

# 21 HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

*We celebrate what is ahead by looking back on the partners, collaborators, and work that defined 2021 for SAACA.*



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ART ENTREPRENEURS AND MAKERS!

**Over 600 artists and craft artisans participated in SAACA Events and Festivals, with over half a million dollars in sales directly back to participating artists!**

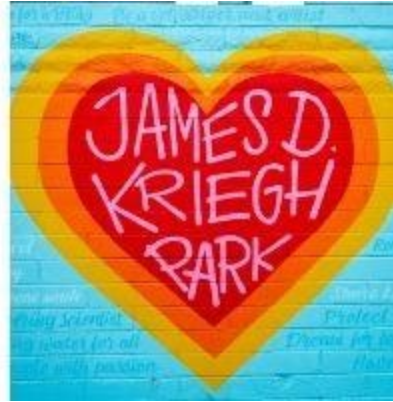
By far, this remains one of the most meaningful impact statements of the year for SAACA. We are continually honored to present opportunities that highlight the creativity of local artists throughout the State at our annual festivals and events. These special gatherings impact our local economy and support local businesses in a meaningful way.



## CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

SAACA partnered with Oro Valley, AZ, to develop **two signature Creative Placemaking projects**, transforming the surrounding community into a more lively, beautiful, and resilient place. **Nearly 100 community members** contributed to the new **ORO VALLEY DREAMS MURAL** by local muralist Ashley White at the James D Kriegh Park in Oro Valley. The written dreams of local community members were painted directly into the background of the mural.

Pen Macias created the new **WELCOME TO ORO VALLEY MURAL** at the Oro Valley Marketplace, encompassing over 1,000 square feet as a canvas for her work!



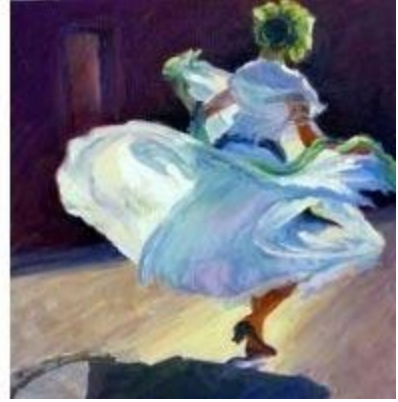
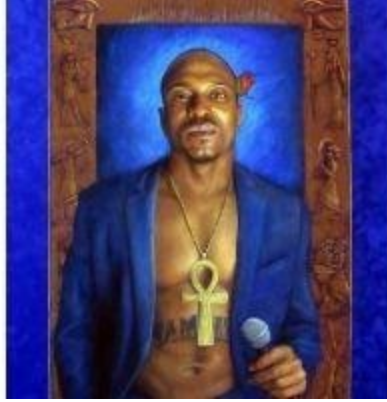
## RETURN OF IN-PERSON LIVE MUSIC & PERFORMANCES

In 2021, SAACA was proud to welcome the return of in-person concerts, theatrical, and stage performances. **Nearly 700 artists performed or presented commissioned works at SAACA programming and events throughout the year.** Highlights included the [Westward Look Concert Series](#), [JW Marriott Concert Series](#), [Oro Valley Concerts](#), and the [POP Art in Unexpected Places Festival](#).



## ART FOR CHANGE

SAACA teamed up with **Roche Tissue Diagnostics** and local artists to present multiple groundbreaking gallery exhibitions, aiming to showcase the diversity within the community and thoughtful perspectives in a time of change. The [FACES OF A COMMUNITY](#) online and in-person art exhibition featured the works of over 45 artists, each representing different perspectives and lenses of a community. The [LUNG CANCER AWARENESS EXHIBITION](#), in honor of Lung Cancer Awareness month, teamed up to support the El Rio Foundation and featured over 80 individual works inspired by the white ribbon color.



## A CATALYST IN THE COMMUNITY

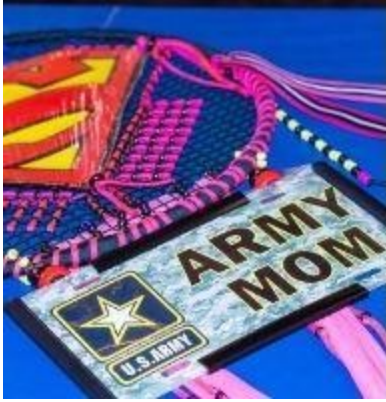
At our venue and special event space in the Tucson Mall, [CATALYST Arts and Maker Space](#), we continue to find new ways for the facility to be of service and impact to our community of artists and supporters. In 2021, we hosted over 81 events and welcomed over 4,500 attendees to participate in programming, classes, events, music rehearsals, and meetings.



## HEALING ARTS

When needed most, SAACA was honored to welcome back our Music Therapy programming at the Southern Arizona Veterans Administration hospital, providing over 50 music therapy sessions in the Blind Rehabilitation Unit and Geriatric Psychiatric Unit.





## TUCSON YOUTH MUSIC CENTER & FREE MUSIC CLASSES

SAACA continues to find meaningful collaborations within our community. In 2021, SAACA welcomed the [Tucson Youth Music Center](#) to the CATALYST Arts and Maker Space, as their new home base to provide free music classes to Tucson youth. The mission of TYMC is to enrich the lives of underserved youth in the greater Tucson Area through quality music education and free music lessons. CATALYST is proud to host these weekly classes for youth in Southern Arizona.



## MUSIC AND THE MALL

CATALYST hosted nearly 100 different performing ensembles in 2021 for rehearsals, performances, music videos, recitals, and livestreams. These collaborations include the [Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra](#), the [Tucson Repertory Orchestra](#), [American String Teachers Association](#), [Mute Swan](#), [Zona Pachanga](#), [Warrior Songs](#), and [The Inner Voice Music Studio](#).



## THE ART OF FOOD - VIRTUAL

In 2021, SAACA partnered up with [Slow Foods of Southern Arizona](#) to present the [LOCAL FOOD HEROES SERIES](#) and with [Splendido at Rancho Vistoso](#) to present [THE ART OF FOOD](#) in the CATALYST Teaching Kitchen. Both series paired signature recipe card downloads, in-person pick-ups and giveaways, and provided a virtual way for culinary fans to connect remotely.



## CULTURAL ART

The popular **DESERT RIDGE MUSIC AND MURALS & TEMPE CHALK ART FESTIVAL** events highlighted local cultural performances and original art commissions from over 25 local artists, muralists and performance groups. **The popular community showcase of artists and performances drew a combined attendance of over 5,000 spectators to watch the art come to life.**





## RURAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT

SAACA's roots as an organization are in rural community development and we're honored to continue to work hand-in-hand with local Government partners to place the arts at the center of a community. **In 2021, SAACA continued developing community programming in partnership with the Town of Patagonia, Oro Valley, and Sahuarita.** These partnerships have resulted in dynamic community programming that stimulates economic development, brings the community together, and puts artists to work.



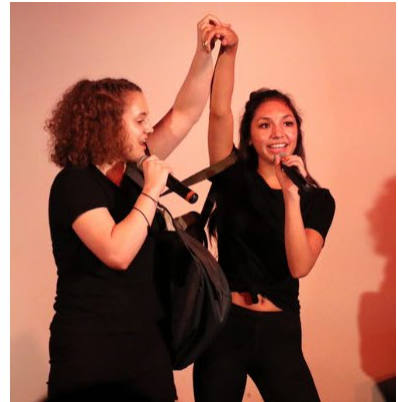
## THROUGH THE LENS OF A COMMUNITY

SAACA and the Town of Oro Valley collaborated to establish the inaugural [Oro Valley Community Photography Competition](#), featuring over **300 photographs** submitted in both adult and youth categories. The competition aimed to reveal the essence of Oro Valley through the lens of a camera, transporting us to unique landmarks, introducing us to new friends and neighbors, and helping us rediscover the beauty in our backyards.



## CREATIVE SUMMER CAMPS

In Summer 2021, CATALYST hosted the Young Artist Summer Camp, taught by local artist and educator [Angela Hitt](#). Students learned a variety of 2D and 3D art techniques while teaching youth the basics of design, production, and reflection of their work. We also hosted a Musical Theater Intensive Camp with [The Inner Voice Studio](#) that concluded with a fully staged musical theater performance.



## BUILDING CREATIVE CAPACITY

CATALYST is proud to make possible permanent homes to several creative entrepreneurs who help define the essential mission and vision of the space. Resident artists [Angela Burton \(Art Mixer\)](#) and [Sandy Villegas \(Luna's Paper Design\)](#) have hosted a combined 1,300 students to participate in weekly painting and traditional Mexican Folk Arts classes in 2021.





## PUBLIC ART & NEW WORKS

SAACA was proud to play a role in commissioning over 27 new works from local sculptors, muralists and painters. These works now grace the halls and walls of local business partners and outdoor spaces, including the Oro Valley Marketplace, Desert Ridge Marketplace, Tempe Marketplace, Roche Tissue Diagnostics and parks throughout Southern Arizona, including Sahuarita and Oro Valley.



## EDUCATION LEADERS GATHER TO COLLABORATE

CATALYST supported our education partners with hosting multiple [STEMAZing](#) hands-on science education workshops, Coder Dojo computer programming sessions, and the official kick-off of the new Tucson Regional Educator Collaborative (TREC) based at the University of Arizona. Arizona State Superintendent Kathy Hoffman even zoomed in for an interactive presentation with local educators.





## STORYTELLING THROUGH THE ARTIST'S EYES

SAACA partnered with [PACZKA Digital](#) and [AARP of Southern Arizona](#) to develop several video series featuring unique stories of artists and makers and signature performances. Highlights of the series included clay artist Hiro Tashima, spice artist Amanda Magaretha, puppetry artist Lisa Sturz, painter Javi Valenzuela, local culinary artists, partner Solar Storytellers. <https://www.saaca.org/aarpaz.html>



## CREATIVE AGING – THE SOUND OF MUSIC ABRIDGED

Although the pandemic has continued to provide barriers of access and connection for families and individuals, we are proud of the creative ways in which the arts thrive.

Over the past six years, SAACA and Watermark Communities have continued to develop innovative, creative aging programs, placing creativity at the center of aging. Missy Paschke-Woods spearheaded a memorable approach with her adaptation of "The Sound of Music" titled "The Sound of Music Abridged", at the Hacienda at the Canyon community in Southern Arizona. The program was performed by local residents who presented originally scripted jokes on aging, proving that humor and creativity go hand in hand. [https://tucson.com/news/local/photos-senior-living-residents-perform-a-parody-of-the-sound-of-music/collection\\_a08ed5ca-27ed-11ec-a0fb-1b6754aa5143.html](https://tucson.com/news/local/photos-senior-living-residents-perform-a-parody-of-the-sound-of-music/collection_a08ed5ca-27ed-11ec-a0fb-1b6754aa5143.html)



## WORKING TOGETHER

In 2021, the CATALYST Arts and Maker Space continued to remain the home of a diverse group of coworkers, from all sectors including public art fabrication, architectural design, muralist, arts publications, educators and music producers. Aranda/Lasch Design, On Media, local muralist Ignacio Garcia, and Joshua Hays with ABC Guidance.

## NEW RECORDING WORKS

In 2021, the CATALYST Arts and Maker Space Music and Digital Arts Lab was lucky to play a part in creative and meaningful productions of new works by local artists.

Some of our favorite highlights include those of filming Arizona Senior Academy virtual concerts; production of the Gwen Jones "A Cry from the Womb" audiobook; Mute Swan album release live stream and conceptual listening party; local band recording and filming sessions from Sharkheart, Magpie, RISO, Ryanhood and Pineross; as well as filming of the Warrior Songs music video "Never Give Up".

## WE SURVIVED ANOTHER YEAR

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on America's arts sector. While employment conditions improve for artists and creative workers, the arts are recovering more slowly than other industries, and COVID continues to disrupt in-person programming. In 2021, SAACA began the slow process of rebuilding, re-envision, and renewing our programming. This continues in 2022 with a new strategic planning cycle that will look different than any other purpose-driven work we have embarked upon in the past. We will continue to look to our community of creatives, makers, artists, and diverse groups of partners for guidance, direction, and inspiration.