



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



MICHAEL KITAKIS

From producing fashion photography on the tropical islands of Jamaica to designing award-winning point-of-purchase displays for clients nationwide, Mr. Kitakis has had more than 25 successful years of experience in the advertising and marketing industry.

Mr. Kitakis began his career producing video commercials for Video Arts, Inc. (Youngstown, OH). He served as design consultant for Dixie Cup Marathon (Allentown, PA), then became President of Operations at ColorGraphic Studios (Huntington, NY), where his responsibilities included graphic design, national ad campaigns and yearly marketing strategies for new products. Clients included Revlon, Coppertone, Jeri Rhedding, Opti-Ray, Inc., Mattel Toys, Goody, and Genovese.

His drive to grow and create a better agency fueled the merger of four firms into one large agency on Long Island called LKGS Marketing, housed in their own building in Hauppauge, NY with 4 partners and 25 employees. Accounts included Sea Ray Boats, Fox Family Channel, Alpine Lace, Britney Spears Sunglasses, and Minute Man Press International.

But unfazed with the growth, Michael saw the next opportunity and evolved the firm in 2010 to NewMedia Marketing and created the next big thing called “Synchronicity” which is an integrated digital marketing turn-key program for small to mid-size companies. Marketing automation has revolutionized the industry and NewMedia took its clients like Ford Tri-State, Slant-Fin Boilers and Baseboards, Marine Max Boats and Cool-Ray Sunglasses to the next level of communication.

In 2012, New Media and the non-profit Spirit of Huntington Art Center moved in the spacious former public library in South Huntington, NY. The move brought an entirely new dimension to the agency with community presence and involvement, space and the creativity all around with work from dozens of Long Island-based artists and sculptors. Michael’s day job is now the full time Executive Director at the Spirit, and his vision to ignite passion in special needs students and Veterans is why the non-profit is exploding with support and national organizations all collaborating to help. With over 150 students a week involved with creative expression programs that transforms their lives, you quickly understand his passion for art and his love of the children is what fuel the hearts of the teachers and students.

Michael is involved in many community activities and fundraising events besides being the Director of The Spirit of Huntington Art Center, he also sits on the Board of Women and Men Against Prostate Cancer and is active in Long Island Cares, “Wheels 4 Meals Program”, Advisory Council for South Huntington Career Pathways for the High School, and on the parish council of St. Francis Church in Greenlawn, NY.

Both as a business owner as well as a father of two children in college, it is this involvement coupled with his amazing artistic ability and knowledge that help us create an atmosphere of love, acceptance, celebration and encouragement to our special Center in Huntington.

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