we envision a world where

art, artists & art-making

are central to

human inspiration, self-realization & meaning.

LEXINGTON ART LEAGUE

Image: Ruby in the Gallery by Laurie Appleby-Williams.
Site specific installation by Marc-Anthony Polizzi.

you have an opportunity to invest in the world of contemporary art by making a significant commitment to Lexington Art's League's future.

LAL was launched more than five decades ago by a group of artist-activists who shared a vision of providing art for everyone in central Kentucky and beyond.

Today, LAL continues to engage and inspire people by illuminating and promoting the transformative power of art in everyday life.

Through relevant, catalytic programs, provocative alliances and continuously evolving conversations with a diverse and growing audience of supporters, LAL is a prominent force in expanding engagement with the arts, just as Lexington is emerging as the next "great American city."

It is time for LAL to build upon past success, celebrate its promising present and increase the creative velocity of its future by doing four things:

- Expanding operations into downtown Lexington
- Transforming our historic Loudoun House location in north Lexington into a dedicated artist-in-residence space
- Launching a "creativity think tank" that promotes whole brain approaches to business leadership and innovation
- Sustaining our organizational strength and continually enhancing our programs with endowed financial reserves

The first steps toward accomplishing these lofty aspirations began in 2010, when a group of visionary volunteers dedicated to LAL began a quiet campaign to expand operations. Those first steps created momentum and considerable reserves to bring us to today and our formal plans for LAL's future.

LEXINGTON
ART
LEAGUE

your investment in LAL's future will go to work immediately to fund four major components.

1 DOWNTOWN EXPANSION

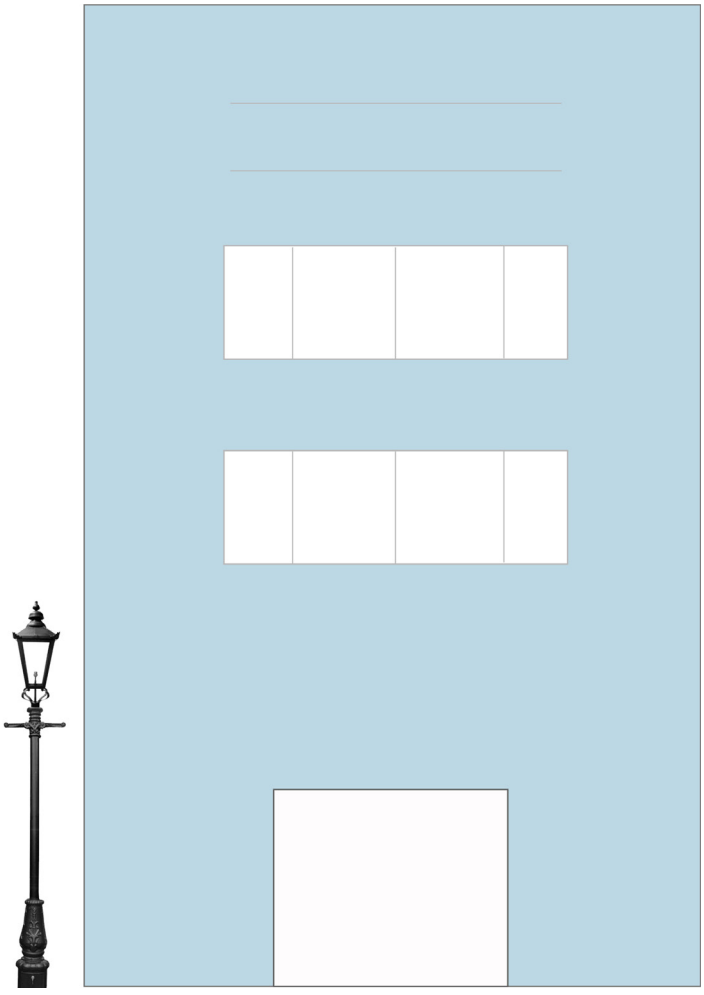
Creating a dedicated space for contemporary art in downtown Lexington will contribute significant energy to the city's burgeoning economic development and civic engagement opportunities, including:

- A free contemporary art venue that embodies the progressive and innovative spirit of Lexington, Kentucky
- An educational destination and free community resource for schools and universities
- A cultural "magnet" that attracts visitors and investment to the urban core
- An engaging professional meeting space that encourages creativity, discovery and collaboration
- A contemporary art space that distinguishes Lexington as a hub of cultural illumination

For the past two years, LAL has been working with board and staff, community leaders, investors, architectural design professionals and others who understand the possibilities and promise of contemporary art's role in transforming society to identify and secure a downtown space.

LAL has secured an option on 135 Main Street in downtown Lexington, a 12,000 square foot, three story historic property. Our planning includes complete renovation of the first floor to create a street-level contemporary exhibition space as well as up fits to the second and third floors to accommodate expansion of LAL programs and/or co-location of compatible cultural organizations.

The new space will add a vibrant and relevant contemporary art venue to Lexington's thriving and growing downtown. Programming will integrate with LAL's annual exhibition schedule as well as initiatives that spring from the new Loudoun artist residency.



2 LOUDOUN ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Loudoun Artist-In-Residence (AIR) program is a natural evolution of LAL's vision for art, artists and art-making in the Bluegrass region and beyond. Loudoun AIR aspires to:

- Invest in artists who are at the leading edge of art-making whose work will influence the cultural landscape of Central Kentucky
- Provide emerging and mid-career artists with support and freedom for self-reflection, experimentation and professional growth
- Create a learning and sharing community among diverse artists, creative thinkers and the public
- Encourage art, artists and art-making that contributes to the economic, educational and civic development of Lexington and the surrounding region

Loudoun AIR will be housed in the 13,000 square foot historic Loudoun House, a 160 year-old Gothic Revival estate built by Francis Key Hunt and home to LAL for three decades.

The house is a nationally significant piece of American architecture. It is one of only five remaining castellated Gothic Revival villas left in the United States by New York architect, A. J. Davis, and is listed on the national Register of Historic Places. The house retains it allure today. As the central feature of north Lexington's 32-acre Castlewood Park, the house is the perfect setting to inspire artistic freedom.

As presently configured, the house contains seven rented artist studios, 5,000 square feet of gallery space, art education classrooms and LAL's administrative offices.

Support generated by this effort will pay for necessary infrastructure enhancements as well as planning and execution of Loudoun's transition to a fully-realized artist-in-residence program.

3 ARTFUL LEADERSHIP

There are some life experiences that artists know well: risk taking, struggle, transforming failure, recognizing possibilities, stretching boundaries and celebrating success.

LAL's plan for establishing an artful leadership consultancy brings together accomplished artists and professional organizational development facilitators to offer fee-for-service curricula that investigate opportunities, wrestle challenges and energize teams. The consultancy's approach transcends customary "business-think," plodding "strategic" and "tactical" meetings with flip chart monotony. Instead, the consultancy designs productive, creative encounters that prepare leaders and their organizations to succeed.

Although not regarded as components of business practice in more traditional management circles, milestones of the creative process are increasingly relevant in today's complex commercial environment. Transforming the 20th Century business approach into 21st Century prosperity requires the whole brain thinking that artists understand. LAL's unique consulting approach, born in the laboratory of artistic expression, but executed in the competitive business environment, provides a compelling alternative to status quo leadership development.

Once the consultancy is fully operational, LAL will collaborate with clients to assess opportunities for evolution and determine curricula and experience sets right for each situation. The consultancy will propose encounters of a defined duration and at a place (within LAL facilities or off-site, depending on needs and aspirations of each engagement) that are most suitable. Engagements will range in size for groups of 10 to 100 that will experience three distinct phases – preparation, the creative encounter itself and follow-up. All three phases will be guided by professional artists and facilitators.

Artful Leadership will be launched after LAL occupies the downtown space and in tandem with creation of Loudoun AIR. Support raised will provide start-up funds for the consultancy.

Plans call for Artful Leadership to be self-sustaining on fees after one year of operation.

4 ENDOWED FINANCIAL RESERVES

This is a time of unprecedented change and growth for LAL. Capturing opportunities and relationships offered by LAL's traditions and current momentum, Lexington's growth and the burgeoning catalytic role of artists in American society, will require considerable human, financial and material resources.

LAL has the fortunate foundations of a visionary board, strong staff management, an absence of debt, a growing, enthusiastic public following and deliberate plans for the future centered on art, artists and art-making.

These assets must be strengthened with dependable operational reserves to sustain the mission of LAL and more importantly, the organization's vision of making art central to quality of life in Lexington and beyond.

A significant portion of funds raised will be added to LAL's endowment and invested to provide spendable operational reserves to sustain LAL's artistic programming. These funds are necessary to maintain stability and forward momentum as LAL evolves. LAL's history of stewardship in the visual arts will be preserved and propelled by earnings on the endowment.

Unfolding this vision will take time and fortitude. LAL is up to the challenge -- we were born out of the creative energy of activist artists -- and because of our growing legion of advocates, ambassadors and people who understand creativity's contributions to society.

LAL's success is not limited to sustaining our organization. We are committed to "art for everyone," joy, introspection and personal growth brought by art, artists and art-making for the good of our community.

"Our urgent task now is just not to repair the present, but to recover the past and sow the future. When we commit to advancing creativity, we free trailblazers to write new narratives of America."

Jeff Chang, Ford Foundation Fellow in Literature

creating a world where art, artists and art-making are central to human inspiration, self-realization and meaning takes vision. it takes courage. it takes leadership. and it needs people like you.

A group of visionary leaders gave generous donations of time, expertise and financial resources to arrive here. LAL is grateful for their energy and enthusiasm in setting the standard for our present momentum and the possibilities that will unfold.

Jerry L. Tipton & Paula Anderson
Price Bell
Kate Black
Page Candler
Jane Bogardus & Karen Carey
Sue Bonner
Craig Cammack
Erik Carlson
Jeff & Lora Carter
Jessica Case
Julia Curiel
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Jesse & Ruth Mark
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Shaye Rabold
Diana Ross
Chester Salisbury
Amber Scott
Martha Seagram

John & Stephanie Spires
Jomo Thompson
Ed Tiemeyer
Anne Van Meter
Griffin Van Meter
Cynthia Vough
David Waller
Shannon Wheeler
Scott & Lisa Wilson
Miriam Woolfolk
Sarah Charles Wright
Boris Zakic

Contributions to milestones will be publicly recognized at the following levels:

VISIONARY
$50,000 and above

STEWARD
$25,000 and above

BENEFACTOR
$10,000 and above

PATRON
$5,000 and above

milestones

Upfit 135 Main
$500,000

Artistic Progam Expansion
$100,000

Loudoun AIR
$250,000

Artful Leadership
$100,000

LAL Endowment
$500,000