



# Funds Distribution Report

---

**Recipient Organization:**  
**Alchemy Art Center**

**Address:**  
1255 Wold Rd  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

**Contact:**  
(360) 622-8581  
<https://www.alchemyartcenter.com>

**Organization's General Goals:**

Our mission is to provide arts programming and creative community for people on rural San Juan Island. We believe that artists should have access to tools, space, and collaborative support necessary for creating their art. Alchemy Art Center fulfills a vital role as a place where artists of all ages can work, and where the larger community can explore artistic expression.

---

<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2023 Q1	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Alchemy Art Center.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271  
**TulalipCares.org**

Dear Ms. Sheldon and the Tulalip Charitable Fund Board,

Thank you so very much for supporting our Artists in Community Program this year! Thanks to you, we were able to offer another incredible year of classes, events, youth mentorships, artist talks, and so much more- all facilitated by visiting artists and in-house specialists.

The objective of this project was to host a cohort of 10 visiting artists, from April-October, to live and work at Alchemy. These artists, coming from all over the United States, were able to offer different art techniques and perspectives to our community through classes, open studios, art exhibitions, artist talks, youth mentorships, and a wide array of free community art activities all across the island during the summer months. From ceramicists to printmakers to darkroom photographers to botanical dyers, each came with their own history, their own personality, their own way of doing things, and their own particular skills and passions. These folks not only injected fresh energy into the Alchemy community and studios, but they brought a wider breadth of experience to all of our programming. During their stay on San Juan Island, visiting artists were able to connect with our special environment and wonderful community, and create a body of work away from the distractions of their normal lives.

Our cohort this year consisted of:

- **Selden Paterson**, ceramics-based sculptor and conceptual artist from Chicago.
- **Julia Vidrio**, young darkroom photographer specializing in alternative processes, from Arizona.
- **Sierra Peters**, general arts and kids outreach specialist, joining from the Bay area
- **Emerald Vernon-Lapow and Robert Summerlin**, both musicians and artists from the Bay area.
- **Joel Diepenbrock**, a ceramics artist specializing in wood fired kilns, joining us from Port Townsend.
- **Camila Giraldo**, young ceramics artist from Chicago, recently graduated from the University of Illinois in Chicago with a BA in Urban Studies, fluent in Spanish.
- **Charlie Bloede**, young printmaker who graduated in May from Kansas State University.
- **Sarah Gonzales Busse**, a textile and print media artist based in San Antonio, TX, who is a mother of 3 and runs *La Techxicana Studio*.
- **Jenna Tessler**, an emerging conceptual photographer working with themes of mental health and processing trauma, visiting from the Bay area.

With the help of these visiting artists, we offered over 60 free community activities this summer, with over 1800 participants. You could find us at Linde Park, Island Rec/Camp Eagle Rock, the Family Resource Center, the Farmer's Market, the Sculpture Park, the Pride Festival, the SJI Fair, the San Juan Summer Arts Fest, and at various other pop-ups around the island. We also hosted 2 youth mentorship programs per month in our studios with our visiting artists, in groups of 3-6, from June-October. Most visiting artists also gave an artist talk, hosted open studios, and displayed their work in a final exhibition.

The most important result of this program, in our eyes, is the expanded arts access it provides to islanders. Alchemy is incredibly lucky to have a talented year-round staff to teach classes, mentorships, etc, but there is something truly magical and galvanizing that comes from bringing a visiting artist in to share their techniques and perspectives. How wonderful to be able to pair a middle-school age islander who has loved all of the printmaking opportunities she's had at Alchemy, with a specialized printmaker fresh from getting her fine arts printmaking degree, who can share college-level techniques? How special is it to be able to host kids from Spanish speaking families in an arts program that is taught by a bi-lingual ceramicist from a Colombian American background? These are opportunities that are hard to find in a small island community like ours, and it feels really special to be able to cultivate a place where this can happen.

Equally important to the impact these artists have on the community is the life-changing experience they leave Alchemy with. Every single artist who lived at Alchemy this year was inspired, grounded in nature, and renewed in their passion and purpose in the arts. Alchemy believes strongly in supporting artists in their studio practice, by offering time, space, professional facilities, and technical assistance. We also believe in keeping our residency program free of charge, because we want this opportunity to be accessible to as many people as possible. Keeping our program free means younger, less-established, and less resourced artists are able to participate, which in effect means we are able to host a more diverse cohort. And when diversity is allowed to flourish, everyone benefits.

“Artists in Community” has become the centerpiece of nearly half of our year of programming. We see it as the program where the many threads of our mission of arts access come together. It is really important to us to continue to be able to run this program, each and every year, and we are so grateful for your support in making this an achievable goal. Together, we are growing arts access and creative community in the San Juan Islands. We hope you will come and visit us this year, and see the magic you have helped to create!

In deepest gratitude for the work you do for our entire region,

Glenn Hendrick  
Co-Director, Alchemy Art Center

