

# MATANEL FOUNDATION

## ACTIVITY REPORT

**Program:** *The Matanel Art Workshop*  
**Year:** 2022

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole rapport will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program:  
The Matanel art Workshop  
Year of activity:  
2022

Name of the report's writer:  
Aliza Gellis

Function of the report's writer:  
Director of Development

Mail: [aliza@akim-jerusalem.org.il](mailto:aliza@akim-jerusalem.org.il)  
Phones: 0506-381633

Website / Facebook address of the organization:  
<https://www.facebook.com/AKIMJerusalem>      [www.akim-jerusalem.org.il](http://www.akim-jerusalem.org.il)

number of active participants in the program:  
15

Estimated number of impacted participants:  
1200

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

Fifteen adults of varied ages and functional capacities, residents of AKIM-Jerusalem homes, took part in the art workshop. The workshop was conducted by artist and art educator Motti Yifrach, who has directed art instruction for our community for the past 20 years. He is an artist in his own right and a graduate of the Bezalel Art School. Motti led the workshop on Friday mornings and created meaningful relationships with the group and each "artist" individually, encouraging them to express themselves creatively and giving them first hand experience in working with varied techniques, from painting to engraving and etching. The outcome was that all the participants took pride in the original works of art they created, and a number of works were displayed for the community at large in our Barash building (initials for Beit Rachel Strauss, our community arts and culture center).

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

The main achievements were: enabling members of our special community to express themselves creatively, enhance their physical dexterity confidence, and communication and life skills. They participated in x sessions over the course of the year and also shared their achievements with family, friends, and the community at large. After two years of COVID restrictions, the art classes offered the participants an enriching opportunity to overcome the difficulties of extended periods of isolation, build their capacities, share social activities, and expand their horizons. Their art work reflects their personal growth, achieved through the creative process of making works of art. They worked on paper and canvas, with water colors and oils, and pencil and charcoal. All the artists developed their own visual language, in keeping with their capacities. They learned skills of composition and use of color and texture in self-expression. They worked on shared projects and cultivated a team spirit. Several of the artists participated in the AKIM-Jerusalem Sukkot happening. They welcomed the public to the garden of the Barash building and assisted visitors from the community at large. Members of the public created their own works of art, with the guidance of our residents.

### The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year,

We evaluate the program on the basis of feedback from the participants, their counselors and other staff, their families and the program director. By all accounts, the experience made a tangible, and in some cases, transformative difference in the functioning, well-being, and life skills of the participants. Here are three notable accounts of the impact of the program:

D., age 36, has Downs syndrome. She is generally introverted and not very verbal, which is a cause of frustration since she cannot be easily understood. A key goal was to help her include her oral abilities. She developed a visual language through drawing and painting, choosing colors and creating works of art. Her mood was palpably better at the conclusion of each session. She took pride in her art, which she displayed in her apartment. The creation of art was a fulfilling experience which enabled her to give expression to her emotions. fulfilling.

A., age 29, was adopted by his parents when he was two years old, He copes with a communications disorder and finds it difficult to focus, to complete tasks at work and at home, and struggled socially. Art helped him focus himself on completing one task at a time, and he proved his motivation to advance his skills. He impressed himself and those in his circle with his art work and his capacity for precision. He committed himself to the workshop and was always the first to arrive and the last to leave.

S., age 40, has Downs syndrome, and struggles with her relationships with family members and in her work. She had to switch jobs several times over the course of the past year. The Art Workshop proved an important source of stability and fulfilled her need for self-expression, self-worth and new relationships. She participated in the Sukkot gathering and was able to interact and assist others in the making of art, a very meaningful achievement for her.

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

We hope to advance the program through a new collaboration in the year ahead. Our residents will join students from the Yad beYad Bilingual School. Together the students and the AKIM-Jerusalem will create a joint exhibit of their art.

Please join the **Evaluation Report**,? the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (**as PDF documents**)

I will add

Please join photos – as **JPG files** – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as **PDF document**.

Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.