



*A Creative Focus on the Abilities Through the Arts*

# ***Studio*4**

## Services and Programs Handbook

### **We Believe In**

A Person's Abilities

A Person's Gift

Accessibility

The Creative Voice

The Power of Art

Empowerment

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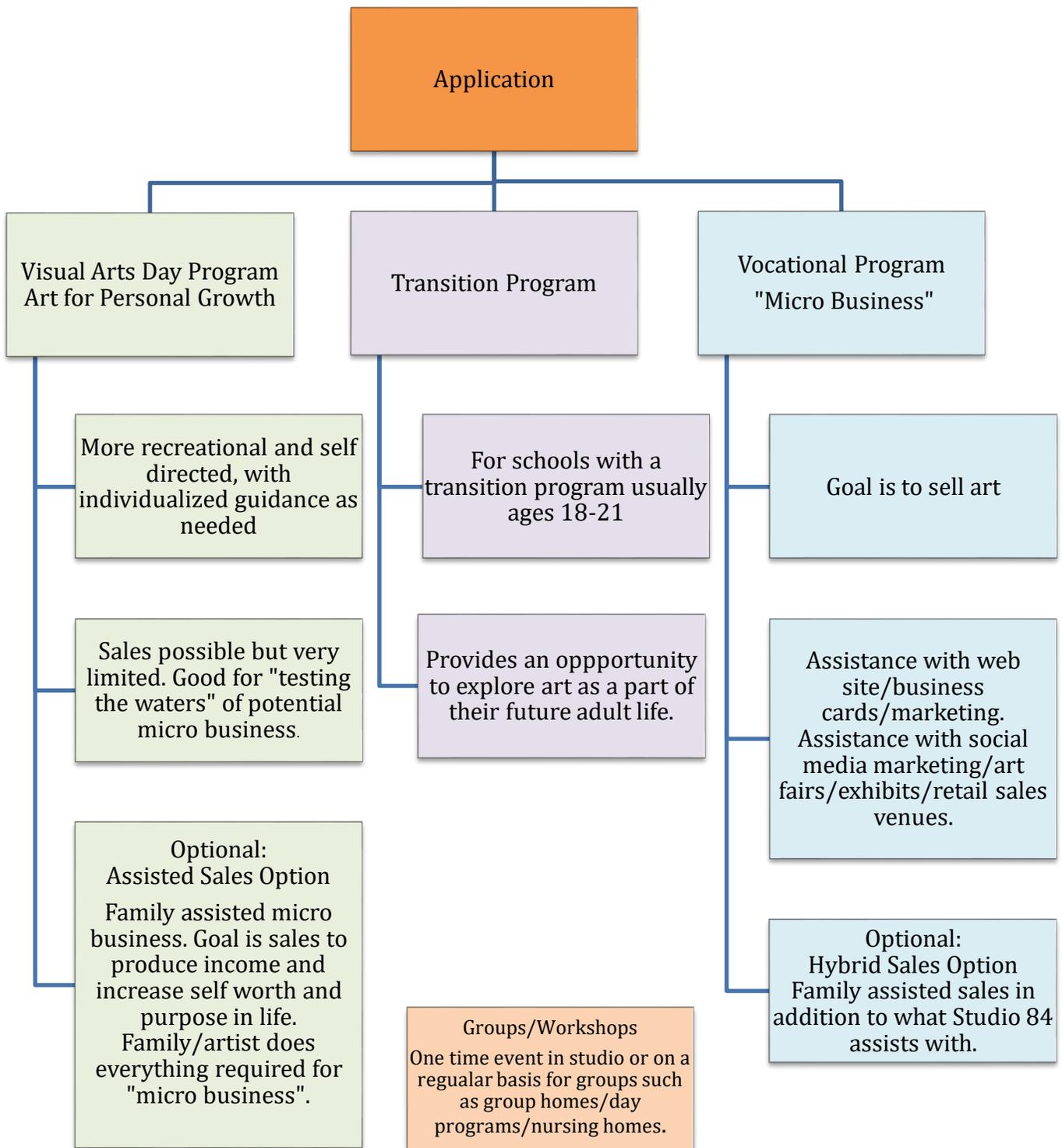
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### Mission Vision

#### A Creative Focus on the Abilities through the Arts

Studio 84 will provide fully accessible opportunities in the arts to enrich people’s lives by focusing on the strengths and abilities of the individual, by encouraging the creative voice with self-directed activities, thus, inspiring self-worth, pride, confidence and acceptance.



## Application Process:

1. Schedule a time for us to meet with the artist. This will help us determine the best day and time for scheduling and determine our staff/volunteer needs depending on needs of artist. A brief interview will be held with the artist.
2. Fill out and return application form after initial visit.
3. Staff will go thru several options available to artist depending on what is selected on application.
4. Arrange for funding with whatever funding sources the artist uses
5. Payment of fees
  - a. Fees are based on needs of artist after an assessment
  - b. We will invoice any funding source if required
  - c. We invoice once a month for hours attended that month. It is a per hour fee.
6. Schedule a time for artist to attend
  - a. This must be prearranged to suit our schedule of classes/artists because some classes/artists require more intensive assistance

## Important:

- Please call when artist is unable to make it that day—this helps us with our scheduling of staff and volunteers.
- Do not drop in and expect to receive services outside scheduled time
  - Staff may already have a full class at that time
  - Staff may not be available—we may be in a scheduled meeting or out getting supplies.
- Do not leave class early except for those serious emergencies.
  - We do not prorate the time.
  - Leaving early and unexpectedly interrupts the artist's learning.
- Please make sure artist is picked up on time. We will continue to charge in 15 mins increments if ride is late, as our staff still needs to be there and artist is in our care until they are picked up. Also note that sometimes our staff has personal appointments after their work day and a ride being 15-30 mins late can cause them to be late or miss to their appointments too.

## **Expectations for Aides/Families**

*For those who stay with the artist at Studio 84*

*We have a zero-tolerance policy regarding these expectations.*

1. Please sit and relax, bring a book, read a magazine.
2. Do not sit right next to artist while they are making art.
3. Aide should not interfere with artist and teacher unless there is a severe behavior problem
  - a. Hovering over, standing or sitting next to them reduces our goal of allowing artist to be as independent as possible in their creative process.
4. Do not constantly talk to them, they are busy in their heads with creative happenings. It can be disruptive to them.
  - a. As their mentors, staff is very cautious of this too, so don't expect staff to be always talking with them.
  - b. Many times staff may not even talk to them.... our staff understands the creative process and that often requires self/inner reflection—staff knows when to step in to assist. Please do not interfere with that process and relationship.
5. Do not expect artist to be 100% focused and doing something 100% of the time. It's a natural part of the process to stop and look or to think, or even to move onto something else. They need to do this at their own pace.
6. Do not be constantly talking with staff, as they need to be alert to needs of your client, not to the needs of you.
7. Do not give suggestions as to what they should or shouldn't be doing. You are not their mentor, our staff is. Please leave that job to our staff.
8. If your client has a high tendency towards harmful and very disruptive behavior then certainly as you sit, have one eye or ear open to that potential. But for the most part, please let our staff deal with the small stuff once they step into the door.
9. Do not scrutinize or criticize their work and don't ever ask... "what is it?" A more appropriate comment is... "tell me about the picture"
10. Artists do not have to ask for things, so don't expect them to do so. Everything in the art room is for their use. We try to achieve the highest level of independence possible with them. Our staff will do the watching for the occasional attempt to use someone else's art work, so leave that job to us.
11. In other words, your job is to sit down relax and leave the rest to our staff.
12. We also expect to be emailed or called when artist is going to miss their scheduled time so we can better plan our day.
13. Artist should leave personal items at home (no music equipment, games, computers etc.)
  - a. They are here for art experiences and these items are a major distraction.

Staff will speak to the aid/caregiver who has violated these expectations only once to correct the situation. If it happens again, staff will contact their supervisor and request a new aide to attend or the aid wait in the car. If this cannot be corrected through these methods the aid/caregiver risks the dismissal of their client.

## Philosophy and Benefits

Our philosophy is to provide open exploration of any medium chosen by the artist with individualized guidance.

By looking closely at each artist's abilities and skill level, individual instruction is provided. Whatever challenges they may bring with them a creative solution will be sought to nurture their inner creative needs and provide every opportunity for success. Artists are challenged and encouraged to grow at their own pace.

- Enhances self-image and self-esteem.
- Change identity from "disabled person" to "creative artist".
- Encourages decision-making and independence.
- Establishes or preserves sense of identity.
- Counteracts social isolation.
- Improves communication skills.
- Improves motor coordination and manual dexterity.
- Provides alternative for unacceptable behavior.
- Improves academic scores.

## Skills Learned Through the Arts

For many, art may seem like a frivolous recreational activity that is easily tossed to the sidelines. For our staff it is not. For you or your client it is not  
The experiences at Studio 84 teaches students not only creativity but also the following:

### Daily Living Skills

- cleaning up your messes
- taking responsibility for your work
- independent thinking

### Health and Wellness

- keeps your mind active
- thinking independently
- curiosity about new ideas
- good meditative states are often achieved while working in the arts
- self-esteem and confidence are increased

### Therapy OT/PT

- uses large and small muscles
- eye hand coordination.

### Multisensory Stimulation

- use of various materials while creating art

### Community Inclusion

- create art alongside other artists with and without disabilities
- conversations with visitors
- talking to others about their art during a public reception.

### Interpersonal Co-worker Relations

- work with interns
- volunteers
- other artists

### Cultural Diversity

- introduces culture via the arts

### Task Orientation Development

- completion of artwork
- cleaning up messes, getting materials out independently
- decision making regarding what materials and what type of art to create
- learning to get inspired from others work and from life experiences or photos

## Positive behaviors in workplace, personally, and socially

### Goals

- To provide an environment where the artists are nurtured to achieve their own highest abilities. Staff will focus on the artist's abilities and strengths, *not* their disabilities and weaknesses.
- To encourage independent thought and decision making through personal choice of materials, medium, subject matter, design, where to work in the studio, to fail and try again. Staff will *only* facilitate this process, *not* direct or make decisions for them.
- To allow each artist to express their internal voices and emotions through their own creative process.
- To encourage the artist to improve their verbal communication skills to the best of their ability.
- To promote prevocational training and experiences:
  - concentration on task
  - self motivation
  - self discipline
  - cooperation with others
  - social skills
  - personal cleanliness
  - clean up of area
  - punctuality
  - attendance
  - appropriate dress
- To promote artists work in a professional manner through exhibits and sales. For those interested in exhibition outside of the Studio, we will encourage and assist in that process.
- To involve all their significant contacts as needed:
  - family
  - caretakers
  - social agencies
- To utilize volunteers, interns, field study students, high school students and individuals fulfilling their volunteer service requirements.

### Advantages of Art

- There are no wrong answers in the creative process. At some level, no matter what the person's physical or cognitive disability, a person can achieve success. This promotes personal growth in the areas of self-esteem, confidence, acceptance, and pride.
- For many with physical and cognitive disabilities there are so few places for them to achieve success and fulfillment. The arts can fill that void.
- In an art studio there is no such thing as failure. Everything one does is considered a success on a personal level.
- Feelings of isolation are reduced because the art studio provides a community of others doing like things.
- Because each person is encouraged to be the best that they can be to their own capacity and are not compared to another's capabilities, the environment of the art studio encourages personal growth.
- Each person is encouraged and required to make their own decisions daily regarding their creative process techniques. This promotes self worth and independent thinking.
- Art fosters the expression of internal conflicts, dreams, and fantasies, which in turn cultivates a self-help form of reducing possibilities of deviant behavior.
- Often times during the creative, non-verbal process, verbal skills become enhanced, many times producing verbal abilities where none had existed before.
- With use of various tools, eye "hand" coordination is developed.
- The creative process, while increasing decision-making and self-sufficiency, will have an improved effect on personality and behavior.
- With sales of art, increased self worth and acceptance is achieved.
- Through the creative process, person's limitations become unimportant and the person becomes equal with others.