



December 2, 2020



Dear Community Members,

I've been privileged to serve on the Board of Directors for Able ARTS Work (AAW) for four years. Founded in Long Beach in 1982, Able ARTS Work's primary mission is "Love Before Learning. Learn for Life." Their core service provides a 30-hour per week adult day program to 150 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Grant-funded outreach programs serve over 2,000 at-risk youth through music therapy services on Headstart preschool campuses and K-12th grade special education classes, and after school art, music, and theater workshops to at-risk youth throughout Los Angeles County.

I continue to be amazed by the love, services, and opportunities the non-profit gives to adults and children with disabilities. My passion for helping Able ARTS Work grows as I hear stories about staff assisting clients in moving out of depression and isolation and into creating art and music that celebrates their abilities and earns them income. And now, I'm asking you to join me in helping them meet another milestone.

On November 7th, Able ARTS Work launched a capital campaign, *A Home of Our Own*, to purchase a building in Long Beach. Helen Dolas, the Founder and CEO of Able ARTS Work, has long been dreaming of having a permanent facility for AAW clients in the Long Beach community. This dream is coming closer to reality as a longtime partner of the Able ARTS Work plans to give a large legacy donation for a down-payment on a building.

Able ARTS Work administration and Board members have begun searching for Long Beach buildings. Their need for 12,000 square feet of space puts the purchase price between \$2-\$2.5 million. Our capital campaign aims to raise \$1.5 million to fund projected renovation costs and pay off the remaining mortgage.

After 38 years of service in Long Beach, having a more professional looking home in a high traffic area will help build our brand, expand our programs, and provide clients opportunities to earn income and contribute to their community. We've already seen this happen with our clients selling more artwork and products in two weeks at our temporary gallery at 2nd & PCH than they had sold in the last twelve months. A high visibility building also positions us to further community integration by opening our doors for public workshops, gallery shows, and other events. Ownership of a building strengthens our financial health and will help AAW leverage additional grants to support our Long Beach youth outreach programs.

Having a home of our own in Long Beach also allows us to have a cultural community center to welcome marginalized groups to come together to train, take refuge, and have thoughtful conversations about how the community can be leaders of inclusions. I'm asking for your help to make this dream come true for Able ARTS Work. All donations are tax-deductible. Contributions big and small will be recognized by donor name recognition on studios within the building for donations above \$100,000 and on a large piece of artwork within the building for other big and small contributions. AAW will give social media and print acknowledgment to donating corporations throughout the year-long campaign.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Igreti
Board Chair

