



ANNUAL REPORT

2019–2020



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.**

DEAR LUX FRIENDS,

In the 2019/20 fiscal year, the LUX was poised for one of its most successful years ever, led by unprecedented enrollment and an ambitious exhibition schedule.

In late February, we finalized an expansive four-year strategic plan with input from staff, our board and the community.

In early March, however, many of our plans were brought to an end as our community shut down for COVID-19.

The LUX staff and board made two important early decisions about the COVID crisis.

First, we wanted to make sure we remained as a muse for our community, showing how art makes the community better and can bring healing, relief and inspiration during tough times and also provide an outlet for dealing with our frustrations, drawbacks and emotions.

Second, we wanted to make sure that our staff, artists-in-residence and our artist-teachers remained employed. This annual report, for the 2019/20 fiscal year will tell the story of the steps we took to deal with the uncertainty of COVID-19.

We believe that our experience this past year has proven that the LUX is resilient, as we quickly shifted and created new ways for our community to be involved with art, arts education and exhibitions.

There are still great unknowns about the coming year, but what's not unknown is our ability to find meaningful ways to bring art and arts education to our community.



Sincerely,
Joe Shaw
Executive Director

URGENT:

In the past year, we lost crucial revenue from summer camps and our Live Art Auction. To make up for this lost revenue, we are asking you to make a gift or become a member of the LUX before the year is over. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a gift or become a member. We are not out of the woods yet with COVID. Your help is crucial as we enter a new year of serving the community with high quality exhibitions and art classes.

Give Online at LUXCenter.org/support/individual-giving



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ART IN UNCERTAINTY

In March of 2020, the severity of COVID-19 and what it meant to our community became clear. Our outreach classes were halted as schools closed. We began working from home. Both our Art Auction and Summer Camps were in jeopardy.

LUX staff were told to work from home and the LUX Board met three times in March and April. To save money in the first weeks of April, LUX paychecks were cut by 40 percent in the first two weeks of April. The PPP loan that LUX applied for came in April and we were able to restore staff to full pay.

In our first staff meetings, everyone agreed on two goals for the LUX during this time: First, we would try to shine a light through this dark time, and illuminate the ways art can help a struggling world. Second, we needed to make sure we kept our commitments to pay our artists and teachers.

At some point, our Exhibitions Director Katelyn Farneth took a gallon of blue paint, climbed a ladder and wrote on the Art Alley wall 'WE'RE in this TOGETHER.' That seemed to cement what we were all thinking.

One of the first things we did as our community and schools shut down due to COVID, was to redirect the art supply kits we provided in the now-closed outreach classes. In April, LUX and LPS teachers and paraeducators delivered over 400 art supply kits to children and families across Lancaster County.



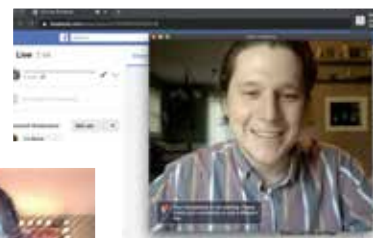
At the same time, LUX staff, including our artists-in-residence, started creating how-to videos, and we started a series of live Facebook artist talks on Tuesdays.

In May, we made a decision to cancel summer camps, and instead pivoted to offering private lessons, with one or two students (usually siblings), a teacher, and masks. Since early June, we've served 133 students with private lessons.

In June, we opened the LUX, using the health department's guidelines for safety. Using these guidelines, we opened for First Friday with our international juried Surface Impressions woodcut print show, in collaboration with Constellation Studios. The prizes were awarded on Facebook Live by the Curator of print collections Mark Pascale, at the Art Institute of Chicago.

In July, we continued with Nine Nebraska Artists, a public art mural project (with Constellation Studios) that featured woodcut prints that highlighted the diversity of Nebraska artists and which were displayed at nine locations throughout Lincoln, drawing attention to art in public spaces. And in August, we found a way to employ 20 artists to make and present Art Safari, a drive through art installation in the LUX parking lot, attended by 1300 people over ten days and which culminated in an outdoor steamroller print monstration, featuring our mural artists and attended by more than 100 children, adults and families.

...



UPCOMING IN 2021

NATHAN MURRAY PAYS HONOR TO PROMINENT NEBRASKANS OF COLOR

Former LUX Artist-in-Residence and LUX Fellow Nathan Murray is an artist who uses figurative ceramic sculpture to explore nuanced expressions of race, culture and identity as they relate to governmental policy decisions, institutional racism and social inequity. Last year, Nathan was named as an 'Interchange Fellow' and awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Mid America Arts Alliance to create projects addressing social change. 'Convergence' will bring voice to the lived experience of eight extraordinary Nebraskans of color through dynamic monumental-scale ceramic busts representing their stories. It seeks to create a dialog around societal issues that can often be overlooked among the majority of Nebraskans who identify as white. Coming to the LUX Center for the Arts in 2021.

EMERGE LNK STREET ARTS FESTIVAL 2021

In September 2021 the LUX Center for the Arts, working with UNL Associate Professor of Art Sandra Williams, will bring in some of the world's greatest street artists. Working in Northeast Lincoln, artists will create 9 murals to inspire the community to 'emerge' from the pandemic together. The project will elevate the voices of these artists while promoting small businesses and creating a destination for all who visit Lincoln. Other festivities will include custom car culture, free community art projects and more. Watch for more details soon.



BLACK LIVES MATTER

George Perry Floyd Jr. was killed during an arrest in Minneapolis. A white police officer named Derek Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for a period initially reported to be 8 minutes and 46 seconds, causing his death.

Our nation still reels from the fall-out of George Floyd's death and the savage history of brutality against black people in our country. In response to the death of George Floyd, LUX staff developed an equity statement that was ratified by the LUX Center for the Arts Board of Directors in early June. It reads:

The mission of the Lux Center for the Arts is to transform lives and help people make meaningful connections to art. To fulfill this mission, we must recognize the barriers that artists and people of color face every day, not just in the art world, but in life.

We can't transform lives and we can't help people make meaningful connections to art without acknowledging our city, state and country's history and the systems and institutions that perpetuate inequities that exist to this day. We take our mission seriously, and pledge to fight these inequities that permeate our society, and move forward with purpose to be part of the solution.

Art, artists and arts institutions have a role to play in healing, inspiring and leading our country in making widespread and lasting change. The LUX will be a part of this process, working with other groups across our city to solve issues of racial injustice.

LUX IMPACTS 2019/2020

Classes + Camps

Adults: 759
Children: 1499
Total: 2258

Community Events

Winterfest: 200
Summerfest: 600
Dia de los Muertos: 1000
Total: 1600

Scholarships

Needs-based: 13
Art Scholar: 41
Total: 54

First Friday Attendance: 1789
Gallery Attendance: 5807
Exhibitions: 38
Artists Exhibited: 85
Artists Involved: 445

LUX Total Attendance: 8865

Outreach Program to
Title 1 Schools: 488

Artists/Teachers: 15
Interns: 14

**Direct Payments
to Artists: \$97,732**

There are numerous ways to support Lincoln's Community Arts Center: become a member, volunteer, attend events, shop fine art or make a donation. Your generosity supports exceptional art classes, outreach programs and world-class gallery exhibitions that make Lincoln a better place to work, play and live. Help make art happen and get involved today!



SUMMER'S PIVOT TO PRIVATE LESSONS

The decision to cancel Summer Camps was not an easy one, but one that was made with the best interests of children and teachers in mind. Coming off a record summer, our camps are an important source of income for the LUX. Before we decided what to do, we conducted a parent survey of past camp-goers. Responses were mixed. A clear group thought holding summer camps was a non-starter, while others thought it could be done. In the end, it was decided to try something different.

We redesigned our private art lessons to ensure safety - pairing a teacher with one to two students at the most, requiring masks at all times, and following all other directed health measures. This allowed parents to sign their children up online for pottery wheel, clay hand building, painting & drawing/printmaking, and art sampler, all offered in one-month sessions.

One parent wrote in a survey: "You dealt with the health restrictions very well this summer. I commend you for that and thank you for providing the individual lesson option to us. It was a life saver."

Another parent wrote: "You're amazing and I am so incredibly proud to have my daughter participating in lessons. We have chosen to keep her in a remote school environment for this next school year and I would LOVE to continue giving her the opportunity to participate in private lessons since she will have minimal opportunities to create Art with her school this year."

This decision proved popular with many parents and students. Since early June, we've served 133 students with private lessons - many on scholarships.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

ART FOR KIDS STRANDED AT HOME

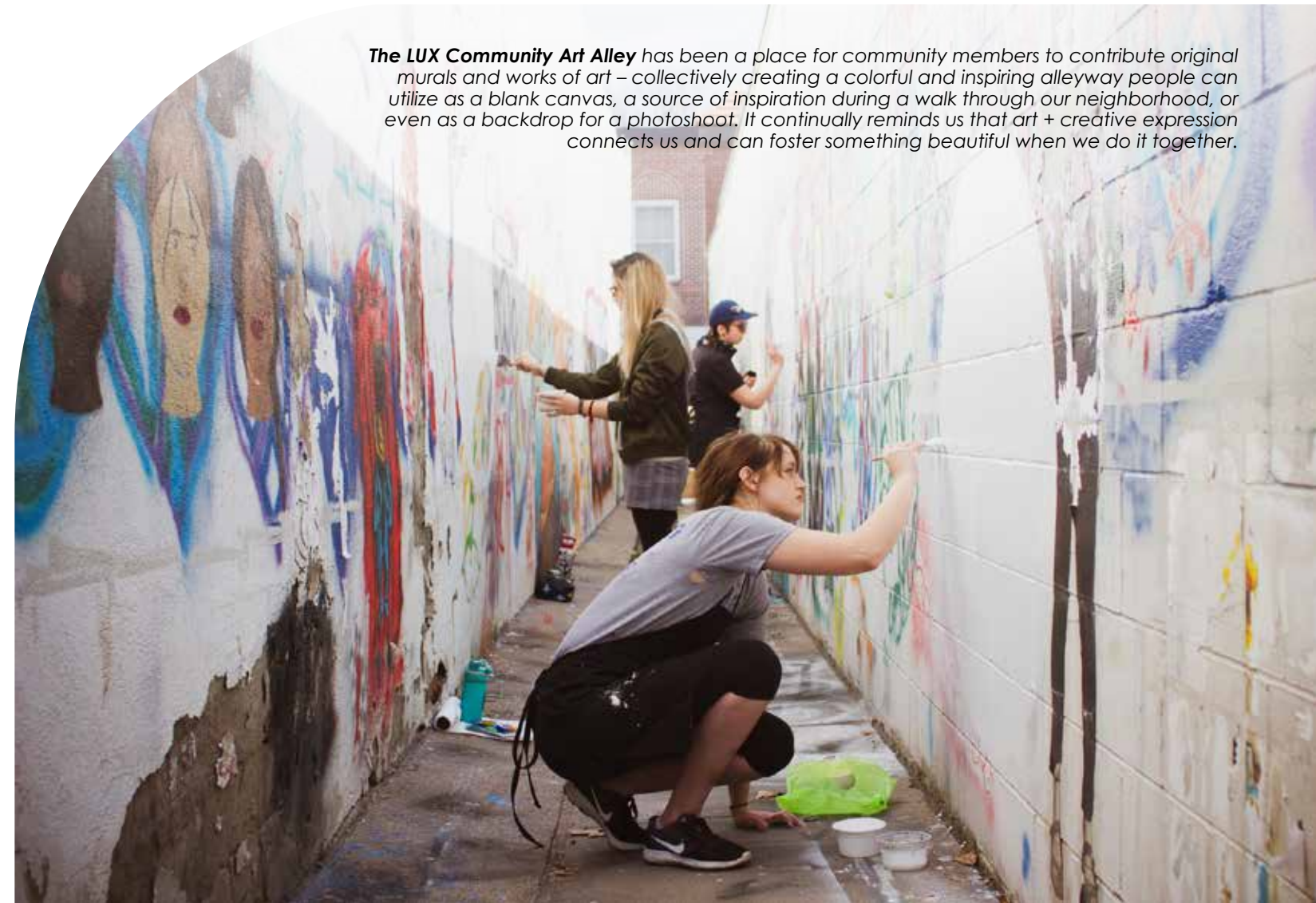
One of the first things LUX staff did was to reach out to working families with Art Supply Kits for families now stranded at home.

"The supplies were just sitting there and since they wouldn't be going to the kids in our outreach program, we wanted to get them into the hands of children isolating at home," said Director of Programs, Lindsey Clausen.



Lindsey gathered enough supplies for 400 Art Supply Kits and organized a group of volunteers, including some LPS teachers and paraeducators. These volunteers and LUX staff took turns delivering Art Supply Kits to families throughout Lancaster County in late March, early April. Each kit contained a sketchbook, watercolors, brush, colored pencils, ruler, and pencil sharpener, plus books donated by United Way. We also delivered kits to the People's City Mission, the Asian Community & Cultural Center and Clinton Elementary.

One family wrote this: "Thank you for delivering art kits to kids across Lincoln. We really appreciate your generosity while we transition into this adventure. Best regards - the Crocs - Ulysses & Johnny."



The LUX Community Art Alley has been a place for community members to contribute original murals and works of art - collectively creating a colorful and inspiring alleyway people can utilize as a blank canvas, a source of inspiration during a walk through our neighborhood, or even as a backdrop for a photoshoot. It continually reminds us that art + creative expression connects us and can foster something beautiful when we do it together.



ART SAFARI

WHIMSICAL ART PROJECT CREATES JOY & JOBS



Each year, the LUX has hosted a free hands-on family artmaking event in August called Summerfest. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the LUX looked for ways to allow families to appreciate the joy of art while making the experience safe and open to everyone. The LUX was also looking for ways to keep its artists-in-residents, teachers and interns busy, since all art camps were cancelled for the summer.

"We had scheduled eight teachers at 20 hours a week," Director of Programs Lindsey Clausen explains. "I didn't want those hours to vanish, these artists depended upon this income and almost all other opportunities vanished with COVID."

The 'Art Safari' featured three themed zones - Underwater, Cave, and Forest. A giant octopus, a sea serpent and other handmade animals, along with artist made natural elements such as trees, mushrooms, squeaky lily pads and a water-fall covered the surface of the parking lot while kinetic wind sculptures floated in the breeze above. Participants were able to experience all three zones and either drove through or walked through.



"ART SAFARI WAS VISITED BY MORE THAN 1300 PEOPLE OVER EIGHT DAYS," SAID LINDSEY. "IT WAS A TRUE DELIGHT FOR OUR COMMUNITY THIS SUMMER, AN UPLIFTING PROJECT THAT PEOPLE REALLY NEEDED FIVE MONTHS INTO QUARANTINE."





SURFACE IMPRESSIONS

Surface Impressions was a summer long juried exhibition at the LUX and Constellation Studios, meant to highlight the best in contemporary woodcut prints. The exhibition included 75 works from 53 national and international artists, with a selection at both Constellation Studios and LUX Center for the Arts galleries. All the prints use relief-printing processes of woodcut, linoleum block, wood engraving, letterpress, and new technologies including laser cutting.

The juror was Mark Pascale, Janet and Craig Duchossois Curator of Prints and Drawings, The Art Institute of Chicago.

- \$1000 Award Recipient**
Barbara Duval "Tracking" and "Jury."
- \$500 Award Recipient**
Paul Coldwell "Ruins I," "Ruins II," and "Ruins III."
- \$250 Award Recipient**
Mark Rice "One of the Art Buildings," "One of the Literature Buildings," and "One of the Music Buildings."
- Awagami Paper Award Recipient**
Wendy Ketchum "On The Hunt"
- Gomez Art Supply Award Recipient**
Jean Gumpfer – and her selected prints "Tapestry" and "Garden."
- Hiromi Paper Award Recipient**
Piotr Stachniewski "Curtain of Power" and "Transmission."



STEAMROLLER PRINTS

As part of the summer long celebration of woodcut prints, Karen Kunc, Kyle Nobles and LUX staff put on a steamroller print demonstration, joined by Nine Nebraska Artists Katharen Wiese, Bart Vargas and Ryan Crotty.

Woodcut blocks used for the Nine Nebraska Artists murals were used to demonstrate printmaking techniques. "It was really awesome to be able to be here to see how steamroller prints are done," said Artist Bart Vargas. "I had heard about this technique, but have never seen it in person."

Most of the LUX staff and a few of the artists took turns driving the steamroller over the prepared wood blocks, ink and paper and several people took home a woodcut print.



Lincoln Artist, Katharen Wiese



Omaha Artist, Bart Vargas



Director of Constellation Studios, Karen Kunc



NINE NEBRASKA ARTISTS

MURAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS DIVERSITY AND IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC ART

Nine woodcut prints, created by nine diverse and dynamic Nebraska Artists, were combined and wheat-pasted at locations throughout Lincoln.

"This project allowed for us to place works of art throughout our community in a time of pandemic," said Exhibitions Director Katelyn Farneth. "Woodcut prints are one of the oldest form of printmaking and these works reflected a unique perspective on the times we are going through."

Conceived before the pandemic, nevertheless, the weight of the times informed this sober and thought-provoking series of woodcut prints created by Bart Vargas, Katharen Wiese, Sarah Rowe, Nathan Murray, Kyle Nobles, Gerardo Meza, Ryan Crotty, Nancy Friedemann, and Byron Anway. The woodcut prints were created at Constellation Studios in May of 2020.



In July, the prints were installed at nine locations (and in different configurations) throughout Lincoln: Constellation Studios, LUX Center for the Arts, HUB Cafe, Woods Bathhouse, Joyo Theater, Bethany Library, Bennett Martin Library, The Mill in the Haymarket and Goldenrod Pastries in College View.

The murals can still be seen at some locations, including the LUX and Constellation Studios.



ARTISTS -IN- RESIDENCE

2020-2021



Lindsey Day is a visual artist currently based out of Lincoln, NE. A native of the Kansas City, MO area, Day graduated from North-west Missouri State University in 2014, and earned an MFA in painting and drawing from University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2019. Day has received numerous awards, including the Othmer Fellowship, the Hixson-Lied Graduate Student Scholarly and Creative Activity Grant, and the Wendy Jane Bantam Exhibition Award. Day has been a resident artist at the Vermont Studio Center and the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts. She is currently works and teaches multimedia art to the public of Lincoln. Day uses scenarios familiar to urban environments to express nuanced concepts of risk, caution, action and inaction, free will and systematic development. Through painting, Day inserts herself into a system of her own fabrication, becoming a contractor, an urban planner, a material contributor, and a liberal performer.

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.



PJ Hargraves is from Philadelphia Pennsylvania and earned a MFA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2020. Before moving to Nebraska, he received a BFA in Ceramics from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University in 2017 along with a K-12 Art Education Certificate. During undergraduate school PJ worked for two consecutive summers as a staff member at Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts in 2015 and 2016 in Newcastle Maine. PJ has exhibited his work both nationally and internationally and is the recipient of numerous grants and awards. PJ was an invited participant in the first Mid-Atlantic Keramik Exchange in Reykjavik Iceland in 2019. In addition to teaching classes and workshops for kids and adults, PJ enjoys the labor of the studio, including building and fixing kilns and helping students troubleshoot problems with materials and firing.

"Through my process, I explore the physical nature of working with clay by harnessing the tactility of the material, crystalizing evidence of the joy I find in making. I utilize accessible imagery to create imaginative and humorous sculpture; this affords the viewer a light-hearted moment in an otherwise overwhelmingly complicated human existence. I draw inspiration from tchotchkes, souvenirs and commemorative objects, adopting a simplified and exaggerated approach to representing figures, animals, landscape and objects. I also reference historical ceramics, relating and positioning my work within this rich vocabulary."



Neil Celani is a ceramic artist hailing from colorful Colorado but has put down roots in Lincoln, NE to begin his life as a professional studio artist. He started his passion for working with clay as a child taking pottery classes with his mom. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Colorado and MFA from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Neil has participated in national invitational exhibitions including the Ohio Crafts Museum and the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities and was selected as a Ceramics Monthly Emerging Artist in 2016. He has contributed writing on his expertise in soda firing to published technical ceramics books. Pottery is at the center of Neil's work which is highly influenced by ancient ceramic history, he uses wit and humor as a means to playfully comment on contemporary American culture while using formal pottery language to make timeless objects of beauty.



Amanda Durig is originally from northeast Ohio area. She received her BFA in graphic design and printmaking from Youngstown State University in 2015 and her MFA from University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2020. She currently teaches printmaking, painting and drawing classes at the LUX. Amanda's work has roots in garden landscapes and perception of experience through visual cues. With a love for gardening and a curious mind, her work combines elements from experienced reality, memory, and the fuzzy image one's mind creates when retrieving a memory.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DAVE KLEOPFER

Volunteers are an integral part of the LUX community and their support makes it possible for us to sustain our exhibition, education, and outreach programs. The LUX is grateful to the numerous volunteers – offering their expertise and time to fill in gaps, help with projects, events, and the maintenance of our historic building – all of whom have become a very special part of the LUX family. This year, we want to recognize a volunteer who has become a dear friend to the LUX and has given so much of his time, talents, and expertise over the years to make this a better place – Dave Kleopfer.

Seventeen years ago, Dave Kleopfer was transitioning from the construction field at Ayars + Ayars to the office and thought assisting on LUX remodeling projects would be a great way to keep his hands busy doing what he loved, but at his own pace. Along with removing the infamous 'carpeted walls' Dave had his hands in many renovations over the years – installing storage shelves, building floating walls, outfitting the vault, installing new dry wall in the east gallery – working on weekends and late into the evening. Yet to this day, Dave recalls that his most favorite project of all was building the front wall facing the Baldwin street doors. "That wall is mine," Dave said with pride. Former Executive Director, Julie Diegel, wanted a dedicated wall space to describe the current exhibitions, names of patrons, and the LUX staff. "We built that little wall right after the two galleries were renovated. On a First Friday, Julie gave me a crown and made me 'King of the LUX' for the night." That wall continues to be a monument of pride for Dave.

In addition to renovations, Dave has volunteered in numerous ways over the years – printing First Friday posters, manning the grill or selling ice cream at community events, and so much more. He is a man of passion, kindness, and warmth and we are so proud to honor all of his accomplishments and hard work.



LUX FELLOWS PROGRAM

The LUX Center for the Arts Fellowship allows artists to volunteer in exchange for access to studio space. For more information and to apply, visit [LUXCenter.org/artist-fellowships](https://luxcenter.org/artist-fellowships).

"The fellows program is a unique opportunity to pursue a love of ceramics in the LUX studio. Not only do we trade work for studio access, we also gain access to a community of artists in which we exchange skills and perspectives on each other's work and support each other in a myriad of ways."
– Adria Chilcote



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If you notice that your name, donation or membership is not acknowledged, please accept our sincerest apologies – we may have missed it by mistake. Please contact us at 402.466.8692 or info@luxcenter.org and we will update our records. Thank you!

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