



Photo by Bobby Talamine

Dear Friends,

As the year draws to an end, I am feeling content from a year well spent. I'm also busting with excitement about the opportunities Lubeznik Center for the Arts (LCA) is planning to pursue. There is so much good happening at the center at this very moment—and I want to share some of it with you!

First, in this issue we will introduce you to Lauren Frick, a very recent graduate of Indiana University Northwest who has interned with LCA since August. I feel fortunate Lauren chose to work with LCA during her last semester of school. Her contributions have been valued by all of us. In addition, you will meet five new members of our board of directors. Our board is made up of talented, generous community leaders from diverse backgrounds with different points of view. The incoming members will fill a variety of roles that will help LCA achieve its strategic objectives, including the development of an ever growing inclusive culture.

Another objective in our Strategic Plan is to

Dramatically increase annual fundraising revenue for the short and long-term by diversifying funding sources and connecting donors with meaningful opportunities.

While we have steadily increased our donation base, we are poised to take a giant leap forward with a newly formed Fundraising Committee that board member, Melissa Warneke, will lead.

There are so many meaningful opportunities to connect you with! Whether you find that connection in our stellar art education and outreach programs serving thousands of children and teens, adults with cognitive disabilities and homeless populations; you find meaning in offering world-class art for free to a small community like ours; or another aspect of our diverse programming draws your attention, we are certain you'll feel as good as we do about what's ahead for LCA.

It's my pleasure to introduce many of LCA's 2022 board members to you and to invite you to view an exhibition, enjoy a free Family Day, take an art class or browse the Gallery Shop.

Warm Wishes,

Janet Bloch
Executive Director



Meet Our Newest Board Members!

LaRonda Campbell graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a degree in speech communication and a minor in public relations. She was previously an instructional assistant for the Michigan City Area Schools and currently works with the STRIVE Mentorship Program for Teens through the Rotary Club. LaRonda has always loved art. She was drawn to becoming a board member both because of her daughter's involvement with the Teen Arts Council and her connection with board member, Dale Cooper. She hopes to build momentum for LCA's public relations to draw visitors from all regions to events like the annual gala. She also hopes to expand pop-up neighborhood art events to diverse groups in the community. LaRonda believes all the artists showcased at LCA are world-class, and the combination of the exhibitions, committed board members and amazing programming make LCA a renowned organization within the community.

Steve DePalma is the owner of Stranco of Michigan City. He's lived in many places, from Milwaukee to Pittsburgh to San Francisco and now Michigan City, where he's been since 2003. "It's been exciting to see the continuing development and evolution of entertainment, recreation, restaurants, retail and the arts in Michigan City and surrounding communities," Steve says. He was first introduced to LCA through Stranco, as they produce the wall graphics for exhibitions, but he became more aware of what LCA does when he became neighbors with LCA's director of exhibitions, Lora Fosberg. Steve is extremely impressed



with LCA's outreach to local schools and their dedication to educating young students about art. During his time on the board, he hopes to help develop resources required to successfully expand outreach to local schools and communities, as these means of community engagement positively impact individuals, their families and the broader community.

Betsy Kohn is the director of communications for the Michigan City Area Schools. As a board member, she hopes to steward and expand positive connections between Lubeznik Center for the Arts and Michigan City schools and educators. She believes art is an important part of a well-rounded education. When asked what drew her to becoming a board member, she said, "I feel that the arts (both visual and performing) are vital to a thriving community. Art enriches our lives in so many ways—it invites us to dream, it inspires us to be creative and it energizes and soothes us." Betsy is most excited about collaborating with Lubeznik staff and her fellow board members to support the important work at LCA.

Ish Muhammad Nieves is an electrical engineer with NIPSCO and a working artist. Having worked on several projects with LCA and the Teen Arts Council (some of his work is even on our website), Ish finds it exciting LCA incorporates the local creative community in order to meet strategic plans and short-term goals. In fact, he was drawn to becoming a board member in order to help accentuate LCA's brand. Ish wants to see a stronger presence of communities that are traditionally underrepresented and work to incorporate them so everyone feels included and can claim LCA as their platform for creative expression and education. "We are in a period where youth are processing, digesting and sharing information at an incredible rate. To play a part in helping the creative community hear and see themselves in a professional environment is exciting," he says.

Beatrice Vode (Bea) graduated from the International School of Design and Fashion Merchandising and worked as part of the window design team at many well-known retailers. After being a buyer at Whole Foods Market, she became a private event planner and personal shopper for a select group of clients through her company, Sophisticated Simplicity. Bea was drawn to becoming a board member after seeing the snack display at a First Friday event, and she decided she needed to get involved to help bring First Fridays to a new level. During her time on the board, Bea hopes to help bring LCA to the people. She believes places like LCA need to be at the forefront of our communities. "People must know that there is a place that welcomes all and is here to broaden our minds, stimulate our thoughts and spark conversations," she says. Bea is looking forward to meeting new people and making long-time friends, while collectively putting together minds, passions and love for LCA to accomplish many great things.



My Time as an Intern at LCA

Lauren Frick

I have had the pleasure of being an intern at LCA throughout the final semester of my undergraduate career at Indiana University Northwest. As an English major who constantly thinks about the role of the arts and humanities in the wider world, I was drawn to LCA, not only because of the timely exhibitions they host, but also because of their prioritization of community outreach. It is my hope to start a social justice-based arts nonprofit in the future, so I looked to the staff at LCA to be my mentors. Interning with LCA gave me the opportunity to see what working at an arts nonprofit will be like, and I have been able to see and contribute to various means of engagement with the community over the course of my internship.

My first days as an intern were during the Lubeznik Art Festival, so I was able to watch an event come to fruition from an outside perspective. I've been able to work with Nelsy Marcano, LCA's education director, on educational programming including translating materials into Spanish, creating talking points for exhibition docents and editing

materials used to promote events and programming. I've also helped Jessie Sexton, the marketing coordinator, by writing social media posts and making flyers. I was able to be a part of the de-installation of the *Bramson / Indiana / Lake* exhibition and the installation of the *Nature Now* exhibition. Most significantly, I hosted a reading for Indiana University Northwest's most recent publication of *Spirits Arts and Literary Magazine*, since I am also the editor-in-chief of the magazine. I wrote the press release and the social media posts, and I did all of the outreach to secure readers for the event. The event was quite successful. It drew a crowd, and guests were able to get free copies of *Spirits* volumes as well as learn more about the magazine.

My final project, as I round out my internship, is writing this newsletter! My next step will be going to get my master's degree in literature, but I am so glad I have had the opportunity to spend the past six months with LCA learning, growing and making new connections.

