

Dear Brave Arts family,

First of all - while we have seen many of you in our Open Fields Zoom sessions, we miss everyone so much. We are hoping for a happy and healthy 2021 for our Brave Arts family and continue to send our thoughts and love to each of you, even from a distance.

We're writing with some *good news* today while asking for patience and flexibility as summer 2021 comes into view among the ever-changing circumstances and safety guidelines. While we wish we had a crystal ball to see exactly what our world will look like by July, we are using the current circumstances and guidelines with increased confidence that the proven safety measures, vaccination progress and summer weather will put us in a safer position than last summer and this winter.

The good news...

We are opening registration for our July day sessions!!!

The weeks will be **July 12-16, July 19-23 and July 26-30**. We have answered anticipated questions below and we are always available for further questions or guidance on your specific situation! We are approaching this summer with the same spirit of above all else doing what's best for our community's health and safety - Brave Arts and beyond - with understanding and flexibility.

With thoughts and prayers for a healthier world for ALL and with lots of careful planning for our Brave Arts family...we can't wait for summer 2021!

Love and peace,

The Brave Arts team

1. How do I register? Visit www.brave-arts.org/day-sessions to learn more about this summer or go directly to our registration website on Active.com to reserve your spot. You may register for one or more weeks.

2. What are the costs? We will be running early bird pricing through March 1st. After that the price will increase to \$600/week. Each session will require a *non-refundable deposit* of \$125. If we have to cancel for any reason this will be refunded, but with staff commitments, equipment and PPE and other COVID-related costs we cannot refund the deposit for personal cancellation.

Payment plans are available. If you would like to sign-up, but want to make a final decision closer to July 2021, we highly recommend using this option for the remaining balance. We will send a reminder before the May 1 and June 1 payments.

3. What are the refund policies? The deposit is non-refundable. Cancellations and refunds can be requested through May 25th for a full refund minus the deposit. As we approach July we will handle all other cancellations, including quarantine, illness, exposure, etc. on a case-by-case basis.

4. What about the boarding program? As of today we cannot open registration for the boarding program. We are waiting to hear more from the Cambridge School of Weston if they are able to open their dorms to outside rentals this summer while we also assess how Brave Arts can host a boarding program safely while not taking away from the experience you all love.

5. What if I only want to do the boarding program? If you are interested in a potential (but not guaranteed!) July overnight program, we encourage you to [add your contact information to this form](#). All boarding participants registered from summer 2020 and this list will be given first priority.

6. What if I prefer to do the boarding program, but would love to do the day program if that's all that is offered? Register for the day session and [add your contact info to this form!](#) If you end up wanting to switch to the boarding program, we will transfer the deposit and tuition to the boarding program. You will be given priority in registering for the boarding program if we are able to open it. But we are limiting our day session numbers so we highly encourage you to save a spot.

7. What are the current safety plans? What could change? [Click here to read a thorough \(and to be further updated\) safety plan](#) as well as our [community agreement](#) that will be required of all families participating in Brave Arts this summer.

The short version of the safety plan is using a 5-point approach: masks/face coverings, physical distancing, prioritizing outdoor time/space and indoor ventilation, hand hygiene, and reporting/testing/tracing. We will also be working closely with CSW for nightly deep cleanings and use our own cleaning and disinfecting measures.

We are keeping a close eye on CDC guidelines as well as Massachusetts and Town of Weston guidelines and mandates. Our hope is that with vaccination progress and continued safety measures that we will be in a considerably better place than past and current positivity rates and cases.

Changes to the plan are guaranteed and will be updated as they are made to all registered families. Changes may include, but are not limited to: required testing (ie: PCR and rapid testing), permanent small groups and/or age separation, increase or decrease in participants allowed, etc.

8. What will be different this year? The biggest changes we foresee are: masks and distancing, more use of the outdoor space (it's a good thing CSW is so beautiful and spacious!), limited performance that may not be open to an audience, limit of 25 participants for day sessions, no or limited boarding program. We may also have to limit singing based on board of health mandates and will adjust as needed to other fun theatre/arts, such as improv, tv/film/theater scenes, arts n crafts, dance etc. For now we are also not planning to provide lunch, but if this changes we will let our families know.

9. Is there any chance you will still have to cancel in-person sessions? What will happen if you have to cancel? Yes unfortunately there is always a chance. We are committed to keeping our Brave Arts community and our extended communities as healthy and safe as possible and we will not push forward with our program this summer if we feel we cannot do that. There is also a chance that federal, state or town mandates may force us to cancel. If this is the case, we will offer full refunds or credits are requested and shift to online Brave Arts as we did last summer.

10. What if I have a credit from last year? It will already be on your [Active.com account](#) and can be used at checkout! Please let us know if you have any issues or questions about using your credit.

11. What if I'm not ready to register yet? No worries! We understand that summer programming will be a big decision for many families and that you may want to keep an eye on the evolving situation. We will continue to send updates, especially as we get close to filling our sessions. Feel free to reach out any point to let us know of your interest!

12. How do I get in touch with questions? The best way is to email us at braveartssummer@gmail.com but we are always happy to set up a phone call as well! Just shoot us an email and we will arrange a time.

13. How will Brave Arts continue to be a magical second home even with COVID precautions? As with every summer (this is #13!) our priority above all else is to take care of the safety, hearts and minds of our Brave Arts family. We cancelled in-person programming in summer 2020 because we wanted to do our part in keeping our communities safe. We also couldn't imagine Brave Arts with no singing, high-fives, hugs or even sitting next to each other in a sharing circle.

Now that we are almost a year into the pandemic, our world has a better understanding of the crucial safety measures and our kids have proven their incredible resilience and commitment to keeping others safe with masks, distancing and hand hygiene. Many of our staff have also experienced a workplace with safety measures in place, including at K-12 schools, college campuses and private tutoring and childcare.

The safety measures currently required are extensive and can be physically, emotionally and mentally exhausting. No performance or lesson will ever come before the well-being of our kids or staff. We are opening Brave Arts this summer to give our kids their “second home” back and to give them time together, with a staff who know how meaningful it is to have places like Brave Arts in a child’s journey.

Breaks, rest and check-ins are crucial and each will be built into our Brave Arts day. Every child will be reassured they can communicate their needs to us and we will ensure that even when safety measures are enforced, it comes from a place of patience and compassion, and never punishment.

We encourage all interested families to be in touch with us to help ensure that we can provide a summer of joy and growth. We know that every family’s experience in the pandemic has been different and that kids will have varying perceptions of the ongoing risks. We will insist that every family commits to taking care of this community, including other families and our staff, with compassion, kindness, respect, safety and flexibility under our community agreement.