

Caring to Share *the Magic of Glass*

Glass is a magical material, one that starts with sand or dust, heated to the temperatures of a volcano (2100°F) and then can be inflated and shaped with our breath. The ancient glass blowing process involves all of the elements: air, earth, water, spirit, and of course fire. Glass can be illuminated and holds light. It has an atomic structure similar to a crystal and is also fluid like water. We are now in the Glass Age, glass is everywhere including our future.

Glass artist Carlyn Ray has a passion to share the creativity of glass with everyone. "Creating glass to me is a working meditation. Sharing glass with others brings to light a childlike imagination, a connection to a higher purpose, and a lens to see the world differently." Carlyn Ray is best known through her custom glass installations she has created for homes, lobbies, and in restaurants.



BOWEN HOUSE GLASSICLE CHANDELIER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOLGER OBENAU

What people do not always know is that Carlyn's studio shares glass with everyone, as well as with under resourced students through her nonprofit, Art Reaching Out. Art Reaching Out (ARO) is a creative learning program whose purpose is to involve young women and under resourced students to build glass art installations through a STEAM curriculum. STEAM involves the combination of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. ARO is a 501(c)(3) Dallas-based nonprofit which centers out of the glass blowing studio Dallas Glass Art in the Dallas Design District. The program proof of concept was developed over three years by artist and founder Carlyn Ray, but the idea began when she herself was a struggling student.

Carlyn grew up around art in her mother's gallery Carlyn Galerie. Being diagnosed with learning disabilities including dyslexia and ADD at a young age, Carlyn Ray struggled with academics and finding different ways to grasp core subjects. After the Shelton School, Carlyn attended the Episcopal School of Dallas (ESD) which is when she decided to develop a program for struggling students who did not have the support system she was given.

Carlyn Ray was attracted to glass blowing at the moment she saw glass as a young girl. After receiving a full volleyball Scholarship to the College of William and Mary, Carlyn graduated majoring in 3-D Art and minoring in Psychology. After graduating, she completely focused on glass and in her mid twenties, she became one of the few full time employees working for Dale Chihuly for a couple of years in Seattle, Washington. This experience reinforced the value of working together as a team to create site-specific installations. Also during her training, the trade hierarchy became very apparent. She left to work for The Corning Museum of Glass to provide educational entertainment while blowing glass on Celebrity Cruises around the world. This experience showed her the value of teaching through glass. Also the trade routes in history, science, forces, thermodynamics, and the future of glass in our world became alive.

Through community support, Carlyn Ray opened her glass blowing studio Dallas Glass Art for her purpose - to share creativity, which to her is a spiritual connection. Her fine art line Carlyn Ray Designs involves custom art which makes a creative environment. Carlyn loves inviting her clients into the studio to participate in the creation of their piece during a private lesson. They could pull glass for their chandelier, an accent color for a weaving or create a component for a sculpture.

The studio Dallas Glass Art teaches workshops, team building, private parties and shares the creative process. "Glass is captivating to all generations, from the grandparents to the youngest grandkid. I love when we have family events."

Creative learning is through Art Reaching Out (ARO) which combines hand-on learning while making an art piece. There are many core concepts which ARO shares with students that Carlyn is passionate about. One, Carlyn says she first saw glassblowing when she was young and never saw a female blowing glass until she was much older, but that never stopped her. She pursued her career, worked with the best in the world, including masters from Italy. She says this was not because she was the best, but she brought a positive attitude, passionate grit, and a willingness to learn. Her team shares similar stories and are positive mentors. ARO also introduces students to the trades that Carlyn found available more in Europe than in the U.S. Learning to blow glass or weld metal involves climbing a ladder of responsibility and in each step there are a lot of life lessons.

When Dallas Glass Art first opened at the end of 2013, a student of Booker T. Washington saw glass at the studio and fell in love with it. Simon Warranch found his passion in glass and apprenticed for Dallas Glass Art in trade for lessons. After 3 years, he was assisting with Carlyn Ray Designs, teaching at Dallas Glass Art, and helping with ARO. He currently is on a full scholarship for glassblowing at an art university in Michigan where he is pursuing his glass career. Dallas Glass Art has several young talented students, starting at 6 years old, taking classes, developing their glass skills, and learning a multitude of lessons with each creation or catastrophe.



CARLYN RAY AND MEDRANO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT BLOWING GLASS

Carlyn Ray pursued her fine art design line while developing Art Reaching Out's proof of concept with various schools and programs. Her first project started in 2013 with her alma mater The Episcopal School of Dallas and then pursued projects with The Hockaday School; Girls Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas; The Links, INC with the Irving School District; and through Big Thought's "Thriving Minds" with Medrano Middle School - Dallas ISD.

Now as a nonprofit, ARO specializes in STEAM summer camps as done with the 40 Irma Rangel students last summer. In a 3-day STEAM camp, students rotate to various stations which cover the core subjects of their grade level. With Irma Rangel's rising 7th graders, thermodynamics, circuits, elements, fractions and decimals, engineering, and physics were all covered. The camp culminates in the installation of the student's site specific art piece which is a three dimensional periodic table designed for the school's entryway.

ARO is discussing and working on future programs with other nonprofits such as The Boys and Girl's Club to create art shows and pursue our Art Leasing program to share different student creations to various sponsors

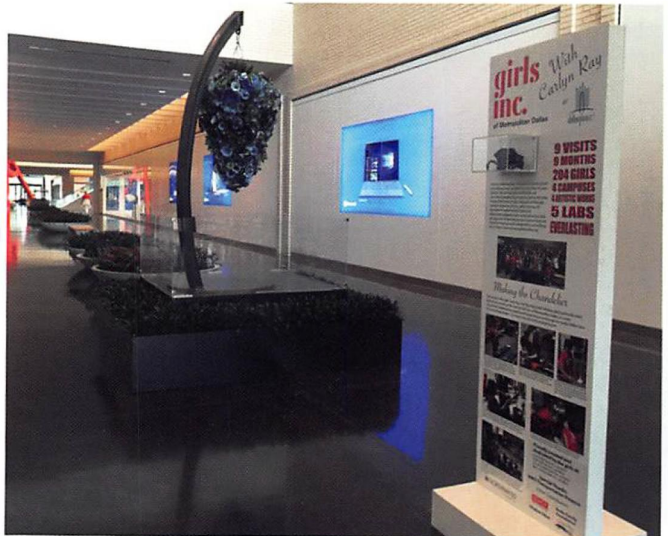


over a set period of time. With The Cristo Rey School in south Dallas, ARO is creating a site specific piece for the school led by the student body which they are hoping can be an annual project for the students. With Cristo Rey and other programs in our near future, ARO is desiring to lead the students to build marketing and business plans and create special edition glass pieces.

Carlyn Ray warmly invites everyone into her studio located in the Dallas Design District. Stop in and see the custom glass installations she and her team are working on, sign up for a class, or come learn about the latest ARO project that they are doing with the community and see how you can be involved. Be apart of sharing this magical material with our community.



GIRLS INC. STOPPED TO POSE WHILE ASSEMBLING THE GLASS FLOWER CHANDELIER



COMPLETED GLASS FLOWER CHANDELIER ON DISPLAY