



June News

Little Houses Update, Window Exhibitions, Kids Crafts & More

From Our Executive Director, Mary Schmidt



It's been a (pick your adjective) disturbing, erratic, confusing, frightening time for all of us. But, OFFCenter is going to be more than okay.

During the first emotionally exhausting weeks of "Stay Home, Stay Safe" some days *my* big mental feat was knowing what day it was when I woke up. And, unfortunately, there is no ED handbook for "Global Pandemic" but here we are, and OC will continue!

We're not "doing away" with Little Houses...or Open Studio, or our workshops and work groups. I've heard some are worried that OC is somehow going away or *drastically* changing. That's not happening. But the thing that has always been so special at OC -- groups of people coming together -- is simply not safe these days. Thus, the board, very reluctantly,

voted to cancel the Little Houses event this year, but that doesn't mean we won't have Little Houses exhibited (and possibly sold) in other ways. We are *not* abandoning our artists who are making or have already made houses. The staff and I are talking ideas and we'll send out info to artists and supporters soon. And, Little Houses, as an event, *will* be back, possibly as part of our 2021 anniversary celebrations.

OC has a phase I re-open plan for June and July, with more online activity, window exhibitions, art kits for adults and kids, and two workshops in July. We hope to have a limited open studio again starting in August. Board member/puppet artist Janine Al-Bayati, puppet group leader Joe Munley, and studio/gallery coordinator Asenath Lizzaraga are talking about online puppet singalongs. Asenath has designed a Kids' Summer Craft Series (more about that later in this eletter). Helen Atkins, our program manager, has contacted our work group and workshop leads re potentially doing those virtually. And, our writing group, led by Many Gardner, continues on with their virtual work, which will be in our first Windows Exhibition, "Words from Afar." We're also contacting care agencies about how we might safely serve them, with, for example, private, scheduled

hours.

We're doing more with social media. Ashley Kincaide, whom some of you also know from OT Circus, is social media/online sales lead and working with the rest of us to ensure we get the word out, promote our artists, and - yes - have some fun. If you don't do so already, follow us on Facebook. Her recent post about "found object green things" had some great responses, as people posted *their* found object green things.

And, I'd be remiss without thanking Laura Randolph, [Mama's Minerals](#) and Sarah Mandala, former OC program manager and now ED of [ARTsmart](#), for recently joining me in our first virtual development meeting, in which they gave me their candid feedback on OC plans and shared some great ideas.

Enough from me. Read on for Helen Atkins about Window Exhibitions and Asenath's Summer Kids' Craft Series. And more to come!

If you can, an online donation is much appreciated. We'll put it to good use in developing more programs and changing our studio for better use and safety.

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From Helen Atkins, Program Manager Window Exhibitions!



OFFCenter is excited to introduce our new Window Exhibition series, a safe way to share the voice of our creative community. Our first two exhibitions, which will be featured in the July 3rd ArtWalk, are a direct response to the new world we find ourselves in.

"Words from Afar" showcases the writings of OFFCenter's weekly writers group, who have been meeting virtually since the onset of the pandemic. They offer words of encouragement and truth with their short poems and four word self help advice. A personal favorite: "Cry when you need to" by Susan Page.

These stories were turned into artistic signs by OFFCenter staff. The exhibit is a collaborative effort to share our voice with the world, especially in a time that can feel so isolating.

"Home" collects artworks inspired by, and made at home. What does home mean to you? This series explores that question as home takes on a new meaning, with new struggles. **Works in any media can be dropped off at OFFCenter on June 23rd from 12:00-4:00.**

Stay tuned for more exhibits including "Create in Crisis" and a solo exhibit by our Evolving Artist Harley Kirschner.

Questions, Ideas? Helen.Atkins@offcenterarts.org

Kids' Summer Craft Series
Designed & Led by Asenath Lizzaraga
Free for Kids of All Ages!

Beginning Tuesday, June 16, we'll have a fun craft activity every Tuesday, from 11 to noon, using supplies you already have around the house or can pick up from us. First up, egg cartons! And, of course, we encourage parents and caregivers to join the fun. Every Wednesday, we'll be posting (on Facebook) and emailing you what supplies are needed for the following week so you can gather at home or pick up at OC. And, a Zoom invite will be sent to you.

RSVP asenath.lizarraga@offcenterarts.org for each activity.

Activity Schedule for Kids' Summer Craft Series!



June:



June 16th

11am-12pm

1. Multicolor Viewer

A magical viewer to see the world in new ways using just an egg carton, colored cellophane, glue and a popsicle stick!



June 23rd

11am-12pm

2. Decorate an art box with homemade wrapping paper

Simple printmaking activity for decorating an art box to fill with supplies!

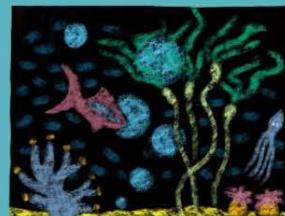


June 30th

11am-12pm

3. Magic crayon and paint pictures

Make a vibrant crayon drawing and watch the colors pop as you paint a black watercolor wash over it!



Call for Donations of Tablets/ iPads Kids Can Borrow

We could use them for the kids in the crafts series who don't have access to those already.

Let [Asenath know](#) if you can help.

*Every Contribution Makes a Difference.
There's No Such Thing as a Donation That's Too Small.*



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Your contributions are tax deductible as according to law.*

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