Owen Buffington feels art and teaching go hand in hand. “I was learning how to become a teacher at the same time I was learning how to be an artist, really,” Owen said. “On a personal level, you really get an understanding for things when you teach them. There’s a lot of things that I do in theory, but I didn’t really understand them until I had to explain them.”

Owen is in his second year as an artist-in-residence, funded by the Woods Charitable Fund. LUX artists-in-residence teach LUX classes, both onsite at the LUX and at Lincoln after-school programs, through our outreach program. LUX’s outreach program also teaches art to St. Elizabeth cancer survivors, Bryan Health cancer and physical rehabilitation patients, as well as private and public schools. “There’s certain skills it’s good to have as a teacher – patience, kindness, those are some of the basics,” according to Owen. “You think back to the best teachers you’ve had in the past, they’re the ones who help you get through frustrating moments. A big part of learning about art is problem solving.”

Owen appreciates the chance to develop his teaching skills at the LUX. “What’s unique about teaching at the LUX is the wide range of students and the diversity of their skill sets. I’ve had to broaden my own skill set to be able to work with so many different age groups that have so many different expectations and experiences in art. It’s been valuable for me and it’s challenging,” Owen explained. “There’s often times you feel like it’s not working and you have to make adjustments. Teaching techniques one way might work well for teenagers, but it’s not always going to work well with five-year-olds.”

In 2017/18, with the help of United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County, the LUX expanded outreach to after-school programs at four low-income Lincoln elementary schools and to incarcerated youth at the Lancaster Youth Services Center, enabling us to reach nearly 600 children and youth this past school year. Community is important to Owen as well, evident not just in his teaching but in his artistic interests which involve finding a sense of place in the broader community. Owen will have a solo show in March 2019, and the work he’s creating touches on aspects of living in Lincoln, geography, community and a sense of place. “My undergraduate studies were not in art, I pursued geography and urban studies, and I have continued to use art more alongside these other interests.” Owen said. “One field of geography of course is cartography, which uses a visual language to relay information about place and in my case, the artist’s interest in the space around them. My show will apply this to my new community of Lincoln.”

The mission of the LUX Center for the Arts is to provide exceptional art experiences including art classes, residence programs, gallery exhibitions and community outreach. The LUX strives to provide a welcoming atmosphere for our diverse community, regardless of age, skill level or income.
How do we create and nurture the next generation of artists in Lincoln? The LUX Art Scholars Program. Last year, the LUX offered $500 scholarships to 12 individual students from 6 Lincoln Title 1 Elementary Schools. Title 1 schools are the schools in our city that are the most diverse, and with students that are the most economically challenged. The program was developed with the help of Lorinda Rice, LPS Visual Art Curriculum Specialist and LPS art teachers. The children in the program were selected by their school’s art teachers based on a combination of visual art ability, passion for art, and the possibility that an art scholarship would be a transformative experience in the student’s life. The students who they select as their school’s LUX Art Scholar are able to take 5-6 courses during the year at the LUX using their $500 scholarship.

The goals of the LUX Art Scholar program are to develop and inspire young artists in Lincoln, giving students who take classes at the LUX the opportunity to:

• See themselves as artists
• Build confidence and self-esteem
• Envision career possibilities in art

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In December of last year, our Art Scholar recipients were invited with their families to an open house and recognition program at the LUX. There was lunch, Art Scholar t-shirts and an official LUX Art Scholar framed certificate recognizing their achievement. This event allows our Art Scholars to see our facilities and meet our teachers.

Art Scholars Program Seeks to Create Lincoln’s Artists of the Future.

Owen Buffington
Drawing, Painting
BA from Bowling Green University
MFA from Syracuse University

Maria Spiedi
Ceramics, Mixed Media
BA from Bowdoin College

Taylor Woolwine
Drawing, Painting
BA from Indiana University

Elise Loomis
Ceramics, Mixed Media
BA and MA, Art Therapy
Concordia University

2018/2019 ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE:

Artists-in-Residence Make Art Happen at the LUX.

You will find them teaching classes, helping in the LUX Gallery Shop, greeting people on First Friday, or representing the LUX at community events. Other times, you’ll find them creating new work in their studios. Our Artists-in-Residence touch every program at the LUX and are at the center of our mission.

Art could not happen at the LUX without them. The LUX pays our artists-in-residence to teach and in addition, they have their own private studios, access to equipment, and a stipend for supplies that allows them to concentrate on creating new work.

2018/2019 ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE:

Yang Cheng – Ceramics, Mixed Media
BA from Bening University, Beijing
MFA from Tonghua University

Ruhan Feng – Metal/Jewelry, Print/Paper
BA, Shida Art

Elise Loomis – Ceramics, Mixed Media
BA and MA, Art Therapy

Owen Buffington – Drawing, Painting

Masha Spiedi – Ceramics, Mixed Media

Maria Spiedi – Ceramics, Mixed Media

Taylor Woolwine – Drawing, Painting

Elise Loomis – Ceramics, Mixed Media

2019 Artists-in-Residence:

Yang Cheng – Ceramics, Mixed Media

Ruhan Feng – Metal/Jewelry, Print/Paper

Elise Loomis – Ceramics, Mixed Media

Artists-in-Residence Make Art Happen at the LUX.
We’re Proud of the New Renovated LUX

Designated in 2017 as a Historic Landmark by the city of Lincoln, the 105-year-old LUX building now has newly refinished floors, new window treatments, updated heating and air-conditioning systems, new bathrooms and many coats of fresh paint. The renovations began in early 2017, when we paved our parking lot and opened the Ceramics Center, doubling our classroom space.

“This was a monumental undertaking that began almost 6 years ago,” said Susan McIntosh Kriz, executive director. “Thank you to everyone who had a part in moving the LUX forward into the 21st century. We truly are Lincoln’s community art center and this was a community effort.”

A big thanks to the donors, board members, volunteers and staff who made this possible. Construction and renovations were carried out by Ayars & Ayars and ArchEtc. Contact Susan McIntosh Kriz or Joe Shaw to schedule a tour of the new LUX!
It’s been almost a year since Katelyn Farnehth became the Gallery Director at the LUX. She started here three years ago as an Artist-In-Residence from Pennsylvania, and towards the end of her residency, she became the Education Assistant. In January 2018 she became the Gallery Director.

“I have fallen in love with this organization and its mission,” Kate said. “I enjoy the challenges and problem-solving the job requires along with the relationships I’ve made during my time here. The LUX has helped me to grow in many ways including as an artist and I feel proud to be a part of something that really is making a difference in my community.”

The past year LUX Galleries and the Gallery Shop have undergone facelifts as part of the LUX renovations.

“The shop is almost unrecognizable, longtime LUX patrons have told me,” Katelyn said. “Along with elevating our look, in the past year we’ve also brought in high quality shows with artists whose work has been exhibited internationally.”

In this past year, the LUX Gallery and Education departments teamed up to provide free artist demonstrations to the community. Ryan Crotty, Boyan Moskov and Chie Hitchner all held workshops along with artist talks, open to the public, educating people on their artistic processes and experiences. Many of the shows from last year received glowing reviews, bringing in large crowds to the galleries and First Friday openings.

Katelyn plans to keep up the momentum this year by bringing in more thought-provoking work. The LUX will host around 18 solo and group exhibitions in our newly remodeled galleries.

“When creating the gallery schedules, I focused on regional artists from diverse backgrounds and media that strive to educate the community on a variety of topics. I am working closely with Education Director Lindsey Clausen to provide everyone in Lincoln the opportunity to interact with our artists and gain a better understanding of their work by offering more artist talks and demonstrations. I’m excited for what 2019 will bring and hope you get a chance to have a LUX experience!”

We’re especially proud of the Gladys Lux Print Collection. During her years of teaching at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Gladys Lux used her collection to bring fine art to students who had never experienced an art gallery. This gallery space is newly renovated as part of the LUX renovations of its historic building.

This historical collection is a Lincoln treasure. Each year, Curator Susan Soriente creates three exhibitions in the LUX Print Collection Gallery. The past year saw ’Wild and Tame,’ featuring animals as subjects, ’Limning Lithos,’ an exhibition of lithographs that included Whistler and Daumier prints, and ’American Graphic,’ featuring mostly U.S. artists, focusing on line and tone. The LUX Print Collection curator’s position is funded by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. In conjunction with the ’Wild and Tame’ exhibition, Susan led a workshop with Lincoln Public School Art Teachers on how to analyze and critique artwork. An exhibit of student artwork stemming from this event was hung in the LUX Community Gallery in spring of 2018.