

# 2010 *Annual Report*

KENNEDY HEIGHTS ART CENTER

*Better Lemonade Together*



# From the President

Dear Friends,

We may know how to make art, but according to our campers we're not the best at making lemonade. So our goal last summer at Camp Create was making "Better Lemonade Together," which we did physically and artistically.

During this intensive summer arts camp, students explored many art forms. They learned how to develop photographs, create colorful paintings, write and perform plays, and dance to the beat of their own drums. They also made a lot of lemonade and kept adjusting the recipe (sometimes too sweet, sometimes too sour) until it was perfect.

Guided by a team of amazing professional artists, these diverse students discovered how working together makes an impact on our art and the world around us. They learned that their artwork, just like lemonade, is better when made together.

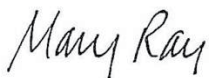
This is an apt metaphor for the mission of Kennedy Heights Arts Center. Through participation in the arts, we are building a more connected, inclusive and vibrant community.

In 2010, more than 2,500 youth and adults came together in many creative ways. We were transported to far-away lands, aspired for peace and explored nature through engaging art exhibitions. We created inspiring artwork, world music and funky outdoor sculptures on the grounds of the Arts Center. We came together to celebrate and connect at community events – listening to music on the lawn, experiencing and sharing our cultures and creating art together.

Our community is made up of many different ingredients and, just like in lemonade, we are better together.

On behalf of the board of directors and staff, thank you for the all valuable ways you contribute to the mix.

Sincerely,



Mary Ray  
President, Board of Directors



photo by Emily Holt, student, Camp Create 2010

## Helen Haberstroh Honored for Outstanding Contributions

For many visitors, the first person they encounter at Kennedy Heights Arts Center is Helen Haberstroh. For seven years, she has been the friendly face, welcoming ambassador and gallery docent at the Arts Center on Saturdays. Everyone knows Helen. But what everyone might not know is that in addition to this public role, behind the scenes, Helen has been a significant influence in the development of the Arts Center.

Helen came to the Center in 2004 as a founding member of the Kennedy artist guild. She not only shared her talents as an artist, she also jumped right in as a volunteer. Helen provided valuable leadership as the guild coordinator – organizing exhibitions, reaching out to new members and managing the art shop – and later as a board member and board president.



Helen Haberstroh in the art shop she managed for six years, one of her many volunteer contributions to KHAC. Photo by Tom Kinsel.

Helen has the unique traits of being both a creative person and a super-organized, task master. Stepping into the young, all-volunteer arts center, Helen was instrumental in the formation of the organization. She helped put structures and policies in place to ensure that the Center was running effectively and by the book – often successfully “herding the cats” to do so.

Among guild artists, volunteers and staff, Helen is affectionately thought of as our “mother hen.” Over the years, Helen has mentored many young artists and college students. Always encouraging, she draws out the best in everyone.

“Helen personally juried me into the Guild,” said artist Lynn Conaway. “Ever since, she has been a great friend and cheerleader to me and my family.”

Helen has been generous with her resources as well as her time. Usually quietly and behind the scenes, Helen sees a need and fills it – with little fanfare and lots of devotion. Her genuine love for the Arts Center and this community is evident in all that she does.

It is for this devoted service that we are proud to honor Helen with the 2010 Kennedy Award for Outstanding Contributions.

**mission:** To enhance the life of the surrounding community through arts and cultural experiences that embrace diversity, foster creativity and build community.

## Acclaimed International Photographer Conveys Images of Africa



Absolute Delight by Alfred O. Fayemi

The spotlight was on Africa in *I See Africa: Perceptions, Imaginings, and Realities*, a highlight of the 2010 gallery season.

The exhibition featured the work of Nigerian photographer Alfred Olusegun Fayemi. For the past 25 years, Dr. Fayemi has devoted his energies to social documentary photography of continental Africans and Africans in the diaspora. His work has been exhibited widely in the US and abroad and published in magazines, newspapers and three coffee table books: *Balancing Acts: Photographs from West Africa* (1995), *Voices from Within: Photographs of*

*African Children* (1999), and *Windows to the Soul: Photographs Celebrating African Women* (2003).

Fayemi's photographs articulate the realities of contemporary Africa and Africans. They traverse a wide spectrum in the rhythm of the daily lives of Africans, from the resplendent attire of African women in markets, to children playing with home-made toys, to pounding yams, to open-air dancing parties in far-flung locations like Nigeria, Ghana and Ethiopia.

Complimenting this work, Ohio artists James Haase, Queen Brooks, Cynthia Lockhart, Elliott Jordan, and Ike Okafor-Newsum presented contemporary African-influenced works in various media. Educational exhibits of genuine African artifacts on loan from the Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Museum Center and private collectors provided cultural context.

*I See Africa* embodied a reconciliation of ideas. The artists presented their concepts of Africa through sculpture, painting, fiber art and photography.

"This exhibition communicates Africa's cultural impact in our global community, and emphasizes the validity of each artist's vision of Africa," explained curator Barbara Gamboa.

The exhibit attracted a record number of visitors, including many school groups. Dr. Fayemi, who currently resides in New York, presented a gallery talk about his experiences documenting life in his home country of Nigeria as well as several other countries on the continent.

Africa really came to life when Kennedy Heights Arts Center presented an African Culture Fest on May 2, in conjunction with the exhibit. Visitors experienced cultural exhibits, music, dance and food from six African nations.



Theatre Jali performs in the gallery during the African Culture Fest

## Events Bring Community Together

In the warmer months, Kennedy Heights Arts Center was the place to be for music, art and connecting with neighbors. Hundreds of area residents gathered for free concerts, festivals and events on our beautiful 2.5 acre grounds.

Our Summer Concert Series brought some of the best musical talent in Cincinnati to perform live on the lawn at the Arts Center. From foot-stomping Cajun tunes by Lagniappe to the boogie woogie blues of Ricky Nye to Tracy Walker's signature folk style, the 8-concert series offered something for everyone.

Local artists were at the heart of the District A Arts and Music Festival. Professional artists who reside in the neighborhood offered demonstrations, performances and an open-air art show. Festival attendees were able to experience the work of these talented folks right here in our community and try their own hand at interactive art activities. Other events such as the Arts for Social Change panel discussion connected residents with artists for engaging conversation and learning.

The year ended with the 5th annual Winterfest, a holiday celebration for Kennedy Heights and Pleasant Ridge – where residents of all ages enjoyed music, dance, hands-on art activities, refreshments and holiday cheer at the Arts Center, AIM and the Pleasant Ridge Community Center. The spirit of community shone through as neighbors gathered around the piano to sing songs of the season.



### 2010 Art Exhibitions

#### For A Better World

Poems and drawings on peace and justice from the 2006 edition of the annual publication *For a Better World* edited by Saad Ghosn.

#### Student Art Exhibition

Imaginative works and inspired creations from students at Kennedy Heights Art Center and seven area schools.

#### I See Africa

(see article page 3)

#### Guild Summer Show

A multi-media show featuring photography, painting, jewelry, sculpture, and fiber arts by members of the Kennedy Artists Guild.



#### Touch

A tactile, interactive exhibit of ceramic sculptures by Brenda Tarbell, alongside work of other artists inspired by the natural world.

#### Click 6

Our sixth annual juried photography exhibition, presented in collaboration with the American Society of Media Photographers.

#### Holiday Treasures

One-of-a-kind handmade treasures presented by the Kennedy Artists Guild.

Photo above: Lilly Cooper add her touch to a community mural at the District A Arts and Music Festival. Photo by Natalie Jeanne Photography



## From the Trash Bin to the Gallery: Creating Art from Found Objects with Sculptor Voss Finn

Look closely at this art and see what you can find: door knobs, toy parts, pop cans, buckets. Youth and adults employed great creativity, turning discarded objects into works of art.

This work was part of a month-long community residency with artist Voss Finn, supported by the Ohio Arts Council's "Artist in Residence" program which matches schools and organizations throughout the state with renowned Ohio artists for in-depth learning experiences. Other project funding came from the NLT Foundation.

Finn's practice of using found objects to create sculpture was the inspiration for an enormous amount of artistic exploration. The artist worked with groups of residents ranging in age from 6-10 year olds, to high school students to adults, including a group of adults with developmental disabilities from the Geier Apartments. The result was two large, collaborative sculptures and a number of individual works displayed on the grounds and porch of the Arts Center throughout the summer.



Local youth created these colorful, sculptures during a residency with artist Voss Finn.



The moving windmill was an attention-getter along Montgomery Road.

The open-ended process allowed for much discovery. Each person was encouraged to explore their own questions and interests – learning there are no right or wrong answers in making art. Furthermore, Finn's work raises the value of everyday objects in our lives thus presenting a new perspective of what is to be regarded as "usable" versus "useless."

"It helped reawaken my imagination and artistic abilities," commented one adult participant.

A youth participant, age 10, remarked "Art can be anything you want it to be and can be made out of anything!" Photos by Kate Kern



Lynn Topits, a resident of nearby Geier Apartments, enjoyed new artistic experiences.

## 2010 Teaching Artists

Cheryl Cannon  
April Cooper  
Cedric Michael Cox

Natalie Hager  
Robin Hartmann  
Kelly Langdon

Charles Miller  
Karen Overmyer  
Rebecca Nebert

Brandon Parker  
Christian Schmit  
Jeanne Speier  
Bet Stewart

## Music in the Air

Throughout August and September, visitors of Kennedy Heights Arts Center would often hear strains of Chopin or Joplin in the air. This beautiful music was coming from an unusual fixture on the front porch: a piano.

The piano was part of Play Me, I'm Yours by Luke Jerram, a city-wide public art installation sponsored by Cincinnati Public Radio which put 35 street pianos in public parks, streets and squares across Greater Cincinnati. Each donated piano was individually decorated.



Teen artists in our summer program designed and painted the piano.

Our piano was designed and painted by teens in our Camp Create summer program under the guidance of artist Cedric Micheal Cox. Entitled "Neighborhood Harmony", the piano features images of homes and gardens in Kennedy Heights. The students took a walking tour of the neighborhood and sketched homes to include in the design.

Based on comments on the Play Me I'm Yours website, we learned that the piano at Kennedy Heights Arts Center was one of the community's favorites, earning rave reviews for both its artistic beauty and clarity of sound. More than 120 people from throughout the region traveled to our site to play the piano during the six weeks it was outside.

The piano (now moved inside) is a great resource that has allowed us to expand our programming at the Center – by hosting piano recitals, music classes and small concerts in the gallery.

## Going Green

In an effort to conserve energy and reduce operating costs, Kennedy Heights Arts Center initiated several "green" facility improvements in 2010.

With assistance from volunteer Jos van Gils and the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance, we conducted a full energy audit of our historic facility. The audit helped staff pinpoint problems and solutions to improve our energy efficiency.



Rain barrels provide a sustainable source of water for keeping the Arts Center's gardens flourishing. Photo by Natalie Jeanne Photography

One of the greatest areas of energy loss was our windows. With the generous support of an anonymous donor, we installed "invisible" storm windows throughout the facility and glass block windows on the lower level. The storms create significant energy savings and help preserve the original wood frame windows. It's great to walk by a closed window in the winter and no longer feel a breeze!

Using donated barrels from Meier's Winery and the Coca-Cola Company (and a little ingenuity), volunteer Mike Conaway designed a water collection system to capture rainwater. The system provided enough water to nourish the Center's large garden all summer long.

"These improvements help ensure that we are being good stewards of our limited resources and the Earth's resources as well," commented KHAC Executive Director Ellen Muse-Lindeman.

# Thank you to all our donors

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*Recognizing individual donors who contributed \$1,000 or more*

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Chris and Mary Ray

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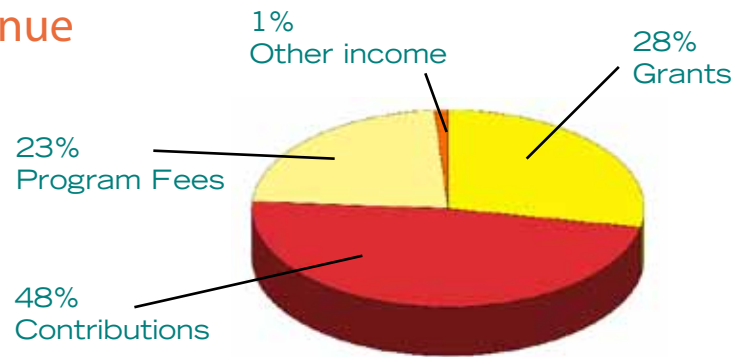




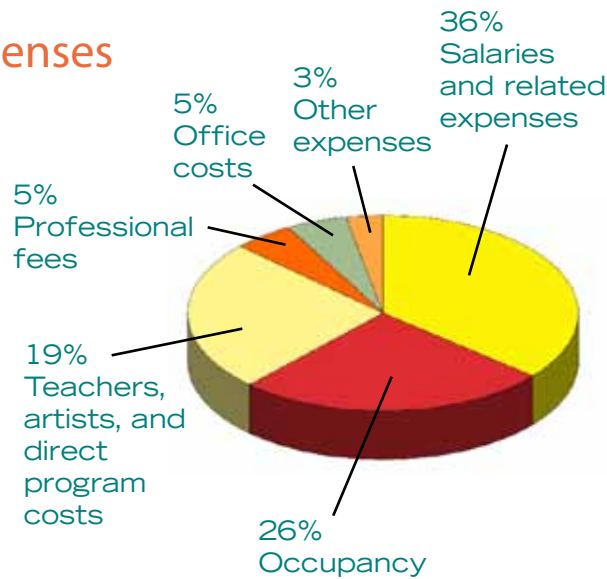
# Financial Report

Kennedy Heights Arts Center Operating Funds for the Year Ended December 31, 2010.

## Revenue



## Expenses



<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$184,604
<b>Allocation from Cash Reserves</b>	\$54,441
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$239,045
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$782,867
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	\$193,684
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	\$589,183

# Board + Staff

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Ellen Muse-Lindeman  
*Executive Director*

# Volunteers Make an Impact

No volunteers have done more to make the Arts Center a welcoming place than this year's Volunteer of the Year Award recipients – Lynne George and Lee DeRhodes.



Lee DeRhodes and Lynne George are recognized for their volunteer service. Photo by Natalie Jeanne Photography

Lynne George joined the KHAC as a volunteer in the very early days, just after the purchase of the building. At that time, our biggest concern was getting the door open on Saturdays. Within a matter of months, we were not only open but welcoming, even in the chaos of renovations. No matter how much destruction and debris surrounded her, Lynne always carved out an attractive space for arts programming, and there was always hot coffee and warm cookies.

Lynne served as volunteer Facilities/Operations Coordinator, then later as our Bookkeeper, a volunteer position she held for four years.

Lynne is well known as the consummate party hostess, so it was no surprise that she helped launch the Hospitality committee. She shared the vision of the Arts Center as a place for community to gather, and was instrumental in the success of our community events, such as the Memorial Day concerts and Founders Day. "Lynne made sure everyone felt like a treasured guest," said KHAC President Mary Ray.

Lee DeRhodes also began his volunteer service soon after the Arts Center was founded. A Kennedy Heights resident and avid gardener, Lee started clearing out sections of the side yard (at the time full of weeds and fallen trees) to create a garden. Each year he carved out another section until eventually he cultivated the entire yard with lush beds of perennials.

With loving care and no funding, Lee developed an award-winning garden which has been recognized by the Cincinnati Horticultural Society and featured in House Trends Magazine. The garden draws people in and creates a beautiful environment for the community to enjoy.

"People ask Lee all the time for his secret, as if there's some magic formula to a great garden," remarked KHAC Executive Director Ellen Muse-Lindeman. "But the key to his success is his great devotion. He is here tending the garden every day. And when I say every day, I mean EVERY day."

In 2010, this dynamic duo joined forces to develop, shepherd and manage a new event rental program. We had received many requests in the past to consider renting our unique historic facility for private events and business meetings. With support from staff member Ilene Hayes, these two volunteers stepped in to develop the program, which provides both a wonderful resource for the community and a valuable stream of revenue to support KHAC's mission.

Lynne's professional background in catering/hospitality industry is a huge asset as she meets with prospective clients and helps them plan their special events. Lee then sets up and supervises the events at the Arts Center. In the first year, we hosted 25 private events in our facility – all thanks to their leadership and countless volunteer hours.

It is this kind of energy and willingness to jump in anywhere, anytime that makes Lynne and Lee such valuable members of the Arts Center family.



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