



Dear Arc Participants, Families and Circles of Support,

It is difficult to believe that we have now passed the one-year anniversary since our campus doors closed in response to COVID-19. Though we have not been on campus, our community has continued to connect, learn and grow. As the public health emergency continues to improve, we look forward to serving our participants in new ways.

Phased Reopening:

- **Phase 1, Essential and Distanced 1:1 Support** of our reopening plan continues with more staff returning. For the past 15 months and with health and safety in mind, we have had over 80 staff members in the field supporting our participants in residential, wellness, job coaching, and education programs. Our robust remote learning platform continued to grow and allow our participants to connect safely and continue working towards their goals. During this time, The Arc also prioritized staff vaccination, and we are happy to report that over 70% of our staff have been vaccinated.
- **Phase 2** We anticipate moving into **Phase 2, Small Community Based Groups**, by May 1st, 2021. During this time, we will be increasing our 1:1 community-based in-person supports and introducing small classes and group outings based on participant needs and geography. We will continue the increase of in-person service with a target to reopen our campuses on a limited basis in the Fall for hybrid services. All program planning will be person-centered and done in partnership with our participants and their circles of support as needed. We will move forward with a high level of flexibility as we have done over these past 15 months centering the health and safety of both our participants and staff. Participants with increased support needs or those who are not best served remotely will be prioritized for in-person supports. We will continue to follow the strict guidelines put forward by both our local and state departments of public health, as well as following best practices for supporting individuals with disabilities. Our robust remote learning offerings will continue through our phased reopening plan.
- **Campus Reopening** In alignment with our community colleges, The Arc San Francisco anticipates reopening our campuses for in-person services at a limited capacity starting in the Fall. Return to our campuses will not be required, and all planning will be focused on participant needs and the best environment to provide supports. We will continue to follow the most conservative guidance from our local and state departments of public health as well as best practices for serving individuals with disabilities as our communities continue to reopen.

Vaccination Priority

Vaccination access for all adults over the age of 16 in California began on 4/15/2021. The vaccination process can still be challenging to navigate, so we have updated resource pages on both our Arc SF [website](#) and our participant [ArcSF Hub](#). We are excited about the opportunities that vaccination brings for our entire community, but recognize that it is a personal health choice for all participants and staff. We are providing advocacy and resources to ensure that all of our community members have the information they need to make informed decisions about vaccination. For questions about vaccination assistance, please [contact Kelly](#)

[Noelke](#) in our Wellness Office.

Friends Like Me Pacesetters Salon

On **April 21**, we highlighted our wonderful **Friends Like Me after-hours recreational and socialization program** and its impact during the past year as we have engaged with one another remotely in our April Pacesetters Salon. This event was a celebration of the resilience and innovation of our community as well as the wonderful supporters who make our work possible. Featuring talented participants, staff, and volunteers, the event included reflections on how FLM has made life better and more enjoyable for us all, despite not being together in person. The event was attended by many participants and volunteers and was a lot of fun! If you were not able to join us, the event recording is [here](#) and on The Arc SF's Facebook page - and [it's not too late to donate](#) in support of this important program! The suggested donation was \$70 in honor of our 70th Anniversary in 2021!

Family & Circles of Support Town Hall - May 6, 2021

We will be hosting our next **Family and Circles of Support Town Hall** on **May 6 at 5:30 pm**, to discuss **Phase 2 planning** and how to navigate the community as we remain in the Orange Tier. The meeting link can be found [here](#). Translation will be provided.

All our administrative teams continue to operate, working remotely as much as possible, but in the office on a limited basis, and social distancing. Our main office number will be open to answer any questions during office closure, 415-255-7200. Please also [visit our website](#) for up-to-date resources and planning updates.

Be well,

Kristen

Kristen Pedersen, Executive Director

Upcoming May Events: Please visit [The Arc SF Event Calendar for Zoom Links](#)

5/6/ 2021 - Families & Circles of Support Town Hall, 5:30 PM

5/11/2021 - Board of Directors Meeting, 5:30 PM

5/21/2021 - We Gotta Dance, 6:00 PM, visit the [Hub Calendar for Zoom Link](#)

5/24/2021 - Memorial Day Holiday Closure

5/26/2021 - "The Beat Goes On" Art Show & Sale, Pacesetters Salon, 5:30 PM

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