



The Spirit of Huntington Art Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that believes creative expression can transform lives of students with special needs and Veterans by igniting their passion within.

Our Founder

Erich Preis

Executive Director

Michael Kitakis

Our Board Members

Larry Burlingame

Frank Gallucci

Christy Gudaitis

Michael Halperin

Susan Fasciano

Eileen Sebold

Dan Weisberg

Jen Weisberg

Mark Wittenberg

It is in this spirit that we established a unique collaboration of artists, educators, parents, students and civic minded individuals to fill a need in our community. We are a stress free, therapeutic environment that fosters creativity and self-esteem among a segment of our population which is often underserved.

The Spirit of Huntington was founded by local artist Erich Preis in January 2011. Erich is an accomplished artist who has worked with students of varying backgrounds and abilities. His murals are recognizable and are displayed on many buildings throughout the Village of Huntington, and he has been honored with many proclamations and awards from Local, State and Federal officials.

Erich is uniquely qualified to work with children with special needs, as he himself is on the autism spectrum, and he rallied a passionate group of like-minded, dedicated individuals to join in his cause to work with students to

better express their emotions and feelings through art.

We respectfully request that you consider providing resources to support our mission so that we can offer affordable education, vocation, special events, gallery showings and support to students with special needs and Veterans.

Call, stop by, or visit our website to see how we are making huge strides in our community and helping so many find a home of expression at the Spirit of Huntington Art Center.

The Spirit of Huntington Art Center 2 Melville Road N., Huntington Station, New York 11746
EIN# 46-3038008 www.spiritofhuntingtonartcenter.com 631.470.9620



What we do:

We make “Artists Come Alive” This innovative creative expression class transforms lives!

In this expressive art program, students discover art styles through the lives of famous artists as they express themselves in a professional art studio environment at the old library in South Huntington. Students learn through interactive slide show presentations and stories then create their own masterpieces emulating that artist’s style. We incorporate the history of the artist’s life including any challenges which they overcame through their art. Classes are processed-based and developmentally appropriate. We culminate with a big art show after the 10-week program at our gallery that showcases all their work!

Partners: South Huntington Union Free School District and Heckscher Museum of Art • ISS-Independent Support Services • Adler Center for Special Needs at Mid-Island YJCC • Lodestar Children Services • Huntington YMCA • Northport VA Medical Center • Harborfields Public Library • Congregational Church of Huntington • Tri-Community and Youth Agency • Life’sWORC • United Veterans Beacon House • Pal-O-Mine Equestrian • Cerebral Palsy of Nassau County • Halo Network of Services • IGHL (Independent Group Home Living) • AIM Services Inc.

Now ...we make “ArtWorks”! This digital art program encompasses both education and vocational support that transforms lives!

With unemployment at 85% for young adults with special needs, we want to help educate those who have aged out of District and move them into digital art and graphic design. We are the hub for creative expression in both fine and digital art and offer hands-on training into today’s digital sphere with real world, not-for-profit clients coming to us for logos, websites and social media opportunities to tell their unique story. **ArtWorks** is a program that provides technical training to prepare students for a career in digital art with structured classes that give them the tools needed to be successful in a job after high school and/or post-secondary education. The students explore various areas of study to develop essential skills to feel competent in entering today’s competitive job market. Real work experience helps them to incorporate their special abilities and learn and practice the soft skills needed to secure and maintain employment in today’s world of websites, social media, and digital graphic arts.

Opportunities: Advertising Agencies, Social Media Companies, Freelance Design/Illustration, Graphic Designer for Corporations, Website Designer, Computer Graphics Departments, and Printing Companies.

Our Partners: Cerebral Palsy Association • South Huntington School District • Northport VA Medical Center • St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church • Great South Bay Audubon Society • Mother Teresa Children Home • CEED-Center for Environmental Education and Discovery • Ella Ella Francinella Children Books • Aishling Forest School • All Boro Construction • Rockville Center Diocese • Sangha Education Center • ATCB- Art Therapy Credentials Board • Solarus Technologies

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