



Kennedy
Heights
Arts
Center

celebrating 10 years of art & community

2013 *Annual Report*



From the President

Dear Friends,

At the turn of the millennium, it took hopeful imagination to look at the run-down building on Montgomery Road that had once been the mayor's mansion, and then a funeral home, and envision a brighter future. Yet, local visionaries shared their dreams for a place where community could grow in the creation of art. In only a decade, this former eye-sore has become a thriving arts center and centerpiece of the neighborhood.

This year, Kennedy Heights Arts Center celebrates its tenth anniversary. In some ways, it seems like such a short time ago when community volunteers gathered on Saturday mornings to strip wallpaper and pry up old flooring. And when we look at all that has been accomplished in that time, it is truly amazing.

In this report, you'll read about amazing art exhibits, enriching programs, talented students and inspiring volunteers. We'll also take a look back at what we've achieved together over the past decade. You'll see evidence of how the arts are transforming a community and bringing people together.

Where will the next ten years take us? Imagine the impact on our local communities energized by encouraging the creativity in everyone. We will be able to look back and reflect on how we experienced art as an antidote for violence. We will recognize that making art together helped us lead the way in listening to all voices. We will celebrate how drawing forth beauty leads us to live more fully.

You are a part of this history in the making. It certainly took many hands to create the Arts Center ten years ago; and it will take many hands to keep it thriving. Thank you for joining with us in this journey. Here's to the next 10 years – and beyond!

Best wishes,



James P. Rulli
President, Board of Directors

10 Years OF ART AND COMMUNITY

25,000 PEOPLE SERVED

CONCERTS ON THE LAWN
95 community events
WORLD DRUMMING
68 SUMMER CAMPS
74 ART EXHIBITIONS
POETRY READINGS
2 PAINTED PIGS
CREATIVE WRITING
PAINTING
ARTIST SALONS
FESTIVALS
SCULPTURE
MUSIC
500 ARTISTS

GREATER CINCINNATI INCLUSION AWARD
6 ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE
AWARD-WINNING GARDEN
1,200+ VOLUNTEERS
SONG AND DANCE
PHOTOGRAPHY
352 ART CLASSES
DRAWING
4,300 STUDENTS
ART PARADES
THEATRE
CERAMICS
FIBER ARTS
WINTERFEST



Lydia Morgan: Community Connector

Lydia Morgan has been an active member of the Kennedy Heights Arts Center since its inception. Lydia began her legacy at KHAC when she and her husband took out a \$1000 bond to help secure the Kennedy Mansion's mortgage, and she has been a key part of the arts center ever since. As a result, she has been bestowed this year's Kennedy Award by the Arts Center's Board of Directors.



KHAC board member Lydia Morgan is an "amazing connector" for the Arts Center. Photo by Natalie Jeanne Photography.

"After my husband and I took out the bond, I just started hanging around the arts center and began volunteering on a regular basis," says Lydia. Two years later, she was invited to join the advisory board. Then, Lydia became the liaison between KHAC and local schools.

During the first Winterfest, Lydia helped kids make Christmas cards and ornaments for the tree. She organized the first student art exhibit involving several area schools.

In 2007, Lydia joined the KHAC's Board of Directors where she serves on the nominating committee and helps fundraise for the Arts Center. She continues to bring new energy into the Center – new artists, new volunteers, new board members and new ideas.

"Years ago, this historic property was slated to be demolished, and Lydia was one of the neighbors who spoke out to say the building must be saved. She has been an outspoken cheerleader for the Center ever since," says board member Mary Ray. "Lydia is an amazing 'connector', always putting the pieces and people together to get things done, whether it be for her church, Kennedy Heights Community Council, the Arts Center, Juneteenth, or one of her many other volunteer jobs."

A retired school teacher originally from North Carolina, Lydia and her husband Noel moved to Kennedy Heights 37 years ago. Looking back, what she has enjoyed the most about living in this area is the people she has met. "I have met so many interesting people over the years."

Lydia is a marvelous cook and her home is always open; she's never met a stranger. Whether at the Arts Center or her famous backyard barbeques, Lydia extends a gracious welcome to all. Her positive spirit has made a substantial imprint on Kennedy Heights Arts Center and the community as a whole.

Lynn Conaway: Volunteer of the Year

Lynn Conaway is a jack-of-all-trades when it comes to volunteering at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center. From curating exhibitions to book keeping, Lynn is an essential volunteer. We are proud to honor her as our Volunteer of the Year.



Lynn Conaway shares her many talents as a volunteer. Photo by Natalie Jeanne Photography.

Lynn started volunteering at KHAC nine years ago when she was asked to research and present the local history of the area for the summer camp that year. Soon, Lynn, a fiber artist, would talk with fellow artist Helen Haberstroh who encouraged her to become a member of the Arts Center's guild, now Kennedy Artist Collective.

After becoming a member of the Collective, Lynn's volunteer duties grew. She became a Saturday manager and treasurer for the Art Shop, where she balances the cash drawer, makes deposits, tracks sales, and processes artist commissions. In addition, Lynn contributes in other ways such as teaching workshops, organizing events and working in the office. In recent years, Lynn expanded her artistic experience and responsibilities by curating two juried exhibitions.

"Lynn is one of those behind-the-scenes volunteers who has become part of the fabric of the Arts Center," says Executive Director Ellen Muse-Lindeman. "Her genuine dedication to the Arts Center shines through in everything she does."

Lynn says that her biggest take-away from volunteering at KHAC has been the people she meets, including artists, community leaders and neighbors. She also believes that participating in the Arts Center has given her personal confidence and encouraged her to come out of her shell.

"I'm proud to call everyone that I have met at the Arts Center a friend."

Remembering Betty Lindner



The Lindners at 2013 Founders Day. Pictured (left to right): Richard Cooke, Betty Lindner, Robert Lindner, Ellen Muse-Lindeman. Photo by Samantha Grier.

"We heard a knock at the door during our very first Founders Day celebration," remembers KHAC Vice President Richard Cooke. "I opened the door and was delighted to see Betty and Robert Lindner on my front porch."

Mr. and Mrs. Lindner took a special interest in the fledgling arts center located near Robert's boyhood home. From that first day and continuing through the years, the Lindners have been dedicated supporters of Kennedy Heights Arts Center—generous with both their encouragement and financial support. Last year, the couple made a \$250,000 leadership gift to the capital campaign for KHAC's Satellite Expansion.

"Mrs. Lindner was especially passionate about our arts programs for youth," commented Cooke. "She felt it was so important for young people to have opportunities to develop and share their talents, especially those most in need."

In 2013, Kennedy Heights Arts Center lost a big-hearted advocate. Betty Lindner will be missed, but her legacy lives on at KHAC. It can be seen in the beaming faces of our young artists.

2013 Artist-in-Residence: Wendy McVicker



A group of middle school youth enjoy writing and reading poetry to each other in the 2013 artist residency.

Writer Wendy McVicker doesn't just write poetry – she does her best to “incite” it, as she says. With that kind of attitude toward creative writing, it's no wonder Kennedy Heights Arts Center selected Ms. McVicker to be its 2013 Ohio Arts Council Artist-in-Residence.

Hailing from Athens, Ohio, McVicker studied Philosophy at Ohio University, but found her niche in creative writing. Her writings have been published in numerous journals including Appalachian Women's

Journal, Confluence, Riverwind, and Whiskey Island. McVicker is also very interested in cross-arts collaboration. Since 2011, she has been performing with musician Emily Prince, as the duo create another language altogether.

Throughout her four-week residency, McVicker engaged almost 200 individuals with the art of creative writing. Building on the theme “Hear Your Dreams, See Your Voice,” a core group of 4th – 7th grade youth, as well as adults and children of all ages, explored their dreams, memories, and imagination while expressing their voice through poetry.

McVicker began most sessions by sharing her own work as well as pieces by other writers. Then participants were given ample time to free write and work with the provided theme. All participants were encouraged to read their poems at two open mic nights, as well as the final sharing event, and their work was published in an anthology.

“In all cases, and at all ages, we use poetry, the language of our deepest knowledge, of our hearts and dreams, to explore the world around and within us,” said McVicker.

Wishes

I wish to go to heaven.
I wish to be an author.
I wish to taste a banana split
and never, ever bother.

I wish to go back to Ancient Rome.
I wish to go back to Ancient Greece.
I wish that I had wings
and fly away with the geese.

I wish to ride a limousine.
I wish to ride away.
I wish to ride to port-a-potty land
and sing in a soda shower all day.

But most of all,
I wish I were tall!

Will Rayburn
Core group member, age 9

Vessels: All the Eyes Can Hold

What is a vessel? A bowl? A ship? How about a quilt? Kennedy Height Arts Center's exhibit, *Vessels: All the Eyes Can Hold*, explored many different definitions of the word in varied ways.



“Opposites Attract” by Peggy Wiedemann, one of many types of vessels featured in *Vessels: All the Eyes Can Hold*.

Vessels featured nearly 100 works from 57 artists who created pieces based on the six definitions of “vessel” provided by curators Lynn Conaway and Carole Staples. In addition to being a utensil for holding something, a vessel can be a watercraft, an aircraft, a part of anatomy, a botanical duct or a person infused with a spiritual quality.

“We didn't know what to expect,” says Conaway. “Would we be getting 100 bowls? Fortunately, we received some great pieces that helped us put together a fascinating and creative show.”

The artists' responses showed inventiveness, deeply reflecting on the meaning of vessel. Using ceramics, metals, fiber, wood, paint and other media, works captured all the varied and creative interpretations of the theme — instead of just bowls and pictures of boats, entrants thought about spiritual vessels and nature, too.

This exhibit was the first in Kennedy Heights Arts Center's ten year history that involved a national call to artists. It showcased work by Cincinnati's finest artists as well as nationally known artists from Kansas, California, Missouri, and other areas of the US.

“It was an exhibit to explore twice, to discover what the eyes couldn't hold the first time. There's layer upon layer of meaning and texture,” Conaway remarked.

Capturing the Essence

Think of some of the most iconic people and places of Cincinnati—Union Terminal, Pete Rose, Larry Flynt—and chances are the images you conjure in your head were created by photojournalist Gordon Baer. Consider some of the most important people and events taking place in the late 20th century—the Vietnam War, Martin Luther King's march on Washington, D.C., the Beatles American tour—Baer was there too, documenting the moment.

Kennedy Heights Arts Center was honored to present a retrospective of Gordon Baer's work in the exhibition, “Capturing the Essence.” This exhibit included 62 photographs of Baer's most iconic subjects as well as life's everyday events and heroes, many of which rarely, if ever, have been exhibited in public. Exhibition sponsors included the Scripps Howard Foundation and FotoFocus.



“Chester Cornett on Rocking Chair” by Gordon Baer.

Curator Sarah Siegrist feels, “No matter the subject, Gordon's photographs distill the essence of a moment. He captures in one blink of an eye the exuberance, tension, the sorrow of an instant. His images speak to the very essence of what it is to be human and this gives his work an intimate and immediate sense of appeal to the viewer.”

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*.

Visionary (\$10,000 -25,000) ArtsWave Anonymous Carl and Edyth Lindner Charitable Lead Trust George and Margaret McLane Foundation Ohio Arts Council	Partner (\$250 – 499) Dan Conaway Margaret and Joseph Conway Paula Cordes Brian Gruber Matthew McFee Thomas and Cynthia Muething Jared Queen Louis and Christine Schroder	Bill and Jane Hopewell Michael and Melodie Kapolka Joan Kelly Susan Kemp Lionel and Nancy King Thomas Kinsel Steve and Gwynne Krekeler Lothar and Maria Kreppel Daniel and Heidi Leugers Michael Maloney Sandra Engel Matey Phyllis McCallum Martha McDermott Claudia and Tom McKee Major and Winona McNeil Patty Muhleman Jim and Marilyn Munneke Amy Muse and Doug Phillips Ellen Muse-Lindeman and Larry Lindeman Janet Neumann David and Allison Nurre John and Francie Pepper Peter Quinnan Robert and Anne Ramsay Dan and Diane Rokentenetz Christine Schumacher and Hal Hess Sue Ann Spears Helen Spoon Mike and Barb Streff Helen Sutton Doug and Stephanie Thomson David Gruber and Esperanza Tovar Linda Vaccariello
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Sustainer (\$500 – 999) Richard Cooke and Martin D. Wagner Drawing Department LLC The Harmony Project Duane and Cecelia Holm Seith Family Foundation Wealthquest Coproration James and Marilyn Wellinghoff		

Capital Campaign Contributions KHAC Satellite Expansion	\$5,000 – 14,999 Margaret and Joseph Conway Jeffrey Dey Mimi Gingold and Al Gerhardstein William and Marlene Muse	Noel and Lydia Morgan Ellen Muse-Lindeman and Larry Lindeman Jim and Patti Rulli Harry and Susan Stebbins
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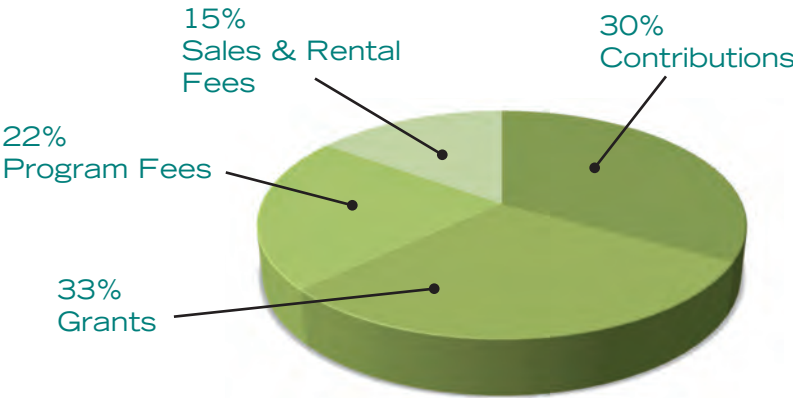
Laura Krugh
Arts Education Coordinator

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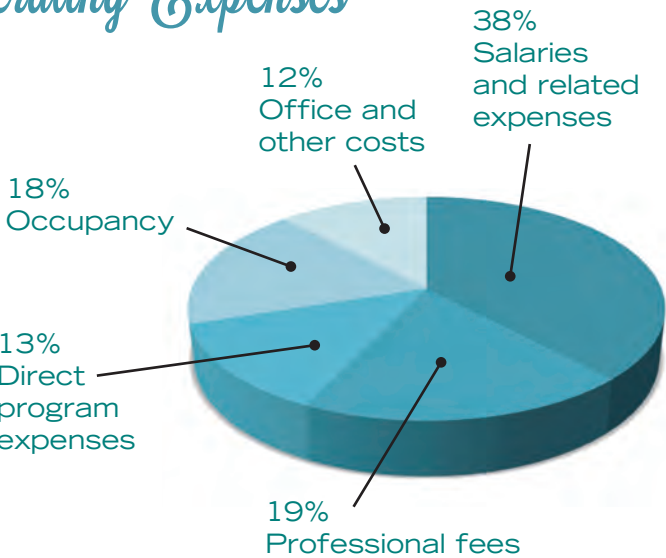
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Financial Report

Operating Revenue



Operating Expenses



Operating Revenue	\$202,726
Capital Campaign Revenue	\$462,577
Total Revenue	\$665,303
Operating Expenses	\$192,155
Depreciation	\$33,263
Capital Project Expenses	\$25,982
Total Expenses	\$251,400
Total Assets as of Dec. 31, 2013	\$1,143,918
Total Liabilities as of Dec. 31, 2013	\$152,674

Summer Magic

Step onto the campus at Kennedy Heights Arts Center during the summer and you may find yourself transported into another world. A world of magical miniature gardens, cave paintings, enchanted forests with fairies and elves, or zombies dancing on the lawn.

In 2013, more than 200 young people ages 5-13 attended summer art camps at KHAC exploring painting, collage, sewing, photography, dancing, acting and more. High school students gained valuable leadership experience and community service hours serving as camp counselors.



Students created a play about a three-headed chicken during “Show It Off” theatre camp.

“Our summer camps are extremely popular. We have a waiting list every summer,” says Arts Education Coordinator Laura Krugh. “For ten weeks, the Arts Center really comes alive with the creative energy of our diverse, talented students. We’re proud that our sliding-scale fees ensures that everyone can have a great summer experience.”

Led by professional artists, the camps allow students to explore different cultures, develop skills and expand their imagination, while working together as a community.

“The camps are wonderful and encourage creativity that lasts beyond the camp session—my two boys are still hand-sewing months later,” said one parent.

Superstar Camp Counselor

Lemuel Josiah Hogue – “LJ” to his friends – found that being a volunteer at Kennedy Heights Art Center’s Summer Camps satisfied two of his passions: being around art and artists, and helping people.

LJ was “drawn” to art as young boy. He had trouble reading due to dyslexia, so his father would read comic books with him. The artwork in the comic books inspired him, as did the story of Marvel Comics founder Stan Lee – “Did you know Lee started as a homeless man on the streets?” LJ asks.



Camp counselor LJ Hogue had a great rapport with students

A 15-year old sophomore at Roger Bacon High school, LJ spent three years as a KHAC camper. In 2012, he was invited by art instructor Cedric Cox to return as a counselor for the 2-week Camp Create, where he became a role model for younger students. This experience allowed LJ’s creativity and leadership to flourish.

In 2013, LJ approached Arts Center staff about volunteering all summer long. Despite being warned that working with kids all day, every day was a tiring feat, LJ was dedicated to helping out. Over the course of the summer, he volunteered nearly 200 hours and worked with over 100 campers.

“LJ brought so much to our 2013 Summer Camp season,” says Arts Education Coordinator Laura Krugh. “His joyful, positive demeanor towards campers, staff, and volunteers brightened each day, while his confidence and responsibility for camp procedures helped all of the little details fall into place.”

“The favorite part of my day there was seeing kids smile and laugh,” LJ says. Even better was knowing he had a part in that.



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