Dear ACCR Families:

The Arts Center takes your family’s health seriously, and we are seriously considering our options for providing summer camps this season. Summer Camps are a long-standing tradition at the Arts Center, and every year we enjoy seeing familiar faces return along with meeting many new young artists, too.

We aren’t entirely clear what the State of NY will allow us to do, but until we know the rules, we want to know what you, our families want us to do.

Our camps are held in studios that are an average of 900 square feet each, and registration has always been limited to 15 students per camp. Some studios, like the kitchen, are smaller. Some camps, like photography and public art, are run almost entirely outside, every day, campers enjoy six hours of instruction, two breaks, and about an hour outside.

What would you like us to do to make the summer safe and enjoyable for your children? As a mother of two, I am pondering the same issues. I want my children to have some kind of enjoyment this summer. But, I worry, too. These are tough decisions.

We just want to start by getting your point of view and would truly appreciate your feedback.

We can limit our class size and organize work-stations to allow for social distancing. As we teach indoors, what else would you like us to do?

We plan to ask faculty and students to use masks and have hourly handwashing routines. What else would you like us to do ask our students to personally do?

We are considering using outdoor tents to ensure students are outside as much as possible. However, we are thinking this will alter the “studio experience”. What is your opinion?

We are also considering moving the program entirely to an outdoor park, using tents, so that the students are always outside. This will remove the “studio experience” but keep kids outdoors. What is your opinion?

We are seeing very few registrations, and we understand why. But, not enough to run our programs. But! We would like to run them, if you do, too! We need to TRY to plan!

How likely are you to register for camp? Are there other concerns or solutions you would like to tell us that are not covered above?

Thank you for helping us assess whether we can run our summer camp program. We are carefully weighing the risks and benefits as we move forward.

We appreciate your support, and we hope you stay safe and healthy.

-Yours, Liz, and the ACCR team