programming. Karla, an artist as well as a facilitator, brings the deep wisdom of a nearly 20-year Open Studio Process practice, and is a model for us all. We are grateful to her.

Director of Administration Karen Daughtry increased her hours to meet the growing business needs of the organization. Besides being great at her job and co-designing the new OSP multi-functional database, Karen brings us an abundance of positive energy and good will, perhaps because of her “other career” as an energy worker and healer.

OSP’s Director of Programs, Cal Calvird, reduced his hours, as he has completed an advanced degree and is now growing his counseling practice. Happily for us, his talent, thoughtfulness, and thoroughness are still with us.

Throughout this transition, Open Studio Project continues, as always, to offer its very special brand of artmaking - the process art and stream-of-consciousness writing practice we call the Open Studio Process - to kids, teens, and adults here in Evanston, in Chicago’s North Shore, and even outside of Illinois and the US. We’ve continued to do it well and do it successfully. Please review this Annual Report to learn how we have collaborated with our partners, stewarded your donations, and benefited our community.

Thank you,

Janet
Janet Beals Orejudos
OSP Executive Director

www.openstudioproject.org
The Open Studio Project: What We Believe

We believe that the creative Process nourishes, inspires, and helps all those who participate in it.

We believe that creative arts activities increase personal awareness and provide a foundation for positive social change.

We envision a community where people from all backgrounds can positively influence their own lives and communities through making and exhibiting art.

What We Do

The Open Studio Project provides stimulating and powerful programming which combines visual arts and writing. Created and tested by three Chicago artists/art therapists more than 20 years ago, the OSP Process has been practiced and shared ever since in Chicago, Evanston, the North Shore, and as far afield as Canada, New Zealand, and Taiwan. It is also taught in colleges and graduate schools around the country.

The Open Studio Process is a four-step tool: 1) Writing an intention, 2) Creating one’s own Process-based art in a comment-free setting, 3) Writing a Witness – writing about one’s art and the Process experience, and 4) Voluntarily sharing one’s art and writing – without any criticism, feedback, or comment from the group.

We share this unique and highly effective programming with the general public, a diverse community of under-served local residents, and with artists and professionals nationwide who want to use it in their own personal and professional practices. Our goal is to help others use the OSP Process as a safe and reliable tool for personal exploration, enjoyment, and growth - and to use the Process ourselves as a personal and business tool.

Public Programming

We offer our signature Connecting with the Creative Process (CCP) and Introduction to Connecting with the Creative Process (Intro) workshops for adults year-round, with scholarships for those who could not otherwise attend.

In parent/child Art & Adventure classes for pre-school children, participants explore a wide variety of materials in a playful, adventurous atmosphere.

Community Outreach Partnerships

We partner with local social service agencies to provide workshops to hundreds of under-served youth and adults at no cost to participants, complementing the agencies’ supportive programming and strengthening results for participants.

Gallery 901

Gallery exhibits are intended to increase awareness around pressing social issues for a diverse audience. We present exhibits by community artists and groups which celebrate the affirmative impact of the creative process and which encourage positive social change.

Facilitator Training in the OSP Process

An intensive series of weekend workshops offers personal enrichment and professional development for artists, counselors, and others interested in augmenting their practices with Open Studio Process facilitation.
These stories reveal the individuals who come to the Open Studio Project and use our scholarship funds to improve their lives.

Tori (not her real name) was introduced to OSP through a partnership with Housing Options for the Mentally Ill. She continues to sign up for session after session, using our Process to relieve stress and increase the joy in her life. She contributes her $5 per class proudly.

Bonnie, struggling with a severe anxiety disorder, says, “The Open Studio is the only place in my entire life that I feel safe.” Because her work here is so important to her, Bonnie contributes $20 of her monthly disability check towards the $180 class fee.

Natalia has an annual income of $11,500. In gratitude for her full scholarship, she says, “I have experienced great things in OSP classes. Because I am disabled and my Social Security Disability income must go towards medical expenses, I would not be able to be a part of OSP without assistance.”
In 2004, Open Studio Project opened a dedicated gallery space, Gallery 901. This gallery is a mission-driven exhibition venue highlighting community voices and creative responses to pressing social issues. A primary goal of this venue is to feature local artists and to attract audiences who may not traditionally attend art exhibitions.

Fiscal year 2013 exhibits included:

**Facilitator Exhibit 2013**
Featuring mixed media pieces by OSP facilitators Janet Beals Orejudos, Dayna Block, Cal Calvird, Jan Ellenstein, Barbara Goldberg, Ted Harris, Saralina Kamholtz, Sarah Laing, Karla Rindal, & Kris Taylor.

**The Open Studio Process Facilitator Training Program Graduation Celebration and Exhibit (Series B)**
Mixed media artwork made by OSP’s second training class during their sixteen-month Facilitator Training Program experience.

**Reconciliation: Lindsay Sherman MAAT Thesis Exhibition**
Art work presented by Lindsay Sherman as part of an art-based research project for her Master of Arts in Art Therapy Thesis at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

**10,000 Ripples Event: We Are One Community**
OSP community arts event to create an “art bridge” weaving as part of the Ten Thousand Ripples project, a peace and public art initiative by artist Indira Johnson.

**SAIC/YOU Exhibit: Beautiful Pieces**
Art created by participants in the Youth Organization Umbrella (Y.O.U.) after-school program and curated by students in Dayna Block’s Exploring Community Art Practices class from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) Art Therapy Department.

**+POSITIVE Images 2012**
Exhibit of art work created by men and women living with HIV/AIDS as part of ongoing weekly art groups at TPAN (Test Positive Aware Network) facilitated by artist/art therapist Dan Anthon.
OSP’s Programs & Outreach

Adult Programming

OSP provides stimulating, powerful programming through a unique art and writing process using the creative arts to inspire personal growth, interpersonal understanding, and social change. Our participants explore art as a means for reflection and creative resourcefulness.

Led by artists trained in the Open Studio Process method, multi-week workshops and one-day classes introduce a variety of simple art techniques. The Process allows creativity in a safe environment, free of criticism. Classes mix disadvantaged participants (who may make partial or no payment) with participants who can pay the full fee.

Connecting with the Creative Process: 24 classes (6 week sessions), plus 5 introductory (2-1/2 hour) workshops.

Children’s Programming

For young children, emphasis is on creative exploration. A variety of classes are offered to children (often joined by their parents), who are encouraged to “get messy” and creative with materials.

Art & Adventure: 15 classes for children 2 to 5 years old (sessions lasting six to eight weeks), plus six classes for children of all ages (2 to 12).

Art & Action (A&A): OSP in the Schools

Partnering with Y.O.U. and District 65, our A&A program was extensive this year, bringing art activities to Oakton, Chute, Washington, Nichols, and King Arts middle schools, plus Dawes Elementary. We served students in 8-week sessions at each of the 6 schools, plus more adults and children at each school’s Family Night.

Art & Action: Reaching over 480 youth and families in six Evanston public schools

Community Outreach Programming

We bring regular, high-quality creative activities, at no cost, to hundreds of low-income, at-risk youth, as well as children and adults with disabilities. We partner with local social service agencies to reach the populations who will most benefit from the constructive programming that we provide. This year we partnered with Josselyn Center’s Camp Neeka, with Youth Organization Umbrella (Y.O.U.) and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, LINKS Pride Youth Program, New Foundation Center, and PEER Services.

Community Outreach Programming: Five partnerships serving over 100 disadvantaged youth and adults, through over 400 hours of service.

Art & Renewal: Specialized Workshops

In this programming for those in the helping professions, we collaborate with local agencies to allow their staff to utilize the creative Process as a resource for emotional self-care, stress reduction, increased insight and better work/life balance. OSP collaborated this year with New Foundation Center, Heartwood Center for Mind Body Spirit, the Chicago Children’s Advocacy Network, PEER Services, and the DePaul University Student Counseling Club.

Art & Renewal: Partnerships with five organizations, serving over 50 nonprofit professionals.
OSP’s Programs & Outreach

The Open Studio Process Facilitator Training Program

This series of five intensive training weekends over a 16-month period offers personal enrichment, professional development, and continuing education credits to artists, social workers, counselors and others interested in expanding their personal practices with OSP facilitation.

In addition to significantly broadening the availability and use of the Open Studio Process to benefit more people – here and in 20 other cities so far - our Training Program workshops have increased agency revenue and diversified funding.

In March of 2013, we graduated our second class of certified Open Studio Process facilitators. Our 3rd class graduates in January 2014 and a fourth Training group began in July 2013.

Participants from the U.S. and Canada are already integrating this work into their own artmaking and group practices.

Facilitator Training Program: Seven training weekends held, a second class graduated, and a third series is in mid-stream. New facilitators working in 20 cities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Ten Thousand Ripples

Open Studio Project was excited to be a community leader in Evanston’s Ten Thousand Ripples (TTR) project this year. Evanston was one of ten Chicago communities – the only one outside of Chicago – participating in this exciting public art and peace project.

TTR is a collaboration between Evanston artist Indira Johnson and the Chicago nonprofit, Changing Worlds. In Evanston, Ten Thousand Ripples focused on bridging differences in our community that are barriers to peace.

TTR created artistic workshops and residencies to address these issues of difference, cultural understanding and peace creating opportunities for dialogue. Collaborating partners in Evanston include Family Focus, Open Studio Project, Evanston Art Center, Evanston Community Foundation and its Friends of the Arts Fund, Evanston Ecology Center, Evanston Public Library and Foundation 65.

Ten fiberglass emerging Buddha sculptures designed by Johnson were installed throughout Evanston. The one closest to Open Studio Project, was located in Grey Park, and became the perfect opportunity to bring together the Main Street Merchants businesses, the families and neighbors living on the surrounding streets, and the residents of Albany Care, a 400 bed mental facility for individuals recovering from chronic mental health issues.

In April, participants were invited to go on a Treasure Hunt for materials up and down Main Street, then bringing them to Grey Park to weave into a giant web bridge. The project’s theme was “We are One Community,” and was designed to bring the disparate members of the community together in an easily-accessible art project. Several hundred adults and children participated together in the weaving, creating a brightly colored banner.

The Web Bridge was exhibited at Loyola University as part of the finale of the Ten Thousand Ripples project, showcasing all ten communities.

The project was so successful that Open Studio repeated the experience at Evanston’s Ethnic Arts Festival, and gave artist Indira Johnson OSP’s Sandra Rosenberg award, which includes a gallery show.

Open Studio has been a part of PEER Services’ group treatment curriculum for many years and has served as a creative and therapeutic outlet for our at-risk adolescent clients.

The Process allows for self expression in a safe and non-judgmental environment where the clients can express themselves without language. I believe in the process of Open Studio and the benefits of art.

–Emily Katz, MSW, LCSW
CADC Adolescent Counselor, PEER Services
## OSP Fiscal Year 2013

For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013

### Revenue
- Events .............................................................. 29,551
- Public support, contributions, and program service revenues .......... 88,622
- Government Grants and membership .... 12,744
- Other revenues ................................................ 3,397

**Total Support .................$134,314**

### Expense
- Program Services ........................................ 132,405
- Management and General ...................... 34,674
- Fundraising ................................................ 5,682

**Total Expenses ......................$172,761**

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### One Day Art & Renewal Workshops
- 5 one-day Art & Renewal workshops for the professional staff of partner agencies

### Open Studio Process Facilitator Training
- 7 Open Studio Process Facilitator Training weekends held for artists and professionals who want to incorporate the Open Studio Process into their personal and professional practices.

### Art & Adventure Classes
- 15 6-8 week Art & Adventure classes for 2-5 year olds and their parents.

### Cities
- 20 cities in which new OSP-trained Facilitators are sharing the Open Studio Process.

### Connecting with the Creative Process Classes
- 24 six week Connecting with the Creative Process classes in Fiscal Year 2013.

### Total Workshops and Classes
- 68 total OSP workshops and classes held this year for children, teens, and adults.

### Community Outreach Arts Programming
- Over 450 middle school students benefited from OSP community outreach arts programming this year.

### Community Connections Program
- 600 children and youth in OSP’s Community Connections Program for under-served individuals.

### Participation
- More than 1000 adults and children participated in our OSP classes.

### Attendance
- About 1500 adults and students attended OSP gallery openings, lectures, and special events.

### Individuals Served
- 2100 individuals served by OSP workshops, classes, shows, and presentations this year.

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*The Process for me is a form of visualizing my prayers and bringing clarity to the voice of God. It clears my mind and brings peace to my soul. I'm very interested in using the Open Studio Process (after I finish the Facilitator Training Program) back home in Kenya to work with those who are experiencing some form of trauma, to allow them to process what needs to be processed so they can heal.*

—Debbi Omondi, student at Wheaton College and OSP intern
**Fiscal Year 2013 Accountability**  
(July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013)

### Revenue

- A. Events .............................................................. 22%
- B. Public support, contributions, and program service revenues .......... 66%
- C. Government Grants and membership .... 10%
- D. Other revenues .................................................. 2%

### Expense

- A. Program Services ............................................... 77%
- B. Management and General .................................... 20%
- C. Fundraising ....................................................... 3%

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**Donors**

### Sponsors
($5,000 - $10,000)

- The Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development
- Hackberry Endowment Partners
- New Trier Township
- Sacks Family Foundation

### Benefactors
($2,000 - $4,999)

- Pat B. Allen & John Allen
- Jodi Block & Barry Malik
- Dayna Block & Joe Castro
- Charles Jacob Foundation
- City of Evanston Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Elizabeth Beidler Tisdahl Foundation
- Ellen Glassmeyer
- Ted Harris
- Illinois Arts Council

### Donors
($1,000 - $1,999)

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- Cotillion of Evanston
- Kulanu Fund Edelstein-Berkson Family Fund
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- Marianne & Thomas Moberly
- Jonathan & Amy Vree

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($500 - $999)

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- North Shore Community Bank
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- Leslie & Steve Warner
- Jerome White
- Woman’s Club of Evanston

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($250 - $499)

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- The Gonda Family Foundation
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Evelyn Klein

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In honor of
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Eileen Braun
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In honor of
Helen Burhart
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Joie Harris
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Ralph & Mitzi Moses
Phil & Iris Seydel

In memory of
Irene Braun
Barbara & Larry Goldberg

In memory of
Helen Burhart
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In memory of
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Thomas L. Harris

In memory of
Sara & Tommy Marker
Elizabeth J. Ruff

In memory of
Ralph & Mitzi Moses
Phil & Iris Seydel

Tributes

In honor of
Janet Beals Orejudos
Rose Anne Beals

In honor of
Elaine Carlino
Evelyn Klein

In honor of
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Jamie & David Schwartz

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Open Studio Project is the greatest gift to Evanston
and to the world!

–Don Seiden, Professor Emeritus, Art Education and Art Therapy,
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, author, artist, and OSP participant.
OSP: Like Nowhere Else

I love these classes! Jan's fabulous approach allows creativity and creating to happen in a way that helps children develop and explore. Jan's classes are the highlight of my summer with my kids. It is such a nurturing, supportive environment – there is nowhere else like it.

–Shana Bernstein, parent of Ruby and Mira, participants in Jan Ellenstein’s Art & Adventure classes