Dear Friends

Teresa, a nine year old at Washington Elementary, wrote in her journal after an Art & Action workshop, "I am creative and smart."

Fred, a youth development professional at an Art & Renewal workshop shared, "This is definitely a powerful healing tool."

And Connie, a Connecting with the Creative Process participant, wrote, "I found relaxation, a chance to create, self insight, and connection."

We are proud to have shared Open Studio Project's unique art and writing process with these youth and adults, and with hundreds more through our classes, workshops, and gallery shows. The Open Studio Process is a universally adaptable tool, bringing insight, self-esteem, and self care to children, adults, and professionals.

We are so thankful to our friends, volunteers, donors, and leaders, all of whom make it possible to share this process with so many — from two-year-olds, elementary school children and teens, to adults, therapists, and counselors.

As we bring the creative process to individuals and groups here in Evanston and around the world, we thank you for helping us to enrich the lives of so many.

Sincerely,

Kay Israelite
Board President

Janet Beals Orejudos
Executive Director
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 together.

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 25 years ago, the Open Studio 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 within a comment-free group setting, 3) Writing a Witness — writing about one’s art and the Process experience, and 4) Voluntary sharing of one’s art and writing — without criticism or praise, feedback, or any 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 locally and nationwide who want to use it in their own practices. Our goal is to help others use the Open Studio Process as a safe and reliable technology for personal exploration, enjoyment, and growth — and to use the Process ourselves as a personal and Open Studio Project business tool.

Through classes, workshops, partnerships, exhibits, and community activities, we offer the OSP Process as a means for reflection, resilience, and creative resourcefulness.
Our special partnership with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago allowed us to bring students from the Exploring Community Art Practices class to Evanston. These college students work with kids from Nichols Middle School here in our Studio, and curate a well-attended gallery show of the students' work.

Over 100 2-5 year olds were served in Art & Adventure classes.

Youth in our after school programs are 68% African American, 28% Latino, and 5% White; 25% age 5-9 and 75% age 10-13.

OSP has trained people in 30 cities and 4 countries to facilitate the OSP Process in their home communities.

OSP nourished creativity and self esteem in over 350 kids in Evanston schools, in a camp for challenged kids, and at Open Studio Project.

"This is the one class, of all the classes my kids have taken through their preschool years, that we never miss. From when Gus was barely crawling, dipping his fingers in glue, to when our older girl Chloe thoughtfully and mindfully plots her latest artwork, it is always a joy on Tuesday mornings. "Artist Hands!" we always chant anytime our hands get dirty, and we always think fondly of "Teacher Jan."

— Caroline Dehnert, parent of Gus and Chloe, Art & Adventure children’s class participants

"Very open space...people are open to learning from one another and taking a risk or two."

— Chicago Public School counselor and Art & Renewal participant
**One Car Garage**  
Dustin Harris’ assemblages of salvaged wood, found objects and images, and mixed media populated this show, named for his current studio space.

**Facilitator Exhibit 2014**  
Mixed media pieces by OSP Facilitators Janet Beals Orejudos, Dayna Block, Cal Calvird, Karen Daughtry, Jan Ellenstein, Barbara Goldberg, Ted Harris, Saralina Kamholtz, and Karla Rindal.

**The Open Studio Process Facilitator Training Program Graduation Celebration and Show**  
Mixed media artwork made by OSP’s third training class during their sixteen month Facilitator Training Program experience.

**Who Makes Peace?**  
Chicagoan of the Year and OSP Award winner Indira Johnson shared her work created during the city-wide year-long Ten Thousand Ripples Project, as well as other work.

**Dignity, the Quest**  
Interactive exhibit by graduate art therapy student Andrea Velasco, describing her journey.

**Art for Change**  
Art created by Nichols Middle School students in the Youth Organization Umbrella (YOU) after school program, curated by Exploring Community Art Practices students from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The two groups worked together for ten weeks to produce a variety of creative projects.

**Untitled**  
Photography by Evanston Township High School student Jane Zunamon, as part of her Senior Studies project. All proceeds were donated to Open Studio Project.

**Positive Images 2014**  
Mixed media. Art created by men and women living with HIV/AIDS as part of Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) art groups facilitated by artist/art therapist Dan Anthon.
TOP 10 OSP HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

1. **Service to Community Grows through Partnerships**
   Open Studio Project served almost 250 children in partnership with YOU, PEER Services, School District 65, and Jocelyn Center’s Camp Neeka in Northfield.

   Through partnerships with Youth Organizations Umbrella (Y.O.U.) and District 65, we provided our unique art workshops to close to 150 youth ages 10-15 at four elementary and two middle schools in Evanston.

   We brought art to kids ages 8-12 and their counselors at Camp Neeka, a therapeutic day camp for kids with social, emotional or behavioral difficulties. At PEER Services, our art and writing process benefitted high school youth in drug and alcohol recovery.

   New this year is our partnership with WYO, the Winnetka Youth Organization, which fosters individual development in high school youth from the North Shore.

2. **New Workshops for Professionals Exceed Goal**
   Starting in November, we offered *Art & Renewal*: a one-day Open Studio Process workshop for professionals in the “helping” fields. Growing in popularity, these workshops allow individuals to make art, reduce stress, and introduce practitioners to the OSP Process, while providing both self care and CEU’s. In its first year, workshop attendance exceeded our goal by 60%.

3. **New In-Service Trainings Benefit Partners**
   In FY2014, we held seven in-service trainings serving 66 people at partner agencies - double the number from previous years. Through these trainings we served PEER Services youth prevention and treatment staff, Hines VA Hospital veterans and staff, Y.O.U. youth development and administrative staff, and an arts-based research class from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

4. **More Children and Adults Attend OSP Classes**
   Thanks to a Root2Fruit Alumni grant from the Evanston Community Foundation which funded a grassroots marketing campaign, adult and children’s class participation increased last year: Open Studio Project enrolled 26% more adult students and 11% more children.

5. **OSP Creates Community Artmaking Experiences**
   OSP volunteers helped festival-goers of all ages at Evanston’s Ethnic Arts Festival create a large, colorful, interactive community weaving. At Streets Alive on Main Street, we helped children and families create the Sears Tower, the San Francisco Bay Bridge and dozens of other buildings and structures out of cardboard boxes, glue, and paint.
TOP 10 OSP HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

6 Facilitator Trainings Expand for a Second Year
Open Studio Project held a record six weekend facilitator trainings in FY2014 — one every other month. We graduated a third class of facilitators and started both a fourth and fifth class. The 16 month training program includes five weekend intensives.

Participants included individuals from varied backgrounds including therapists, social workers, and artists, who want to bring the Open Studio Process to their own communities. Trainees come from Chicagoland and over 25 cities nationwide.

The many graduates eager to expand their practices led to our first Advanced Topics weekend intensive, “Doing the Process with Kids.”

7 New Strategic Plan Approved
Open Studio Project Board of Directors finalized and approved a three-year Strategic Plan for 2015-17.

8 OSP Process Extends to New Communities
Graduates of our Facilitator Training are using the Open Studio Process to serve their own communities in a variety of ways. In Vermont, Lisa holds process arts groups for children with disabilities and their parents. In Oregon, Pam is using the Open Studio Process for personal healing (from cancer). In rural Ontario, Linda’s medical center uses our art process to foster wellness and community cohesion.

9 Facilitator Training Goes International
Our first International Facilitator Training included participants from Chicago, South Korea, Colombia, and Ontario, Alberta, and Quebec, Canada. In ten packed days, participants immersed themselves in the OSP Process, then made plans to share this work with others in their home communities.

They’ll be in communication via a special website and return next year to complete Part 2 of their training. Our Colombian participant plans to bring our art and writing process to at-risk kids in her country, while another trainee is taking a two-month trip to her South Korea homeland, with plans to explore how to culturally translate what she learned.

10 OSP Presents at International Conference
OSP Co-Founder Pat Allen and Facilitation Director Karla Rindal were invited to present the OSP Process at Concordia University Montreal’s “Can Art Transform Communities?” Participants explored arts-based social inclusion projects — or “art hives” — as a model for community creativity.
It was helpful and inspirational — so many opportunities to use this for personal and professional life. Thank you!

Art & Renewal participant
Deanna Accurso
Allison Adams
Pat & John Allen
David & Stephanie Altman
Beverly & Donald Anderson
Anonymous (2)
Leda Arriaga
The Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development

Ness Baagil
Lesli Babbs
Ann & Brian Balusek
Cindy Banfield
Sanford & Renee Bank
Mrs. Rose Anne Beals
Janet Beals Orejudos & Gil Orejudos

Steven Bernstein & Jeanne Cleveland
Jodi Block and Barry Malkin
Dayna Block & Joe Castro
Bruce & Sammie Block
Lynn Bowers
Amy & Patrick Boyle
Jim & Sheila Bridenstine
Cynthia & Thomas Bridges
Beth Sprecher Brooks
Erin Brown & Marshall Glanzer
Jeannette Brown
Jeannine Burgdorf
Kathleen A. Burke & Lee Horton
Ursula Burton
Kimberly Bush
Dr. & Mrs. Gary Butler
Ross Bye

Cal Calvird
Peter Campbell
Anne Canter
Mark Caro & Mary Dixon
Leonard & Virginia Carr
Lisa & Michael Cerrina
Rana & Denny Chandler
The Charles Jacob Foundation
Leigh Ann Charlot
Adam & Rachel Chiss
Churchill Family Foundation
City of Evanston, Community Development Block Grant
City of Evanston, in partnership with the Evanston Arts Council & the Illinois Arts Council
Laura & Brian Clark
Clayton A. Struve Family Foundation
Pate Conaway
Any Cordell
Randi Cutler

Laura & Mark Daniel
Karen Daughtry
Mary Demetrio
Mort & Reva Denlow
Lisa Dinencenzo
Buck Dodson & Kevin Purvis
Jim & Mary Dougherty
Jennifer Downing
Kaitlin Drury
Richard & Dianne Duda

Efroymson Family Fund, a CICF Fund
Richard Elia
Elizabeth Beidler Tisdahl Foundation
Lon Ellenberger
Jan Ellenstein
David, Denise, Jamie & Will Ellenstein
Evanston Township High School
Philanthropy Committee
Evanston Community Foundation
root2fruit Program

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Eric & Yvonne Feldman
Vanessa Filley & Zachary Charles Zises
Rebecca & Adam Finkelstein
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Teresa Foote
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Dana Hirt
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Axelle S. Horstmann
Alex Hoyne & Alexis Elmore
Daisy M. Hu

Illinois Arts Council Agency
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Kay & Dan Israelite
Barbara & Jerry Israelite

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Indira & Karl Johnson
Joslin Lake Design
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Rachel Juris

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Jill Kapson
Barbara & Leon Keer
Elizabeth Kinney
Evelyn Klein
Donna Kuo & Peter Semon

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William & Susan Laing
Ian & Sarah Laing
Deanna Lesht
Karen Levin
Lauren & Fredric Levy
Doris & Norm Libman
David Lipschultz
Dorrie & John Lloyd-Still
Rebecca Lotsoff
Leslie Luning
Rusty Lynn
Kathy Lyons

Kate Mahoney
Marilyn Malkin & Larry Wolf
Jennifer Glazer Malkin
Ellen Mardock & Tom Robison
Majia Martin
Craig & Stacy Masur
Viola Mayol
Deanne McCannon
Sue & Doug McDonald
Kathleen McDonald
McMillan Family
Joanne Medak
Sandra Meier Kueng
Fritz & Fay Michaelis
Simona Michel
Marianne & Thomas Moberly
Erin Mooney

93XRT Chicago  Actors Gymnasium  American Youth Soccer Organization  Art + Science  As You Like It Salon & Gallery  Belgian Chocolatier Piron  Blind Faith Cafe  Bruce and Sammie Block  Ellen Burton
Tributes

In honor of Dayna Block & Joseph Castro
Karen Daughtry & George Gerdow
Jennifer Glazer Malkin
Sarah, Nell & Pearl Wood-Prince

In honor of Jodi Block
Sacks Family Foundation

In honor of Ellen J. Burton
Ursula Burton

In honor of Willow Daughtry-Krill
Laura & Brian Clark

In honor of Ted Harris
Sanford & Renee Bank
Evelyn Klein
Viola Mayol
Jean Murray
Barbara Schrayer

In honor of Nancy Harvey
Helen Ramirez-Odell

In honor of Guylaine Herzig
Axelle S. Horstmann
Helena Powers

In honor of Billy B. Horrell
Niki Moe Horrell

In honor of Sue and Doug McDonald
Frank & Judy Wilhelme

In memory of Jeremy Kramer
Rachel Juris

In honor of Peter Hunt Thompson
Jim & Mary Dougherty

OSP provided our unique Art & Action after school classes for kids at King Arts, Dawes, Washington and Oakton Elementary Schools and Chute and Nichols Middle Schools.

W here else can one go to throw paint on a piece of paper without judgment? The Open Studio Project is a liberating place to be. At the Open Studio, I am free to choose colors and techniques without the unsolicited input of helpful guidance, and yet be surrounded by an accepting, supportive community. It’s amazing! And it’s fun!

Maria Valdez-Perez, Connecting With The Creative Process class participant
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