



CHRIS AUSTIN *Bojana She is a Really Good Artist*

ARTS OF LIFE • CIRCLE CONTEMPORARY — CHICAGO • GLENVIEW

“Arts of Life has been a valuable partner for The Other Art Fair since our launch in Chicago in 2018. We particularly like their approach of exhibiting Arts of Life artists alongside the work of other professional artists from the city. This inspires thoughtful conversation about the contemporary art scene and echoes The Other Art Fair’s own inclusive ethos of championing artistic talent. We are always excited to see what Arts of Life and their artists do next!” **Sophie Lucas, The Other Art Fair**

2000+ volunteer studio hours
\$78k+ worth of artwork sold
20 events and exhibitions

including those hosted at	
Chicago Athletic Association	The Other Art Fair
EXPO Chicago	The Outsider Art Fair (NYC)
The Franklin Building	Ralph Arnold Gallery
Ingress Gallery at Soho House	Ruschwoman
Jackson Junge Gallery	School of the Art Institute Chicago

REVENUE	\$	%
Institutional Giving	\$477,609	29%
Program Services	\$387,786	24%
Special Events	\$90,594	06%
Miscellaneous	\$151,878	09%
State of Illinois	\$286,351	17%
Individual Giving	\$243,636	15%
TOTAL	\$1,637,854	100%
EXPENSES	\$	%
Program Services	\$971,340	74%
Fundraising	\$217,954	17%
Management & General	\$128,747	10%
TOTAL	\$1,318,041	100%

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Reflecting donors who made a cumulative contribution of \$100+ between July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

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ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2022

Arts of Life advances the creative arts community by providing artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities a collective space to expand their practice and strengthen their leadership.

A renewed sense of optimism has arrived at Arts of Life. In our 2022 fiscal year, we were overjoyed to reunite with artists we hadn't seen in years and to welcome new artists into our community. While the pandemic is not quite in the rearview yet, we have built on lessons learned to charge into a new era. Our ambition, which had been stifled for far too long, returned stronger than ever. The results have already been astonishing.

We made huge strides in validating our artists’ place in the contemporary art world. Our two Circle Contemporary galleries reopened to the public with a series of five guest curated exhibitions. We also realized a years-long goal by taking part in not one by two international fairs for the first time. We exhibited at both the Outsider Art Fair in New York City and EXPO Chicago in 2022. We also continued our partnership with The Other Art Fair, this time as their featured charity partner.



We didn’t stop there. Our ambition pushed us to reconsider how and where we support our artists. Our new Community-Based Program will make our model of Collective Decision-Making more accessible. We will meet artists where they live and nurture smaller creative communities. We will forge new partnerships with art centers across Chicago-land. We will provide new art-making and networking opportunities to further integrate our artists into the broader community.

This expansion was jump-started by a remarkable investment from the Builders Initiative and made possible by each of you — our donors. With your unwavering support and commitment, we continue to adapt to our artists’ changing needs and push the sector forward. Thank you for your belief and generosity. I'm looking forward to what next year brings and the impact our artists’ work will make.

Warmly,
Denise Fisher
Founder and Executive Director

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