



Photo by Bobby Talamine

Working Toward Our Greatest Common Good

LCA believes in the transformative power of the arts to heal, teach, and enrich lives. United in solidarity to abolish unjust systems that perpetuate or condone hate and racism in all forms, LCA values diversity, equity, and inclusivity. We welcome people of all races, religions, ethnicities, ages, abilities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations to enjoy our exhibitions and programs.

Dear Friends,

As the numbers of Covid infections and deaths in our country subside, I am looking forward to seeing many of you back at the art center again. Changes were thrust upon all of us during the pandemic and it's been an exhausting year. However, as many a wise person has noted, change promotes growth and resilience.

LCA is resilient and, as a result, we are evolving and entering the next stage of our development. You'll read about some of the measures we are taking to initiate a cash reserve fund and to embrace diversity and inclusion. We are also addressing accessibility for people who are hearing impaired in our Zoom author readings and intend to have a sign language interpreter for one tour per exhibition going forward.

We welcome you back for the summer exhibition *Bramson/Indiana/Lake* and to all the engaging summer programs we have in store.

Warmly,

Janet Bloch
Executive Director

Last year, LCA began providing our staff and board with Unconscious Bias training workshops. Passionately committed to developing a deeper connection with our black and brown communities, we will continue providing these workshops. We also invited Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) consultant, Angie Nelson Deutch of ID Squared, to review LCA's strategic plan, helping LCA integrate DEI objectives into our planning with clearer language about our intentions and goals. Ms. Deutch explained that while our current strategic plan implies inclusivity, the words need to be spelled out explicitly, as the English language defaults to the white race. We also invited a group of African American women living in LaPorte County to form an advisory committee to ensure that their voices and visions are integrated into LCA's future. We are listening! By exhibiting more artists of color, showcasing items by artisans of color in the Gallery Shop, and assuring that our marketing messages reach minority communities, we will persist in our goal of making LCA an exceptionally diverse and more inclusive resource for the entire region.



A group gets a tour of the Lost and Looking exhibition. Book your free tour today!

Cash Reserve Fund

With an eye toward the future, LCA has slowly and methodically been shoring up its finances so it can respond proactively to unforeseen events that may impact our organization as a whole. Toward this end, our board voted to establish a cash reserve fund with an initial amount of \$25,000. Proud to be in this cash-positive position, LCA still has many operational needs, most notably, offering competitive salaries to our amazing staff. As we work towards this essential goal, we simultaneously plan on setting aside three months' worth of operating funds—approximately \$125,000—in this reserve account, which will safeguard LCA's future operations.

We will be speaking with our devoted donors to see if they are willing to help us build this fund. If you donate an amount above and beyond what you normally would within a fiscal year, this gift will go into the reserve fund with your permission. Thanks to all of you for your continuous support of LCA.

Once Upon a Thursday

LCA offers a new summer event series via Zoom called *Once Upon a Thursday: Author Readings*. Published authors will read excerpts from their books covering various genres. The last 15 minutes are set aside for an audience Q&A. Authors Elizabeth Crane and David Hoppe kicked off our inaugural reading. We continue on June 24 at 6:30 PM (Central) with Michael Fosberg, who will read excerpts and perform segments from his memoir, *Incognito: An American Odyssey of Race and Self-Discovery*. Michael utilizes his memoir as an entry point for meaningful dialogue on race and identity. [Click here to register for the free Zoom event.](#)

Student Portfolio Review

Each year, June through mid-July, LCA hosts the annual Lindsey O'Brien Kesling Wishing Tree Foundation *Young Artist Expo* (LOK YAE), a large, vibrant exhibition featuring the region's most talented and passionate young artists.

An integral part of LCA's practice is for our Education Director to conduct an individual portfolio review with each participating visual artist. The goal of performing these reviews is to introduce young artists, from kindergarten through high school age, to the professional practice of submitting, discussing, titling, and pricing their artwork for exhibition. The reviews are age-appropriate collaborative conversations that champion the voices of our youngest artists and nurture confidence. The portfolio review and selection of artwork imbues artists and their families with a deeper understanding and reverence for the arts as a profession. It is also an act of respect for each young artist, the quality of their work, and the unique and innovative stories that accompany each piece—stories that graciously fill our NIPSCO Education Studio Gallery each June in our treasured annual tradition.



Celebrating new rain barrels with a Family Art Day at Walker Street Park Community Garden, one of LCA's newest partners.

Save the Dates

We are thrilled that the Lubeznik Arts Festival will take place in-person on our grounds on **Saturday and Sunday, August 21 and 22**. Art, family activities and entertainment are all part of the experience.

LCA's Art Bash, will be held virtually, **Saturday, September 25**, from 6–7 PM Central Time. The event will feature a silent auction, a Sumi-e painting performance by Patricia Larkin Green and a reading of an original poem by the mesmerizing Ming Washington. Please put these dates on your calendar now!



Hannah Hammond-Hagman gives feedback to a young artist during a portfolio review.