

FACT SHEET

PSA ART AWAKENINGS

A Program of PSA Behavioral Health Agency



WHAT PSA Art Awakenings promotes empowerment & recovery through the power of creative expression with children, adults, and families who are affected by serious mental health, general mental health and substance use challenges.

WHEN In the late fall of 2000, Art Awakenings was born out of PSA Behavioral Health Agency, a 501c(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in 1971 whose mission is to enhance & empower the behavioral health community through creativity, innovation, recovery & diversity. PSA received funds from Rehab Services Administration to begin a consumer run business. Thus, PSA Art Awakenings began with five adult consumers creating & selling artwork.

WHO PSA Art Awakenings was founded by Sara Marriott, PSA Behavioral Health Agency President/CEO. To date, it has grown into a psycho-social rehabilitation & art therapy program that serves over 3500 adults & children throughout Arizona at studios in Downtown & NW Phoenix, Casa Grande, Tempe, Tucson, Parker, Bisbee, Douglas, Kingman, Bullhead City, and Yuma, with mobile services in Cochise, Maricopa, and Pinal Counties.

WHY Studios provide a safe, supportive environment for adults & children to foster exploration & development of artistic skills. Participants learn respect for self & others, personal accountability, & pride in accomplishments while developing enhanced self-esteem & wellness management skills.

HOW Led by President, Karen D. Puthoff, members of the management team, registered art therapists, artistic behavioral health specialists, behavioral health paraprofessionals & support staff including artists, peers/studio assistants & recovery support specialists, all work together to provide this national, state, & regional award winning program.

A PSYCHO-SOCIAL REHAB PROGRAM PSA Art Awakenings provides therapeutic art groups using the healing power of creativity to explore feelings & process issues while emphasizing community integration. Studios, known as “The place where the magic happens”, offer instruction in visual art, poetry, music, movement, & drama in addition to pre-job training & education. Peers are a vital component, facilitating groups, classes & offering peer-to-peer support, treatment & the “Buddy” system. Participants readily admit that creating art helps reduce stress & the intensity of their psychiatric symptoms.

WAREHOUSE 1005 & 442 STUDIOS & GALLERY Warehouses 1005 & 442 offer graduate level programs for artists who are ready to develop their skills in a more independent, entrepreneurial environment. The main goal is to empower & enhance artistic skills so that the artists can become productive members of the Phoenix & Tucson art communities. Artists retain 70% of sales generated revenue.

GALLERIES & ARTISTIC TREASURES SHOP Participants gain personal awareness & professional skills by creating artwork for exhibit & sale at the Phoenix, Casa Grande, Tucson & Old Bisbee Galleries, community art shows & venues, special events. Staff assist artists in selling their work from which they retain 80% of sales revenue generated through art exhibitions, First Friday Art Walk (Phoenix), First Saturday (Tucson), Bisbee After Five, & Art in the Alley (Casa Grande).

OLD BISBEE GALLERY Historic Bisbee is home to PSA Art Awakenings’ first freestanding gallery. As part of the local arts scene, the shop features work from our artists throughout the state.

YOUTH INITIATIVES PSA Art Awakenings also offers structured, creative activities and art therapy targeting youth & families in individual & group settings. Programs focus on cultivating wellness in the family, community, & educational environment with numerous community outreach & collaborative projects offered throughout Maricopa, Cochise, Pima, La Paz, Yuma, Pinal & Mohave counties. Tucson and Yuma offer specialized ASD programs. Groups are also offered at Mohave Juvenile Detention Center in Kingman.

CARF ACCREDITED Recognized as providing services that are measurable, accountable & of the highest quality. Art Awakenings has exemplary status.

Recipient

- National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare Inspiring Hope Award for Artistic Expression
- Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care RISE Award
- 7th Annual ASU Center for Behavioral Health Policy Leadership in Service Award



