This summer at Van Go looks quite different than most. Masks, physically distanced work spaces, individual art supplies, temperatures taken at the door, no summer lunch guests. It's a whole new world filled with an abundance of caution... and passion. Not once have we questioned whether we should move forward with programming, the question was how.

We planned and evolved. We decided we could not do Summer Benchmark justice, as so much of that project includes being out in the community and meeting with clients. Instead, our on-site youth are building and painting needs pantries and completing the spring mural we stopped short of finishing with the shut down. We’ll soon hire a group of youth to work off-site to create their very own artwork for our Adornment Show. Generous funders- The Ethel and Raymond Rice Foundation, in conjunction with Douglas County Community Foundation- helped us purchase iPads which allow youth to safely clock-in, do research, and doodle while maintaining adequate physical distance. The iPads will be checked out and taken home in the event of another shut down. Our famous family style lunches are now individually plated and taken outside to eat in the fresh air. Where we typically depend on a bevy of volunteers, the program staff is serving every role of on-site programming. Things look different but we are making it happen.

It is so wonderful to have youth back in the house--their house! The energy, ideas, and strength they offer give us hope for the future. Thank YOU for allowing us to continue this crucial work. In so many ways, Van Go Works.
Congrats to our first two Employees of the Week, Ayana and Hammi! Plus, check out that super fresh lunch made by Raven Naramore!

Summer JAMS participants (ages 14-18) are working on-site to create needs pantries for the community. Similar to a Little Free Library, the hand built and painted pantries will offer a space to provide essential items to the community. Once complete, the needs pantries will be available to the community to purchase and steward. Stay tuned! See the link below to learn more about how essential needs pantries are working all over the country.

The apprentice artists are also working to complete the mural they started this spring, pre-shut down. Commissioned by Bates Co. for Just Food, the mural features the themes of community, health and a just food system. The mural will adorn the former Bon Bon! food truck, recently donated by Bates Co. to Just Food. A virtual unveiling date will be announced later this summer!

[Link to CBS News Story on Pantries]

UNITY Poster

Purchase a UNITY poster featuring artwork by Van Go apprentice artist, Katie D.

Posters are $15 ea.

$10 from each poster sale will be donated to a racial justice organization chosen by our youth.

Purchase by clicking link below, safe pick up at Van Go on Fridays between 9-4, beginning July 17.

If you’d like to have it shipped, please make the donation for $20.
NEW EVENT!!!
Van Go Artsy DUO's are physically distanced art experiences in the Van Go space. Paint your own canvas inspired by various Van Go mural imagery. Reserve a spot for 2 which includes art materials, a beverage, and a snack served on a special wood palette that is yours to keep! Classes are 2 hours long and $150 for 2 people. Proceeds benefit Van Go's art supply budget.

Sign-ups will be open soon. Mark your calendars for the following dates:
Thursday, August 13, 6-8 PM
Saturday, August 22, 3-5 PM
Thursday, September 10, 6-8 PM
Saturday, September 19, 6-8 PM

10.10. 20 /// Dinner on the {flattened} Curve-A LIVE Virtual Event featuring special music guest Making Movies, food by MERCHANTS Pub & Plate + an online ART auction. Thanks to TOP Sponsor, Scott Temperature. Tickets will be available in August.

Adornment: The show must go on! We’ll be launching a new online store for the community to purchase artwork + in-person shopping via scheduled times this November and December. Details to come! Thanks to Event Sponsors, Evergy & Hills Pet Nutrition.
Summertime Scavenger Hunt /// Free fun for the whole family!
Match up the artwork with the following outdoor locations, email your answers to us@van-go.org and post a picture of yourself at one of the locations to be entered to win an art bundle from the Van Go Gallery!
Locations:
Happy Shirt Printing Company, Sunrise Project, Audio Reader, Pinckney Elementary, Church on 10th & NY, Centennial Park, 23rd St Brewery, Rademacher Financial, Natural Grocers

Van Go Mission: To improve the lives of high needs youth using art as the vehicle for self confidence, self expression, and HOPE for the future.

DONATE

Follow along!

Van Go, Inc | 785-842-3797 | us@van-go.org | www.van-go.org