



art
with
elders

AWE News August 2026

*Art With Elders uses the power of art, creativity, and
community
to enrich the journey of aging.*

Message from the Executive Director

Happy summer to YOU, our dear AWE friends and family,

Much has happened since our last newsletter and you will learn as you read further down that our little program has been honored in a very special way, thanks in no small part to the recommendation of the powerhouse elder-advocate and established author, Margaret Graf of [Senior Power](#). Thank you Margaret!

In light of this meaningful recognition of Art With Elders' 3 decades of service and myriad contributions to our community, I'm obliged to refer back to our founder Brent Nettle, whose discovery of AWE's unique creative force and his passionate implementation of its mission, remains the foundation of our accomplishments.

Without Brent's original vision, and the countless supporters and participants who have joined its call, surely none of this great work would have happened. Our staff - Darcie, Iris and Crystal (and we'll never forget our truly beloved Jason Varner) - our creative and caring 27 artist instructors - our talented board of directors, all deserve to take part in celebrating this accomplishment. And of course, there's one group in particular who should receive the most accolades for our continued success... you, our elder artists.

Day in and day out in our classrooms, you students defy the stereotypes that aging exclusively represents decline, isolation and suffering. You continue to grow, learn and create, demonstrating for us how to age optimistically and with purpose. You continue to live and express yourselves with grace, dignity and courage which in turn inspires us to fulfill our own positive destinies as we ourselves age. Thank you for that.

And sure, while it's great to take stock of the progress that AWE has enjoyed over these many years and relish the community support we've received through this recognition, I'd like to resolve to not rest on our laurels, but instead take this opportunity to steel ourselves by focusing on our future, insist upon our sustainability, and celebrate all the good work we have yet to do.



Cheers,
Mark Campbell
Executive Director

In the News

AWE Receives Board of Supervisors Award

In honor of Disability Pride Month, on July 21, 2026, Executive Director Mark Campbell and the Art With Elders program were awarded a Certificate of Honor for outstanding service in the community by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Thank you to Margaret Graf of Senior Sharp for nominating us and thank you to District 4 Supervisor Alan Wong for recognizing us.





Exhibits and Events News

AWE 33rd Annual Exhibit at Veterans Building

401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102

8/17 - 9/9/26

Selections from our 33rd Annual Exhibit will be on display at the War Memorial Performing Arts Center Veterans Building lobby 8/16-9/9/26. The exhibit is accessible, open to the public and free of charge.

AWE Artists at Imago Gallery - Trinity-St. Peter's Church

1620 Gough Street (at Bush) San Francisco, CA 94109

8/28/26 - TBD - Open to the Public second Sundays 1-3p

This exhibit, hosted by Trinity-St. Peter's, features artworks by seniors participating in the Art With Elders program. The exhibiting artists represent a diverse cross-section of older adults.

AWE Teaching Artists at The Sequoias

1400 Geary Blvd San Francisco, CA 94109

8/7 - 10/6/26

Works by AWE Teaching Artists will be exhibited at The Sequoias San Francisco 8/7 - 10/6/26. By appointment only, contact us at info@artwithelders.org for details.

AWE Bank of San Francisco - Laurel Village office

3471 California St. SF, CA

3/19/26 - TBD

AWE artworks are featured in the new Laurel Village branch of the [Bank of San Francisco](#).

AWE at Ruth's Table – Boldly Ourselves

3160 21st Street San Francisco, CA 94110

6/4 – 8/19/26

Presented by [Ruth's Table](#) in partnership with Art With Elders, Boldly Ourselves celebrates the vital role that identity, self-expression, and belonging play in creating thriving communities.

Become an Annual Exhibit Sponsor

Your support helps our Annual Exhibit Opening Event celebrate the lives of often marginalized older adults and bringing them to center stage.

[Please see linked flyer for more information.](#)

More Info

Please visit the [AWE Exhibits Schedule](#) and [AWE Classes page](#) on our website for more info.

Thank You Donors!

[Please consider making a donation](#)
Your gift makes a huge difference
in the lives of our students!

Art With Elders appreciates all of our supporters. Together we are truly changing the lives of hundreds of Bay Area seniors. We strive to open hearts and minds to new worlds, new discoveries, new joys, and subsequently, fresh meaning in life.

Thanks again to all of our donors for making this work possible!



AWE Staff and Artist Instructors

Row 1 L-R: Crystal Booth, Yvette Brown, Mark Campbell, Insio Che, Yan Chen, Aimée Duddridge-Picard, Mei Mei Everson, Keesje Fischer, Santiago Gervasi. **Row 2 L-R:** Sergio Giovine, Dmitry Grudsky, Iris Hu, Virginia Jourdan, Min Lee, Hugh Leeman, Megan Majestic, Natalie Quek, Ashot Melkumov. **Row 3 L-R:** Natalie Quek, Andrew Mills, Darcie O'Brien, Miranda Putman, Betty Rothaus, Maïté St. Clair, Patrick St. Clair, Rafael Vieira, Stephanie Vlahov



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Art With Elders | 415-441-2650 | info@artwithelders.org | artwithelders.org

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Art With Elders | 236 West Portal Ave. #845 | San Francisco, CA 94127 US

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