

April 20, 2017

TO: Board of Directors

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

RE: New Vision Recommendation

Background:

During the February 23, 2017 meeting, Board members approved ArtStream’s new mission and philosophy, revised the proposed outcomes and vision, and requested that the Mission Task Force continue revising and return to the Board for final review. The Board recommended that the vision focus on how the world will look when ArtStream succeeds.

In developing the new Vision, it became clear that more information was needed in the Mission and Philosophy, in order to better define the vision of what the world will look like when ArtStream succeeds.

Proposal:

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

- Revise the mission to include “and lifelong learning.”

MISSION Proposed April 20, 2017:

Through collaborative performance and lifelong learning opportunities, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities gain the skills and confidence to engage with the world.

- Revise the philosophy to italicize “and” for emphasis.

PHILOSOPHY Proposed April 20, 2017:

We believe that when people make their own choices and are engaged, stimulated, challenged and inspired, they surpass their own *and* others’ expectations.

- Revise the vision to:

VISION Proposed April 20, 2017:

ArtStream’s vision is to build a truly inclusive world.

- Delete the Outcomes statement because it is already described in the mission and vision.

~~Proposed Outcomes~~

ArtStream's magic inspires

~~participants— who develop their talents, social skills, poise, and confidence;~~

~~the actors, teaching artists, volunteer mentors— who connect, listen, and understand one another within ArtStream's unique process of improvisation and drama;~~

~~the audience, performers, and anyone who joins our community— who discover the value of inclusiveness and the talents of people with disabilities.~~

Rationale:

Adding “lifelong learning” to the mission focuses on the learning and teaching aspects of ArtStream’s work, which is inherent in the performances, and also goes beyond performances to acknowledge the ability of people with IDD to continue learning throughout adulthood.

Wikipedia defines the phrase “lifelong learning” as: the "ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated"^[1] pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons. Therefore, it not only enhances social inclusion, [active citizenship](#), and personal development, but also self-sustainability, as well as competitiveness and employability.

References:

1. Department of Education and Science (2000). *Learning for Life: Paper on Adult Education*. Dublin: Stationery Office.
2. Commission of the European Communities: "Adult learning: It is never too late to learn". COM(2006) 614 final. Brussels, 23.10.2006.

MISSION Approved February 23, 2017:

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

Emphasizing “surpassing their own *and* other’s expectations” in the philosophy provides an opportunity to show the importance of changing perceptions of what people with IDD can accomplish.

PHILOSOPHY Approved February 23, 2017:

~~We believe that when people make their own choices and are engaged, stimulated, challenged and inspired, they surpass their own and others’ expectations.~~

The Outcome statement is unnecessary because the mission, philosophy and vision already express the desired outcomes.

ArtStream will succeed by creating a truly inclusive world where people with IDD belong and are welcome. The Task Force discussed the vision in personal terms, as a place where each child lives independently and contributes to the best of their abilities, continues to grow and learn, is welcomed and recognized for their skills, and belongs in the community.

The March 22, 2017, Supreme Court ruling in *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District*

was also part of Task Force's vision discussion. In its unanimous ruling, the Supreme Court said that a child's "educational program must be appropriately ambitious in light of his circumstances" and that "every child should have the chance to meet challenging objectives."

There are many ways to describe what the world will be like when it is truly inclusive. Concepts the Task Force discussed include:

- A truly inclusive world where lifelong learning empowers individuals to be part of their communities
- Continuous challenging lifelong learning where you are growing and stimulated and welcomed as full members of the community
- focusing on strengths/abilities rather than disabilities
- welcomed in
- belonging
- Challenging
- Empowering
- ambitions – requires us to step up/raising the bar
- continuous learning
- to be valued as a full member of the world,
- more generous/open/inclusive
- values contributions
- leverage strengths and abilities to empower people to engage and participate in community
- Belong to a community that welcomes you/us