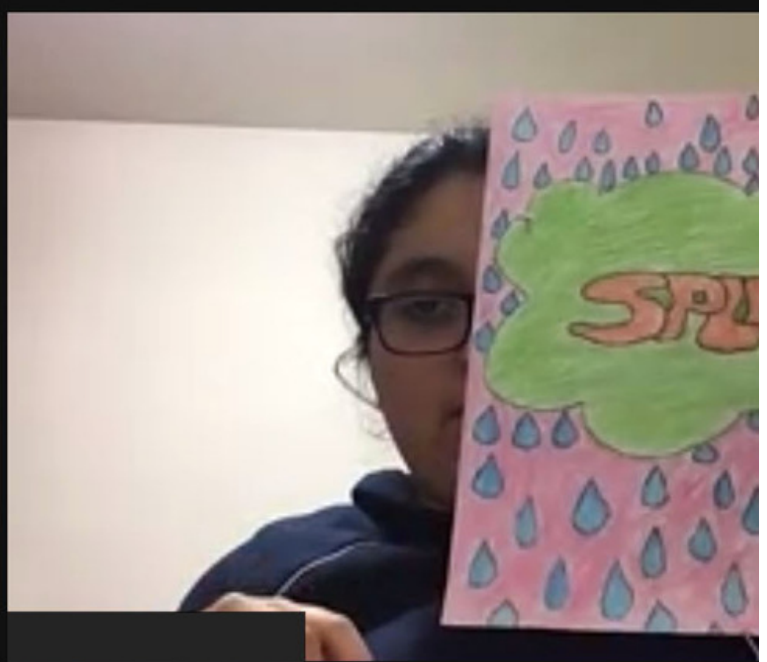
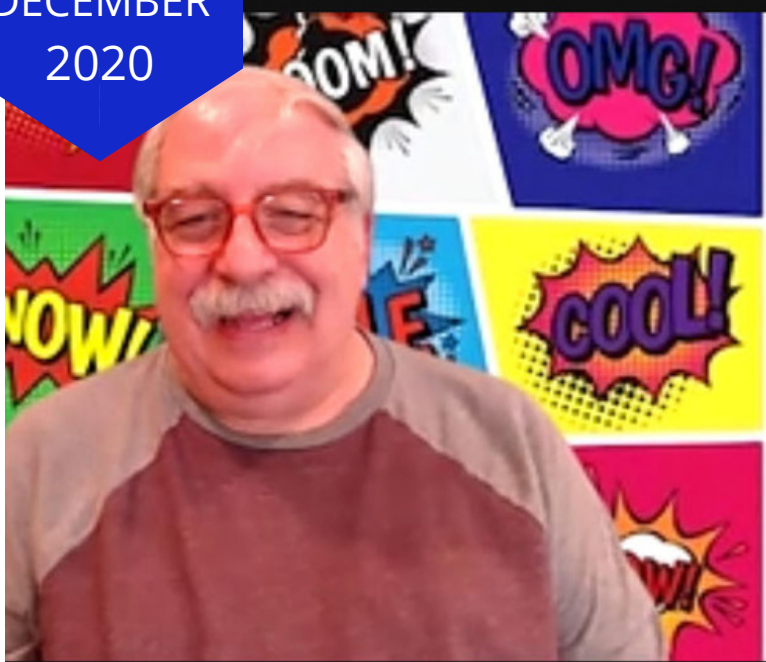


DECEMBER  
2020



# Hudson County Arts Immersion Project

EDUCATIONAL ARTS TEAM

THE OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES,  
HUDSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



Educational  
Arts Team





# THE HIGHLIGHTS

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**We believe** in the power of the arts to help young people realize academic success, increase self-worth, and create a vision of a positive future.

**We provide** fun and engaging activities in which participants explore artistic expression through visual arts, creative movement, karate and yoga.

**We embrace** people of all abilities at sites throughout Hudson County identified by the Hudson County Office of Disability Services.

**We value** wellness, self-expression, skills building, and socialization.

**We create** a space that ensures a healthy safe environment for all students.

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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## What We Did

In light of the pandemic, all workshops were conducted online and included young people of varying abilities from 4 community sites: Liberty Family Success Center, Skyway Family Success Center, Palisades Family Success Center and the Hudson Partnership CMO.

Each site met up to 2 days a week for a maximum of 2 hours. A total of 243 young people (114 with disabilities; 129 non-disabled) participated in 24 art workshops, 14 karate, and 8 yoga sessions.

The art lessons included themes such as: Cubism & Picasso, "Zentangle" drawings and "Pop Art." Participants explored the basic style of Spanish artist Pablo Picasso and created Cubist styled self-portraits. Young people really enjoyed making Zentangle drawings, a series of black & white abstract and unplanned designs forming beautiful patterns. The Adventures in Pop Art sessions included reimagining and rendering common place objects, comic strips, soup cans, newspapers, and product logos into brightly colors paintings and collages.

This year's program also included two bodywork activities:

Special Dragons Karate, especially designed for young people with Special Needs, is a family friendly activity and family members were encouraged to join in. This year's yoga sessions included mindfulness training, asanas and breath work. These focused on developing both mental and physical strength and were taught by Ms. Jamie, a licensed yoga teacher.

## Why We Did It

Independent researchers have documented how our literacy work has helped thousands of young people increase their academic achievement and improve pro-social, cognitive and critical thinking skills.

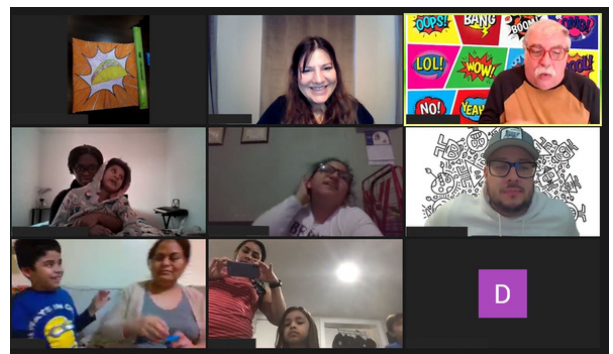
We give young people experiences in new art mediums that nurture confidence and accomplishment. Our goal is to develop a lifelong appreciation of the arts, enriching the lives of the participants by introducing them to various art forms and cultural institutions.

The purpose of this project is to bring together individuals of all abilities through artistic expression while building skills and relationships.

The program fosters feelings of personal and communal accomplishment, increases comfort with learning a new art medium, and develops a life-long appreciation and engagement with the arts community.

## Where We Did It

- Hudson Partnership CMO
- Skyway Family Success Center
- Palisades Family Success Center
- Liberty Family Success Center





# BY THE NUMBERS

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**24**

Art Workshops

**14**

Karate Workshops

**8**

Yoga Workshops

**114**

Participants With Disabilities

**243**

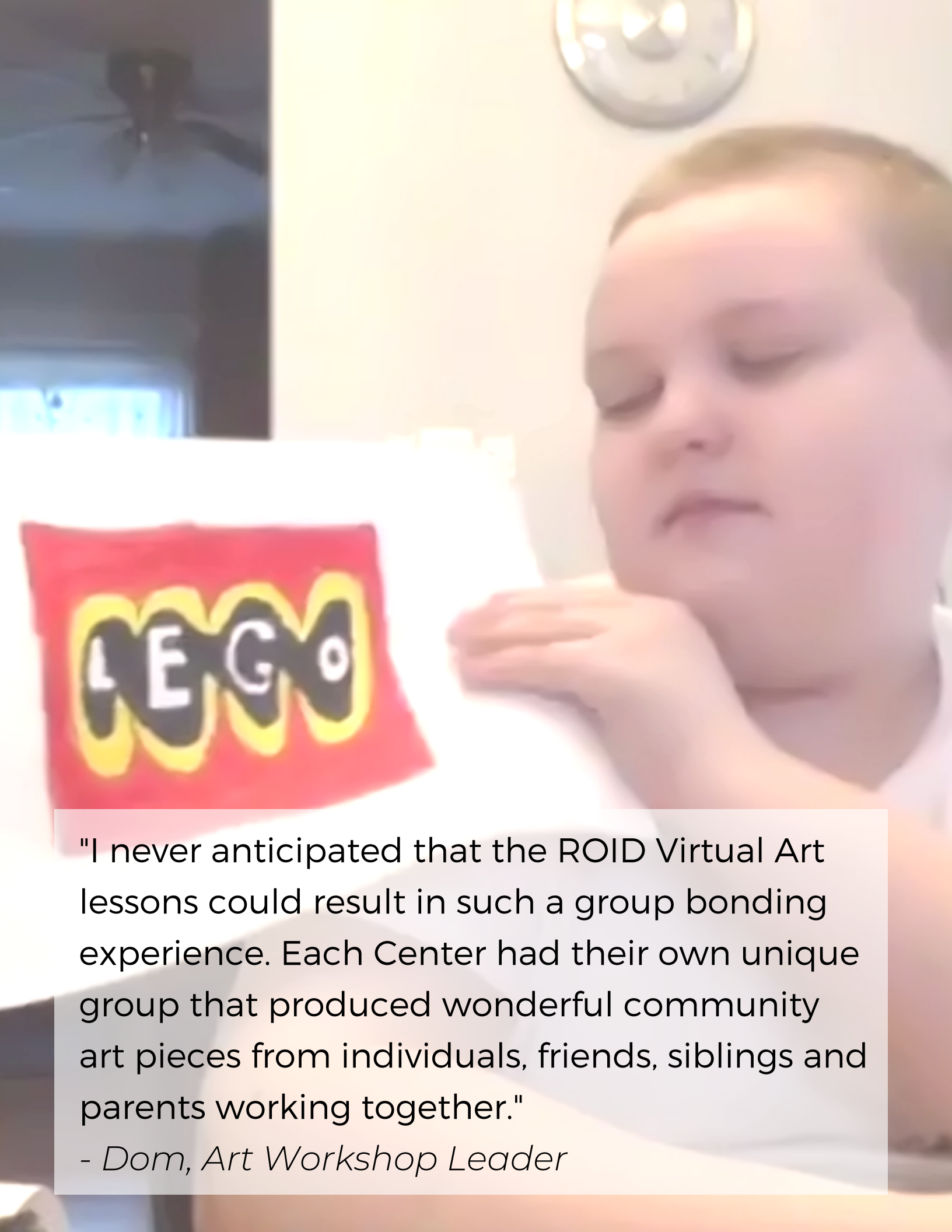
Total Participants



"The students made measurable gains in eye/hand coordination, motor control, conditioning, time on task, and focus: all typical challenges for many children with autism..."

..Thank you for making this opportunity possible where our special children become the stars."

- George Bostory, *SPECIAL DRAGONS*



"I never anticipated that the ROID Virtual Art lessons could result in such a group bonding experience. Each Center had their own unique group that produced wonderful community art pieces from individuals, friends, siblings and parents working together."

- Dom, Art Workshop Leader

# THANK YOU

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**The Educational Arts Team would like to acknowledge the following foundations and government agencies for their generous support and partnership.**

**Without them, we would not be able to fulfill our mission and have such a positive impact on the families and young people with whom we work.**

