



An Artistic Life

One of the most vivacious people in The Nemasket Group community is Ariel Costa-Medeiros. For nearly four years, Ariel has been supported by the Job Paths program as she pursues her goal to be a professional artist. At 22, Ariel aspires to support herself as a free-lance artist with her imagery that draws upon fantasy, gaming, comics and anime. Ariel is a member of the LGBTQ community and finds inspiration in the makeup and entertainment skills of her favorite drag performers. Ariel also experienced the fun and artistry of the Carnival parade in Provincetown last August. She was excited to see that one of her favorite drag performers, Trixie Mattel, was one of the Grand Marshals of the parade.

Since she began her relationship with The Nemasket Group, Ariel has been very focused on an arts employment orientation but has been open to trying other things through job trials. She has been introduced to area artists who have advised her on what it's like to work as an artist. She has been a member at Art on Center in Fairhaven where she exhibited her work and also at Gallery X in New Bedford. Ariel has formed a good relationship with her mentor at Gallery X, Susan Hauck, who has encouraged and advised her on techniques, materials and presenting her work on a budget.

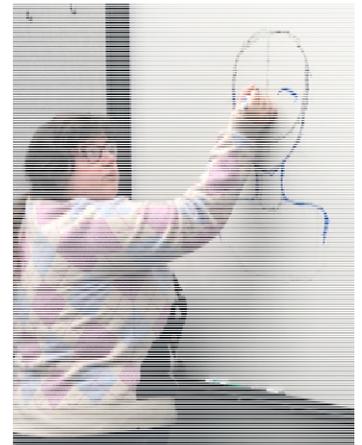
In 2018 Ariel was hired by Better Community Living to provide art instruction for one hour a week on Fridays at their Next Step program. Next Step serves young adults on the autism spectrum who are out of school and helps them gain new life skills that will serve them as they transition into their adult lives. Ariel started teaching in July 2018 and completed two courses of projects with her students. Topics ranged from applying patches on clothes to painting pumpkins for Halloween. By October of 2018 she was teaching her students how to draw the human figure. Ariel's first two lessons showed her students how to set up guidelines for the head, face, and shoulders; as well as various facial expressions, face parts and hair styles. Ariel's students worked in small sketch books so they were able to refer back to their previous lesson work. The eventual goal was to apply what they'd learned to a larger format and each produce a piece that could be exhibited at the end of the lesson series.

Though the class was only one hour a week, Ariel gained valuable experience from it. She learned how to plan weekly lessons and organize them into modules; planned on what supplies she needed for her lessons; dealt with a program budget; and learned how to communicate with a variety of students with varying personalities and skill sets. During 2019, Ariel was on a sabbatical from teaching but plans to resume her teaching work soon. These skills and opportunities will serve her well as she progresses toward working and living independently one day.

~Written by Niko Tarini



Ariel with Miss Naomi Chomsky



Ariel teaching students how to draw the human figure by hand



Ariel teaching students how to draw using an iPad

People who fill roles that are valued by others (example: photographer, employee, co-worker, voter, musician, volunteer, college student) will be granted the good things of life.



the nemasket group

A Full Life Ahead

Full Life Ahead is a series of monthly workshops designed for parents and caregivers as they plan for the future of their loved one with a disability. Various workshop topics such as friendships, transition, employment, housing and financial planning are offered. The workshops and resources provided in this series will help lead to interdependent, full lives in the community for people with disabilities.

April 28th, 2020 - Navigating DDS & the ISP
May 26th, 2020 - Leaving the School System – what’s next?
6 - 8 pm
at The Nemasket Group
109 Fairhaven Rd, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

Save the Date!



Saturday, May 2, 2020

Thank you to everyone who came to our first annual Winter Festival! We hope to see you again next year!

Congratulations to the winners of our Holiday Basket Raffle:

Cocoa Street – Sue Hutson
Fireside Road – Tracie Williams
Snowday Court – Andrea Patisteas

Tinsel Street – William Besse
Birch Avenue – Niko Tarini
Cozy Circle – Stephen Ramocki



Our story began in 1984 when a group of families came together and made a decision. They wanted their sons and daughters to have a future — a future that included working and participating in everyday community life. *The Nemasket Group* was born from that idea and a lot of effort from families, friends, local officials and other state agencies.

Visit www.NemasketGroup.org to learn more about the organization and/or to make an on-line donation.

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