



Make Studio Art Program, Inc.
Schwing Art Center* 3326 Keswick Rd., front * Baltimore, MD 21211
info@make-studio.org * www.make-studio.org

Make Studio is a 501(c)3 community-based arts center in Baltimore, MD We envision a world of acceptance and inclusion where art opens doors for everyone. Our mission it to empowers artists with disabilities to grow as professionals with visibility and voice in their communities. We create opportunities for everyone to connect through art.

To accomplish our mission, we operate a gallery and events space, offers a variety of inclusive arts activities, and operates our core program that follow the “[progressive art studio](#)” model for adult artists with disabilities. This program is designed primarily with developmentally disabled and neurodivergent artists in mind, but can be appropriate for diverse artists’ needs. The program provides participating artists with workspace, materials, introduction to new media and techniques, and facilitation in fully realizing their own artistic styles and voices. We believe that artists with and without disabilities should have the same opportunities to make art – through ongoing engagement with the creative process – to serve a variety of personal needs and purposes, including as their life’s vocation, developing and maintain a career in the arts.

Art making sometimes can be an isolated activity, so Make Studio offers opportunities for interaction when making and marketing art, and is modeled after an artists’ collective that affords opportunities to work individually or collaboratively with other studio artists and artists in the wider arts community of Baltimore.

Experienced staff and trained interns and volunteers (with expertise in fine arts, design, art therapy, and rehabilitation) are available to assist as each artist explores their process. Staff-artist ratio is never less than 1:6. Painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and digital art are among the many options available in the studio.

Make Studio offers different, fluid “tracks” for participants, described below, but within these each artist’s experience is individualized to meet their needs, choices, and preferences. The program is further enriched by on-site guest artist workshops, field trips to museums, galleries, and professional arts studios, and its own location within the vibrant neighborhood of Hampden. This gives our artists regular access to the company of other artists with and without disabilities, as well as the on-site gallery.

One of the key features of the Make Studio program is that all participating artists have the opportunity to develop exhibition portfolios and produce marketable art for sale. All enrolled artists have the opportunity to show and sell their work locally, nationally, and internationally, via the studio, at host venues, and through our website. **Artists earn 70% of revenue from sales, with the remainder off-setting a portion of the cost of framing and marketing.**

We currently offer day programming every day but Sunday and Monday. Hours open to artists are 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Tues-Fri) and 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Sat).

Studio Program Tracks (effective July 2021)

Day programming options: \$110/day

Ongoing, set weekly schedule: 6 hours/day, 1-3 days/week recommended. *The full 6 hour day is recommended for artists' optimum development and success in the program. However, a prorated "half day" of 3.5 hours can be arranged for an introductory period or in the event of special circumstances, and for those only able to attend on Saturdays.*

All participating artists' "tracks", and individualized programming within them, are first determined upon enrollment in the program by our staff in collaboration with the artist (and their family/advocate, if applicable). Program plans are evaluated and re-visited on an annual basis thereafter.

Arts Immersion (AI)

Focus in this track is on the development of artistic, mechanical, cognitive, and social skills in the studio setting. Personal and social adjustment to working in a group and being in a community setting, and the life-enriching aspects of art practice are highlighted. Participants have the same exhibition opportunities as other artists.

Arts-Vocational Rehabilitation (AVR)

Studio experience is designed to help individuals prepare for, engage in, and maintain meaningful employment by providing training in translatable skills for careers in the arts and/or other competitive job settings. Services include: individual program of personal and social adjustment, training in acceptable work behaviors, manual skill development, assessment and development of vocational goals, and other skills such as money management, basic safety skills and training in work-related hygiene. Artists on this track are increasingly engaged in the promotion and sales aspects of their artwork over time. Make Studio can provide additional supports appropriate to the developmental needs of transition-aged individuals.

Supported Employment (SE)

Services are similar to those provided in AVR, but the focus is on ongoing development, refinement, and maintenance of self-employment specifically in the arts (alongside or in lieu of other employment). Fosters self-employment of participating artists by providing varied levels of support appropriate to capabilities and career goals. Services include: training in higher-level skills required to work as an artist or in an arts-related field, portfolio development, community mobility training, facilitation of collaborations with other artists and groups, guidance in acceptable studio and office behaviors (e.g., interacting with clients, commissions, galleries, media, and art buyers), and job seeking and interviewing skills. Artists on this track are very involved in the promotion and sales aspects of their artwork.

Art therapy services: \$95/hr

Rate applies to a 50 min.-hour. Session length averages 1-2.5 hours. AT services can be added to other services or can form a stand-alone program. All services are overseen and provided by Registered, Board-certified art therapists. Art therapy interns from The George Washington University Art Therapy Graduate Program and/or Notre Dame of Maryland Art Therapy Graduate Program may assist in providing services. Art therapy sessions are individual, and can be used to enhance self-expression and to address goals in the following domains: physical and occupational goals (e.g., improving motor skills); cognitive goals (improvement of memory, prioritization, planning, organization); psychosocial goals (improving interpersonal skills, efficacy, self-esteem); emotional goals (easing anxiety or depression, dealing with feelings of loss, loneliness, frustration).

****Sliding scale policy*: While Make Studio primarily works with individuals who receive applicable funding from DDA and other agencies, we understand that many talented artists with disabilities may not have such funding, or otherwise have limited finances. Independent/self-pay artists who are for that reason unable to pay full fees for any of the above services are invited to discuss reduced fees on a case-by-case basis. We cannot guarantee our ability to provide sliding scale services at any given time.