

September 21, 2020

TO: ArtStream Board of Directors
FROM: Heller An Shapiro, Executive Director
RE: ArtStream Connection Update

BACKGROUND:

At the June 29, 2020 Board meeting, Delia Zielinski reported that at a Teaching Artist event on June 26, 2020, one Teaching Artist reported that an ArtStreamer who is restricted to her care home was crying, angry, lonely, and stated she feels she is in prison. Delia proposed that volunteer mentors, Teaching Artists or students be asked to check in on students, or that more check-in time is added to classes.

Molly Myers volunteered her son Joe to check in on this student via Facetime or Zoom. Board members acknowledged this “buddy program” is outside of our mission, but these are extraordinary times. Staff will complete a needs assessment to determine how widespread the issue is and what can be done to combat it. Irene Stephens offered to assist with a loneliness assessment.

ACTION:

- ArtStream Connection was launched August 26, 2020 with a puppet video showing a “buddy” phone call. The invitation served as a needs assessment.
- As of September 4, 2020, 11 ArtStreamers have enthusiastically signed up.
- A second video will be sent September 9, 2020 featuring two ArtStream actors in conversation.
- A flier was developed to further advertise the ArtStream Connection.