



August 11, 2014

Dear Friends and Supporters,

After a summer of hard work and enthusiasm **Who Gets to be An Artist?** is off to a great start. We are currently registering for Fall Session I and II. The level of interest is overwhelming and growing by the week. However the program is financially inaccessible to many. The generous contributions that have come in thus far been amazingly helpful to offset the start-up costs of the program.

These ongoing series of art workshops are very different than others in that it offers artists with disabilities customized accommodations and/or lessons, with one-on-one attention. Running one-on-one programs that include materials and custom tailored accommodations is an expensive undertaking. While these attributes are what makes our program unique and important, it is out of economic reach for some. The reality being that people with disabilities are often living well below the poverty line.

***The World Health Organization estimates that over 1 billion people in the world today are living with a disability - more than 1 in 7 of world's population. Disabled people have been recognized as the world's largest socially marginalized group and, compared to people without a disability, they suffer from poorer overall health, lower educational achievements, fewer employment opportunities and higher rates of poverty.***

In addition to people with disabilities grappling with financial hardships, the term “starving artist” refers to the lack of opportunities for artists to find work in an arts related field. An additional benefit of the **Who Gets to be An Artist?** program is that our art facilitators receive specialized training to fill what will be a continuously growing field. As “Baby Boomers” age and begin to face disability, and rates of children with disabilities such as autism are on the rise, organizations such as **Who Gets to be An Artist?** can offer career opportunities where there is a growing demand.

We believe strongly that art is more than simply a statement of expression. The art-making process improves and enhances one’s physical, mental, and emotional well-being. **Who Gets to be An Artist?** has a goal to never turn anyone away due to lack of funds. Your contribution directly can offer scholarships to those in need and keep our participants enrolled in this worthwhile program. It is with your generosity that **Who Gets to be An Artist?** will reach its full potential. Please consider making a contribution. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Robin S. Meyer / Director