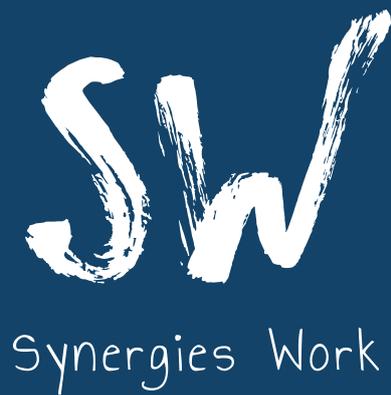


2019 IMPACT REPORT

CHANGING THE
PARADIGM

Where Ability Meets Opportunity





**A platform for talented individuals to turn their
passions into a sustainable business**

Synergies Work is an independent, 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization committed to economically empowering individuals with disabilities by helping them build sustainable businesses and engage the community with their amazing talents. By inspiring people to do the things that inspire them, we help bridge the gap between people with disabilities and the abundant, untapped, opportunities that are all around.

In 2019, with a focus on art, we set up our first art incubator to nurture and drive entrepreneurial growth in the creative sector. By providing a space, equipment, and business expertise, Synergies Work empowered entrepreneurs to explore new opportunities and break down the walls between the business and disability communities.

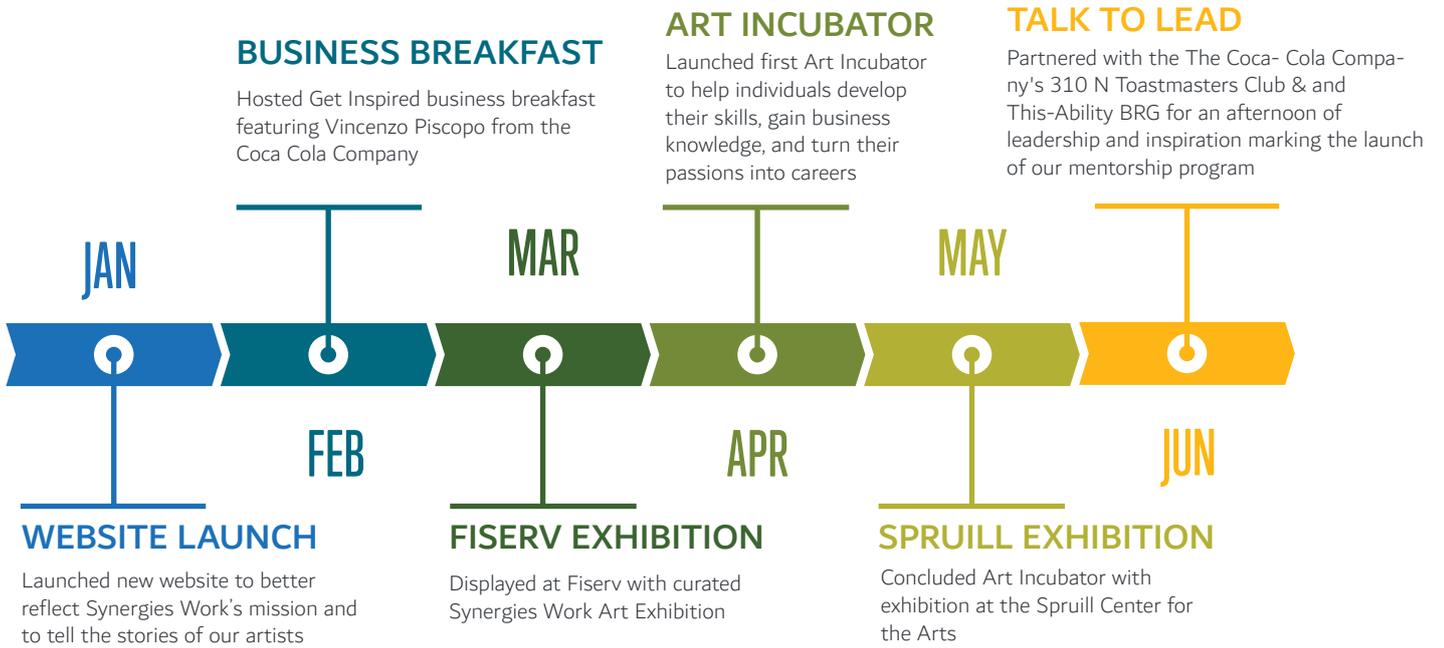
At Synergies Work, we are guided by the firm belief that all of us have a gift to offer to the world and will be successful if equipped with the right tools. These gifts can be gifts of our hands, our hearts, or our minds. We help individuals explore their gifts and turn them into sustainable businesses to better ensure their future successes.

Synergies Work has grown into a thriving community of mentors, business owners, and entrepreneurs with and without disabilities. As we continue on our mission to empower our communities, we invite you to join us in building a more inclusive and equitable world.

Aarti Sahgal

Founder of Synergies Work

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW



DAVE HAMMIS AWARD

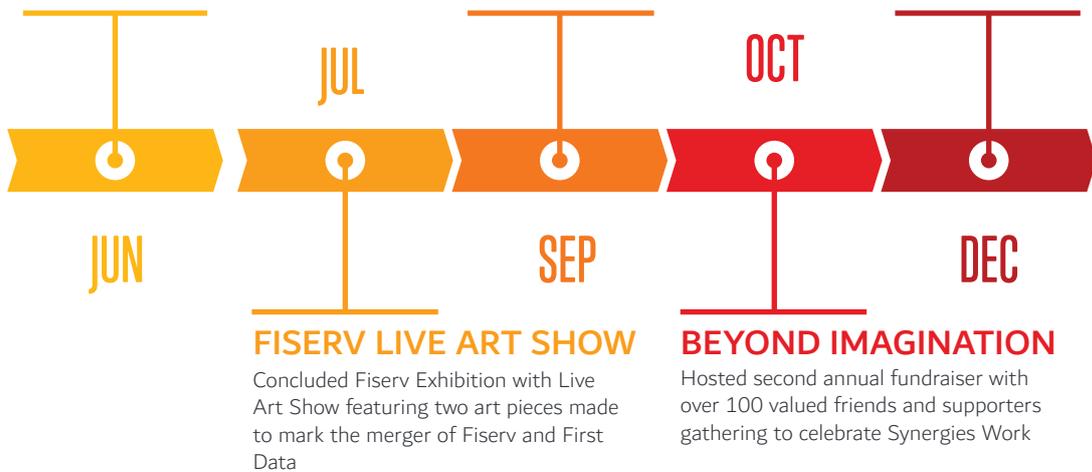
Synergies Work nationally recognized with the Dave Hammis Innovation Award from APSE for providing innovative employment solutions for individuals with disabilities

CHANGING PERSPECTIVES

Launched 4-week, 60 piece curated art exhibition at Coca-Cola HQ in Atlanta

CHANGING THE CONVERSATION

Synergies Work artist Minna Hong led social teambuilding event for the Coca-Cola Company featuring her art



MAKING AN IMPACT



“

Synergies work has been a very rewarding thing to be apart of because it has connected me with other artists of all different abilities. It's been an exciting group for networking, different art and community events, and for growing as an entrepreneur and individual. I'm thankful to be apart of this organization and am excited to see how it continues to grow.”

”

Alyssa Kumbe
Synergies Work Artist

DRIVING CHANGE

Synergies Work is working towards building a more equitable and just society by inspiring an entrepreneurial mindset to nurture a collective consciousness for common good. Through our innovative programs and partnerships, we are changing the paradigm of how we define disability and inclusion.



ART INCUBATOR

In spring 2019, Synergies Work launched our first **Art Incubator** in collaboration with Spruill Center for the Arts, with the goal of providing a physical co-learning space for artists to develop their skills as well as receive business training from industry experts. The Incubator culminated with an art exhibition at the Spruill Center that showcased the incredible pieces that our artists had created during the program.

The biggest impact of the art incubator has been bringing together an incredible group of individuals. Their unique talents, life experiences, and points of view came together to create an electrifying atmosphere of creativity and inclusiveness.

The following business leaders and art mentors provided invaluable guidance to the artists:

- Minna Hong**, Artist
- Stephanie Glassing**, Artist
- Bill Ruck**, Artist
- Ryan Jonhson**, the Georgia Microboards Association
- Tiffany Kirk**, Regions Bank
- Devika Rao**, O'Neill Communications
- Michelle Benton**, Variations
- Robin Rayne**, Photojournalist

To learn more about our Art Incubator, visit
SynergiesWork.org/Art-Incubator

“Synergies Work has given Christopher many opportunities to showcase his artwork. We look forward to every event.”

Ericka Thompson
Mother of Synergies Work Artist:
Christopher Saunders

IMPACTFUL BUSINESS BREAKFASTS

In 2019, Synergies Work hosted **Business Breakfasts** where local business leaders, entrepreneurs, and individuals from all walks of life learned about marketing, public speaking, leadership, and more. These events featured speakers from organizations including Fiserv, FDIC, The Home Depot, The Coca-Cola Company, Regions Bank, SBA, and Georgia Microenterprise.

In June 2019, Synergies Work, This-Ability BRG and the Coca-Cola Toastmasters partnered together to launch the **Talk to Lead Initiative** to enable our people and communities to lead with no limits. Guest speakers guided the audience through a journey of overcoming biases and finding success through their careers and businesses.

Some of the featured speakers from across many organizations, that contributed their expertise and shared their stories were Nandi Isaac, Zen Kramer, Vincenzo Piscopo, Alok Deo, Elizabeth Jin, Andre Gayle, and Darryl Kirkland.



“

“Aarti and synergies have inspired and encouraged me to go beyond my limitations. They showed me that the impossible is possible, with God’s help, focus and hard work. Thank you for supporting my business Scan With Nan”.

Nanditha Isaac

Synergies Work Business Owner

”



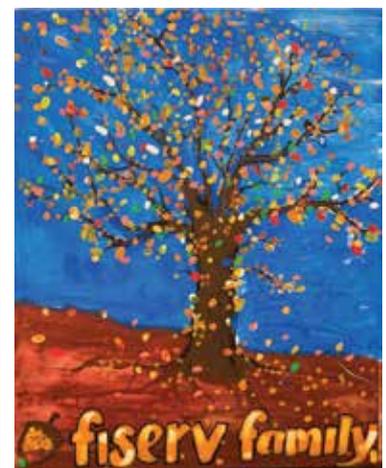
ART EXHIBITIONS & LIVE ART SHOWS

Synergies Work took art to business organizations and created opportunity and validation for our artists. In the past year, we showcased our artists and their talents by exhibiting their work not just in art galleries but in corporate offices. By engaging business associates in creating art, we built powerful connections and broke myths around disability.



In Spring 2019, Synergies Work presented our **Building a Common-Unity Exhibition** at the Fiserv Corporate Office in Atlanta for eight weeks. The exhibition culminated in a closing reception and live art show where our artists and Fiserv associates co-created two paintings to mark the merger between Fiserv and First Data.

In fall 2019, Synergies Work exhibited **the Coca-Cola Company** with our 60 piece **Changing Perspectives Art Exhibition**. The opening of the exhibition was marked by a live art show where our artists and Coca-Cola associates created a large 6ft x 8ft mural celebrating diversity. (L-R) Peter An, Minna Hong, Angad Sahgal, Juvaes Stratton, Emily Seabury



LOOKING FORWARD

In 2019, we started our journey of redefining the word disability and expanding entrepreneurial opportunities. But, we are only getting started. We are encouraged by our success and in the coming years our focus is on building meaningful collaborations to economically empower entrepreneurs with disabilities. We are committed to empowering individuals and communities to build an equitable & just world.

ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING

We are excited to announce our partnership with the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) and Green Workers Cooperatives (GWC) to bring entrepreneurial training to Georgians. Through this program, participants pool their resources, expertise, and networks to help each other grow.

ART INCUBATOR

The mission of our art incubator is to connect artists with disabilities to people, skills, and tools to build successful creative careers. We will continue to partner with the arts & business community and open doors for our participants so that they can be recognized as artists and become financially sustainable. The program is accessible to all artists irrespective of their age, experience or ability.

We are looking for a permanent, physical space to meet the growing demands of the community.

IMPACT FUND

We are working with banks, financial corporations, organizations, and individuals to start an impact fund that can provide **microloans** and **grants** to entrepreneurs. Through this impact fund, we hope to help entrepreneurs launch their businesses, purchase supplies, expand their product offerings, and explore different paths on their journey towards forming a sustainable business.

ART EXHIBITIONS & MORE

Throughout the year, we plan to continue to shine light on the talent of our artists by exhibiting their works in socially valued spaces and galleries that allow them to connect with their community through their art. And, of course, sell art! We have a packed calendar of exhibitions & art events, beginning with a display at the Georgia State Capitol, Georgia Symphony Orchestra and, Spruill Center for the Arts in March.

BUSINESS EVENTS

We embrace and practice diversity and inclusion in all our activities. Business events are no different. This calendar year, Synergies Work has planned two events to build professional growth where entrepreneurs with and without disabilities, across a range of businesses will be sharing and learning together. Our first event is scheduled for March 17th.

OUR ONLINE GALLERY

Synergies Work's E-Gallery/ online platform has been created to build sustainability for entrepreneurs by providing them space to share their stories & products/artworks. By showcasing and selling their work via synergieswork.org/shop artists and small entrepreneurs with disabilities gain confidence that permeates all aspects of their lives.

We are working to strengthen this platform and make it a sustainable sales channel for our artists and businesses.

MEET OUR 2020 BOARD

Karen Hunter, President
V.P. Strategy, 352 Inc.

Ashish Narayan Thakur, Treasurer
Board of Directors at Atlanta CEO Council

C. Wayne Jones, Vice President
Architect & Interior Designer

Judge Johnny Mason
Workers' Compensation Board

Minna Hong, Secretary
Artist

THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

We would like to thank the individuals, corporations and organizations who contributed to our mission. We look forward to having a meaningful impact on our community together.



We are honored to be part of the first cohort of Ripples of Hope, an accelerator that empowers leaders to build fast growing companies that use business as a force for good.