

Creative Living Resident Dustin Clark Releases First Album

Twenty-twenty was, as we all know, full of unexpected challenges. But one of Creative Living's residents, Dustin Clark, found himself conquering not just one, but two Everests in the midst of a worldwide pandemic.



In August, Dustin reached the summit of his undergraduate education, earning his Bachelor of Science in Design (BSD) from The Ohio State University in Visual Communication Design. Prior to moving to Creative Living in fall 2015 to pursue this degree, he earned his Associates Degree in Graphic Design from Columbus State Community College.

Dustin's artistic side isn't limited just to graphics and visual communications, however. Last year, building upon his love of music – something that was fostered by his parents through piano lessons when he was a child but grew even stronger when he picked up a guitar and starting writing and recording songs in high school – Dustin dominated his second Everest, completing the recording of his debut album *Here* under the artist name Black Birch, and launching a Kickstarter campaign to

fund the mixing, mastering, bass and distribution of the album via CD and streaming platforms.

In telling his story on the Kickstarter page, Dustin wrote, "I was diagnosed with Becker's Muscular Dystrophy at 10 years old, which causes muscle weakness throughout my body. Needless to say, it has taken a great deal of creativity and hard work to write and record an album with this disorder, but here we are! Through the power of modern recording tech and some ingenuity on the part of me and my friends and family, I finished the recording..."

By November 12, just over three weeks from the date he launched it, Dustin met his Kickstarter campaign goal of \$5,600 and immediately set to work with an engineer in Italy to facilitate the final tracks. On February 6, 2021, after many years of hard work, *Here* was released to the public.

Congratulations, Dustin, and never stop pursuing your dreams! Creative Living is so proud to be a part of your story. 🍷



Dustin at home in his recording studio. Photo credit to Amanda McKinley. Bottom right: Black Birch's debut album *Here*.