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GOVERNOR BAKER GIVING UPDATE
ON COVID-19

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Even when she contracted COVID-19, this art teacher thought of her students. Now, they can craft along with her over Zoom.

By **Grace Griffin** Globe Correspondent, Updated December 27, 2020, 2:24 p.m.



Alex Adamo began teaching art classes full-time over Zoom in mid-April. PERI STRONGWATER (CUSTOM CREDIT)

Earlier this year, Alex Adamo sat at home in Watertown. She and her husband, newlyweds, had contracted the coronavirus shortly after canceling their already-small New York wedding. But, even while sick and unable to work, Adamo didn't dwell on her own plight. Instead, she worried about how children were coping with this new reality.

"I thought, if I feel like this, the kids have got to be internalizing it tenfold," Adamo said. "People need something to keep their hands busy, to keep their minds sharp, and to

create color and routine because none of us know what to do right now.”

An after-school teacher in Cambridge prior to the pandemic, Adamo knew the children she worked with and others were likely struggling with newfound isolation and changes in routine. So, as soon as she felt better, in mid-April, she turned to Zoom with an idea to forge creative connections.



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There are *twelve* days 'til Christmas and I'd like to start a festive and kudos-centric countdown this holiday season. Jumpstarting the fun by giving a 🗣️ shout out to the kiddos! The creatives! The fuel that is propelling Alex Makes Art to new heights! And I'm not just talking my pals around town. I'm saying, those Texas kiddos. New York homies. Michigan crew. Cali kids. Far across the globe these young artists are filling up my Zoom screen each and every day and naturally bringing belly laughs, toothy smiles, and as much fullness as one can feel right now when teaching.

Today we made pinecone trees. The kiddos used bric-a-brac, "zhuzh", and spirit. Couldn't wait to give them my first hurrah. More tomorrow! 🙌🕊️



Adamo rebranded as [AlexMakesArt](https://alexmakesart.com) [alexmakesart.com] and developed two ongoing virtual programs: Crafternoons and SAVI, or Social Art Virtual Immersion. Crafternoons occur every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. Each class features a different craft, led by Adamo, utilizing household items from tinfoil to toilet-paper tubes. The activities are modifiable for young creatives of any age.

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Adamo's friend and graphic artist Gerald Lane teaches SAVI alongside her. Each session's fee includes a box of supplies for that day's activities, delivered to participants ahead of the event. SAVI classes are hosted via Zoom weekly on Tuesdays or Thursdays and organized by month, so participants can register for four or six consecutive weeks at a time. January's offerings will combine science and art — like optical illusions and comic-book illustration — and are geared toward children ages 6 to 12.

“Once kids are out of school and parents have to go back to work after lunchtime, what are the kids doing?” Adamo said. “More than anything else, crafting was a gateway to a larger conversation about having community and someone to talk to.”

What started as an online spot for some of her former students and neighborhood kids to congregate and make art together soon transformed through word of mouth into a full-time gig for Adamo, drawing participants from all over the world.

Though she has taken a few weeks off for the holiday season, Adamo’s offerings resume on Jan. 4. Registration for any classes can be completed on [alexmakesart.com](https://www.alexmakesart.com) and prices are determined by a sliding scale. Adamo also offers scholarships for those who need them and plans to continue making her services more accessible for creatives without regular access to a computer in the new year.

“I didn’t have a lot of art education growing up, I just had a lot of passion for art,” Adamo said. “I want kids to realize that whether they’re using toilet tubes or high-grade art materials, they’re able to create something authentic because it’s coming from them.”

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