



# Annual Report

2018 - 2019

## Mission

LUX Center for the Arts is dedicated to transforming lives through art. We are a community of art lovers providing education through art classes, artist in residency programs, gallery exhibitions, and community outreach. We believe the LUX can help people make meaningful connections to art, regardless of who they are.

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## Welcome



Dear LUX friends,

This has been a year of superlatives for the LUX Center for the Arts!

Thanks to your generosity, the work of LUX staff, board and leadership, the LUX is all new and is fulfilling its mission as Lincoln's Community Arts Center.

Four years ago, we had a humble old building and a gravel parking lot. Today, after finishing our capital campaign in November 2018, we have fresh new galleries, four classrooms, and a LUX campus.

In 2019, we took advantage of our new spaces to offer more classes and to serve more children than ever before in our spring and summer camps, to expand creative learning to the community through a variety of community partnerships, and to offer more critically-acclaimed world-class exhibitions in our five galleries. Our scholarship programs have grown, offering 38 scholarships in 2018/19. In 2020, our Art Scholar program will offer 52 scholarships reaching all 26 Lincoln Title 1 schools, thanks to the Pearle Francis Finigan Foundation.

We are so thankful for the accomplishments you helped make happen this year. But even as we celebrate our successes, we look forward to finding new ways to excite and ignite Lincoln creatively. In January, with your input, the board and staff, will formulate a new strategic plan, looking for ways to build on our success as an arts education leader in Nebraska, and ensure that the LUX's visual arts programs will continue for years to come. You should have received an e-mail by now with a strategic planning survey link – we need your insights!

In the next year, we will explore new partnerships, find new ways to serve our neighbors and to reach out to under-served and under-represented audiences and artists with education and exhibition programming. In June 2020, a three-month juried woodcut print exhibition, "Surface Impressions," will open. The exhibition, a collaboration with Constellation Studios, will feature workshops, a public art exhibition throughout Lincoln in July, and a steamroller print demonstration in August.

Looking further ahead: The LUX has a second-to-none education program and a robust scholarship program both of which help to create Lincoln's future creative leaders. We have an ambitious artistic vision for our exhibitions programs with exciting, fresh artistic perspectives and a mind towards social justice. These foundations of excellence will serve us well as we move forward into the next decade, with a goal of serving our community better and making more art happen in Lincoln.

So again, we thank you for a great year! We look forward to sharing more arts experiences with you in 2020 and beyond.

**Joe Shaw**  
*Executive Director*

**P.S. If you like what we're doing, please remember us in your year end giving. Use the envelope provided to make a gift that will help propel us into 2020, supporting education programs, scholarships and great exhibitions.**



## LUX Art Scholar Brian Reyes: 'Really Living' Through Art

Arts education transforms and inspires young minds. LUX Art Scholar Brian Reyes is a case in point. He began taking classes at the LUX five years ago through our needs-based scholarship program.

"The first class I took at the was called 'Clay Superheroes.' That was what got me really interested in sculpture. I like having a mound of nothing basically and making it look like something," Brian says. Through his scholarship, Brian came to explore a variety of different mediums from sculpture to metalsmithing to watercolors. "I loved the self-portrait project I did with McKenzie, it was a watercolor class. It taught me to really look closely and observe something. To try and recreate something -- you really have to look."

When asked how he applied art into his everyday life, he said, "In art classes at the LUX, I had to talk to other kids and collaborate. It helped me get other people to understand my point of view and helps with school projects."

Collaboration and connection is an important result of arts learning in youth, says Lorinda Rice, curriculum specialist at Lincoln Public Schools.

"Art making creates an understanding of the world that enables a student to see the world in different ways. Interacting and seeing other students' work helps to create empathy and a vision of the

world they may have not seen before," said Rice. Art also creates a space for emotional well-being, Rice says, and helps student feel positive about themselves and get positive feedback from others. "The LUX scholarship programs give children the social and emotional space where they can develop as art makers and leaders for the next generation."

Brian returned to the LUX last year when his art teacher at Lincoln High, Shawn Stokes, recommended him as a LUX Art Scholar, enabling him to take a year's worth of classes at the LUX. *(Continued on the next page...)*



**Brian's time at the LUX has taught him that it's important to be creative and express yourself... "Because if you don't, you're not really living. Humans are defined by being creative."**

## LUX Art Scholar Program Continues Growth

In 2019, The Art Scholar Program expanded to 23 students at 13 LPS Title 1 schools, awarding a \$500 scholarship allowing them to attend a full year of LUX classes. In 2019, the program was made possible by grants from the Peed Foundation, Pace Woods Foundation, Ameritas and Union Bank.

The children in this program, are selected by their school's art teachers for their artistic ability and for the ability for this scholarship to be transformative in their life. We're excited to announce that in 2020, we will reach a goal of offering scholarships to 52 students – two each from all 26 Lincoln Title 1 schools. This is made possible by Liana Sandin and the Pearle Francis Finigan Foundation. Thank you for helping us to create the next generation of artists and creative leaders.

## OUTREACH and ART VAN Program Celebrate Ten Years

The ART VAN program, now in its tenth year, provides one-time art activities, workshops and classes at other venues across Lincoln providing high-quality, hands-on creative experiences to 3065 adults and children, including Day of the Dead celebration & other community events.

Imagine a classroom where children can learn geometry and art at the same time. That describes our Outreach Program to under-served children. In 2018/19 we taught 564 children this year at Lancaster County Youth Services, Huntington Elementary, West Lincoln Elementary, Norwood Park Elementary and Arnold Elementary. This program was funded by United Way, Iron Brush Tattoo, BNSF Railway, Nelnet and the Lincoln Community Foundation. Because some of the children in our program don't have art supplies at home, LUX provides a packet of art supplies for each child to take home.



**(Reyes Continued from previous page...)** "My teacher Mrs. Stokes loved a sculpture I made of my older brother and she thought I would do really good at the LUX and she didn't even know that I had taken art classes at the LUX when she nominated me," Brian said. "I felt happy knowing I would get to come back to the LUX."

Brian says that art has had a real impact on his life. "My classes have made me more observant about the world around me," he says.

"Before I took art classes, I would stay in my mind and I wouldn't really observe the world, but ever since I started taking art classes at the LUX, I notice more."

He also says that art is relaxing. "Making art gives me something to do with my free time; I could just waste it playing video games or sleeping," Brian says. "Making art helps me get my thoughts down and I always have trouble getting my thoughts down. Once I'm done with homework, I usually start to draw or sketch or make something with the clay that I brought home from school."

Brian's mother Nellie Reyes is also grateful for LUX art scholarships. "We are so blessed and so happy," said Reyes. "I think the scholarships should continue for the kids who need them. Our kids have come to many classes and have learned so much about art. Kids love art. Kids see things differently than adults. It's amazing what they create."

Brian's time at the LUX has taught him that it's important to be creative and express yourself. "Because if you don't, you're not really living. Humans are defined by being creative."

Brian's future plans are being an author, artist and filmmaker. "I have always wanted to be an author, so I will use my art and what I've learned here which is not entirely how to draw and how to sculpt," Brian says. "I will use the new type of skills that I learned like observation and how to communicate, and I will incorporate that into my writing. I will design my own covers for my books. I have always wanted to make films too."

## LUX Needs-Based Scholarships

Access to arts education has been shown again and again to have a profound effect on the children we serve. Arts education increases school attendance rates, builds social and leadership skills, and boosts happiness and well-being. That's why our scholarship programs are so important. Last year, 15 children received needs-based scholarships.

The LUX also offers classes to children whose parents may not be able to pay full price for tuition. This scholarship fund is always in need. **If you'd like to help the LUX offer more scholarships to children of limited means, please return the envelope provided with this report and indicate you'd like the funds to go to our scholarship program. Thanks for helping us make arts education available to more children in Lincoln.**

# LUX Summer Art Camps See Record Enrollment

This past year, the LUX Center for the Arts had a record 580 enrollments for our Summer Arts Camps. LUX Education director Lindsay Clausen and Education Coordinator McKenzie Phelps prepared for this influx of students by initiating an Intern Program of local art students and teachers, enabling all of our classes to have two instructors to enhance the class experience for our students. No doubt that's part of the reason why 93 percent of parents in our annual survey said they would enroll their children in classes again next summer. We also learned from the survey that more than 60 percent of our students were new to the LUX, proving that our increased marketing efforts paid off.

Some of the things we learned will help us improve next year's camps. In our 2020 Spring and Summer Arts Camp Program, we will implement an improved check-in and check-out process to introduce the instructors to the parents and create a more organized start to class. The LUX education team will also offer new classes for more advanced students and make sure that we offer a new mix of projects for returning students.

Here's what some of our parents said about LUX Summer Camps:

"Teachers were great and the projects the kids came home with were very impressive. My art-loving kids were in heaven."

"Please continue doing what you do. You are such a great place for artists to continue to grow!"

"Keep doing what you're doing! We'll be back often. You gave our quiet, mostly shy son a safe place to express himself."

## Summer Camp Intern + Teacher Describe Their Experience:

"Working at the LUX was one of the most exciting things that I have ever done. Every morning I would wake up and be excited to see all of these kids and think about what sorts of crazy ideas that I was going to hear that day. Being a Fine Arts major in college, sometimes it is really hard to be relaxed and casual with your imagination, but watching kids come up with things that I would have never thought of was so refreshing. I had a group of 9-12 year olds one week as I was assisting a painting class, and they were the weirdest but most brilliant kids I have ever met in my life. They would all piggyback off of each other when coming up with ideas and come together so nicely that you would of thought they'd been friends for years."

- Olivia Stinson, Summer Intern

"The LUX offers students the experience to immerse oneself into a community of like-minded individuals in a safe space and have fun while doing it! I just honestly had an overall great time! Just keeping my focus in the creative headspace was so beneficial for not only my own work, but for when I started teaching at the university this semester. It's really important to learn how to distill difficult, or abstract concepts, for younger kids to understand because then it makes you better at transferring information to people of any age."

-Amanda Durig, Instructor





# Critically Acclaimed Exhibitions + Ambitious Plans for 2020

Katelyn Farneth, LUX's gallery director wants to build on the success of the past year, when the LUX offered a wide variety of critically acclaimed shows in both its West and East galleries – standout shows that included artists Jen Bockelman, Katherine Mann, Skyler Simpson, James Bockelman, David Gracie and Lana Miller.

Farneth has ambitious plans for next year's exhibitions program. "We're planning high quality shows, longer exhibition schedules so people can experience our shows in new ways," she said. "We're bringing in more artists from all over the country so Lincoln can have a conversation with different artists and also learn from them through lectures, workshops and classes."

One high note from last year was "Dementia Americana," an exhibition of Native American artists Michael Two Bulls, Marty Two Bulls, Jr. and Cannupa Hanska Luger. This show, sponsored by Bold Nebraska and the Lincoln Arts Council, was "aesthetically and thematically thought provoking and effective," according to the Lincoln Journal Star's L. Kent Wolgamott.

Farneth hopes to bring more shows like this to the LUX. "We are aiming to bring in artists who haven't always had a platform and to make exhibitions more accessible and offer more free workshops for the public," Farneth said. In 2020, these exhibitions will include:

**Females, Fiber and Finesse, from Jan. 3 – Feb. 29.** This exhibition will be part of Fiberfest, organized by the LUX and a collaboration between the International Quilt Museum, the Hillestad Gallery at the University of Nebraska, Museum of Nebraska Art, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Constellation Studios, and Nebraska Innovation Studio, who will present related exhibitions, lectures and workshops. The LUX will host a number of workshops and demonstrations including an embroidery workshop and a natural dye workshop as part of this exhibition. For more information, visit [fiberfest.art](http://fiberfest.art).

**Riva Lehrer – Drawing from March 6 – April 24.** This exhibition by artist Riva Lehrer, who was born with spina bifida, focuses on issues of physical identity and the socially challenged body. Lehrer, instructor in Medical Humanities at Northwestern University, will participate in a talk at Nebraska Wesleyan, and an art workshop with people who are disabled.

**Shortage from Sept. 4 – Oct. 30.** LUX will host three exhibitions, planned in conjunction with a national exhibit coming to Lincoln in the fall of 2020, inspired by Matthew Desmond's book 'Evicted' and sponsored by the South of Downtown Community Development Organization and other partners addressing the issues of poverty and homelessness.

*(Continued from previous page...)* The three LUX exhibits will feature the work of homeless artists, a juried show featuring works by artists covering the issues of housing and homelessness, and another show in the East Gallery with work by artist Anne Hamersky, exploring the displacement of Native American peoples on the Great Plains.

Summer of 2020

## Surface Impressions

This summer, the LUX Center for the Arts, in cooperation with Constellation Studios, will present 'Surface Impressions,' an exhibition focusing on hand-produced relief prints from woodblock, linoleum cut, wood engraving, and mixed media relief prints. Seventy-five prints will be selected by Juror Mark Pascale, the Janet and Craig Duchossois Curator of Prints and Drawings, the Art Institute of Chicago. Fifty prints will be on display at the LUX Center for the Arts, and 25 will be on display at Constellation Studios.

In July, the LUX will sponsor a public art project called Nine Nebraska Artists. Nine posters will be created by nine Nebraska artists who do not normally do woodcut prints. Throughout July, these nine posters will be wheat pasted at various locations throughout the city in locations to be determined. Participating artists at this time are Sarah Rowe, Nancy Friedemann-Sanchez, Bart Vargas, Hannah Demma, Kat Weise, Ryan Crotty, Gerardo Mesa, Nathan Murray, and Byron Anway.

In August, the LUX will host a steamroller print demonstration as part of its annual Summerfest community arts event. For more information, visit [surfaceimpressions.art](http://surfaceimpressions.art).



## LUX Hosted Thirty-Two Exhibitions in 2018/19

The LUX has 5 exhibition spaces that had 6,192 visitors: East and West Galleries on the main floor for monthly and bi-monthly artist exhibitions hosted 17 shows; LUX Print Gallery's curator produced three shows from the historical LUX print collection; LUX Community Gallery and the Wake Student Gallery hosted 12 shows by students from UNL, LPS, LUX student shows and exhibitions by other community groups. There were seven reviews of LUX shows in the Lincoln Journal Star. Nearly 2000 visitors attended LUX First Friday openings.

*Images Top Left to Bottom Right:*

- 1) Jen Bockelman gives an artist talk during the opening of her solo exhibition "Temporary Imaginary" in our Main Gallery.
- 2) "Trial ID Number," mixed media sculpture by Micheal Two Bulls featured in "Dementia Americana."
- 3) Gallery shot of "One Lane Bridge," paintings by NWU Professor and Artist, David Gracie.
- 4) Lana Miller answers questions about her Lithic Series during the opening reception of her solo exhibition "Sometime, Somewhere."



# Our Artists-in-Residence

## Create Art + Community

At the heart of the LUX are four artists that attend the LUX residency program each year. Selected through a national search, they bring their unique perspectives and openness to learn and grow in their studio skills and teaching skills. These artists spread the joy of creativity and our community is stronger from their presence.

Our artists-in-residence teach classes at the LUX and at community learning centers at Lincoln Title 1 elementary schools. You'll find them in their studios in the Ceramics Center, in the LUX Gallery Shop, on First Friday, or representing the LUX at community events. Each of our artists-in-residence will create and exhibit a show at the LUX while they're here.

When you visit the LUX, we invite you to get to know our artists-in-residence, ask about their work, visit their studios and attend their exhibitions. They are a great group of artists and people and we're grateful to have them here with us.



### **GV Kelley**

MFA University of Florida • Ceramics

G.V. Kelley is a nonbinary artist from the San Francisco Bay Area. They received dual baccalaureate degrees in Ceramics and Earth Science from San Francisco State University in 2012. They worked as a studio assistant in the Ceramics Department at SFSU for three years before pursuing post baccalaureate study at the University of Florida in 2015. They make figurative ceramic work that explores ideas about non-binary gender through the hybridized animal/human as metaphor, with references to fantasy and science fiction.



### **Lindsey Day**

MFA University of Nebraska-Lincoln • Painting/Drawing

Day has been a recipient of the Othmer Fellowship, the Hixson-Lied Graduate Student Scholarly and Creative Activity Grant, and the Wendy Jane Bantam Exhibition Award. Day will attend the Vermont Studio Center in the fall of 2019, preceding the Kimmel-Harding Nelson Residency in Nebraska City. Day's work is inspired by concepts of risk, warning, action and inaction. She uses imagery of construction, traffic control and barricade objects, and road navigation symbols to compare and contrast her exposure to danger, harm, and loss, with respect to her environment.



### **Maria Spiess**

MFA Syracuse University • Ceramics/Mixed Media

"My creative decisions come from a range of experiences and curiosities about people, memory, and time. For me, ceramic material represents permanence while other materials present in my installations and sculptures are much less so. My current work explores spatial experience, discovery, serendipity, quiet, nothingness, anxiety, and the feeling of slow time. I make and arrange objects to create spaces which are familiar yet not exactly like they are in nature. These places are, in some way, less accessible to us – or our time there is significantly limited."

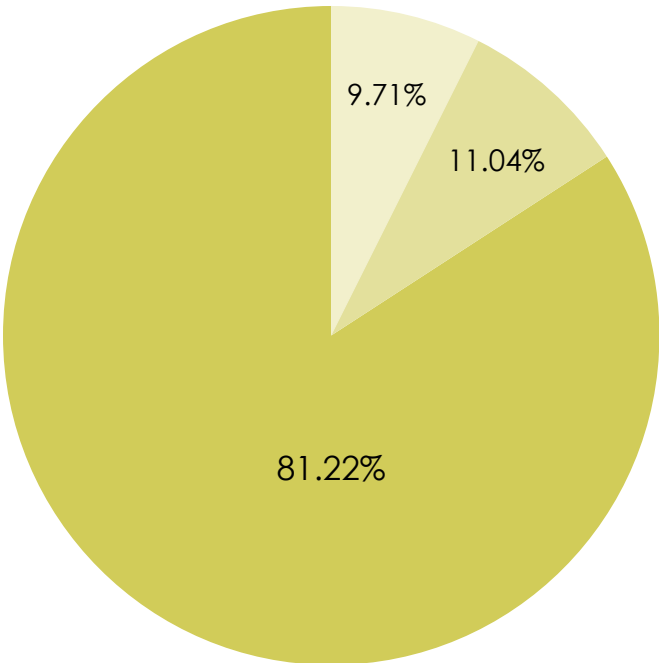


### **Elise Loomis**

BFA Concordia University • Multimedia Collage/Print

"My work reveals to me an image of my internal self, a concept that has always been troubling for me to grasp in more literal ways. This being said, my identity as a mortal being is something that consistently appears in my work, but applies to humanity in general. Perhaps this explains why many of the motifs I am currently dealing with (the bones, insects, and qualities of iridescence and the color red) allude to the idea of death and/or an inner being. These symbols have been presented to me so that I may present them as prompting metaphors to my fellow human beings."





● Program Services ● Fundraising ● Administration  
Total Expenses: \$529,393

## We ♥ Our Volunteers

The LUX Center for the Arts is an exciting place to volunteer, connecting our volunteers with art and artists. Volunteers are an integral part of the LUX community and their support makes it possible for us to sustain our exhibition, education, and other programs. If you are interested in becoming a LUX Volunteer, please apply online at [www.luxcenter.org/volunteer](http://www.luxcenter.org/volunteer).



### 25 Years of a Giving Spirit

**Joleen Burianek** walked into the LUX Center for the Arts in 1994 to see a landscape show. She started talking to Roseann Rosenstock, a long-time volunteer at the LUX, who convinced her to work with her on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. She began working shifts on her own and took on more responsibility working at First Friday openings and serving food at the Gallery Gourmet luncheons with the Guild. Since then, Jo has become an important member of the LUX family. You will find her sweet, genuine spirit greet you as you walk in on Tuesday afternoons and engage as if you have been best friends for years. When asked why she loves to volunteer at the LUX, Jo explained "I love to meet artists, especially the young artists-in-residence and getting to know them. I've learned to appreciate the time and skill it takes to create art."



### Problem Solver

In November of 2017, **Cody Janssen** applied to be a maintenance volunteer as a fun way to keep busy outside of his day-to-day job. Since then, he has become an integral part of the LUX team and keeping our building in working order. "What brings me back is not only that I have developed an appreciation for the artists and their work, but also for the work the LUX does in the community. What I do at the LUX is never the same each week, which is great. I love the randomness of it; sometimes it is changing lightbulbs and filters and sometimes I get to be creative in finding solutions. Honestly, I am here because the people at the LUX are amazing and I am grateful to be able to be a part of this institution."

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Leaving a gift in your will or making a beneficiary donation is an important way you can support arts education at the LUX Center for the Arts into the future. Former board member, UNL Professor, and Artist, Sandra Williams, designated the LUX as the beneficiary of one of her retirement investment funds.

"The LUX is an important art institution in Lincoln, providing access to art and arts learning for adults and children in a variety of ways -- quality arts instruction, first-rate exhibitions, and outreach to the community," said Williams. "I want to make sure that the LUX's work continues."

*If you would like to know more about leaving a gift to the LUX, you may contact Executive Director Joe Shaw at 402-466-8692 or [joe@luxcenter.org](mailto:joe@luxcenter.org).*

