



Creating, Connecting

Kennedy Heights Arts Center
2011 Annual Report

From the President,

Dear Friends,

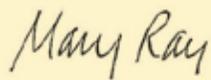
When Kennedy Heights Arts Center was just getting started, we had a vision of it being a place that brought people together. It is so exciting to see this vision become reality.

Looking back at 2011, we can see so many ways that diverse residents connected with each other through the creative process. They sang songs, moved their bodies, created original art works, explored community history, and examined issues of race and identity.

Our experience shows that the arts—whether it's painting, music, dance or gardening—have the unique power to connect people and inspire insight into ourselves and the world around us.

On behalf of the board of directors and staff, thank you for being a part of this amazing community. We look forward to many more opportunities to CREATE and CONNECT with you.

Sincerely,



Mary Ray
President, Board of Directors

Remembering Carl Lindner

In 2011, Cincinnati lost a community icon and bighearted philanthropist, Carl H. Lindner, Jr. Mr. Lindner made a huge impact in our city and was a major benefactor of many area nonprofits, including Kennedy Heights Arts Center.

We will never forget how Mr. Lindner came by one day when volunteers were working on fixing up the old Kennedy mansion (which would later become the Arts Center). We learned that this place was special to him, as he used to attend the nearby Kennedy School as a child.

Mr. Lindner became a supporter of Kennedy Heights Arts Center that day and continued to give generously throughout the years. His contributions totaling more than \$600,000 made possible the full renovation of our historic facility, the hiring of an executive director and allowed for all students to be able to participate in art programs regardless of their economic circumstance.

Mr. Lindner played a significant part in making the Arts Center what it is today and his legacy will be felt for many generations.



Residents gather in front of the Arts Center to honor Carl Lindner

Art Center Founders Honored

Mary Ray remembers sitting around a table at the Dubliner Restaurant with a few other neighborhood residents dreaming about buying the old Kennedy Mansion. Word on the street was that it would be torn down, but no one wanted to see this community landmark demolished. A vision emerged to transform it into a community arts center.

Bringing that vision to reality would take several years and much work. Mary, a realtor, was instrumental in helping the group incorporate as a nonprofit organization and acquire the property.



Richard Cooke and Mary Ray are recipients of the 2011 Kennedy Award for Outstanding Service.
Photo by Natalie Jeanne Photography.

Richard Cooke was among the first key people who were recruited to help get the project off the ground. A Section Head with Procter and Gamble and Kennedy Heights resident, Richard brought skills and passion to the team. In 2003, Mary and Richard became founding board members of Kennedy Heights Arts Center, along with Jim Zarnowiecki and Kathy Spoon, and have remained consistently involved in leadership ever since.

It would probably be easier to list the things that Mary and Richard have not done for the Arts Center, than to record all of their contributions.

Mary served as treasurer, then president of the board. She chaired the facilities committee, overseeing many of the renovations to the historic property. Mary chaired the personnel committee and hired the center's first executive director. She led the board in strategic planning to ensure the growth and stability of the organization.

Richard served as secretary of the board. As chair of the development committee, he was instrumental in building support for the center, getting grants and sponsors. Richard chaired the exhibitions and events committee for several years, organizing the first art exhibitions and events like the Heart of Art and WinterFest. In recent years, Richard also purchased another nearby property and founded The Green Corner Studios and Marketplace, a fusion of art, fresh local produce and environmental reclamation.

"Before we had staff, Mary and Richard did everything—from painting the walls to planning the programs to raising money," remarked KHAC board member Lydia Morgan. "Even more importantly, they always had a vision for what the Arts Center could be, a vision that continued to grow and flourish under their leadership."

Mary and Richard will be presented the Kennedy Award at this year's Founders Day celebration, recognizing their nine years of dedicated service and leadership to Kennedy Heights Arts Center.

"I can't think of a more deserving pair to receive this award," said Morgan. "There is no doubt the Arts Center would not be where it is today without their leadership."

Photographs Show Three Decades of White People



Ladies by Melvin Grier

In his 33 year career with The Cincinnati Post, photojournalist Melvin Grier often found himself in places where he was the only black person in the room. Because of this privileged access, he accumulated a body of work that looks at the majority through a minority's eyes.

"Through the years we have seen various studies of black people done by white people but to my knowledge never the reverse," Grier reflected. This was the basis for a ground-breaking exhibit at Kennedy Heights Arts Center entitled *White People: A Retrospective*.

The show featured 60 black and white and color images covering three decades of life in Cincinnati. The photographs not only depicted the photographer's immersion into the world of the majority but also some of its more interesting characters – Pete

Rose on his last day in major league baseball, a soldier coming home from war, golfers in argyle socks.

As an accompaniment to Grier's photographs, the exhibit also included a suite of provocative written reflections "Ghosts in the Machine: 3 Ways of Looking at (and Living with) White People" by writer Kathy Y. Wilson. Grier and Wilson, along with other local artists, also presented a panel discussion entitled "I See You, Too; The Politics of Seeing."

As one visitor remarked, "The collection of photographs provides a vivid, frank and unsentimental view of Americana - largely White Americana - often revealing some of the best and worst in the character of people, sometimes within the same photographs."

The exhibit broke attendance records for Kennedy Heights Arts Center and received much media attention, including being featured on a National Public Radio program distributed nationally. Big thanks to exhibition sponsors Tom Schiff and the Scripps Howard Foundation.



Melvin Grier has won numerous awards for photojournalism. Photo by Samantha Grier.

"These pictures were taken within the time constraints of daily journalism, a bind that never seems to have hampered Grier in turning out telling photographs that often have the hallmarks of art. That is to say, their composition is elegant, their technical qualities excellent, and they encourage the viewer to think, a sometimes forgotten element of good art."

Jane Durrell, "Odd Man Out", *AEQAI*, May 15, 2011

Diverse Residents Join Voices in Song

People of different races, ages and backgrounds came together, finding connection and commonality through song.

This experience was part of a four-week arts residency with Cleveland-based musician Terry Boyarsky, supported by grants from the Ohio Arts Council and the Tides Foundation.

Throughout the month of March 2011, Ms. Boyarsky led groups of adults and youth in choral singing. Using rhythm, song, dance, rounds and toning, participants learned and performed a varied repertoire of music that reflected and embraced our many cultures. The residency concluded with a multi-generational community choir concert.

"Our goal was to bring together residents of all faiths to join voices in song. After all, what's a better way to build community than singing together?" said executive director Ellen Muse-Lindeman.

Most participants did not know one another before the project began.

"This has been a wonderful experience," remarked Kim, a project participant. "Music is a universal language. We all come from different backgrounds, but music unites us all."



Vickie Bishop and Kim Tatum join voices with neighbors in a community concert

2011 Art Exhibitions

The World as We See It

Our 4th Annual Student Art Exhibition featured imaginative works by students at Kennedy Heights Arts Center and nine area schools.

Fibers

This exuberant show showcased fiber arts in its many forms by regional artists including quilting, weaving, surface design, assemblage pieces, sculpture, dolls and mixed media.

White People: A Retrospective

Photographs by award-winning photojournalist Melvin Grier took a look at the majority through a minority's eyes.

Kennedy Guild Summer Show

Members of the Kennedy Artists Guild presented new work in a range of media.

Femme

Eight women artists (and one man) presented diverse artistic expressions imprinted by the feminine spirit.

Click 7

Create a photo in any way, but it must include one item: a marble. This was the challenge to artists in our 7th annual juried photography exhibition, presented in collaboration with the American Society of Media Photographers.

Holiday Treasures

One-of-a-kind, handmade items by local artists were perfect for the giving season.



From Our Roots Comes Beauty, a quilt by Lynn Conaway and Carole Staples, was featured in Fibers

Our Future, Now

Youth expressions of the future were the focus of an innovative, collaborative project developed by Kennedy Heights Arts Center in partnership with Public Allies Cincinnati.

The project entitled Our Future, Now celebrated the dreams, hopes, fears, and aspirations of 5th - 8th grade students throughout Greater Cincinnati. Nearly 200 children from public, private and alternative schools shared their visions of the future, for themselves and their communities, good and bad, as part of the multimedia art project.

Each student was asked to respond to the prompt "In the future..." through drawing. The artwork was created on clear transparencies which then became "windows" to the future in a large-scale cityscape installation, constructed by teen students at Kennedy Heights Arts Center with artist Cedric Michael Cox.

In May 2011, these visions were displayed in an installation at SOS Art, an annual community art show of socio-political expressions for peace and justice at The Art Academy of Cincinnati. The project was supported by a grant from the John A. Schroth Family Charitable Trust, PNC Bank, Trustee.

Our Future, Now gave voice to young people in our community. Many students pictured their future professions—veterinarian, FBI agent, basketball player, fashion designer, judge. While some featured apocalyptic images of the end of the world, others imagined an advanced future with space travel and robots. Many reflected a positive vision we can all share: home, family and community.



One student's disturbing image of the future shows a city in flames

Students Create Masterpieces from Junk Cars



LJ Hogue paints images of Cincinnati on the hood of a crush car.

Last summer, students had a unique canvas for their artwork: cars. Students in Kennedy Heights Arts Center's Camp Create partnered with Advance Auto Parts Monster Jam to create "crush cars".

15 talented young artists had the amazing task of turning two junk yard automobiles into works of art, with guidance from artist Cedric Michael Cox. The painted cars depicted iconic Cincinnati landmarks from the Tyler Davidson Fountain to coney dogs, and classic drag racing/hot rod imagery. The cars were displayed on Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati

for two weeks before moving to Paul Brown Stadium. The students couldn't get too attached to their artwork though, as they were literally demolished right in front of their eyes at the Monster Jam truck show!

This project was one of many creative endeavors students experienced in summer art camps from June to August 2011. More than 150 diverse youth ages 5-14 explored mural painting, comic book drawing, sculpture, clowning, Balinese dance, music and even magical art inspired by Harry Potter (Quidditch, anyone?).

"I am having a lot of fun because I've never done these things before," remarked one camper, "and I like to try new things."

Art Parade

What's that coming down Montgomery Road? Giant puppets, a shark on wheels, the Robison Road garden queen, world drummers and... a gargantuan tarantula! These were some of the highlights of the Neighborhood Art Parade in Pleasant Ridge/Kennedy Heights on August 29 organized by Kennedy Heights Arts Center.



Participants of all ages from the Arts Center, AIM Cincinnati and area schools and organizations teamed up with artists to design and create unique art on the move. Local teens worked with Ali Calis and Ryan Little of Able Projects to create large figures mounted on shopping carts. The colorfully painted, plywood constructed creatures include everything from a crocodile, to a rocket, to a giant ice cream sundae.



More than 300 observers delighted in kinetic art, themed floats, painted banners, lively music and more, as the parade makes its way up Montgomery Road from Ridge to Kennedy Avenue. The parade concluded at Kennedy Heights Arts Center with a free ice cream social, generously sponsored by United Dairy Farmers.

Parades were held throughout the region in celebration of Community Arts Centers Day sponsored by ArtsWave and the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation.

"The parade is a great way for our residents to showcase their diversity and creativity – and have a lot of fun together," commented executive director

Ellen Muse-Lindeman. "It also demonstrates how art brings people together and creates more vibrant neighborhoods."



Art and the Garden Weekend

Green thumbs and garden enthusiasts had the opportunity to tour exquisite private gardens, get gardening tips from an expert and browse a variety of nature-inspired artwork during Art and the Garden Weekend on June 25 and 26, 2011.

The Vines and Wine Garden Club's third annual Hidden Treasures Garden Tour provided a special look at eight private gardens in the Kennedy Heights and Pleasant Ridge neighborhoods. Master gardener Lee DeRhodes, the architect behind KHAC's award-winning gardens, shared his secrets in a workshop entitled "Gardening on the Cheap." Local artists displayed unique artworks for the garden and/or made from natural materials from hand-blown glass hummingbird feeders to clay pots.

Proceeds from the weekend benefited Kennedy Heights Arts Center and The Giving Garden.

Thank you to all our donors

Your ongoing support is vital as we continue to provide enriching arts and cultural experiences for diverse people of all ages. Thank you to all who share and continue to support our mission of *enhancing the life of the surrounding community*.

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(beginning Oct. 2011)*

Arynn McCandless
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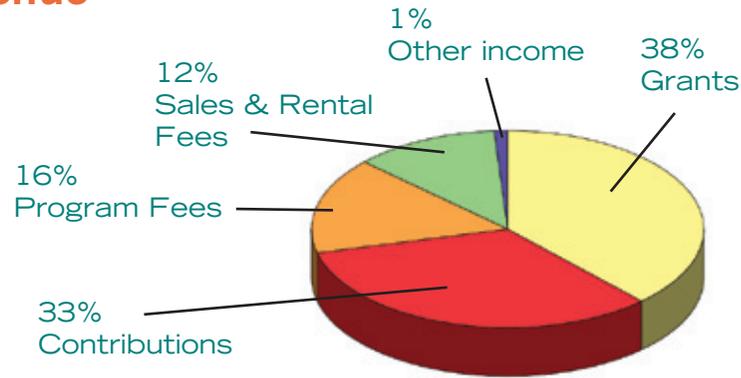
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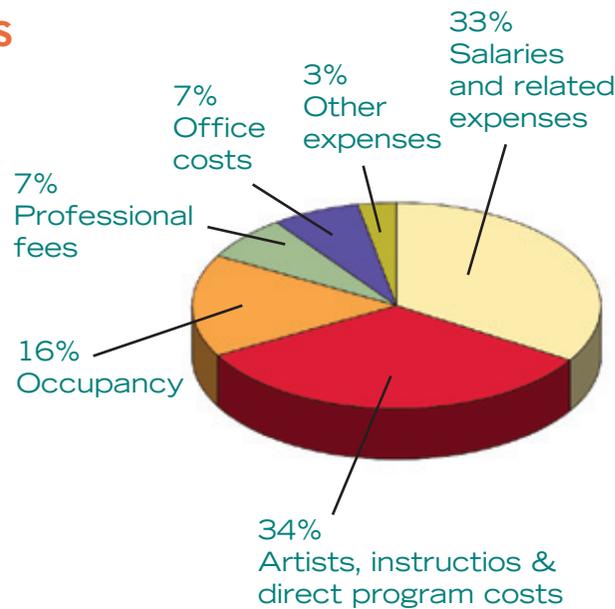
Financial Report

Kennedy Heights Arts Center operating funds for year ended December 31, 2011

Revenue



Expenses



Total Revenue	\$199,353
Total Expense	\$192,495
Depreciation Expense	\$32,280
Total Assets	\$743,729
Total Liabilities	\$180,008

Volunteer Works Wonders Behind the Scenes

Janet Wiehe began volunteering for the Arts Center soon after it was founded. A former librarian and Pleasant Ridge resident, she was recruited for her great organizational abilities and attention to detail. Six years later, she continues to devote her time and talents to the organization she loves.

Janet was instrumental in helping the young organization get organized and develop systems of managing information. She helped develop and continues to maintain the Center's donor database and mailing lists, as well as assisting with many administrative tasks.

Later Janet was asked to take on another major task: book keeping. Janet comes in one day a week, every week, to make deposits, pay bills and record financial transactions. She also keeps records of all contributions and sends thank you letters to donors.

"Janet is one of our longest-term, most reliable volunteers at the Arts Center," said executive director Ellen Muse-Lindeman. "She is my right-hand person. I don't know what I'd do without her."

In recognition of her outstanding dedication and service, Kennedy Heights Arts Center is pleased to present Janet with this year's Volunteer Award.



Janet Wiehe is honored with the 2011 Volunteer Award. Photo by Natalie Jeanne Photography.

Our Community: Silverton History Project



A student paints part of a mural highlighting Silverton history

Kennedy Heights Arts Center partnered with Silverton Paideia Academy on a year-long art project documenting the rich history of Silverton, with support from the Ohio Arts Council. Sixth grade students conducted research about the community, including collecting oral histories of long-term Silverton residents. With guidance from artist Rebecca Nebert, the students created a triptych mural using acrylic paint on three recycled hollow-core wood doors. It is a portrait of Silverton through the ages, with various significant people, events, businesses, and

places depicted. The finished product will continue to have an impact on students and community members for years to come. The mural was installed in the school building with the intent to move it to the lobby of their new school opening in 2012.



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