



DATE: March 31, 2017

TO: Artists, families, providers, and other stakeholders

RE: Passion Works Transition Update

The ATCO Inc. Board of Directors and the Athens County Board of DD are excited to announce that Creative Foundations, directed by David Robins, has been selected to become the new host agency for the Passion Works Art Studio. Creative Foundations operates four other art studios in Ohio that support people with developmental disabilities, all of which have been modeled after Passion Works.



The selection committee utilized a transparent process to select Creative Foundations. This process included requesting proposals, developing a screening committee to review the proposals, a full vetting process, and making a recommendation to the ATCO Board. The ATCO Board accepted the recommendation of the selection committee. This transition is necessary due to the federal mandates from the Center for Medicaid Services declaring that there is an inherent conflict of interest when a

county board of DD provides services, monitors the services, and then receives payment for those services.

This selection and approaching transition to new leadership of Creative Foundations will ensure that Passion Works will continue as a collaborative art studio serving the Athens community artists with and without disabilities for many years to come.

Kevin Davis, Superintendent of the Athens County Board of DD stated, "The DD board has been and remains committed to seeing that Passion Works continues to serve Athens County for years to come. Through a long selection process, we are very happy that Creative Foundations has been selected to help Passion Works move forward. It is impressive how much Passion Works means to this community and it is equally impressive that so many different agencies were willing to help Passion Works move forward. We are grateful for that support and look forward to working with Creative Foundations".

Larry Payne, President of the ATCO Inc. Board shared "The ATCO Board was impressed with Creative Foundations and their operation of four art studios along with the fact that many of their staff are individuals with disabilities. They are an organization run by people with disabilities that helps people with special needs. Another fact that made them stand out, even though there were a number of fine applicants, is Creative Foundations is really a Passion Works 2.0. Their core concept is based on the design of Passion Works".

Autumn Brown, the Transition Manager for Atco and Passion Works, will be working with the Creative Foundations team, current Passion Works staff, and individuals currently served to develop timelines and identify the supports needed to ensure the transition is smooth and a plan is developed for Passion Works to blossom into its full potential. Brown shared, "We are all very excited to see those opportunities become a reality; our transition team is dedicated to ensuring that Creative Foundations and the Passion Works Studio have the supports needed to make this transition successful".

The name, Passion Works, will remain, and Robins sees the value in having the studio at an uptown location in Athens. For now, it will continue to be located at 20 East State Street. No changes will occur to your current schedule and there will definitely be an opportunity for all current artists as well as new artists to have increased schedules with the intentions of providing art opportunities full time (5-6 days a week rather than only 3 days). Robins stated, "Passion Works is woven into the fabric of the Athens community. We are determined to build upon the many successes by having the Athens community continue to operate the program. We are very excited to get this process started".

You will be receiving periodical updates as more information becomes available, and please feel free to share any questions or concerns.

Autumn Brown, Atco and Passion Works Transition Manager

(740)856-8539

abrown@athenscbdd.org