

ARTfactory COVID-19 Update

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at the ARTfactory, we would like to thank you for your support and dedication to the ARTfactory and to the arts in our community. The arts industry is an economic driver in the community and brings communities together to celebrate life and face its challenges. The past several months has been unlike anything that most of us have ever seen, and we're working hard to find creative ways we can continue to provide a meaningful artistic respite for you, our staff and all of our community. We have recently launched online classes with live instructors and limited class sizes to allow you to continue to explore your artistic endeavors. We hope these classes give you a place to once again experience art and community.

As the Governor continues to share his plan for reopening Virginia, we wanted to share with you our plans for reopening as well. Paramount in all our planning is the health and wellbeing of our community including you and our employees. We have developed a plan for a phased reopening with the safety of all as our priority. When we do reopen, more than anything we want you to feel safe and comfortable when you're visiting and learning with us. Below are some updates to let you know what we are planning in our initial reopening phase:

- Requiring face coverings for anyone who enters the building;
- Taking steps to allow for social distancing of six feet or more, including limiting class sizes so that no more than 10 people are in one room at a time and adapting instruction to provide social distancing between instructors and class participants;
- Providing a variety of ongoing online classes with live instructors for those students who would prefer to learn from home for the time being;
- Increasing cleaning and sanitization to including cleaning all surfaces after each class as well as regularly cleaning high contact surfaces;
- Mandating that everyone must wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon entering the building;
- Providing drop-off locations for parents to drop off their students so that only class participants will be entering the building and classroom space;
- Temporarily closing the Caton Merchant Family Gallery to the public (virtual exhibits are now available on our website. Purchases can be made online or appointments scheduled for a viewing/purchase);
- Moving art classes to the larger Caton Merchant Family Gallery space and providing a separate art table for each class participant, and either providing participants a supply kit or supply list and requiring participants to bring their own set of art supplies to each class;

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- Locating all drama classes to the Kellar Family Theater to allow maintenance of social distancing and requiring a 10-foot social distancing area around participants of all active movement classes.
- Conducting health screening for all employees, requesting that all class participants health screen prior to attending any class;
- Requiring that employees and visitors who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have had close contact within the prior three weeks with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 and has not tested negative after the onset of symptoms not enter the building, and requiring that any employee or visitor who becomes ill while in the building leave immediately.

As we near our reopening, which we hope to do in mid to late June, we look forward to welcoming you all back to the ARTfactory with our new name but our long history of being a cornerstone of our community. As the world changes and we learn more, we will update our plans and do our best to provide a safe, relaxing, creative respite for each of you. Thank you again for all you support over more than 35 years. We are all in this together and the ARTfactory is here for you.