



P.O. Box 29277, San Francisco, California 94129-0277



May 13, 2025

Dear ArtSeed Friend,

We're so grateful for your generosity. It helps us put students from diverse backgrounds in touch with artists and other professionals in a variety of fields. Here is a way you can help the organization for the long haul.

French-born photographer, educator, and long-time ArtSeed friend and advisor Michelle Vignes (1926-2012) photographed major social movements. From Vietnam War protesters burning draft cards to Oakland's vibrant blues scene, her work captured important events of political and cultural change.

Michelle received ArtSeed students on field trips to her home studio. The first time she donated was when she decided to give her home and studio to ArtSeed, an incredible symbol of her confidence in our future and providing ArtSeed with our first legacy gift.

Today, May 13, is her birthday, and we are thrilled to announce our new Michelle Vignes Legacy Circle.

No matter where you are on your life's journey, making or updating your will can bring you, and the folks and causes you care about, an immense feeling of satisfaction and security. Consider including a gift in your will of any size as a benefit to ArtSeed. You will receive special recognition and invitations as a cherished member of ArtSeed's Michelle Vignes Legacy Circle. But most importantly, you will be making a commitment to connecting the most resourceful and gifted with the youngest and most vulnerable citizens of the Bay Area and beyond through an innovative and unique arts education program.

We've partnered with [FreeWill](#) because their secure online resource can help you make or update your will in as little as 20 minutes at no cost. After years of looking into this and learning how easily I could clarify my own plans, I wanted you to have, with no obligation to ArtSeed, access to a free estate planning tool.

From 2013 to early 2017, Michelle's Diamond Heights home — with a library, dark room, garden, and sweeping city views — was San Francisco's only live-in artist residency offering intimate classes, readings, and art exhibition receptions for the public. When upkeep became too costly, ArtSeed sold the property to an artistic couple, allowing us to launch four years of year-round programming at Labyrinth Studios. Since then, income from the sale of Michelle's cottage has, combined with your gifts, brought mentorships and summer camps to the young and vulnerable who can't afford private instruction.

One child given serious tools and attention can change others exponentially causing the world to move towards policies that treasure all children's future. [Let's continue Michelle's legacy of making meaningful arts experiences possible, giving form to young peoples' unique, creative gifts.](#)

With gratitude,

Josefa Vaughan, Founding Artistic Director, and Principal

P.S. Already included ArtSeed in your estate plans? Please let us know so we can thank you!

Email: josefa@artseed.org, Voice/text: 415-656-9849, Website: www.artseed.org

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.

Special thanks to Tides Converge, USF, CA Lawyers for the Arts, Life Learning Academy, Budding Artist Foundation, Tina Cervin, David Gavrich, Tony & Caroline Grant, and an anonymous major donor.

Image: Michelle Vignes photograph archive, © The Regents of the University of California, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. This work is made available under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license. Banner designed by Luke Tan.