

## HISTORY OF THE GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER

### *Art & Wellness Studio*

The City of San Jose in the late 1800s was a place of prosperity and growth. Downtown development boomed, making the surrounding areas prime locations for residential development. It was around this time that the house located at 146 S. Tenth Street was built. The house was constructed c. 1900 in the Queen Anne style of Victorian architecture, which was one of the most popular styles of the era. The house is included in the City of San Jose's Historic Resources Inventory, which identifies known and potential historic properties. In the early to mid 1900s, a two-story addition was constructed on the back of the original house but otherwise, the house has remained true to its original design.

Records dating back to 1912 lists the first known owner of the house as Waldo Bradford, a farmer. From the 1920s to 1936, Julius and Hattie Thorne lived in the home. Similar to many large houses in the area, the house was converted to student housing when Julius Thorne leased it to San Jose State College (now San Jose State University). The house served as a residence for women students and was called the Mary George Cooperative House. Grace Baptist Church purchased the house from the Thornes in 1964 for \$32,000, converted it to student housing for men, and renamed it the Roger Williams House. From 1974 to 1990, the house served as the headquarters of the International Students Association, was a Day Treatment Center as part of the Catholic Social Service, and a private residence. On July 1, 1990, Grace Community Center took over the space and after three months of renovation, opened its doors in October 1990 for various classes for its members, including art therapy, music, stained glass workshop, and ceramics. After nearly 20 years, a major revitalization project began in 2008, including the installation of new hardwood flooring, the painting of all wood trim, the repainting the interior walls, and remodeling of the kitchen. On May 14, 2009, the Art & Wellness Studio re-opened its doors as the only studio of its kind in San Jose that offers the healing found in art, yoga, and meditation to adults with mental, physical and developmental disabilities. Our programs empower people by nurturing their imagination and letting them discover the joy of artistic expression.