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Veteran Thor Hansen, oil/paper; William Scott SFMOMA field trip, Curator Nancy Lim; Maddy Varkonyi-Morales' oil/aluminum

ArtSeed's 25th Anniversary Annual Letter is Your Q & A!

#1: Was that mural at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art by ArtSeed's William Scott? You bet! He was referred to me in 2002 since he wanted to "learn to paint strong bodies and make new friends." Earlier this year, despite his busy schedule (Creative Growth's SFMOMA show and Smithsonian Design Triennial at Cooper Hewitt in NYC), he joined us to make art alongside families, military veterans and others at our Earth Week Art-a-thon. Connecting young and old, new and long-time friends, luminaries and novices, liberals and conservatives (and reconciling other false opposites!) is what we are all about.

#2: What was new in 2024? We partnered with Tides Converge to host a pop-up MakerSpace. This fabulously equipped art studio and library hosted students from two new schools on field trips and in workshops. Our new operations manager is making outreach easier than ever before, while fresh and seasoned volunteers keep things running smoothly. We deepened our partnership with Life Learning Academy, CA Lawyers for the Arts, USF, and The SF Department of Veteran Affairs. Three dozen students received uncompromised instruction at our sites (Bayview Hunters Point and the Presidio), eight youngsters got one-on-one internships, our veterans had weekly online ArtLabs, and over 700 visitors engaged with art at our exhibitions and open studios!

#3: Has it really been 25 years? Yes! In 1999, after more than a decade of teaching, exhibiting, and winning commissions, I conceived ArtSeed's name while reading the first book of Afrofuturist writer Octavia Butler's *Earthseed Series* (written in 1993 but about a young girl on a pilgrimage in 2024). My own tough teenage wanderings were safeguarded largely by having an artist mentor. Founding advisor and friend, art historian Leo Steinberg, helped form our teaching philosophy: young or untutored artists should work alongside their teachers with the finest materials on big, serious projects. That's been our work and commitment ever since.

#4: What do we need your help with in 2025? We have exciting new projects in the works that will invigorate our annual Art-a-thon, two Open Studios, a week-long Fine Arts Summer Intensive, and our Presidio Exhibition, *About Face*. While we build on what the past teaches, we also learn from what we see, hear, taste, smell, and touch every day. With your support, more students will engage with the physical world, strengthen connections to one another, and be mentored in the world's many possibilities.

#5: How can we keep making all this fun happen? Our core programming and one-on-one mentorships are made possible by individual donations from folks like you. Please share what you can! Contribute digitally, by clicking the [Donate](#) button on our website. There, and on checks payable to ArtSeed, you can dedicate your gift to someone you wish to honor. We send them, and you, a handmade token of thanks or, if you prefer, a personal email. We heartily thank all you loyal patrons! Legacy gifts change lives. Let's connect over ideas for building a future. Thank you in advance and thank you again for all you do to support the arts, education, and young and vulnerable people. **Imagine doing this for so long! Let's do it for another 25 years together!**

With best wishes and immense gratitude,
Josefa Vaughan, Founding Artistic Director, and Principal

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Presidio WorkSpaces location: 1007 General Kennedy Ave, San Francisco, CA 94129 (call ahead!)
As a 501(C)(3) non-profit your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. EIN #: 52-2368513.

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