



2019 - 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

LANSING ART GALLERY & EDUCATION CENTER

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT



BARB WHITNEY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



KEITH ROUSE,
BOARD PRESIDENT

We've been hearing a lot of the same words and phrases that have been used to describe the past few months: unprecedented, trying, difficult, calamitous. Words that convey fear, uncertainty and perhaps a whole host of other negative emotions. However, with adversity comes perseverance, courage, grace, and hope. To say the past few months have been a challenge would be a monumental understatement. Yet, despite the obstacles that this year has laid before us, we are left in awe at the grit and resolve of our staff, volunteers, donors, members, and patrons.

While the ongoing pandemic has forced the Gallery to close its doors to the public to ensure the safety of our visitors and staff we have never faltered in our mission. Our staff have been able to pivot, adapt, and overcome finding new ways to bring art outside the walls of the Gallery.

- The launch of #IBuyMIArt on our social media channels highlighting the works of Michigan artists through their patrons and art collectors.
- The return of ARTpath, bringing 20 total public art installations to the Lansing River Trail along with interactive artist talks from the muralists and sculptors themselves.
- A virtual Gallery where supporters of the arts can view the works of Michigan artists online in a completely digital gallery environment.

The amount of support we've received from our members, donors and the community at large has been inspiring. Even during the darkest days of 2020, we've watched the spirit of the Greater Lansing community rally together to provide hope, support and solidarity. We're grateful to serve our friends, family and neighbors in the Greater Lansing region. Art matters. Together we will get through this.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barb Whitney". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Barb Whitney

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Rouse". The signature is bold and stylized.

Keith Rouse

59

VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED

253

IN-KIND
PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE HOURS,
VALUED AT

1,244

VOLUNTEER HOURS

\$84,470

INCREASED ONLINE ENGAGEMENT:



11% ↑ IN FACEBOOK LIKES

2% ↑ IN INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

16% ↑ IN TWITTER FOLLOWERS

This fiscal year Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center garnered support and revenue equaling \$415,043 with expenses of \$409,605 and a depreciation of \$6,070.

**due to auditing delays related to COVID-19, figures are in review and subject to change upon completion of final audit.*

2019 - 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS FISCAL YEAR

Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center
made a difference in the lives of:

232 → PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS

1,095 → EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS

4,420 → GALLERY VISITORS

85,824 → ESTIMATED ARTPATH VISITORS



Hari Kern's giving to the Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center has grown over the years, and her support is unrestricted, allowing her contributions to be used where they're needed most. "I've so enjoyed seeing the gallery blossom under Barb Whitney," Kern said of the gallery's Executive Director. "She's so forward-looking, wanting to involve the community. Their outreach is excellent." - Hari Kern

- DONOR SPOTLIGHT -



Planned giving can offer an opportunity for arts champions to envision the future and support Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center. For Rich Sneary, the impact of arts education is important.

"Art brings joy to life, no matter if you're a kid going through an education program at the gallery, or you're walking through a museum looking at pieces that make you smile, or you're like me and you find something you like and you invest in it..." "We have to have art in our lives." "So many people put it off, and then when they pass away, money doesn't always go to the places you want it to," he said. "Estate planning is about making sure what you want to have happen with your money happens. That you support who and what's important to you."

"Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center brought two things to my life - amazing artwork and the access to art they give to kids," Rich said. "I never had children, so this is a way for me to help bring joy to and enrich the lives of something I never had." - Rich Sneary



Photo by Brett Haddock, Three Cats Photography

ARTS ACCESSIBILITY FOR EVERYONE

Board Member Brian Whitfield hopes to help raise Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center's visibility for those who aren't as engaged with its work. "I wish people knew how much the Lansing Art Gallery has to offer," Whitfield said. "There are so many events and activities open to everyone, and I wish, especially, that teens 13 to 17 in the minority communities would get involved."

Whitfield said the recent shift toward large-scale public art, particularly centered around the Black Lives Matter movement, is fascinating and important. "When we think about art, we think about things on walls, but suddenly, we're seeing people painting giant letters and art on the streets," he said. "And then you see things like the little girl in Washington, D.C., who was filmed doing a rollerblading performance on the Black Lives Matter street mural, and you see the combination of art and activism. It was so beautiful."

Whitfield said Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center plays a key role in elevating public art into these crucial conversations through ARTpath and other community efforts. "It's important for the entire community to see the value in the Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center and to trust that it's interested in making the arts accessible for everyone."

- Brian Whitfield



“The scholarship means a great deal to me in that research into marginalized communities is being recognized. I am hoping that this opportunity will facilitate other possibilities to show my work in and around Michigan and branch out to show in other states too.”

- NICOLEI GUPIT, 2020 MICHIGAN COLLEGIATE ART EXHIBITION ARTIST AND ELIZABETH CHARLES EMERGING ARTIST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Exhibitions for the 2019 - 2020 fiscal year included:

- JORDAN FISHER & CURT LACROSS | ANSWERS IN THE DARK
- RUTH KOELEWYN | SKYSHAPES
- MICHIGAN MADE | HOLIDAY ART EXHIBITION
- BRITTA URNESS | SORRY, I'M NOT LEAVING
- MICHIGAN COLLEGIATE ART EXHIBITION
- ART SCHOLARSHIP ALERT
- ARTPATH | PUBLIC ART

Changing exhibitions showcase a wide range of media, perspective, and diversity of contemporary art currently being made in Michigan. Annual programs include the Michigan Collegiate Art Exhibition, Art Scholarship Alert High School Competition, and Michigan Made Holiday Art Exhibition.

"I wanted to commend you and your team for creating an amazing online exhibition space and for the curatorial team for creating such a beautiful show. The way my piece was exhibited in the virtual gallery was amazing and I so appreciate the work that went into displaying it on a bust. It was the next best thing from normalcy!"

- 2020 MICHIGAN COLLEGIATE ART EXHIBITION ARTIST



"You've done a splendid job in creating art awareness and hosting art enthusiasts. As an artist, you've given me a platform to showcase my work and given me an immense level of confidence."

- MICHIGAN MADE HOLIDAY ART EXHIBITION ARTIST



"I love that Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center is a community hub. I am very pleased to have my work shown in the context of the artists that are represented there. The staff is knowledgeable, and helps potential collectors to understand more about the work and the artist."

- MICHIGAN MADE HOLIDAY ART EXHIBITION ARTIST

ARTPATH



During the Summers of 2018, 2019, and 2020, Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center partnered with the City of Lansing's Parks and Recreation Department to provide a public art display along the historic Lansing River Trail. This temporary, site-specific public art project connected 3.5 miles of artwork by Michigan artists from Old Town to R.E.O. Town, and featured over 20 artists in the summer of 2020. This year the project also included ARTpath Artist Talks, which presented an opportunity for the community and gallery members to gather safely at various sites along the trail and engage with the art and artists.



“There are many elements of Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center that make it special to me. First and foremost, the staff projects an optimistic and enthusiastic attitude, conveying curiosity and interest. A welcoming environment is important for a cordial atmosphere—visitors range from novices to experts. The Gallery is open to all.”

- ARTIST, JANE REITER



“With 20 artists over a 3.5 mile site, it is the biggest project I have had the pleasure of being involved in. After seeing the revitalization Detroit has gone through over the past decade it is nice to be part of a community beautification project. It has been very nice meeting people throughout the summer whom have seen the project and thanked me personally for being part of it, it has been very rewarding.”

- 2019 ARTPATH ARTIST

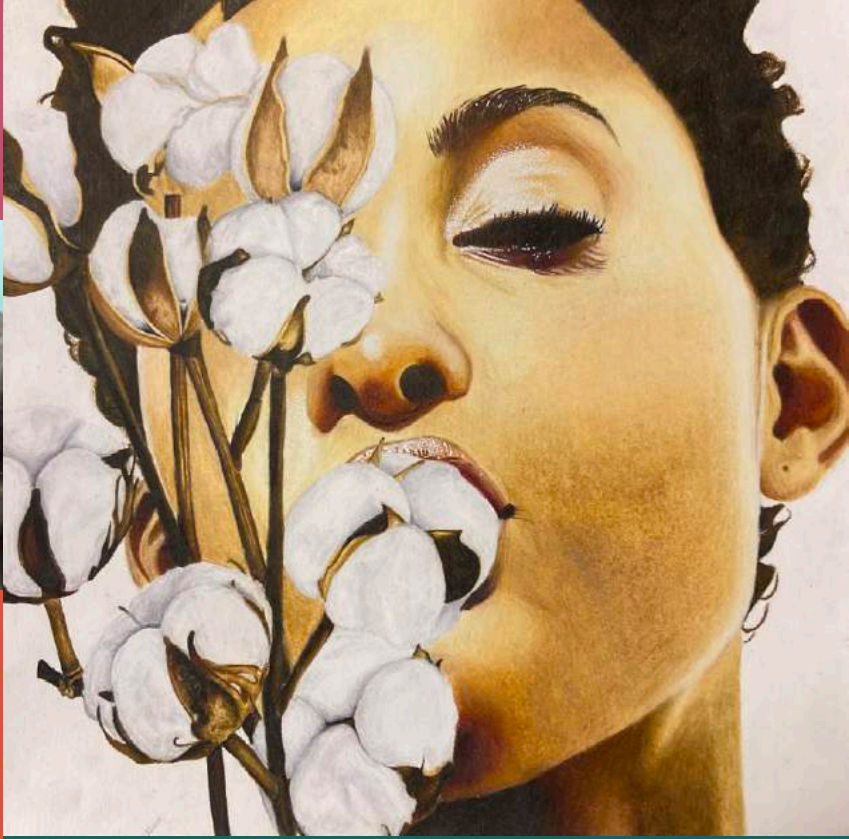
ART CAMPS

Young artists can learn and experience creativity in the professional setting of Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center. Students explore creative techniques with the guidance of trained artists, and classes culminate with an exhibit in the Student Gallery.



"I just wanted to take a moment to applaud your efforts at creating a digital gallery for Art Scholarship Alert. I'm sure you were in uncharted waters, but I have to say that it turned out great! Also, it was such a highlight for me to see the amazing student artwork! During these uncertain times, it's wonderful to fall back on all the positives in our lives."

- MEAGAN KUBU, ART TEACHER,
WILLIAMSTON HIGH SCHOOL



STUDENT EXHIBITS

Art Scholarship Alert (ASA) and the Ingham County Student Art Exhibit offer students accolades and awards. These juried art experiences give families a personal experience within our professional art setting. In 2020, ASA was virtual for the first time ever, with 173 applicants, and 73 exhibiting artists.

PECKHAM ART ALLIANCE

The Peckham Art Alliance is our latest endeavor in providing sensory-friendly programming. Located in Lansing, Peckham is a nonprofit community vocational rehabilitation organization. The Art Alliance program invites participating artists from Peckham to learn from professional artists within the setting of Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center.



DEDICATED TO THE ARTS IN MICHIGAN

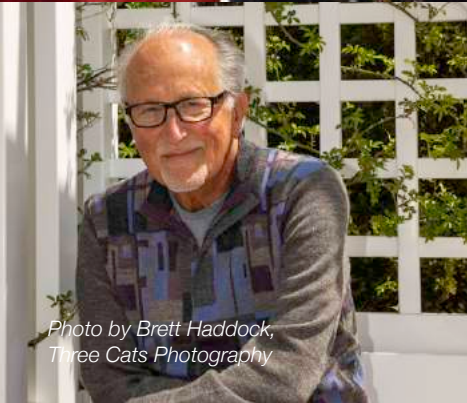
Over the past two fiscal years, Executive Director Barb Whitney, and in turn the team at Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, supported the Arts & Creative Education Integration for Student Excellence (ACEISE) project. Funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, ACEISE was designed to ensure that the 47,000 students in the Washtenaw Intermediate School District have equitable access to creative education.

Barb supported ongoing efforts by the Arts Alliance and the Washtenaw Intermediate School District to develop strong organizational connections between schools, superintendents, administrators, principals, teachers, arts and creative education providers, teaching artists and community leaders. Her role included research, development of long-range plans and evaluation with a professional development component for arts education providers.



“5 stars! This is a favorite spot of mine. Especially for the Holiday Art Sale where I purchase many of my Christmas gifts for family and friends. I enjoy buying local. The art is always top quality and the staff are knowledgeable and inviting.”

- MAGGIE OKPONOBİ, GALLERY PATRON



THE ELIZABETH CHARLES FUND

Norm Charles and Phyllis Mellon established the Elizabeth Charles Emerging Artist Grant in Charles' daughter's memory to support Michigan-based emerging visual artists. The scholarship emphasizes awarding artists whose work emphasizes enhancing awareness and equity across race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or ethnicity. "It's a permanent fund that will award a scholarship every year," Charles said. "It's nice to see that friends have added to it as well."

Charles said he's grateful the Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center is exposing people of all ages to a wide variety of visual arts. "When I started supporting the gallery about 30 years ago, it was a nice place for artists to hang their art and get recognition and support. It's grown over the years and, more importantly, grown into a significant arts education center. I've been so impressed."

Photo by Brett Haddock,
Three Cats Photography



INTERNS

Emmerson Antcliff
Catie Eddy
Clayton Kennedy

Madison Miller
Enid Smith
Elizabeth Wakulsky

VOLUNTEERS

Sara Bishop
Sue Coley
Bernie Campanella
Gary Daniels
Pat Daniels
Constance Henslee
Barbara Hranilovich
Kate Hude - *Fund Development Chair*
Susan Kieffer
Teresa Millot

Anne Nolan
Julia Peckman
Jay Pelc
Hope Rankin
Jane Reiter
Jeana-Dee Allen Rogers
Bart Rypstra
Rich Sneary
Anthony Treadaway

EXHIBITION JURORS

Emily Chase
Michelle Detering
Maureen Bergquist Gray
Ivan Iler

Leah Gose
Quinn Jiles
Tim Lane
Todd Luter

Amanda Harrell-Seyburn
Paloma Rosales
Britta Urness
Brian Whitfield

TEACHING ARTISTS

Carrie Byington-Oei
Kate Cosgrove
Michelle Detering
Miranda Sue Hartmann
Dennis Hinrichsen

Ruth Koelewyn
Curt LaCross
Regina Pericini
Jill McKillips
Helene Murray

Linh Nguyen
Madeline Smith
Paloma Rosales
Tara Thelen

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Lansing Art Gallery would like to thank all of our grantors, members, and donors for fiscal year 2019 - 2020.

LEGACY CIRCLE

Erin Warmels
Scholarship Fund
Elizabeth Charles
Scholarship Fund
Richard Sneary

\$10,000 +

Capital Region Community
Foundation
City of Lansing
Norm Charles
Hari Kern
Lansing Entertainment and
Public Facilities Authority
Mariel Foundation
Michigan Council for Arts and
Cultural Affairs
Michigan State Federal Credit
Union Desk Drawer Fund
Geraldine Oliver
Redhead Design Studio

\$5,000 +

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Greater Lansing Convention
and Visitors Bureau

Health Management
Associates
Phyllis Mellon
Jay Pelc
Rathbun Insurance
R.E. Olds Foundation

\$2,500 +

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Sue & the late Jack Davis
Rich Sneary
Uplift Our Youth

\$1,000 +

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Happendance Dance Studio
Hude Legal Services PLLC
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**LANSING ART GALLERY & EDUCATION CENTER PROVIDES
PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND ENJOYMENT OF THE VISUAL
ARTS BY PROMOTING THE WORKS OF MICHIGAN ARTISTS.**

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Barb Whitney – *Executive Director*

Special thanks to Julia Sager and Elizabeth Walusky with support for Late-Start Wednesdays

“The Gallery team is professional, knowledgeable, friendly and supportive - a true pleasure to work with. They make volunteering and shopping a positive experience and provide an energetic sales environment for my knitted goods.”

- CONNIE HENSLEE, VOLUNTEER AND EXHIBITING ARTIST