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AbilityPath Unveils New Creative Arts Program at Mitchell Park Place

AbilityPath will celebrates the launch of its new Creative Arts Program at Mitchell Park Place, the affordable housing development that opened to fanfare just last week. While AbilityPath has a long history of elevating artists of all abilities and connecting them with the broader community, the new program and its dedicated space in the ground floor of Mitchell Park Place is a totally re-imagined approach to arts programming, aimed at expanding opportunities for creative expression, skill-building, and social connection.



AbilityPath, an organization that supports people with disabilities and their families, will be offering art programs, computer education, meeting spaces, exercise classes, and more in a community space, a convenient location for residents of Mitchell Park Place and other local community members. Among those services is its expansive Creative Arts Program. As Art Director Taylor Buttrey explains, the program is designed to “spark creativity, unlock



Taylor Buttrey
Art Director

Mitchell Park Place



Ribbon cutting of the Creative Arts Program at Mitchell Park Place

skills, and create new pathways toward independence.”

The new program, offered to participants 18 years and older who have graduated from high school, offers structured curricula on three tracks:

- Visual and performing arts, including video recording and podcasts;
- An “Artrepreneurial” path that explores career opportunities, including marketing and branding, for those seeking to earn a living from their talents; and
- Art therapy to support emotional wellness.

The revamped Creative Arts Program is much more than art classes. Buttrey is especially keen on the “artrepreneurial” track. “Employment is a challenge for many of our program participants,” he says. “To help someone take something they love and parlay that into a career opportunity is exciting.” Daniel Arroyo, an AbilityPath artist, agrees: “My hopes and dreams are to make a living out of my art. Dreams are for everybody — no limits on dreams, no limits on people.”

Art therapy is another key component of the new program. Buttrey points out that participants often suffer disproportionately from trauma, anxiety, depression, and processing delays. “To be able to process their emotions through a creative outlet can be a game changer,” he adds.

AbilityPath has been a cornerstone of the community for over 100 years, providing a lifespan of support services to people with disabilities in the greater Bay Area. Their mission is celebrating neurodiversity and empowering individuals with developmental disabilities through innovative, inclusive programs and community partnerships. With educational, therapeutic, vocational, and family support services, they are distinctive in providing support to individuals throughout their lifetimes. Visit their website at abilitypath.org to learn more.



Philip Ma, Artist



Collaborative Piece
Artists: **Per Maresca** and **Leo Mancilla**

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