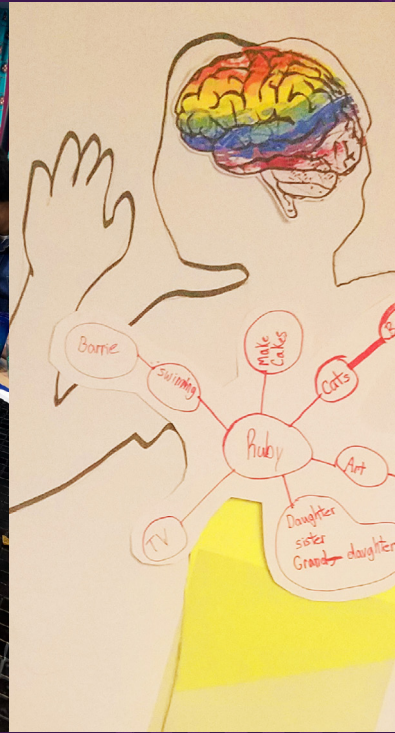


# Arts | on the Block



## A YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

With a 17-year history and your extraordinary support, an unimaginable 2020 was reimagined with the tenacity, values, and vision inherent to our mission.

At AOB we prioritize problem-solving, part of the Eight Studio Habits that frame our creative practice. Bouncing between, around, and within these creative habits strengthens our artistic process and the AOB team. We 'stretch & adjust' with ingenuity to create public art, and to persist.

We are encouraged by the vision, talent, ambition, and grit of the young creatives who stand at the center of all we do. Even more, we are emboldened by the creative network of family, friends, funders, clients, and colleagues who backed our work in 2020. With that incredible support system, AOB will continue to break the mold in using art as a regenerative force in community and lifting up the next generation of creative leadership.

**OUR RESPONSE - ROBUST AND REGENERATIVE**  
*2020 Challenge Accepted*

#### ***Eight Studio Habits***

- **Develop Skills**
- **Explore, Experiment, & Persist**
- **Envision & Plan**
- **Create**
- **Observe & Listen**
- **Reflect**
- **Stretch & Adjust**
- **Succeed & Be Empowered**

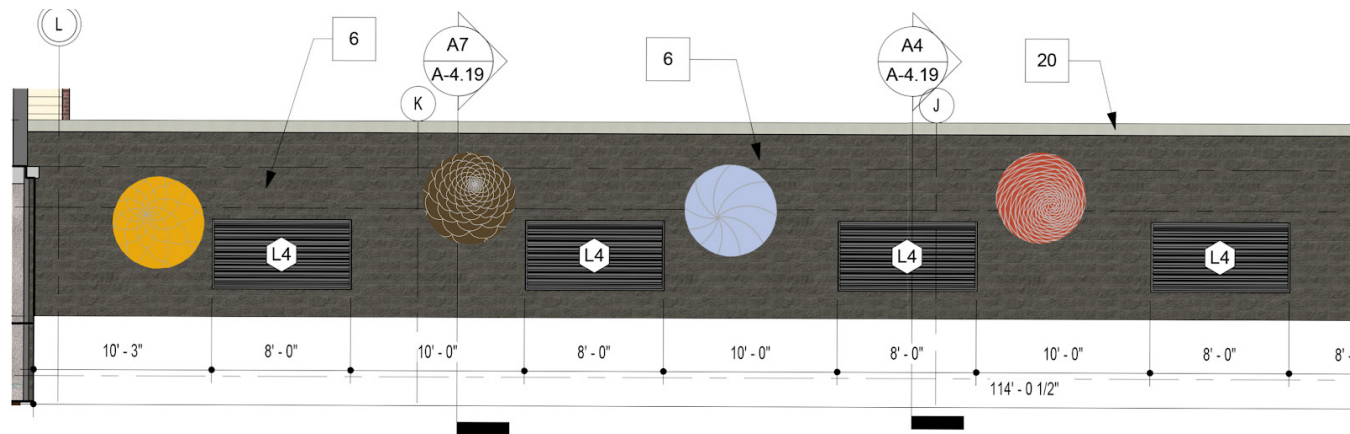


click  
for  
more!

At [Arts on the Block](#), the arts provide creative tools and a processes that bridges cultural, racial, political, physical, and emotional boundaries and are among a class of industries known for adaptive capacities. (Sharing Smiles by AOB Studio Crew member Taniya Dickerson.)



Within 48 hours of closing our doors, the AOB program team deployed remote working capabilities in an online studio. This robust digital platform complements our new Silver Spring studio and expands our regional reach.



Inspired by spirals, [Nature's Patterns](#) echoes the Fibonacci sequence found in nature, these four large mosaic murals were commissioned by Landex Development for [Artisan 4100](#), a new development in the Gateway Arts District.

**ADVERSITY ALTERED THROUGH ADAPTION**  
*Design Your Future (DYF)*

**Studio Habit:**  
**Explore, Experiment, & Persist**

Harmonizing stories with natural surroundings, [Seasons of Sunrises](#) reflects the beauty of nature within an urban setting for Lerner's [Black Hill Germantown](#) development.







The digital creative economy has arrived! AOB is working to make equitable economic inclusion possible through our apprenticeship model and community-integrated design process. This year, we paid over \$300k in wages and stipends to 70 emerging creatives.

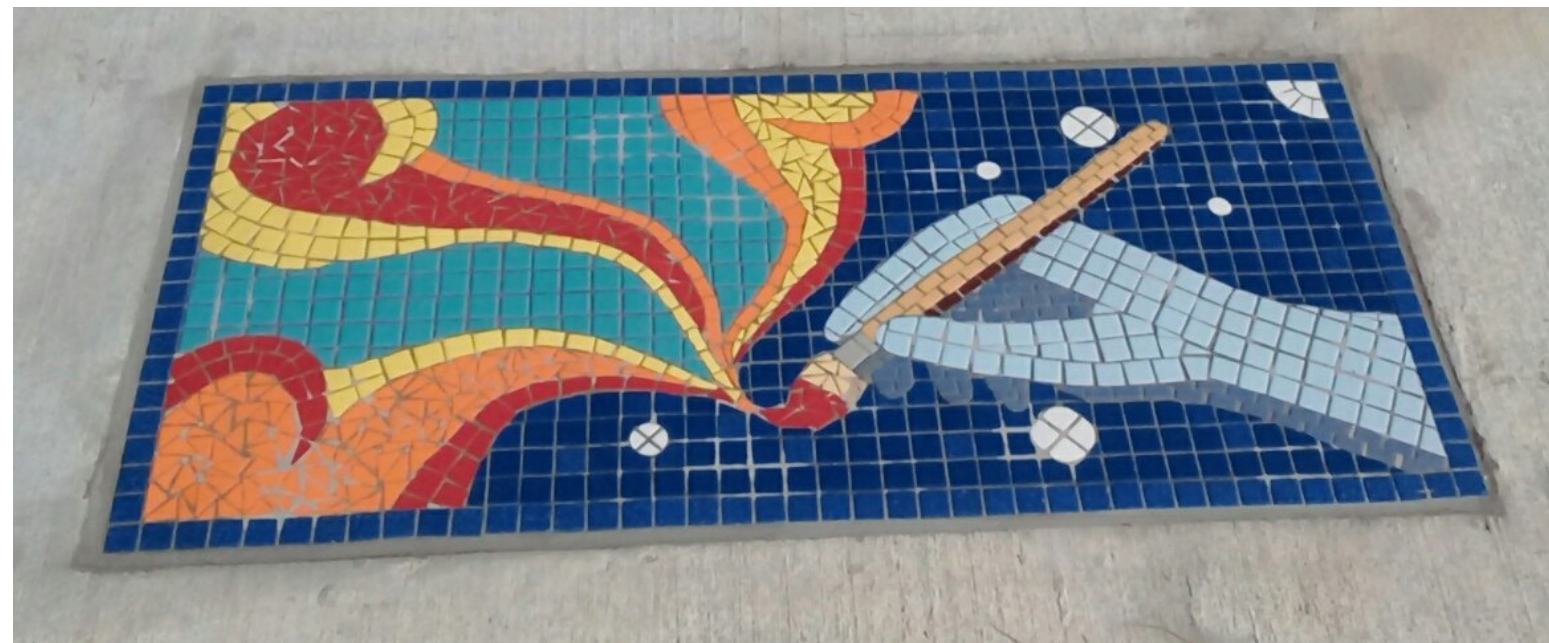
**Studio Habit:  
Develop Skills**

Driving toward success through a [multi-year partnership](#) with Montgomery County Department of Transportation, PYAO apprentices produced sidewalk murals for the [FLASH](#) bus rapid transit stops from Burtonsville to our new Silver Spring studio.

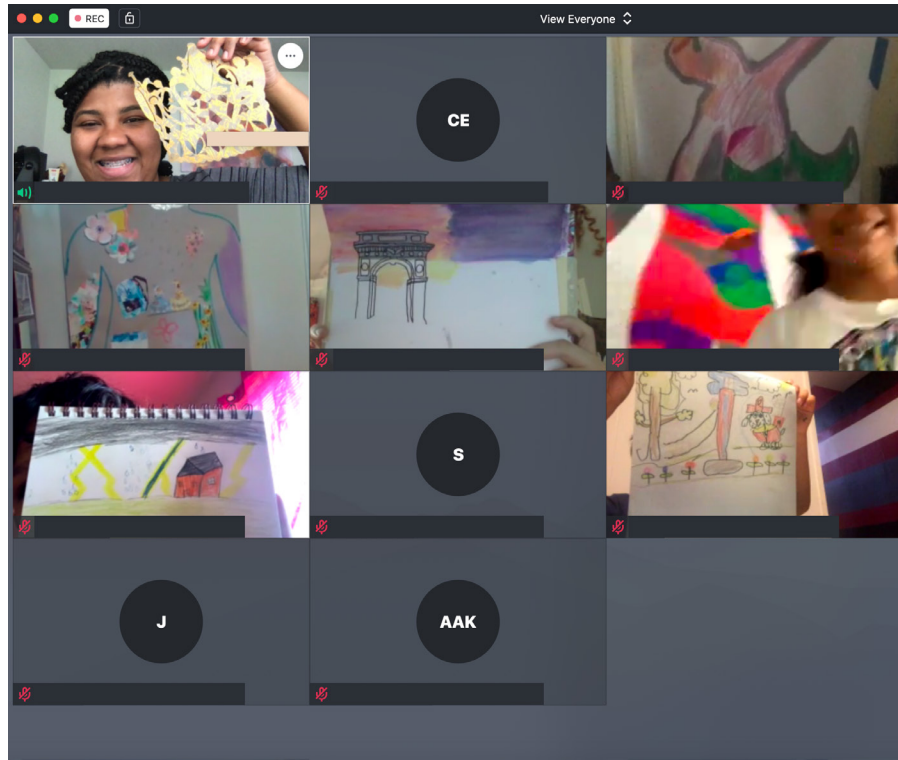
Time honored icon, [the Wheaton Tower](#), got a face lift through a partnership with [Wheaton Urban District](#) that features the design and production of four seven-foot medallions and 44 smaller works by PYAO apprentices.

## RECESSION CONFRONTED BY RESILIENCE

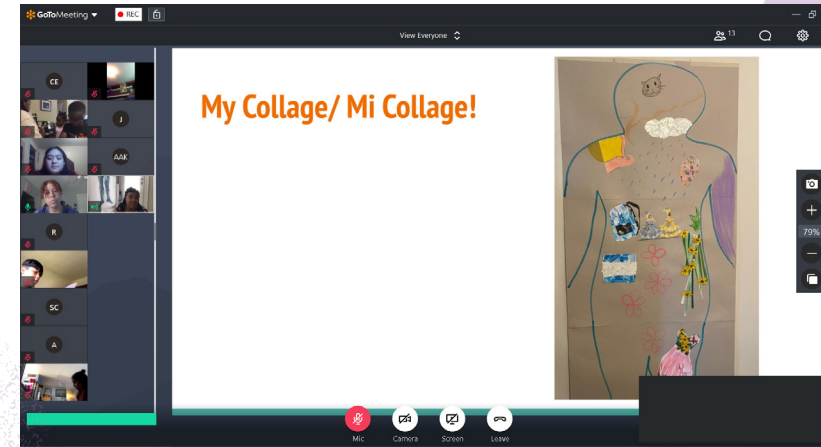
*Pour Your Art Out (PYAO)*







**Studio Habit:  
Create**



We launched a dual-language program designed to quickly make a positive and accessible virtual environment available to children and families facing socio-economic, language, and tech barriers and to begin AOB creative collaborations at an even earlier age.

[Movimiento de las Artes Juveniles](#) (YAM), programmed in English and Spanish was introduced with our partners at [CASA de Maryland](#). In this online studio, families create hands on art projects while playing with technology and practicing scientific inquiry.

**SOCIAL SECLUSION SCALED BY STRATEGY**  
*Youth Arts Movement (YAM)*



Block Talks and online galleries celebrate the creativity of our studio apprentices, crew, teaching artists, staff, board, and extended AOB family. This year, we used new online tools to connect, share, and navigate change together during an unprecedented time.

*Studio Habit:*  
**Observe & Listen**

*Facing: In partnership with [Montgomery County's Office of Human Rights](#), the Maryland Civil Rights Educational Freedom Experience [virtual event](#) explored images by photojournalist Christopher Barclay in conversation with Director, James L. Stowe.*

**DISCONNECTION DETERRED BY DIRECT DIALOGUE**  
*Block Talks & Online Galleries*





**Studio Habit:  
Succeed & Be Empowered**

Led by a distinguished [New Majority board](#), AOB has mapped out three special projects in Racial Equity, HR, and IT for next year. With accountable leadership, training resources, and data-driven strategy, young creatives will be better prepared to succeed in our transformed world.

**CHALLENGING CONFUSION WITH COMMITMENT**  
**AOB 2.0**



*AOB 2.0 is our strategic plan to leapfrog digital divides and upend inequities through creative engagement with young leaders and communities. We aim to expand our capacities as we move toward a more racially, socially, and economically inclusive society. (Salto by PYAO apprentice Karen, displayed during the Arts on the Virtual Block Online Gallery.)*



We are realizing our vision! 2021 brings the safe launch of our new studio and the space to welcome young creatives from across the region. We are excited to make our future in downtown Silver Spring!

***Studio Habit:  
Envision & Plan***

*Facing: [900 Wayne Avenue](#) is our new address and we are ready! AOB's tech-forward and broadly accessible space will nurture teams trained to take on the next economy. (The Little Giant by AOB Studio Crew member Ruqayyah Aakil, displayed during the Arts on the Virtual Block Online Gallery.)*

**OUR OUTLOOK IS ONWARD AND OPTIMIST**  
***State of the Art Studio in Silver Spring***





AOB was able to take bold action in 2020 because of the enduring leadership, guidance, and support of the [Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County](#), the [Maryland State Arts Council](#), and the [Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation](#).

Our online studio was developed with critical emergency support, technology, and equipment provided by the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#), the [Maryland Department of Labor](#), the [Maryland Department of Commerce](#), our friends at the [Greater Washington Community Foundation](#), [Philip L. Graham Foundation](#) and [Taking It Global](#), and everyone who gave through our Power2Give campaign.

*Studio Habit:*  
Reflect

**ENCOURAGEMENT & ENDURING ESTEEM**

*With Gratitude*

We are especially grateful for the team members who serve through [Americorps](#) and [VISTA](#) programs at [Project Change](#) and the [MOST Network](#). We benefited from expert business consulting and technical support through [BoardLead](#), [Catalogue for Philanthropy](#), [Catchafire](#), [COMPASS](#), and [DataKind](#).

AOB's apprenticeship model isn't possible without clients who care about young creatives. We are so proud of the artwork produced this year and our partnerships with [Chase](#), [Landex](#), [Lerner](#), the [Montgomery County Department of Transportation](#), [Residential Mortgage Center](#), [Temple Emanuel](#), and the [Wheaton Urban District](#).

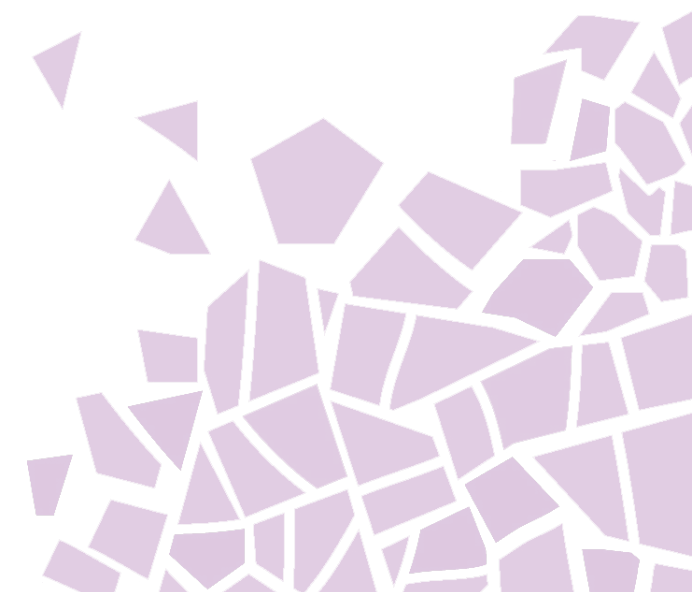




[Connect with us](#) in 2021! Become a mentor, attend a Block Talk, visit the online studios. We can't wait to welcome you to new spaces, public events, and creative opportunities in the new year! (Thank You Card by PYAO apprentice Nani.)

The new [Silver Spring Studio](#) comes as the result of an extraordinary three-year collaboration between the [Montgomery County Department of General Services](#), the [Maryland Transportation Authority](#), and the [United States Post Office](#). We thank Senator [Chris Van Hollen](#), our [District 20 Team](#), [Montgomery County Council](#), [Hickok Cole](#), [GPI](#), [Kay Management](#), [Lerch, Early & Brewer](#), the [Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment District](#), and [VIKA Maryland](#) for fast help, expert guidance, and lots of patience!

Most remarkable are the individuals who made a difference in quiet moments that mattered this year and who show up for us every day in every way. Thank you is just the beginning!







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