

Statement of Need

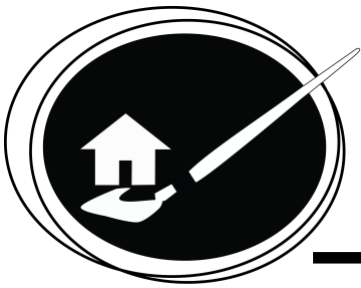
Engaging in the creative process of making art can improve and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of individuals with disabilities. Through creation and reflection process, participants can enjoy tactile and sensory stimulation, improve fine motor skills, increase awareness of self and others, enhance cognitive abilities, cope with stress, and enjoy the pleasure of unique self-expression. Adaptive art programs can address sensory issues by introducing individuals to new sensations in a non-threatening way by providing sensory stimulation that allows for creating through the five senses.

“You can think of sensations as ‘food for the brain’; they provide the knowledge needed to direct the body and the mind. Without well-organized sensory processes, sensations cannot be digested and nourish the brain.” ~ Jean Ayres

There is a decline in school-funded art programs as well as a lack of art programs specifically designed for individuals with special needs in low-income neighborhoods south of Chicago. Ephraim's House seeks to be intentional about providing accessible adaptive art experiences to children with significant learning needs residing in these neighborhoods. Instead of spending summer at home, Ephraim's House will provide them with a place to express their unique voices and cultivate their creativity. Our adaptive art programs use hands-on, process-based art lessons to ensure that our sessions are accessible. Our adaptive art programs encourage independence in confidence, self-expression in communication, and creativity in community.

Many of the clients Ephraim's House serves have significant disabilities. Depending on their specific disability, clients may have limited range of motion, limited use of their hands or arms, or use a wheelchair. Working with traditional art tools is sometimes not the most accessible option. Therefore, clients receive one-on-one instruction in how to use specific adapted art tools in mediums such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and mixed media.

For this particular project Ephraim's House will be working with an area school district to provide enrichment opportunities through the visual arts platform during a 4-week Summer Scholars Program in June of 2020. In order to provide participants with a fully adaptive, fully accessible experience unique to their learning needs Ephraim's House Community Art Center respectfully requests a \$10,000 contribution. Your support helps individual's develop sensory processing and fine motor skills, introduces individuals to new sensations in a non-threatening way, and allows for self-expression visually, offer problem-solving opportunities that boost confidence in choice making.



Budget for 4 Week Course During Summer 2020 for 10 Participants

Session Adaptive Art Tools/Materials/Supplies	\$7,250.00
4 Instructor Stipends	\$2,750.00
Total	\$10,000.00

Conclusion

“Ephraim’s House is a place where children of all abilities are loved and valued. There is a real emphasis on ability rather than disability. It is a joy to see the clients realize all their abilities!” ~ Missy Camiola (Client)

At Ephraim’s House Community Art Center, we desire to help clients work through their limitations. Art has many benefits for individuals with disabilities, including but not limited to improving fine motor skills, increasing interaction with and awareness of others, enhancing cognitive abilities, providing tactile and sensory stimulation. We have seen the wonderful benefits that sensory learning and integration through the visual arts can provide, and we hope you will partner with us to help more children with significant learning needs benefit from our adaptive art programs. Thank you for considering Ephraim’s House!

Blessings,
Jennifer Hunter
Director/ Founder