As a young nonprofit, every year so far has been a “growth year” for Make Studio. 2014 was exceptionally so. And, in fact, opportunities presented themselves and had to be responded to so quickly that it is difficult to pinpoint all the notable events of 2014, although in our month-by-month retrospective you’ll see we did a lot!

The one thing we’d be remiss if we didn’t highlight was the tremendous efforts of our staff – propelled by the extraordinary support of our volunteers and donors – during the final months of 2014. During this short time, Make Studio pondered, researched, scraped pennies together, debated, researched some more, and, thanks to our generous donors, were able to prepare for a big move into a building of our own.

In coaching circles (life, management, sport) the term “growing edge” is used to describe exciting and challenging areas where potential exists but there’s still a lot of room for improvement. And even as one wants to move ahead with them, the necessary growth can be scary. Accepting that we needed to move, and the risks involved, was definitely intimidating.

Yet all the way through 2014, Make Studio kept “doing what we do” and our artists (22 as of December) went about their important work in the studio.

Doing is growing. Making is growing.

This is evident in the experiences of our artists, in the words of just two:

“In 2014, my second year at Make Studio, I continued to develop my talent at creating art. I really enjoyed drawing old heroes to show younger generations, and just in general showing my work to people. Sometimes I bumped heads with staff about ideas for my artwork, but we worked on communicating better and I also tried communicating more with other artists. This was hard because sometimes I felt ignored. I then realized I needed to focus on my art… On August the 14th, I’ll never forget the moment that changed my life. When my father stopped by the studio to pick me up and we were about to head out the door, Dad wants to stop for a minute, he said, ‘Angels comes down and took your mother.’ Coming to the art shows with my Mom was very special to me and I’m glad that she was proud of me and my work. I communicated a lot with [one Make Studio staff member] and this helped a lot as I learned that working on my art was a good way to deal with grief. I am still working to heal. But I am hopeful for 2015 and working to get along with people I work with at Make Studio even more.”

Tyrone Weedon

“Make Studio provided me opportunities that were unlikely to happen otherwise. In 2014 I got the opportunity to use silk paints on a silk scarf. It was a beautiful process that resembles watercolor, which came out a very beautiful product for the Gathered Strands show [my first two-person show]. Also, I have gotten the opportunity to paint and draw on wood to provide very natural effects and a very different feel… Make Studio allowed me to hone my skills and provide a place for me to work without distractions and in an environment that encourages production of art and getting ideas from other sources. I got the opportunity to see many forms of art and people at work. And, it’s given me the opportunity to sell… Art requires effort and planning just like any work, as well as a good skill set to properly portray what’s in your head and to get it on paper and canvas.”

Erika Clark

Make Studio artists, staff, and Directors are looking forward to the growing edges to come, and hope you’ll stick with us as we face them together.
JAN  Christina Patterson (who sadly left us because of relocating out of Maryland) with her painting “Bush Baby” was one of the over-18 winners in the National Down Syndrome Society’s Inaugural Art Competition.

FEB  “All for one & one for all”, Make Studio’s 4th Anniversary show, was another resounding success and saw a great turnout.

MAR  “Amazing Marvels”, a juried group exhibition in Art Enables’ Off-Rhode Gallery in Washington, DC, featured selected works by Jerry Williams.

APR  Several Make Studio artists were represented at Honestly Autism Day 2014 in Towson, MD, most prominently Zach Manuel, who gave a video presentation on his autobiographical cartoon piece.

MAY  Forge Fine Art Gallery in Phoenix, MD hosted Make Studio for an exhibition with works by selected artists. We were also proud to have been juried into Art Outside in Druid Hill Park as an art presenter after starting off our 2014 outdoor season at the Cromwell Valley Arts Festival.
Joining a juried group of art galleries, projects & non-profits from the east coast and Midwest for the first time, Make Studio was invited to exhibit at the Alternative Art Fair during Artscape 2014. Our presentation also featured elements of City Project(ions), a local & collaborative video project involving several Make Studio artists.

Hampdenfest is one of the mainstays in Make Studio’s public events calendar, and, as always, we were glad to be there as a juried exhibitor and vendor!

Erika Cark and Bess Lumsden were proudly featured in their own exhibit “Gathered Strands” in conjunction with Free Fall Baltimore, which also featured a “Collaborative Stitching” workshop led by textile artist Pam Negrin in our studio. Many works by Make Studio artists were featured in “Heroes”, a juried group exhibition at Towson Arts Collective, as well as at “Outsider Art Inside the Beltway”, the annual group show of regional and national outsider/visionary art organized by Art Enables in Washington, DC. And to round out a very busy October month, Make Studio artists were represented in a group show at the University of MD, Baltimore’s SMC Campus Center during Disability Awareness Month.

One of Make Studio’s local holiday season highlights is our presence at Bazaart at the American Visionary Art Museum, to which we are proud to have been invited for the fourth time!

Finishing off the 2014 program year with fantastic panoramic views, Make Studio was hosted at the Baltimore World Trade Center for our own group exhibition “B’more: Fantastic & Familiar”.

[Image of Hampdenfest]

[Image of Make Studio at Baltimore World Trade Center]
ABOUT OUR NEW SPACE

As the end of 2014 approached, Make Studio pursued the opportunity to move into a much larger space in Hampden, just in time for our upcoming 5th anniversary!! In a stroke of good luck, just as we started to really feel the crush of our old space (1,000 sq ft), we discovered that the Schwing Motor Co. Building (close to 5,000 sq ft) was available. AND, we found it that it was exactly the size, configuration, and location, with visibility and accessibility, needed to carry us into the future, allowing us to comfortably grow our studio program for adult artists with disabilities beyond 20, while also giving us the opportunity to establish an art center to serve Baltimoreans of all abilities through events and activities (e.g., community art-making, workshops, lectures, etc.).

In 2015, we will work to establish this new space as a community asset for its neighborhood, available to nearby residents, community organizations, nonprofit organizations, and others; a resource for the Baltimore area arts community, providing a new venue for collaborations, community-based learning, and for making and showing exceptional art.

Recognizing that making such a BIG move represented certain temporary challenges beyond our self-generated income, we launched an Indiegogo campaign to help cover the costs accumulated by the relocation. Our fundraising goal of $20,000 was met, and thanks to the 110 contributors we were able to secure 3326 Keswick Rd. and therefore close out 2014 on a special high note!

SHARING OUR BEST PRACTICES

Over the previous few years of our operations, Make Studio had developed and implemented what we felt was a solid and beneficial arts program for adults with disabilities. However, upon receipt of funds from Autism Speaks’ Community Grants Program, in 2014 we undertook a year-long project that allowed us to hone the aspects of our programming to specifically support the professional and personal development of individuals with autism, and simultaneously share our best practices increase our footprint in the community.

This opportunity made a phenomenal and lasting impact on how our staff engages with our younger adult artists on the autism spectrum, allows us to effectively serve more of these individuals, and to continuously evaluate and improve our services along the way. The result was an adaptable “curriculum” and case study entitled Create Community, available to all on our website: (make-studio.org/PDF/make_studio_model.pdf).

In light of pressing needs for the growing population of persons with autism, both in our local community and nationwide, we are proud that we’re now better equipped to serve these wonderfully talented, but often overlooked, individuals and to help other organizations to do the same.
FINANCIALS

2014 INCOME

- Program fees for service
- Direct public support (individuals and local businesses)
- Grants (Foundation and Government)
- Artwork and gift item sales
- Other income (rentals, workshops, interest, etc.)

Total: $147,466
*Includes donations supporting move to new building in January 2015

2014 EXPENSES

- Staff salaries
- Facilities (rent, utilities, improvements, equipment)**
- Other direct program costs (exhibits, supplies, etc.)
- Artist commissions
- Operational and administrative costs

Total: $124,893
**Includes security deposit and first month’s rent for new space

FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

FOUNDATIONS

Ellene “Brit” Christiansen Memorial Fund
Autism Speaks, Family Services Community Grants Program
Mary Catherine Bunting Foundation
Grosman Family Fund

PUBLIC AGENCIES

Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts
Baltimore County Commission on Arts & Sciences

CORPORATE

Chesapeake Employers’ Insurance Company
Northrop Grumman

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Artist & Craftsman Supply
Atomic Books
CNR Lighting
RatCzar
Biggs and Featherbelle
Bikram Yoga Baltimore
Donna’s of Charles Village
Harmony Bakery
Kinderhook
Local Color Flowers
Ma Petite Shoe
Trohv
Union Craft Brewing
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PARTNERING / SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

St. Peter’s Adult Learning Center
Penn-Mar Human Services
Emerge, Inc.
Gallagher Services (Catholic Charities)
Arc of the Chesapeake
Service Coordination, Inc.

INTERNS

Ashley Carr (GWU)
Acacia Hope (MICA)
Emma Jo Shatto (MICA)
Maeve Goldstein (HOOD)

VOLUNTEERS

Lauren Bender • Sara Buckingham • Kira Dolcimascolo
Maeve Goldstein • Kristin McWharter • Kathryn Mills • Pam Negrin • Sami Paradise • Andy Parsley • Haley Parsley • Will Realo • Paul Richardson • Ellie Simi • Jen Vancura • Lisa Yamakawa

We regrettably do not have the space here to thank everyone, by name, who supported our organization in 2014. However, Make Studio is grateful to everyone who donated their resources, time, and talents in support of our mission! We would not be here today without each and every one of you.

THANK YOU!
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Daniel Keplinger
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Studio Manager

Carolyn Shayte, BFA
Studio Assistant
Founded in 2010 with the mission of providing multi-modal arts programming, including sales and exhibition opportunities, to individuals with disabilities in a supportive and inclusive environment, Make Studio aims to put art and abilities to work throughout Baltimore and beyond to create more inclusive communities for all. Via ongoing exhibitions, public programs, and studio services for visual artists with disabilities, we celebrate the aesthetics and concerns of artists commonly typed as “outsiders”, making visible their observations and points-of-view to increase the vibrancy of our cultural sector.