

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! May 2021 bring everyone health and new beginnings!

In case you have not heard, on December 14, the City Council approved Jackson School of the Arts' purchase of the former Vermeulen's building! We are going to have a new home in the Fall! What an incredible blessing as we close in on our 20 year anniversary! The Masonic is an incredibly beautiful building but moving to the other side fits JSA so much better.

As promised, we were looking for a facility that provided:

- Handicap Accessibility
- Enhanced safety and security
- More space for growth and program expansion
- Central location in the heart of downtown, under the same roof, right sized for mission based work
- Support the revitalization of a historic building

New Opportunities with the space:

- JSA's purchase of the building serves as a catalyst to allow other projects to pick up where they left off and look to the finish line (Consumers Energy investment in the Kitchen)
- Own the building vs. a lease agreement with the City of Jackson
- Continued collaboration and partnership with City as they will lease from JSA

January is also bringing us the long awaited Frida Kahlo exhibit. We are working with Ella Sharp Museum on co-hosting the exhibit. Make sure you check out all of the extra programming and events surrounding this amazing partnership. The Jackson District Library has jumped on board and is offering special programming also. We are really excited to continue to develop community partnerships! The exhibit runs January 28th - March 16. Visit the Ella website: <https://ellasharpmuseum.org/exhibits/frida-kahlos-garden/> for more information.

January will also bring back Art for All! We are eternally grateful to the Rotary Club of Jackson and the Rotary Foundation of Jackson County for a grant to underwrite this program! See some pictures in the newsletter of the outreach we have been doing at David's Promise/Compassionate Ministries of Jackson this last fall. This grant funding will allow us to continue the work and also have students back at JSA on Friday afternoons.

If you have any questions, concerns or just want to say hi let me know! Please feel free to email carolyn@jacksonarts.org or call me at 517-784-2389 and we can set up a time to talk! Stay safe and I hope to see you soon!

Carolyn Moser



**THANK YOU FROM
OUR STUDENTS
AND STAFF
FOR SUPPORT OF
OUR FUTURE HOME**

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Executive Director

ART FOR ALL RETURNS

AND EXPANDS INTO THE COMMUNITY THANKS TO LOCAL ROTARY ORGANIZATION SUPPORT



Our mission at Jackson School of the Arts is to make the quality Arts education accessible to all in our community – regardless of their financial means or abilities. Thanks to the Rotary Club of Jackson and the Rotary Foundation of Jackson County, we now have the needed financial support to not only bring back our Art for All program, but to broaden its reach during this challenging season.

Art for All is a program started by Jackson School of the Arts to promote inclusivity for people with disabilities. We have multiple teachers that help our students feel comfortable while expanding their knowledge and creativity. Projects have been varied and allow students to work at their own pace and gain practical skills while discovering their strengths. Class participants learned about different foundations visual art concepts, tried out different techniques and made friends along the way.

Traditionally, this class has been held at our Mechanic St facility twice a month. This has limited the number of people and abilities of the individuals who are able to participate – especially with the physical restrictions of our current building. This year, we have expanded this program by offering it at David's Promise and disAbility Connections. Both of these locations are fully accessible and have deep ties to the community.

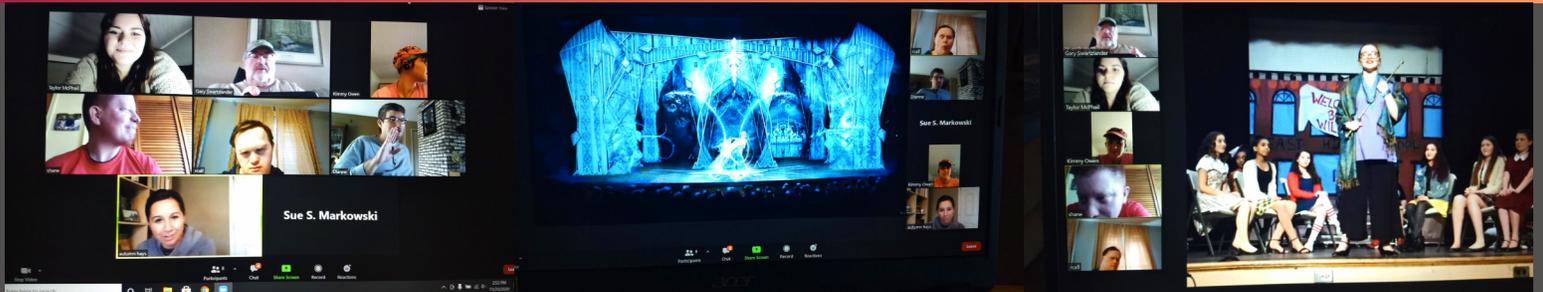
For those of you not familiar with these two organizations, David's Promise promotes an inclusive, faith-based community where people with and without intellectual and physical disabilities can come together as one. disAbility Connections works to build the independence, productivity and full inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in the communities of Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee counties. We are honored to be able able to partner with both of these organizations and supplement their mission and abilities.

While there is still a modest costs for each student participating in Art for All, the class is now heavily subsidized by the grant from Rotary Club of Jackson and Rotary Foundation of Jackson County. We are honored that they have seen the potential impact we can have on our local community.



ART FOR ALL ADDS THEATER ELEMENT

ADAPTING OUR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS NEW ERA



In our Art For All class in 2019, we added a Dance session to the class's second hour in the week. While our students had a lot of fun with it and learned some new skills, the COVID-19 situation definitely made this opportunity more challenging.

At Jackson School of the Arts, we are an adaptive bunch, so we have been swapping in a Theater session to the class in Dancing's stead and it's been quite a success so far.

Our newest instructor, Taylor McPhail has been overseeing this project and has been working with the student via Zoom video meetings to give them some introductory exposure to the world of theater and prep their skills until the class can meet together in person.

BRING ARTS OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

OUR NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JACKSON INTERFAITH SHELTER BRINGS JOY THIS SEASON



Much like with the Art for All program, we have been looking for more innovative ways to broaden our reach outside of our own facilities to make a larger, positive impact on our community.

Thanks to the support of United Way of Jackson and the Jackson Community Foundation, we at the Jackson Interfaith Shelter have received a grant to enter into a year-long partnership with Jackson School of the Arts.

The Jackson Interfaith Shelter's mission is working with people experiencing homelessness by providing emergency shelter, prepared meals and assisting with other physical, emotional and spiritual needs when possible.

As you can imagine, their clients are in a challenging point in their life and adding some exposure and experience in the arts can not only give much needed color and joy to their day, but spark some creative elements that can help them as they look to start a new chapter in their lives.

Our Jackson School of the Arts team has shared a handful of interesting projects to suit the seasons including birdhouses, pumpkins, and different types of paintings. Many also contributed to a collaborative painting on a large canvas. The joy on their faces was priceless, as they poured paint onto the canvas, used their paintbrushes, hands, cups, stamps, plates and fingers to create this stunning masterpiece.

Each of these creations from this fall were added to the display in the CP Federal Gallery in downtown Jackson through January 5th. This "Spirit of Giving Holiday Showcase", which also included works from our David's Promise collaboration, is a collection of artwork and information from establishments in our community that help people and families in need.

As we enter 2021, we are looking forward to even more opportunity to provide art classes and other creative outlets these Jackson families.

FRIDA KAHLO INSPIRATIONS

WINTER & SPRING BRING FRESH OPPORTUNITIES



To accompany our collaboration with the Ella Sharp Museum and their Frida Kahlo exhibit, we have two season-long Frida-inspired classes for our younger students: Fun & Fabulous Preschool Art: Frida's Garden (for Ages 3 to 4 with parent or caregiver), which meets on Thursdays from 11:00-11:45 AM and Paint, Pour, Explore... Frida! which has two age groups (Ages 5 to 8 and Ages 9 to 13) and meets on Thursday afternoons.

Each of these classes will include an opportunity for a field trip to Ella Sharp Museum, to tour the Frida Kahlo Exhibit for inspiration. Each student will also have a selected piece of their artwork hung in the Frida Pop Up Gallery at the Ella Sharp Museum.

We also have a special one-day workshop for a variety of ages. Frida's Flowers Painting on Canvas will have two installments: Ages 5 to 13 will meet on Saturday, February 20th from 2:00-4:00PM and Ages 14 on up (Adults of all ages welcome) meet on Saturday, February 27th from 2:00-4:00PM.

In this workshop, our wonderful instructor will show you how to create a mixed-media canvas art piece filled with bright colors and beautiful flowers! Enjoy the company of friends, work on your art piece, and enjoy some refreshments.

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Big or small, we can securely accept payments via Credit Cards and PayPal.

If you have any questions along the way, just email us at info@jacksonarts.org or call us at (517) 784-2389 and we will be glad to help.

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