



## Friends of Spare Parts dba Spare Parts

### Talking Points/Media FAQs

**MISSION:** Spare Parts advances reuse education and sustainability through creativity and the arts.

The concept behind Friends of Spare Parts dba Spare Parts was developed in 2011 by Founder and Executive Director, Mary Elizabeth Cantú, as a response to the lack of arts funds and resources in PreK-12 classrooms.

In 2018, **Friends of Spare Parts became a 501(c)3** nonprofit to support cultural and environmental sustainability; provide affordability and accessibility to the arts; offer the San Antonio community education; and foster creativity, green-style.

**A gift through the Big Give 2021** enables us to offer programming opportunities in schools (particularly in low-income areas), and the Center for Creative Reuse to increase environmentally sustainable practices community-wide. Programs include:

- RE-Edu [Professional Development Program] Spare Parts develops reuse education, professional development, activities and corresponding curriculum for teachers PreK-12 in all content areas.
- RE-Mix [Creative Reuse Education Program] Spare Parts makes reuse activities to remember. These one-time creative programs are tailored to your event, classroom, celebration or request and audience.
- RE-Create [Exhibitions/Long-Term Projects]

Spare Parts' programming includes the Center for Creative Reuse. Created in November 2020 and open to the public in April 2021, the Center offers materials and supplies previously destined for the landfill, at affordable prices, to schools and individuals for creative reuse.

Spare Parts collaborates and partners with many organizations and agencies including: Bexar County, Carver Community Cultural Center, City of San Antonio, City of Leon Valley, Harlandale Independent School District, Ruby, City, San Antonio Independent School District, San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) and SAPL Foundation.

Stats as of July 2021:

Pounds of materials saved from local landfills--15,271

Volunteer hours --339

Pre-COVID Spare Parts' programming served up to 4,000 students primarily in zip codes 78228, 78205, 78205, 78202 whose schools are considered low-income or disadvantaged.

#### **Connect**

Executive Director : Mary Elizabeth Cantú [hello@sparepartssa.org](mailto:hello@sparepartssa.org)

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Media Contact : [hello@sparepartssa.org](mailto:hello@sparepartssa.org) or [jenniferh@sparepartssa@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferh@sparepartssa@gmail.com)