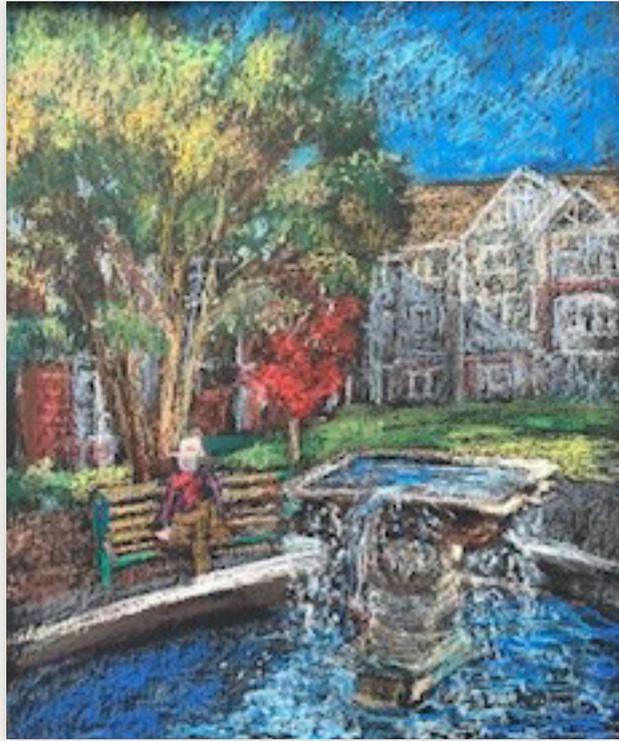




THE
HERITAGE
AT BRENTWOOD®
SENIOR LIVING

RESIDENT ARTISTS

*Stories of Creative Expression, Personal
Growth, and Community Connection at
The Heritage at Brentwood®*



CREATING

Without Limits

Art is powerful at The Heritage at Brentwood®. Former teachers become students. Beginners discover hidden talents. Lifelong artists explore bold new techniques.

In our vibrant Art Studio, creativity sparks connections that extend far beyond canvas and clay. Residents gather to paint, sculpt, and create—building friendships while building confidence in a community that celebrates every artistic journey.

Here, it's never too late to discover what happens when your spirit is free to explore—and our residents prove it.



Creative CATALYST

Amy's role at The Heritage has evolved significantly over the past six years. What began as coordinating outings and social activities gradually transformed into something even more meaningful—a calling toward community building that happens with paint brushes in hand and creativity as the common language.

Amy gradually shifted focus, recognizing residents craved more than typical activities. They wanted meaningful engagement and the joy of creating something entirely their own. She transformed a simple studio into a thriving creative hub, where magic happens daily.



“Art is medicine. It’s good for your heart, mind, and soul!”

Today, Amy orchestrates experiences that go far beyond traditional programming. She designs workshops exploring new techniques, organizes Nashville cultural trips, and brings guest artists to share specialized skills. Her Sip and Gogh events blend social connection with creative expression, while the Free Little Art Gallery encourages community-wide sharing.

What sets Amy apart is her philosophy: No mistakes, only discoveries. Residents who claim they “can’t draw a straight line” find themselves amazed by their capabilities. She creates space where former teachers become students again and unexpected friendships bloom over shared artistic adventures.

“I had gotten into the process of being technically good, but not that creative. Amy gets you to think out of the box and be able to do things I didn’t think I could even do.”

—Gerry Roeder
The Heritage at Brentwood® Resident

ARTIST

Rediscovered

Gerry Roeder’s artistic journey came full circle at The Heritage. Armed with an art degree and a teaching background, she’d built a distinguished career and earned membership in the International Society of Pastel Artists. When respiratory issues forced her away from traditional pastels, she adapted—discovering oil pastels offered the same creative satisfaction without the health risks.

Moving to The Heritage brought unexpected artistic growth. Amy’s innovative approach pushed Gerry beyond technical precision into bold, creative exploration. Now she teaches oil pastel classes to neighbors while learning new techniques herself.

Her spare bedroom doubles as a personal studio, welcoming visitors during community art walks who witness how creativity transforms living spaces into personal galleries.



LIFELONG *Learner*

Art sparked early for Ellie Cate—sitting in the back of her mother’s graduate classes, surrounded by children’s books and possibilities. That childhood curiosity grew into a lifelong passion that followed her through careers in teaching and library science.

Throughout her life, wherever home was, Ellie sought art classes at local museums and colleges. Six years ago, she and her husband moved to The Heritage to be closer to family. When he passed, the arts program became her anchor—a place where creativity and community intertwine.

Under Amy’s guidance, Ellie has rediscovered collage and printmaking while building friendships that extend far beyond the studio walls. Her makeshift art space atop the laundry room washer proves creativity needs no perfect setting—just passion and encouragement.

“It’s kind of like magic. I love the fact that you can go in and do something creative, and then you have something that didn’t exist before.”

—Ellie Cate
The Heritage at Brentwood® Resident



A photograph of Doug Gross, a man with white hair, wearing a light blue polo shirt and dark trousers, smiling as he paints on a canvas mounted on a wooden easel. The background is a blurred art studio with shelves of supplies.

Unexpected ARTIST

Doug Gross never planned to become an artist. He came to The Heritage two and a half years ago, focused solely on his wife's care needs. Art? That wasn't on his radar since elementary school.

Yet Amy's infectious enthusiasm and nonjudgmental approach revealed hidden creative potential. Whether painting within prepared outlines or experimenting with new techniques, Doug discovered joy in the simple act of creation. More than the art itself, he found community—shared laughter, mutual encouragement, and belonging among neighbors who became friends.

Art has changed how Doug sees the world, from noticing tree textures to appreciating color combinations that once passed unobserved.

“Art has exposed me to looking at the world through a different set of eyes. When I look at trees, I see the textures and the colors. It's bringing a new element to my life.”

—Doug Gross
The Heritage at Brentwood® Resident