



THE MANIFEST CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

MANIFEST
emerges

Manifest's mission is to stand for the importance of quality in the visual arts by offering meaningful and accessible art-based experiences for the public, promoting deep learning outside academia by supporting visual literacy, critical thinking, and skill development, and by undertaking the ongoing documentation of exceptional art for posterity.

Manifest's 2023-2024 Season

5,804

Studio Participants at our M1 Facility on Central Parkway

2,833

Gallery Visitors to our Exhibits on Woodburn Ave.

5

Resident Artists/Scholars Supported

25

Studio Tours

22

Group Exhibitions

23

Artists Employed

278

Life Drawing Sessions

10

Solo Artist Exhibits

37

Life Models Employed

45

Drawing as Mindfulness Sessions

276

Artists Exhibited

\$28,600

In Artist Awards Given

21

Private Lessons Provided

465

Works Shown

22

Community Events

261

Open Darkroom Sessions

40

**States Represented
(+ Washington D.C.)**

4

School & Educator Visits

40

Courses & Workshops

8

Countries Represented

2

Books Released

6

**Visiting Artist Workshops
(plus 9 public demonstrations)**

19

Colleges and Universities Represented

1

**National Award
(60th Annual Graphic Design USA)**

Where making and public experience converge

The historic museum-school format for visual arts institutions focused on preservation, documentation, and education has faded from the national arts ecosystem. Evidence of the loss of this symbiosis is all around us. Yet there remains a strong demand for such an immersive, holistic arts vision.

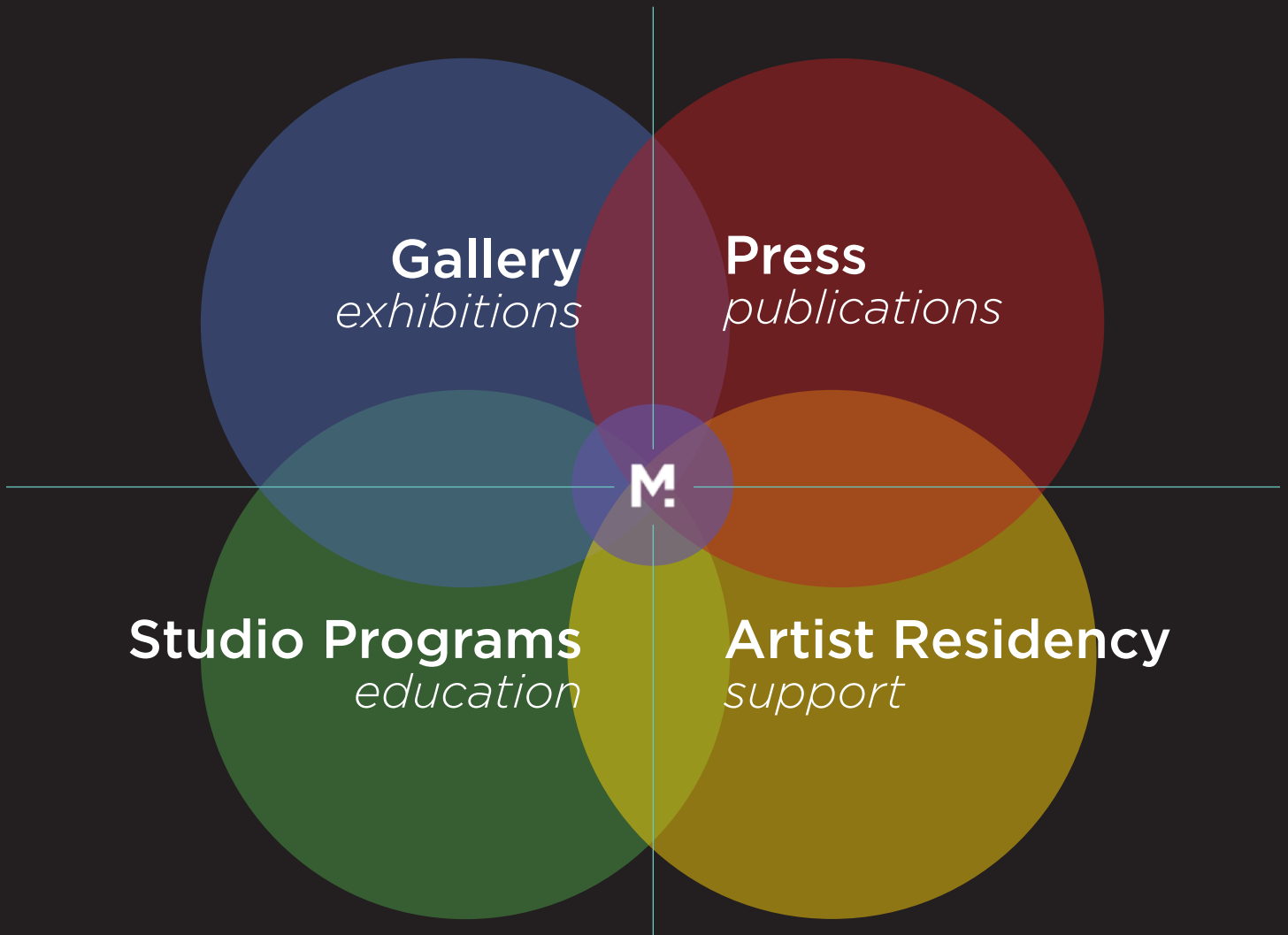
Through the fusing of its nationally-recognized exhibition program with its rigorous expert-led academic studio curriculum, Manifest has evolved into an institution where the two halves re-emerge in seamless balance anchored by a platform supporting sustained creative practice.

**A sanctuary for the practice, study and experience of the visual arts —
a spectrum of engagement.**



The Fusion of Four Components

Manifest represents a seamless, comprehensive, and socially impactful creative engine by bringing students, working artists, and a diverse public together through dynamically interrelated exhibits, publications, studio programs, and artist residency, centered on the visual arts.



A Beacon to Artists, In Dialog with the World

Bringing emerging and established artists together from near and far, deepening their connection to each other across the world, and enhancing the cultural richness, awareness, and relevance of the Cincinnati community.



Countries represented by artists engaging with Manifest projects (over 90 countries and all 50 states).

A Compelling Reach: Exhibits & Publications*

Across two decades of exhibitions and publications Manifest has maintained an international reputation for a consistency of excellence unlike any other arts institution. Our commitment to take a stand for the importance of quality has become a beacon that draws artists to Cincinnati from around the world.

500 *exhibits*

50 *states*

38 *major publications*

10,775 *works*

48 *countries*

74 *exhibit catalogs*

4,258 *artists*

90,000+ *viewers*

7 *Independent Publisher Awards*

232 *academic institutions represented by student work*

** these statistics are as of fall 2024 and the start of season 21*



A Compelling Benefit: Education & Support

The **Drawing Center** promotes visual art as a transformative practice by providing programs focused on developing visual literacy, critical thinking, hand skills, and aspirational practice. The **Artist Residency** supports artists in making art and engaging the public by providing a free studio space and supportive environment for meaningful career impacting growth.

6,000 *participants/yr*

150+ *mile radius*

8 to 83 *age range*

30 *resident artists from*

Alabama, California, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky,
Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota,
New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee,
Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming,
(+ Alberta, Canada)



“The research that I’ve done in my time at Manifest would not have been able to happen without the Manifest staff. With their support, encouragement, and guidance, they have helped me more than they probably know. Manifest classes allowed me to grow closer with participants as well as instructors. This whole experience has been new, exciting, and terrifying all at the same time and their conversations and camaraderie have helped keep me fresh in my work and an artist community.”

— Ed Erdmann (Winona, Minnesota)
MAR 2021-22 residency reflection

MANIFEST emerges

Manifest is in the midst of a transformational \$8M campaign to catalyze its twenty-year emergence as a keystone arts institution in the region, and to embrace the full potential of its mission representing an intense but nimble intersection of the best of what the visual arts has to offer society. This vision will be realized in three important ways:

FACILITY



Unify two locations into one permanent comprehensive facility:
The Manifest Center for the Visual Arts.

PROGRAMS



Expand depth and reach of public programming, and capacity of expert staff to maintain holistic and organic growth.

OPPORTUNITY



Support innovation and sustainability, ensuring Manifest retains its nimbleness for future generations.



THE MANIFEST CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

MANIFEST

Coming Home

A Sanctuary for Creativity and Learning

A community-inspired campus, where a comprehensive visual arts experience comes to life through study, practice, experience, camaraderie, mentorship, and contemplation.

Manifest recently purchased its permanent home (M1):

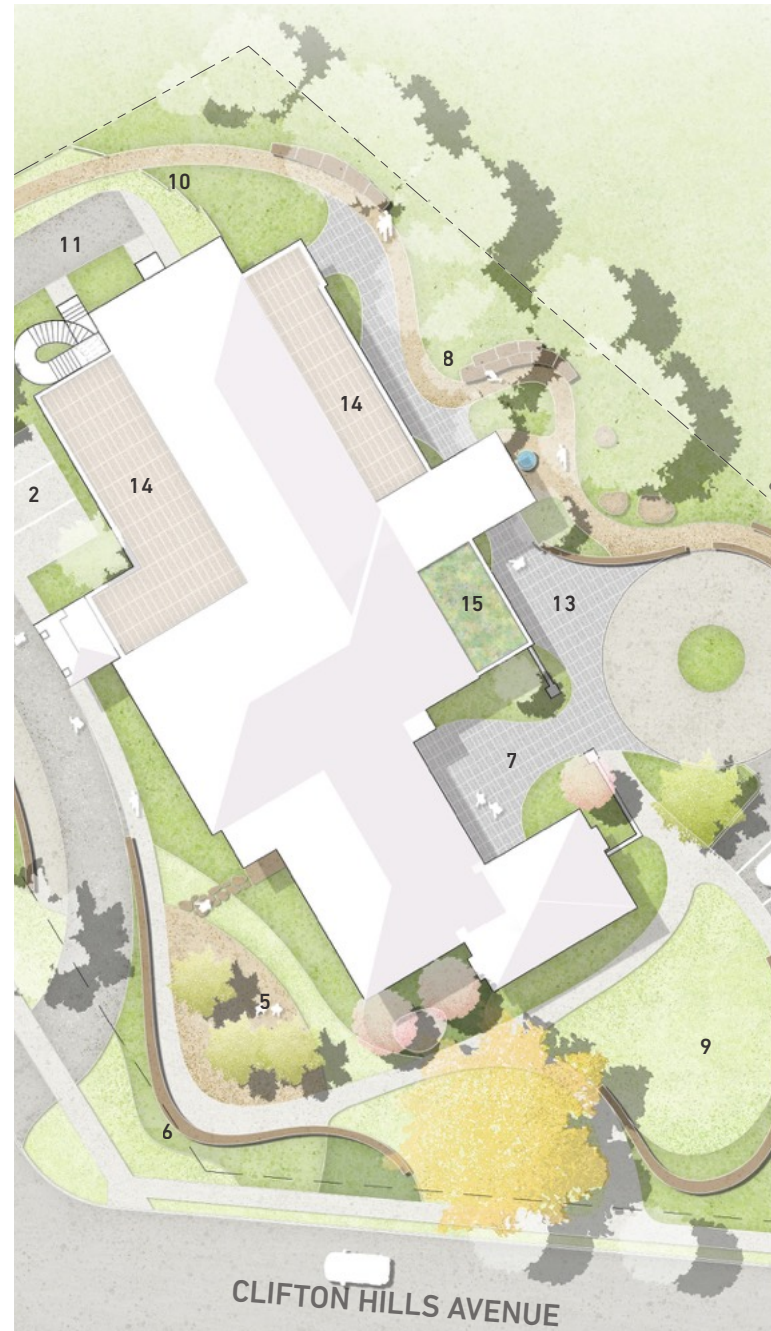
- Preserving an iconic French Normandy style 1932 historic 15,000 square foot property on Central Parkway.
- Future home of an emerging keystone institution—**the Manifest Center for the Visual Arts.**
- To achieve a resounding and magnifying synergy by bringing the exhibition and educational studio programs together under one roof.



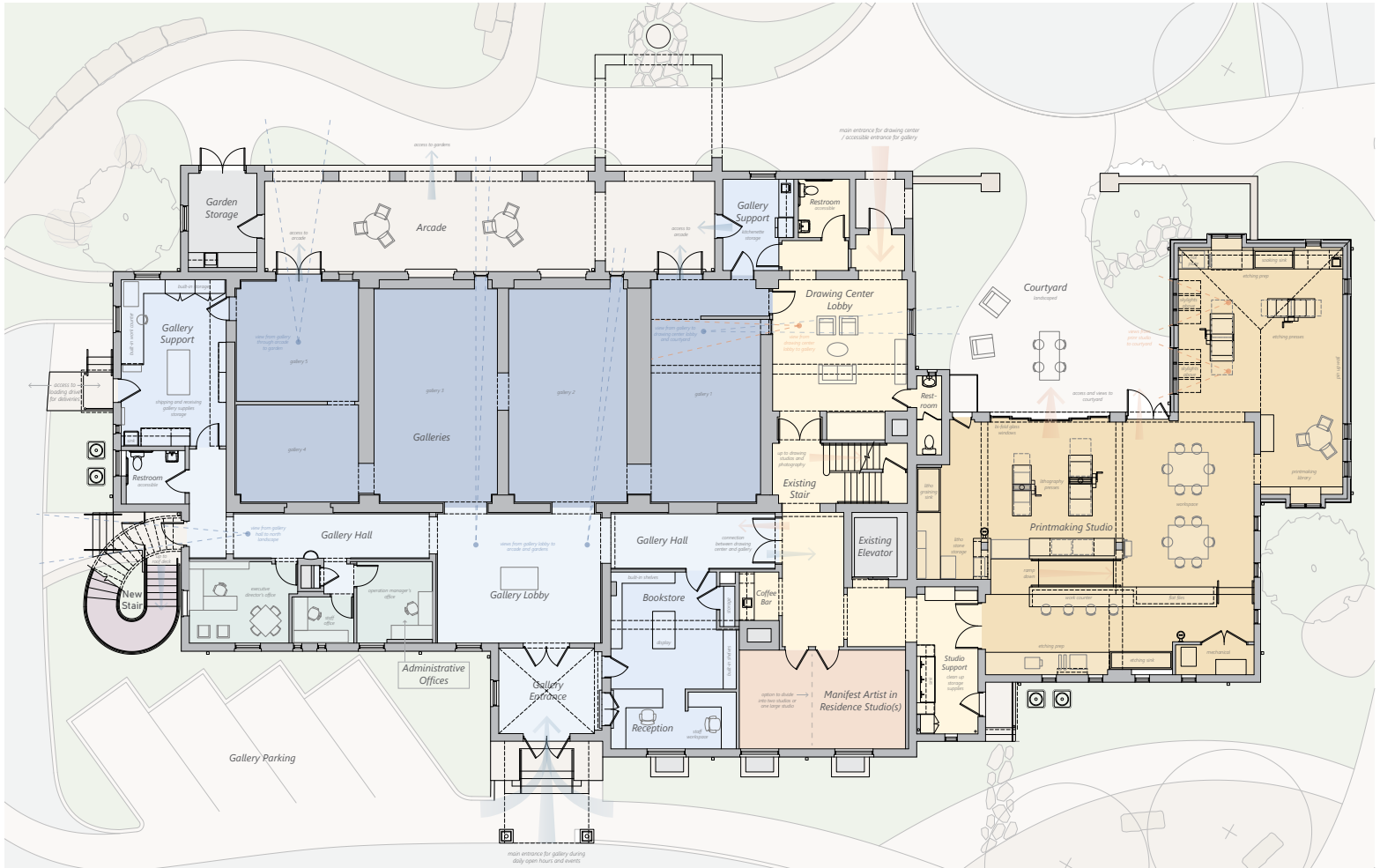
Under One Roof

Key Features:

- 15,000 square feet of interior space.
- Multipurpose classrooms/artist residency studios.
- 1-acre site including designed gardens for activities, public experience, and outdoor sculpture.
- Two rooftop studio terraces for classes, study space, and public receptions.
- New 2,000 sq. ft printmaking studio, adding a catalyzing program element.
- Expanded darkroom.
- Bookstore and Art Economy Lab supporting local artists and promoting public collection.
- Expansive reference library and reading spaces.

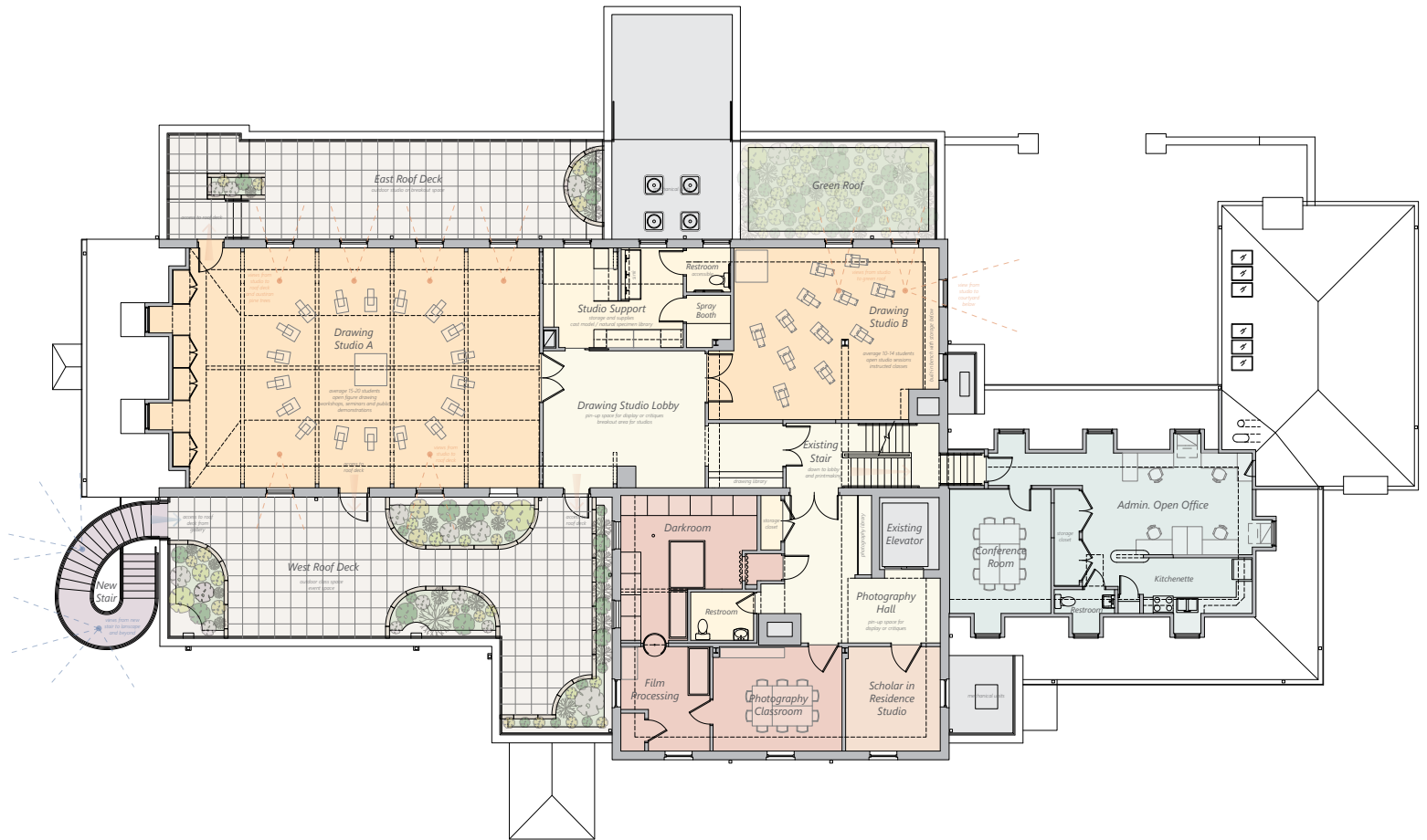


M1 - Floor 1



- Experiential zones (Galleries, Bookstore/Art Economy Lab)
- Study & Practice zones (Studios, Library)

M1 - Floor 2



Crossover zones (Roof Decks are both public and studio oriented)



Study & Practice zones (Studios, Darkroom, Library)

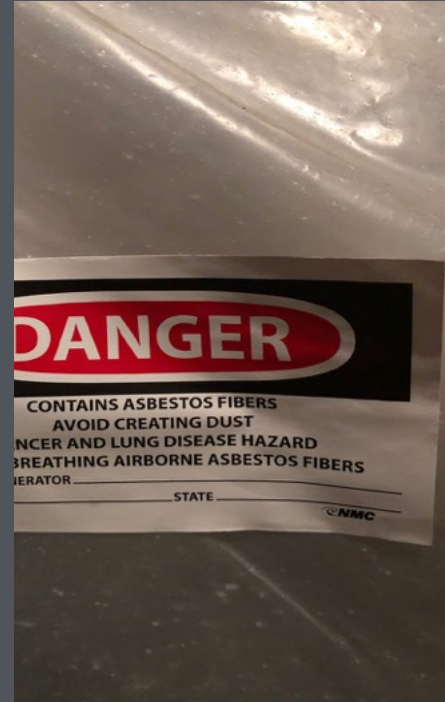
URGENCY AND RISK

- Construction on Phase Two needs to begin by fall 2025 in order to keep the project on track and Manifest in its home. Time remains of paramount importance.
- Manifest currently operates under a time-limited, City-issued temporary occupancy permit. If the full project is not completed on schedule, the organization faces significant risk to its programs and long-term stability.
- In 3 years of expanding operations on-site, Manifest has proven its ability to scale the benefits of programming, and the community has responded. Attendance in Drawing Center programs doubled in the first year alone, and reached well over 15,000 participants since fall 2022.



URGENCY AND RISK

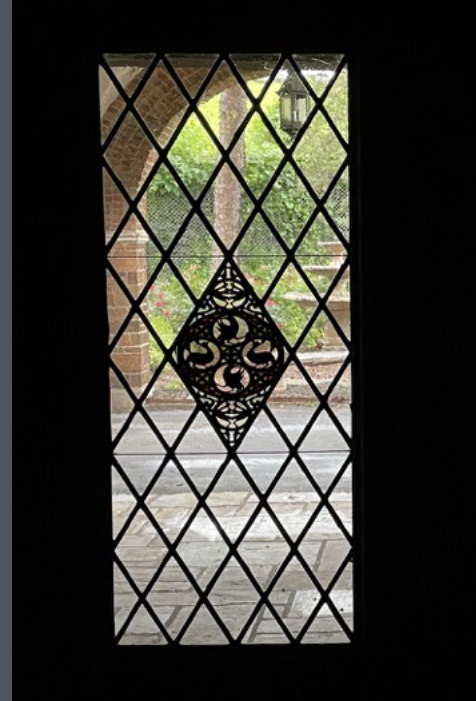
- There are dangerous, unsafe conditions that need to be addressed immediately.
- The boiler is wrapped in plastic to prevent exposure to asbestos fibers and other hazardous materials.
- The steam heat system is original to the building, and is failing rapidly.
- Most of the building's spaces lack any form of air conditioning.
- The lease for Manifest Gallery on Woodburn Avenue expired on 1-1-2025. To maintain exhibit programming during this transitional period we were forced to renew the lease on a short term basis resulting in the more than doubling of our rent.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

saving a work of art to make a home for creativity

- The historic slate and copper roof is critical to the role this iconic building plays in the community, but it is in desperate need of repairs which are costly.
- Original leaded glass windows provide a magical natural light through wavy glass imported from Europe in 1932. Our goal is to retain the special role these windows play in the visitor's experience both inside and out, and further preserve the historical characteristics of the building for future generations.
- Stone, metal, and brickwork have suffered from erosion, and urgently require restoration for safety, sustainability, and aesthetic impact.



PHASE ONE

With the campaign now surpassing 50% of its goal, Manifest has been able to begin the first phase of construction in spring 2025. This phase focuses on securing the building by making it watertight, expanding parking, addressing primary accessibility needs, and repurposing space to establish the new Manifest Printmaking Wing. These improvements allow for a significant early expansion of public programming.

PHASE TWO

Phase Two is critical. It will realize the Campaign's core objective: uniting all of Manifest's programs under one roof. This move is not just a milestone—it's a *necessity* for long-term sustainability, creative expansion, and deeper community engagement. To avoid costly delays and protect vital programs, construction on this phase must begin by late 2025. Reaching the \$8 million goal soon will allow progress to continue without interruption—and ensure that Manifest's transformative vision becomes reality.

WHAT IS NEXT

- Replace the failing boiler system with energy-efficient heating and cooling, establishing full building air conditioning.
- Restore key historic windows and improve overall energy efficiency.
- Build out the Manifest galleries, establishing the permanent home of the Neighborhood Gallery for the World.
- Expand drawing studios, allowing for double the number of programs.
- Finalize compliance with city code, including accessible restrooms, fire and security systems, and improved parking. And much more!



THE MANIFEST CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

PROGRAMS

New & Expanded Programs

Manifest is nimble, able to explore a healthy variety of themes and approaches to its program offerings.

With the new facility comes the opportunity for greatly expanded engagement, programming and community impact:

- With more space for studios, 60% more exhibit space, ample on-site parking, a new printmaking studio, and an expanded darkroom, Manifest will double its number of participants within the first two years after project completion.
- A new printmaking program will add a catalyzing element in dynamic and complementary relation with drawing, painting, and photography, further empowering artist development and public engagement.
- Larger studios and creative integration with other programs, along with competitive compensation for teaching artists, and financial support for artists in residence means Manifest will attract an even wider pool of talent from across the nation.





THE MANIFEST CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

OPPORTUNITY

Opportunity & Sustainability

Supporting the organization's ability to explore, create, and act on important partnerships with a sturdy financial foundation.

As a nonprofit arts organization, Manifest stands by its formation **as a work of art** by artists, for artists, for the public. As such, a foundation with a certain amount of variability and flexibility with creative tools and funding available at the ready is critical to maintaining the lively development of future programs as opportunities arise.

For example...

- Spontaneous educational partnerships with local and national colleges and high schools, and regional cultural institutions.
- Producing outdoor site-specific installations.
- Producing high level exhibits of works by historically relevant artists.
- Creating community-impacting programs that are timely and timeless.



How Can You Help?

We're grateful for the opportunity to share this overview of the plans for the emergence of **the Manifest Center for the Visual Arts**—a national sanctuary for practice, learning, and experience.

With the help of those who know Manifest's value, and who care about its evolution, this momentous project will cement a keystone for the arts in the region, establish a new cultural anchor and dynamic campus on Central Parkway, and extend Manifest's two-decade legacy championing visual literacy, critical thinking, and skill development for all.



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