

PASSION CREATIVITY INSPIRATION

SONISES

CULTURAL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**Building a peaceful & healthy world by fostering understanding  
about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders**

**SENSES CULTURAL PROMOTES HOLISTIC  
PROGRAMS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT  
AUTISM AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL  
DISORDERS THROUGH CUTTING EDGE SCIENCE,  
RESEARCH AND THE ARTS**



This was an unusual and remarkable year! A global pandemic forced us to take a step back, search for our common humanity, network virtually, and help communities in need. At Senses Cultural, we helped plan a virtual international conference on stem cell and gene therapy. We launched a podcast program, SENSESPOD, to serve as an information platform on autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. Finally, together with scientists at the UC Davis MIND Institute, we launched a research proposal to implement cutting edge projects on the genetic causes of autism.

Throughout this year, while working virtually, SENSES CULTURAL also launched a series of online activities to raise community awareness about how to live with autism, including on innovative approaches to parenting and working with autistic children. We were proud to receive support in this process from artists, psychologists, educators, trainers, community leaders, and scientists, in order to reach out to our supporters and make an impact despite the global pandemic.



There is still a great deal of work to be done to advance the science of autism and neurodevelopmental disorders through research and clinical studies. The reason is that there is not one treatment for the autism spectrum disorders; however, it is widely accepted that the earliest interventions allow the best outcomes. Stem cell research is also on the horizon.

SENSES CULTURAL is a cross-disciplinary team led by Tata Monfared with a track record in educating people about autism. We support academic institutions that work in the field. Our ability to reach out to communities and experts is an asset that few other organizations in the field have. I definitely look forward to our next phase at SENSES CULTURAL to strengthen its research projects, and to produce results which can improve the quality of life and functionality of individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders.

We could not have achieved our goals without your help. Thank you very much for your support.

Tata Monfared

Founder and President, SENSES CULTURAL

# *Key Milestones in2020*

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Launched podcast program, SENSESPOD



Broadcast educational programs on autism



As Founding Sponsor, helped lead efforts to plan inaugural Stem Cell Conference at UC Davis

## Education



Launched proposal  
to expand research on  
the genetic causes of  
autism



Signed MoU with the UC Davis  
MIND Institute to expand  
autism research



Reached out to  
research universities

## Research



## Advocacy



**Supported United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and environmental activists**



**Promoted the latest news on innovative approaches to living with autism**



**Organized community events to raise funds for autism, and celebrate Autistic Pride Day**





Established in 2012 , SENSES CULTURAL is a non-profit organization based in Sacramento, California, dedicated to creating a peaceful and healthy world by fostering understanding about autism and neurodevelopment disorders. We cultivate relations with national and international networks, build partnerships with artists, scientists and cultural advocates, and organize events for health experts and artists beyond their own geographic and social borders. Senses Cultural offers partnership opportunities to interested organizations so that together we can sponsor, host and promote projects that fulfill our common goals of serving people and communities dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. We especially encourage projects in which we can partner with others to build cross-cultural understanding and tolerance around the theme of autism, and celebrate the diversity of the autistic community

## Mission

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Together with communities, scientists, researchers, social workers, teachers, and psychologists, SENSES CULTURAL is slowly but surely making a global impact



**Where we work**

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***Our stories,  
Our impact***

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Our stories, Our impact

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***SPOTLIGHT  
ON EDUCATION***



## LAUNCHED SENSESPOD

SENSES CULTURAL proudly launched its education podcast series, SENSESPOD. Our podcast program includes interviews with world renowned scientists, educators, psychologists, artists and community leaders working on autism and neurodevelopmental disorders

**SENSES  
POD**

**Dr.  
Randi J.  
Hagerman**  
M.D., F.A.A.P.  
Pediatric Child  
Development &  
Behavior



ep.  
01

**SENSES  
POD**

**Tata  
Monfared**  
Founder of  
Senses Cultural



ep.  
02

**SENSES  
POD**

**Dr.  
Mohammad  
Nami**  
M.D., Ph.D.



ep.  
03

**SENSES  
POD**

**Dr.  
Melanie  
Pellecchia**  
Ph.D. BCBA. NCSP



part 1

ep.  
04

**SENSES  
POD**

**Dr.  
Farideh  
Niroomand**  
Ph.D. in behavioral  
Psychology



ep.  
06

# BROADCAST EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

SENSES CULTURAL was interviewed this year on educational television programs that are broadcast internationally to even remote areas in the Middle East. The programs enabled our team and scientists to speak directly to people and communities dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders in the region, and to answer questions they had

# AS FOUNDING SPONSOR, CO-LED PLANS TO HOLD UC DAVIS INAUGURAL STEM CELL CONFERENCE

SENSES CULTURAL led meetings with the leadership of the UC Davis MIND Institute to plan and convene the inaugural Stem Cell and Gene Therapy for We raised .2020 Neurodevelopmental Disorders Conference in September additional funds to sponsor participation at the conference by scientists from the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in Germany. The conference was postponed due to the global pandemic to the following year, to be held in 2021 September



Our stories, Our impact

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***SPOTLIGHT  
ON RESEARCH***



## LAUNCHED RESEARCH PROPOSAL ON GENETIC CAUSES OF AUTISM

In partnership with the UC Davis MIND Institute and scientists at the Heinrich-Heine University in Germany, Senses Cultural launched the Genetic Research Project on Fragile X and Autism, and Crisprs Gene Editing, to fund two post-doctoral research fellowships and research on the genetic causes of autism. The research project is based on the science of editing DNA, through clustered repeated sequences known as Crisprs. To recognize Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020 the importance of the field, the was awarded to two scientists, Dr. Jennifer Doudna and Dr. Emmanuelle Chapentier, for their work on Crisprs



# **Senses Cultural Supports New Genetic Research Project on Fragile X and Autism, and Crisprs Gene Editing**



# STEM CELL AND GENE THERAPY FOR NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS CONFERENCE

Founding Sponsor: Senses Cultural

September 25-26, 2020  
UC Davis University, The Mind Institute

## **SIGNED MOU WITH UC DAVIS MIND INSTITUTE**

To expand autism research, SENSES CULTURAL signed an important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UC Davis MIND Institute. The MoU enables SENSES CULTURAL to partner with and sponsor scientific, research and educational programs in partnership with the MIND Institute, and jointly exchange research information, hold events and programs, and raise funds, in order to advance the science and treatment of autism and neurodevelopmental disorders



# REACHED OUT TO RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

we held talks with scientists at the University of Pennsylvania to launch a ,2020 In preschool curriculum program in collaboration with other local and international universities to serve children and parents dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. This last project may involve collaboration with the Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

PASSION CREATIVITY INSPIRATION

# SENSES

CULTURAL

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

Celebrating Art for Autism

ART  
FOR  
AUTISM





Our stories, Our impact

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***SPOTLIGHT  
ON ADVOCACY***



## **SUPPORTED UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, & ACTIVISTS**

Each year, Senses Cultural celebrates Autistic Pride Day and World Autism Month by holding year-round community events. This year, we joined voices with climate strikers and environmental activists around the world, to call on the United Nations and world governments to eliminate and/or raise more awareness about pollutants that cause autism and neurodevelopmental disorders

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world  
**autism month**

2022

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**SENSES**  
SCINSES  
CULTURAL



**Autism  
Day of Giving**  
May 5, 2022

## LAUNCHED FUNDRAISING EVENTS

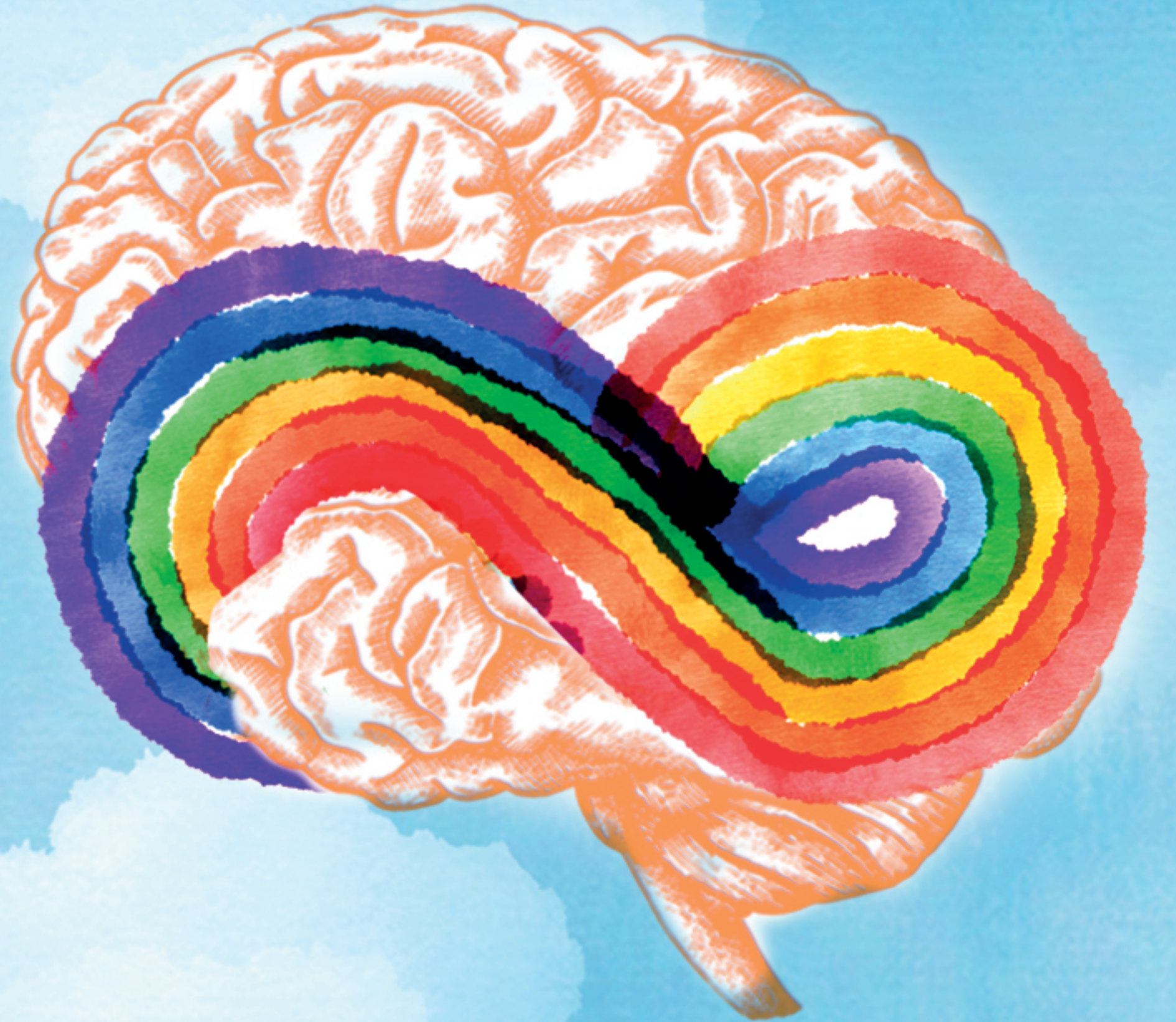
We were thrilled to have our community join us in ,2020 events in person and virtually throughout including cooking events, lunch programs, arts and crafts events, and educational workshops, to raise awareness about autism and available treatments. We loved our monthly community fundraising luncheons that carried on through March, to support autism education

## EXPLORED PARTNERSHIP WITH WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

SENSES CULTURAL held discussions with the World Health Organization representatives to encourage joint monitoring of cultural projects promoting autism awareness in Iran

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**SENSES**  
CULTURAL

**HAPPY  
AUTISTIC  
PRIDE  
DAY  
2020**





# *Annual Financials*

**SENSES CULTURAL receives the bulk of its funds from its founder Ms. Tata Monfared**