

*A Neighborhood Gallery for the World*

*"Your success is the reason people like me travel to take advantage of your excellent opportunities."*  
Kris Rehring Jones, Knoxville, Tennessee

September 4, 2012

Dear Friend of Manifest,

Even as I write, our 8<sup>th</sup> season is winding down. Eight years is a good run for most small non-profits, and many close their doors after operating this long. For us, it's just long enough to provide a sense for how we're doing, where we're going, and what we are capable of. On a daily basis we are so focused on the concerns of the moment that we hardly find time to realize our accomplishments. Looking back, I would like to share some statistics that are quite staggering, even to us. Since we opened the gallery in January of 2005 Manifest has exhibited the works of *1048* artists from *49* states and *31* countries. *That's one thousand forty-eight artists! All but one of the 50 U.S. states! And thirty-one different countries around the world!* Repeating it does not make it any easier to fathom. Add to this the fact that 135 different academic institutions have been represented by student work in Manifest's projects, and you may start to get a sense for what we're capable of.

One must wonder, what on Earth inspires such eager participation. Imagine how many artists did *not* have work selected for inclusion in Manifest projects. (Generally our exhibits include 10% or fewer of the artists submitting.) It's easy to be moved by the number of artists involved, and easy to forget that they were the *winners* from among a great many others who dearly wanted to share their work at Manifest but didn't. We never forget that *all* of them have contributed to Manifest's success. *But why?*

At Manifest we believe in the importance of visual art to individuals and to society. Because of this, we take a stand for quality and excellence in art and in the public encounter with inspired creativity. We remain focused and clear in our goal to do this in four distinct ways. Our educational studio programs, gallery exhibits, new artist residency, and publications all provide inspired experiences with art. Through these, Manifest brings artists, art, and the public together in meaningful ways. Those who have the most to gain, the artists, recognize the power of our mission, and our commitment to a shared goal and common ideals. And, we hope, so do you.

In its eight seasons Manifest has become an enduring ambassador to the world on behalf of our city and the artists whose work we exhibit. At the same time, we have served thousands of people in our own back yard by bringing the world here, one work of art at a time, and teaching drawing to ever more people. Our public participation has increased by 30% over the past year. People are *getting* Manifest!

Each year our members fund about 10% of our operations, an amount equivalent to our *annual* gallery AND drawing center facility rent. This past season the average donation was \$116. This is a critical moment in the life of Manifest, which desperately needs the public to underwrite its role in their lives, in *your* life. We simply cannot do this without you.

Your support symbolizes the public approval of Manifest as a 501(c)(3) non-profit serving a broad community. We have an exciting season planned, including new youth drawing classes at the Drawing Center, and the goal to establish a regional showcase exhibit series in expanded galleries. Manifest is a small but mighty organization, but only because we have the help of generous donors, members, volunteers and enthusiastic collaborators reinforcing our existence. As I write every year, in a world where the visual arts are among the first budget items to be cut, we continue to hold the line, believing that our society cannot remain whole without creativity. Imagine a world without art... *We can't*.

Please let us know you want Manifest to continue to have an impact on people's lives by becoming a member. Enclosed you will find information on how to contribute. Any amount of donation will be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you at the gallery this year!

Sincerely,



Jason Franz, Executive Director