

OUR VISION

2024





For over fifty years, a Studio education has empowered children to connect who they are with what they learn, cultivating independent thinkers who embrace academic excellence. Since 1971, our founders have pioneered a school under the premise that there is a distinct interplay between intellect and emotions, and that learning results from a child's natural curiosity. Through the decades, we have continued to build upon this unique mission and multifaceted approach. Our mission: *To educate the hearts and minds of children as we nurture the unfolding of their authentic spirit and character.*

For this plan, we brought together the thoughtful perspectives and voices of our varied constituents, both past and present, for conversations about who we are, what we deliver, and what is next. We have identified the key goals and priorities that will strengthen and deepen Studio's vision for the growth, betterment, and sustainability of our school.

Our approach is both timely and timeless, helping our students and families thrive during periods of great turbulence. As the world encounters environmental crises, global conflict, cultural and societal instability, and more, our responses have been, and continue to be, guided by Studio's mission and distinct approach.

Our committee is unified in implementing our strategic plan, building a path forward for academic excellence and the well-being of our students and entire school. We believe, with unwavering commitment, that our work together will guide our community to a place of clearer understanding, renewed purpose, and wider recognition.

We are energized to achieve our goals and the mission of our remarkable school.

What an exciting journey ahead!

Janet C. Rotter
Head of School

Susan W. Brecher, Esq.
Board of Trustees



I. Uniquely Studio

The Studio approach is consistent in everything we do, and guides us when working with students, families, faculty and staff. It combines academic rigor with a deep understanding of child development and neuroscience. The Studio method delivers this approach via an emotionally connected student-teacher relationship that fosters excellence, rigor, and open inquiry. Every experience is intentionally designed to teach students how to think, learn, collaborate, and be a contributing member of a group. We are proactive and continually revisit our curricula and teaching methods using current research, cultural shifts, and technological advances, in order to meet the ever-evolving needs of our global world.

- **Conduct** a formal review of the curriculum for all of our programs.
- **Revise** and update our core curricula to encompass the scope and sequence in all subject areas.
- **Create** a publication of Studio's Core Curricula to illustrate the seamless integration of The How to Learn Curriculum.
- **Design** new Uniquely Studio classes to address the evolving learning needs of children.
- **Formalize** the many ways we provide high quality assessments and evaluations of each child's progress in all areas of development.
- **Evaluate** and refine how technology is integrated into all curriculum areas.
- **Engage** in new opportunities to partner with local and global community initiatives.
- **Remain** committed to embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion into curriculum to intentionally engage students in age-appropriate conversations about identity, bias, and what it means to be an upstander in society.

II. Community of Vibrant Learners

Our diverse, equitable, and inclusive community is a cornerstone in our educational approach. Celebrating our differences as well as the common bonds we share is inherent in how we teach and the experiences we share as a community. Each student is seen in the fullness and essence of their personhood, so they come to realize how all of humanity adds to the richness of life.

Small by design, every person is known and valued. At the heart of our community are the meaningful relationships formed and interactions between students of all ages, faculty and staff, and parents, individually and collectively. Throughout the year, the unique educational and communal experiences we take part in create authentic connections, impacting us and giving us the hope and courage to shape the world we inhabit.

COMMUNITY

- **Uphold** a welcoming space for conversations where all individuals feel comfortable to share their thoughts, feelings, and vulnerabilities, and stand up to a world that is filled with racism, inequity, and injustice.
- **Develop** ongoing dialogues among our parents and teachers to enhance their engagement in the Studio approach by participating in and contributing to our community events.
- **Deepen** equity and inclusion training for faculty, staff, Board members, and parents that combines a deeper understanding of child development with best practices for supporting children from diverse backgrounds.

PARENTS

- **Design** a comprehensive educational program for parents, composed of publications, meetings, and seminars, where parents become partners with the school to ensure an optimal educational experience for their child, their family, and our shared community.
- **Lead by example** to show how excellence arises from the seamless and intentional ways we integrate child development, language that facilitates maturation, and how children learn.





II. Community of Vibrant Learners cont.

TEACHER TRAINING

- **Establish** a formal mentoring program for new teachers to immerse them into our culture and teaching approach.
- **Collaborate** with faculty to advance innovative inquiry into diversity, equity, and inclusivity within all areas of our curriculum.
- **Create** new opportunities for faculty and staff to engage in professional development, through interdisciplinary programs: workshops, seminars, webinars, and conferences.
- **Publish** a teacher training program, including a manual of the Studio approach.

III. Growing Strong

Now, in 2024, we are ready to share our innovative and humanistic educational approach beyond the walls of our building. Through connecting with mission-aligned prospective parents, educators, donors, innovators, and policymakers, we seek to further increase our pool of applicant families and share our educational model with the greater world.

- **Strengthen** relationships with feeder schools to reinforce their understanding of the rigorous academics we provide and the multiple benefits of a Studio education.
- **Further** develop innovative programming to attract and target mission-aligned families.
- **Expand** current parent and alumni involvement in retention, outreach, and marketing efforts through in-depth training about the Studio approach and methodologies, thereby better empowering them to speak with confidence to potential parents about the meaningful and impactful education children will receive if they attend.
- **Present** the Studio approach to educators through workshops, conferences, articles, and lectures.
- **Cultivate** partnerships with institutions and organizations, inviting new opportunities for collaboration.
- **Continue** to enhance our multi-faceted marketing campaign incorporating social media initiatives to attract new audiences.

IV. Forging Our Future

Our school is sustained by our strong governance, administration, and commitment to long-term financial security. As we look ahead, we will continue to allocate our resources in ways that support our mission with strategic fiscal choices, efficient operations, enhanced fundraising, and new philanthropic initiatives. Our growth will build from our streamlined operations, where faculty and staff work efficiently, effectively, and collaboratively.

FINANCE AND PHILANTHROPY

- **Review** our tuition model to continue to meet the needs of our program, increase access, and ensure affordability.
- **Launch** a multi-year capital campaign for the implementation of our strategic initiatives.
- **Strengthen** the philanthropic culture of the school, cultivating broad participation from our community.
- **Increase** fundraising to support the annual budget needs beyond tuition and enhance sustainability for future generations.
- **Connect** with mission-aligned donors and foundations to further bolster our strong community ties and reputation.

GOVERNANCE

- **Refine** administrative roles and responsibilities to ensure operational effectiveness and long-term sustainability.
- **Invest** in leadership planning so that all current and future activities are adequately supported, including teaching, development, and communications.
- **Review** institutional procedures and practices to ensure all staff members are purposefully fulfilling our mission.
- **Enhance** the school's governance by expanding the Board of Trustees, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and establishing committees.
- **Establish** a junior board of alumni to foster our next generation of philanthropists, **leaders**, and representatives of The Studio School.





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