

SINCERE STUDIO

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2023



Prepared by  
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# MISSION

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Sincere Studio's mission is to provide sewing and textile art education with a focus on sewing as a tool of social change and empowerment.

## VISION

Our vision is straightforward: we aim to establish an inclusive and inviting space where all members of our community, and beyond, can learn to sew while building a sense of community. Central to our mission is prioritizing marginalized community members and ensuring a safe environment that embraces people of all genders, ages, races, and abilities. Recognizing the traditionally high barriers to entry in sewing, we are committed to fundamentally reducing these obstacles as a core aspect of our mission.

# ABOUT US

## HISTORY

Sincere Studio was founded by Frances Andonopoulos (they/them) in July 2022. We opened our community space in NE Portland, Oregon in January of 2023 and have been operating as our city's first and only community sewing studio since. In October of 2023 we became a registered 501C3 non-profit after being fiscally sponsored by Fractured Atlas since our inception.



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## IN OUR FIRST YEAR

we tested many new classes, clubs, and events to see which ones best met our community's needs. Still, we saw an amazing amount of students come through our studio. Our work in creating an inclusive and accessible studio was reflected back to us in our attendance numbers.



# 258

new sewists

In our first year, over 250 people took our intro to sewing class. This class is a introductory class for people with no sewing experience. Students leave with a completed project and confidence in their new skill.

Many of these sewists returned to our studio for more classes and affinity groups and began forming what is now a thriving community space.

# 1,245

total participants for classes, clubs, and events

# 327

hours of open studio time utilized by participants

## **Beginner-focused sewing classes**

- Introduction to Sewing
- Introduction to Garment Sewing
- Introduction to Sergers
- Introduction to Quilt Making
- Visible Mending
- Garment Sewing - Swimsuits
- Garment Sewing - Elastic Pants
- Improv Quilting and Patchwork

## **Sustainability and Community-focused events**

Fabric and Yarn Swap - community members gathered to swap unwanted fabric, yarn, and sewing supplies

Sew & Tell - This event encourages community members to show off sewing projects they've completed with an emphasis on celebrating all skill levels.

Portland Textile Month - Sincere Studio hosted the Holobiont Quilt workshop and Quilt Show in which participants gathered to work on a quilt together and view quilts made by members of the queer and trans community.

## **Community & Affinity Groups**

- BIPOC Sewing Club
- Queer & Trans Sewing Club
- Quilt Guild

# **PROGRAMMING**

# STUDENT EXPERIENCES

“ I love everything about Sincere Studio. Starting my sewing journey in April 2023 felt like a creative awakening and I'm not sure I would have had the experience in any other learning environment. Firstly, because I have never seen myself, as someone who is trans and Latine, reflected in the sewist world before Sincere Studio. Secondly, because of the community that surrounds Sincere Studio. I feel instantly at ease and welcome, like I'm sewing with old friends instead of people I've just met. And lastly, because the instruction is practical, encouraging, exciting, and responsive to the needs of the community. I'm an educator and I know how hard it is to cultivate this kind of rich learning environment. Sincere Studio excels at this. ”



“Love the community values in this space! Walking into the studio feels like a welcoming, special place where you can craft without judgment! Very supportive staff & wonderful students attend”

“Sincere Studio has given me so much confidence! It usually takes a lot for me to venture out to in person classes to learn a new skill but the space and instructors have always made me feel welcomed. I always feel comfortable asking questions or asking for additional help. Sincere Studios is truly such a special space and special resource for the community.”

“I’ve loved all the classes I’ve taken there so far. It’s such an inspiring space with great instructors. Thank you for creating such a wonderful community asset!”

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## \* STUDIO INCOME

For much of 2023, we operated as a fiscally sponsored organization, under arts non-profit Fractured Atlas. In October of 2023, we however became our own registered 501C3. This has created many new funding opportunities for us and we have since been working hard to increase the amount of grant funding we are seeking.

Grants, Gifts & Donations	<b>\$23,465</b>
Classes & Events	<b>\$57,442</b>
Merch Sales	<b>\$11,826</b>

## \* STUDIO EXPENDITURES

During our first year, we slowly built out our studio space to include accessibility-focused equipment and furniture. Our “studio” expenditures reflect studio build-out costs, including purchasing equipment, tools, and materials as well as advertising and administrative costs.

Occupancy costs	<b>\$42,960</b>
Wages	<b>\$29,119</b>
Studio	<b>\$20,654</b>





# INSTRUCTORS

## INSTRUCTORS

Epiphany Holmstock

Windsor Meyer

Frances Andonopoulos

## GUEST INSTRUCTORS

Nadia Belov

Tanner Frost Bowen

Ellie Rivkin



# FUTURE OUTLOOK

Our goals for our second year are focused on expanding our outreach in sewing skills and community engagement. We have organized these objectives into three main areas: classes, clubs, and workshops; events; and community partnerships.

In the realm of classes, clubs, and workshops, our aim for the upcoming year is to increase our programming offerings and enhance accessibility to sewing resources. This involves boosting the frequency of affinity group meetings, promoting awareness and utilization of our sliding scale fee structure, and providing additional support for novice sewists. To reduce barriers to entry, we plan to expand access to sewing equipment such as machines through our sewing machine library, empowering beginners to integrate sewing into their lives and practice their newfound skills. Additionally, we are working to sustainability-focused classes, which will cover topics like clothing repair and upcycling.

Regarding events, our goal is to grow event attendance and diversify our calendar with new offerings. These events, which are open to the community at no cost, are designed to strengthen our sewing community. New events slated for the upcoming year include the Community Mending Night, a mascot-centered clothing swap, and sustainability-focused demonstrations and information booths at local events. We will also reintroduce popular events such as Sew &



Tell, an event for our community to showcase their sewing projects, and our highly successful fabric and yarn swap, which drew participants from as far away as Seattle.

In terms of community programming, we are committed to deepening our connections with like-minded organizations in our area. For instance, we have organized events where members of the Sincere Studio community repaired sleeping bags for individuals at the Right 2 Dream Too encampment. Additionally, we offer complimentary classes to nonprofits that share our values, such as SWANA Rose, and aim to expand these partnerships in the coming year.

Overall, our second-year goals revolve around expanding our reach and impact in teaching sewing skills and fostering community engagement, through enhanced programming, diverse events, and strengthened community partnerships.

# CONTACT US



## SINCERE STUDIO

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