

February 23, 2017

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Mission Task Force: Kristen Chou, Sari Hornstein, Heller An Shapiro

**RE:** New Mission Recommendation

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**Background:**

Task Force members reviewed data from the 76 completed strategic planning surveys, along with mission statements from local and national arts organizations, including Artivate, Phame, National Down Syndrome Society, AllStars, SEEC, and Imagination Stage.

The focus of ArtStream’s mission statement is to cover all of ArtStream’s current programs (social, performance and leadership classes, Inclusive Theatre Companies, Arts in Healthcare), while keeping the focus on ArtStream’s primary “customer,” who is a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities-including Autism (IDD). The word choices should demonstrate that people with IDD are active partners in ArtStream’s activities.

Task Force members also worked to align the mission with the following recommendations: “A mission statement is... a stated intention to make a difference for a person, place, or thing. The mission statement should:

- specify the difference you are committed to making
- specify the persons, places, or things you aim to impact
- express your ultimate intrinsic desire or what you want most

**Proposal:**

The Task Force members recommend the board review, revise, and adopt a version of the following:

**MISSION 2017:**

Through creative, collaborative, performance opportunities, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities [IDDs] gain the skills and confidence to engage with the world.

**PHILOSOPHY 2017:**

We believe that when people make their own choices and are engaged, stimulated, challenged and inspired, they surpass their own and others’ expectations and take on challenges they would never have considered at all.

**OUTCOMES 2017:**

ArtStream’s magic inspires

participants - who develop their talents, social skills, poise, and confidence that cascades into their roles offstage;

the actors, teaching artists, volunteer mentors - *all* of whom learn to *connect, listen, and understand* one another, in ArtStream's unique process of improvisation and drama;

the audience, performers and anyone who joins our community - who discover *beyond* their expectations - the joys of inventive, original, collaborative performance.

### **VISION 2017:**

ArtStream's vision is threefold:

To develop the leading models for self-advocacy and for original inclusive theatre for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

To help people engage with the arts to develop, process, and communicate their experiences and emotions, and to manage anxiety, loneliness and depression

To use the arts to empower individuals with IDD to participate and flourish in their communities

### **Rationale:**

The 2016 mission, philosophy and vision do not cover ArtStream's current activities. The wording is passive and does not show that people with IDD are full partners in the work. It limits fundraising opportunities because grant proposals for the Arts in Healthcare programs don't fit with the mission.

### **MISSION 2016**

ArtStream's mission is to bring to individuals with disabilities creative and performance opportunities that help them gain the confidence to engage with the world.

### **PHILOSOPHY 2016**

ArtStream's mission is based on the belief that when people are engaged, stimulated, challenged and inspired, they surpass perceived limitations and undertake challenges they might never have considered.

### **VISION 2016**

To use the arts as a means for social change by empowering individuals with disabilities to participate and flourish in inclusive communities, and to develop the leading models for self-advocacy and for creating original inclusive theatre.