



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Different Abilities, Endless Opportunities

www.azulfashionartdesign.org





Different Abilities, Endless Opportunities

OUR STORY

Our organization was founded in Bogota - Colombia in 2014 as an organization offering independent living skills training for adults with disabilities.

In 2015, founder Sandra Raffaelli established aZul for Better Living in Palm Beach County to begin operations serving the community with special needs in 2018.

To date aZul - Fashion, Art & Design, Inc. (formerly aZul For Better Living, Inc.) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing post secondary, alternative creative programs in fashion, art and design to adults with disabilities and their families.

CORE VALUES

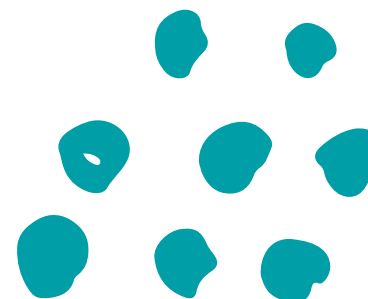
Love - At aZul every action comes from the heart, leading us to connectivity and to build meaningful connections with individuals, families and the community while offering opportunities for growth.

Inclusion - Individuals from all races, abilities, ages, gender and nationality connect, share wisdom and learn in all affairs ran by aZul. We embrace the principle that all people have value and the right to belong.

Empowerment - At aZul we recognize every person's strengths and facilitate the training, information and the tools needed for them to create opportunities and advance their life.

Openness - We strive to be approachable, actively listen and encourage others to contribute and speak up. We offer and receive constructive feedback.

Trust - We host the belief and confidence in the integrity, reliability and fairness in all our interactions with those whom we serve, partners, donors and the community.





COMMUNITY STORIES ABOUT AZUL PROGRAMS

" Congratulations on a great show! The Fashion Show is a big hit and we are happy to have the program at HabCenter.."

-Sherry A. Henry.
Director of Development -



"The program Follow the Thread was an enriching experience for me and for Abi. It is a very detailed program that taught us skills we didn't expected, redesigning clothes, taking pictures, creating our brand, connecting with clients and the best part was the recognition and appreciation by the community at the Fashion Fest, we felt like real designers.

- Juan Suero & Abimael Berrios-
Creative team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TEAM ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2022, the team has actively participated in 12 monthly meetings, volunteered in program facilitation, supported events logistics, and promoted our van recovery fundraiser with an involvement rate of 90%. Each month Sandra Raffaelli, Executive Director, presented executive reports, Marcy D'Ambrosio was hired as a Operations Coordinator on a contractor basis. On November a Board Retreat was lead by Dr. Tomara Mays providing information needed by the team to become effective aZul ambassadors. On December's meeting the Board voted to have David Raffaelli as the new Board President.



David Raffaelli
Board President



Elizabeth "Liz" Nassar
Board Secretary



Susane Moua
Board Director,
Director of Marketing



Alison Burckhardt
Board Director,
Program Facilitator



Chiara Robinson
Board Director, Sustainable
Fashion Designer



Sandra Raffaelli
Founder & CEO



Marcy D'Ambrosio
Operations Coordinator

BUILDING CAPACITY

The Treasure board position is vacant. Our team is considering hiring the support of a consultant to assist the organization with organizational structure, building corporate relationships and mentorship for our CEO.

BUSINESS REVIEW

MISSION

To empower adults with unique abilities and their caregivers on their path to achieving **artistic recognition, dignity, and financial independence.**

VISION

In 5 years aZul - Fashion, Art & Design, Inc. will expand its scope by transferring methodologies in fashion, art, and design to different organizations supporting adults with disabilities throughout the country.

GOALS 2022

- Build outreach strategies aiming to offer Sustainable Fashion Design programs in collaboration with one more organization besides Palm Beach Habilitation Center and HabCenter Boca Raton.
- Apply for the alternative training program with Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Run our signature program Follow the Thread spring season and fall season to 4 creative teams per season.
- Hire part-time administrative support for the organization

2022 A YEAR FOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

In 2022 aZul **impacted directly 137 adults** with unique abilities who participated in our programs in comparison with 96 serve the previous year.

The families and network surrounding the Creatives participating in aZul programs had an indirect impact on their lives by witnessing talents, and empowerment experienced throughout the classes. The estimated **indirect impact is 423 people** in comparison with 285 impacted in 2021.

AZUL-FASHION, ART & DESIGN, INC. IN 2022 ORGANIZATION'S DEVELOPMENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The 2021 financial balance, reflected a 188% closing balance increase in comparison to 2022.

\$33,233

YEAR 2021

\$95,997

YEAR 2022

REVENUE SOURCES

• Fundraisers	\$ 4,276
• Extraordinary Charities Donation	\$ 35,000
• Paypal Transactions - inhouse programs	\$ 6,526
• Private donors	\$ 8,746
• Autism plates grant	\$ 7,000
Program's sponsorships by Goody Two Shoes, Inc.	
• Arc of Palm Beach County	\$35,765
• Habilitation Center Boca Raton	\$35,766
Total Revenue 2022	\$ 133,080

OUR ORGANIZATION IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

As a young organization, we have identified collaborations to be the most effective outreach strategy. Building partnerships with different organizations in Palm Beach County has brought awareness about to our mission in the community. Throughout 2021 aZul partnered with 18 organizations that were directly involved with the development of our programs, impacting the lives of those whom we serve. This strategy opened the doors for growth, supporting aZul to position itself as an organization leader in offering fashion, art, and design programs to adults with unique abilities.



Goody Two Shoes, Inc.

AZUL PROGRAMS

All the programs offered by the organization are inclusive, groups of maximum 10 participants receive exposure to artistic and fashion training. Our methodologies aim to provide semi-personalized instruction leading the participant to master a technique to be used in their future as a vocational path to potentially start their own business venture.

Program sessions offered in house have an average fee of \$25 per session, and the "Follow the Thread" Program is offered on a scholarship basis.

In 2022 aZul offered the following programs:

FashionAble Programs

- "Follow the Thread II" Feb - April (22 sessions)
- "Follow the Thread" Fall season, 5-month program (40 sessions)- aZul granted 3 scholarships, valued at \$24,000.00.
- 4 FashionAble collaborative programs with other organizations - 56 sessions

ArtAbilities

- "aZul Moves", 52 classes. 2 performances
- 4 sewing sessions of 90 minutes.
- 6 artistic sessions of 90 minutes

**A TOTAL OF 182 EMPOWERING
ART SESSIONS IN 2022**



IN-KIND DONATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- aZul Mobile Van donated by Goody Two Shoes.
- Event venue donated by Grandview Public Market



- The city of Boynton Beach, The Good Stuff in Jupiter and Indigo West Palm Beach hosted drop off clothing drive containers for aZul to receive \$ 2600 worth in garments.



- As we expanded our storage unit in 2022, a volunteer crew from The Breakers help us moving all the garments and equipment.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2,232

VOLUNTEER HOURS

4

**FASHION SHOWS ,
IMPACTING
423 PEOPLE**

2

**RETAIL SHOWROOM
EVENTS**

6

**CITY EVENTS
PROMOTING
DESINGERS &
RAISING AWARENESS**

1

**FASHIONABLE
ART EXHIBITION**

1

**CLOTHING DRIVE /
3 DROP OFF
LOCATIONS**



**Follow the Thread - Class 2019
Completion Ceremony**



**Follow the Thread - Class 2020
Virtual Completion Ceremony**



**Follow the Thread - Class 2021
Completion Ceremony**

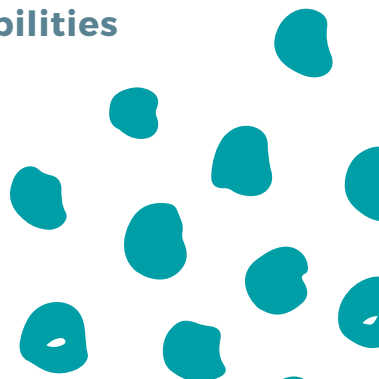




**Follow the Thread - Class 2022
Completion Ceremony**

We make fashion accessible for ALL



Sustainable fashion collections & models of all abilities





With your support aZul continues to create artistic opportunities for a greater number of adults with unique abilities in Palm Beach County and around the country.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS.

Barry Schnittman	Liz Nassar
Beverlee Miller Raymond	Durley Meyer
Arturo Puerto	Alison Burckhardt
Jillene M. Easley	Susane Moua
Domminick DeAngelis	Chiara Robinson
Debra Schultz	David Raffaelli
Patricia Donovan	Zakiya Markland
Solange Cross	Patricia Bello
Clemencia Bonilla	Marcy D'Ambrosio
Teresa Ramos	Stephanie Valencia
Ron Gelfuso	Sheila Gustafson
Steve & Wendy Tannenbaum	Alyssa Chisholm
Dodi Ston Schultz	Debbie Majors
Bruce & Estra Tannenbaum	Kelli Alvord
Andrea Cohen Stone	John Brosius
Eddie Wilso	Rocio Garcia
David Kamp	Darlene Duggan
Genevieve Lancaric	Marilda Nunes
Hugo Centeno	Richard Lancaric
Jeannette Vandershost	Abraham Segundo
Joy Vest	Luisa Gallego
Abraham Segundo	Rozalin Perez
Lindsay Stearns	Marilyn Mendez





TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US



scan QR code with your phone

CONTACT US



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