

A Deep History of Mosaic



Here's our story...

In 2015, partners and co-founders Dr. Catherine Bast (she/they) and Mixhi Marquis (any pronouns) identified a need in their own lives: to have a safe space to practice their respective art forms—medicine for Dr. Bast, and healing arts for Marquis—without judgement. Together they brainstormed and came up with a loose 10 year plan to write books, start support groups, grow a patient panel, and create a healthcare center where LGBTQ people and gender-nonconforming people could receive healthcare and not only be tolerated but celebrated.



Mosaic co-founders, Dr. Catherine Bast and Mixhi Marquis

During Dr. Bast's 3 year medical residency, her own queer and gender-fluid identity lead her to amass a following of 80 gender non-conforming patients. As her graduation approached in the spring of 2016, she realized there was a crisis at hand; once she graduated, there would be nowhere welcoming for her patients to go to receive healthcare. So the 10 year plan became a 6 month plan. In that 6 month time period, Dr. Bast and Marquis rented an office and continued hosting a transgender support group as they looked for a home for Mosaic. In a happy coincidence, Dr. Bast had been moonlighting at Oaklawn, a mental health and addiction treatment facility in Goshen, which had an empty wing, and whose leadership was eager to support the vision for Mosaic. An arrangement was made where Dr. Bast could provide in-house primary care to Oaklawn patients and Mosaic could use the empty wing.

Mosaic History

With the help of the transgender support group and other community support, Mosaic Health and Healing Arts began to take form: volunteers cleaned and set up the space, designed the logo, and helped get the word out about Mosaic. Some of Dr. Bast's medical mentors offered guidance, policy documents, financial templates, and electronic medical system suggestions as Dr. Bast and Marquis set up the logistical aspects of starting a

medical office. In July of 2016, one week after the Pulse nightclub shooting (and one week after Dr. Bast finished her medical residency), Mosaic Health and Healing Arts opened their doors to the public, underlining the need for welcoming LGBTQ spaces.



During the first year of being open, the values that set Mosaic apart became integral to its growth. It was important to Dr. Bast and Marquis that Mosaic be a

place that was open and welcoming to anyone, and so when they initially threw their doors wide open to patients on Medicare and Medicaid, the people came. The trans and gender-nonconforming patient panel also grew, with most patients finding Mosaic through Google.

Mosaic's dedication to being an independent medical practice was also formative. Since Mosaic needed to maintain their services, regardless of politically-based federal mandates, they made the choice to not accept federal grant money. Through the financial support of Dr. Bast and Marquis' family, friends, and the broader community, Mosaic's roots deepened, even as it took a year for the organization to financially break even.

Mosaic History

In the years since it's beginning, Mosaic has solidified itself as a bastion of whole-person and LGBTQ healthcare in Michiana. Mosaic has served nearly 3000 patients, 800 of those being trans and non-binary patients, many of whom travel from 2 or more hours away for appointments. Mosaic has developed into a center for gender-affirming care as well as HIV care and prevention. Mosaic is credentialed with every insurance that they can be, to serve the widest variety of patient populations. In 2019 Mosaic ventured into the world of mental health care with the addition of a mental health provider to the staff.

The 2020 Covid-19 pandemic forced Mosaic's leadership to slow down and reflect on the unique piece that Mosaic had to contribute to the community. With years of patient stories and experiences to share, educational outreach and cultural competency training emerged as a root mission for Mosaic. Since their initial plan for Mosaic began, Dr. Bast and Marquis have felt a desire to affect and influence the system, and providing LGBTQ cultural competency training to as many people as possible (on all levels of medical, mental health, and community organizations) is a tangible way to share Mosaic's vision of inclusion and whole-person care with the community. This spirit of education also extends into Mosaic being a teaching facility for medical students and interns. Mosaic's patients are able to teach future-doctors and future-social workers how to be thoughtful and competent practitioners.

Five years into Mosaic's existence, the three year plan includes continuing to expand Mosaic's training and consulting offerings, hiring another doctor so the expansion of training can co-exist with continued patient care, hiring another mental health provider, creating more partnerships with local LGBTQ and trans-specific groups, and an increased focus on internships and medical residencies.

As they look forward to the future of Mosaic, Dr. Bast and Marquis have learned from their past and now know better than to think 10 years in advance. "It's like an expressive artform," Marquis says of Mosaic's development over the past five years, "constantly learning and engaging with the medium. You might like one brush stroke but not like the next one, and have to figure out where to go with the next step."