

*“Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives, the cumulative experience of many masters of craftsmanship.*

*Quality also marks the search for an ideal after necessity has been satisfied and mere usefulness achieved.”*

*— John Ruskin*

**M1**

**The Future of Manifest**

## **Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center Acquires Historic Building for Permanent Home, Sets Three-Year Plan**



**Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center’s** many-year search for a permanent home has come to a close with its acquisition of a property located at 3464 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio (project name: M1). The 18 year old nonprofit’s purchase of the 13,000 square foot historic building on a one acre site situated at the border between Clifton and Camp Washington was seeded by generous donations from two long-time supporters.

*January 31, 2022*

This launches the start of a three-year plan drafted by Manifest's staff and board of directors during which the building will be activated, renovated, and reimagined as the future world headquarters of Manifest's multiple programs.

The first programming to transition to the new facility will be Manifest's regionally-engaging educational Drawing Center studio offerings, including all drawing, painting, darkroom photography, and related activities, as well as the Scholar in Residence program. This transition will occur by mid-2022, and new offerings are already in the planning stages. The new location will enable expanded programs, accessibility, dynamic cross-disciplinary interactions, and exciting partnerships.



### **Why is Manifest establishing a permanent home?**

In 2004 Manifest was founded by an all volunteer group of professors and students from the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University. It was in the truest sense of the words, *hand made*.

It was crystalized by the enthusiastic turnout of the public, exhibiting artists, students, and practicing artists craving community and a supportive environment in which to aspire towards excellence in skill and creativity. Since January 2005 Manifest has presented 401 exhibitions and published 30 books and 74 catalogs representing 9,044 works by 3,683 artists from 50 states, Washington D.C., and 43 countries. Since mid-2004 its studio programming has served an estimated 60,000 participants of all



ages and backgrounds, and twenty-two artists have participated in Manifest's Artist Residency program, a vast majority of them relocating to Cincinnati from across the U.S. and Canada for the year-long immersion.

Manifest has done all of this on a shoestring budget, within limited and often unreliable facilities, particularly for the studio program which has been forced to relocate through four different spaces over the course of its history.

For nearly two decades Manifest has endured the dualistic and oft-confused view of it being either the *Drawing Center* or the *Gallery*, of being nationally-focused, or local, when it has in fact been both all along. It needed time to build and test its case, attract a world-class staff, rally an expanded board of experts, and come to terms with its own trajectory over time. But it has long looked forward to the convergence of its two halves (comprised of four familiar quadrants) into one dynamic engine of programming in order to be what it was designed to be—a truly sustainable **Cincinnati institution, a gift to the region.**



## Manifest's Three-Year Plan

**As of the start of its third decade, in January 2025, Manifest will be one thing, in one primary space\*, at one compelling and accessibly inviting site—at that point it will become *The Manifest Center for the Visual Arts*.**

Here, M will stand for Mastery and Magic—the investigation, sharing, celebration, and development of skill, creativity, intellect, professionalism, craftsmanship, and intention, both for the community (via experiences and contemplation) and for developing and practicing artists (via workshops, growth-supporting spaces, a library, tutoring, and other resources).

No matter where one may be in their journey of creativity and skill, their direction can be towards the elevated, the special, achievement, and the *magic* of visual art. Visual literacy empowers individuals. This kind of learning makes people, and society, better. Manifest was built for this. Manifest's team is *ready!*

**Manifest at M1 will be like a museum, a library, a church, a school or a gymnasium—focused on the *visual arts*.**



**The new facility will offer:**

- Two floors of programming: including a wing devoted to experiences in the form of exhibitions and public engagement, another wing devoted to *making*—for studio access, interactions, and programming, including a fully equipped printmaking studio. One floor will be entirely devoted to Drawing, Painting, and Photography studios, with a section designated as the Photo Wing where traditional darkroom photography processes will be preserved, taught, and practiced. The large studio will be a stunning timeless environment for the preservation, practice and mastery of life drawing. A second studio will support painting, drawing, and private lesson work in various disciplines.
- Multiple galleries showcasing jury-vetted works from around the world—continuing and expanding the quality exhibitions Manifest is known for internationally.
- A bookstore, including the ability for program students to offer, and the public to collect, limited edition original works of printmaking and photography made in Manifest's studios.
- Resident Artist and Scholar private studios.

- Exhibition, Residency, Publication, and Studio aspects of the facility (serving Manifest's four quadrants) will allow for the free flow between program spaces during events, school group visits, and open house programs.
- The grounds will serve as an open air classroom, experiential space, and welcoming visual invitation for the community and creative learners to spend time on-site.
- Ample on-site parking as well as on-street availability will enable Manifest to be a destination. It will feel like a sanctuary—far from everything in the best of ways but will in fact be centrally close to everywhere by car and public transportation.
- The elegant main entrance will provide for dramatic arrival for exhibition events, with valet parking supported by partnerships allowing for evening event and overflow parking.

**Manifest's new home will enable new, *potential*, and ongoing partnerships with such organizations as these, to name but a few:**

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - Winton Place Youth Center  | - ArtWorks                         |
| - Cincinnati Nature Center   | - Cincinnati State                 |
| - The Taft Museum of Art     | - DePaul Cristo Rey High School    |
| - Cincinnati Art Museum      | - The Hive                         |
| - Women Writing for a Change | - The Ohio Civil Rights Commission |
| - WordPlay                   | - The Cleveland Print Room         |
| - Tiger Lily Press           | - The Ohio Arts Council            |
| - Preserve Burnet Woods      | - FotoFocus                        |



**Location Matters!**

While being catapulted into a larger role as a *regional* destination, and a meeting ground for faculty and students of universities both regional and national, Manifest's new programming home will also sit at the exact *center* of an equilateral triangle with points touching the hearts of three adjacent creative communities all within one mile's distance, allowing for the exploration of place-based synergy with **Clifton's Ludlow Avenue District, Camp Washington, and Northside.**

**\* Important note:** Manifest's long-time home base on Woodburn Avenue in East Walnut Hills, with its five galleries, offices, and residency studios will continue as it has through its 20th season (through 2024), and pending funding support during the three-year plan, Manifest will retain its presence in the Victoria into the future as our ambassadorial wing to the nearby community, allowing for educational outreach, expanded exhibitions, and more.

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For additional information contact [info@manifestgallery.org](mailto:info@manifestgallery.org)

Visit us online at [www.manifestgallery.org](http://www.manifestgallery.org)

Support Manifest with a donation at [www.manifestgallery.org/support](http://www.manifestgallery.org/support)

Manifest is an artist-founded community-supported 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization.

Manifest takes a stand for the quality presentation, experience, and documentation of the visual arts, engaging professionals, students, and the public from around the world through accessible world-class exhibits, studio programs, and publications.

Manifest's 2021/2022 season (its 18th) is supported in-part by a grant from the Josephine S. Russell Charitable Trust, PNC Bank, Trustee, as well as the generosity of community contributions to the ArtsWave Campaign. It is also made possible by funding from the Ohio Arts Council, and many individual supporting members, donors, and artists around the world.

