

*A Neighborhood Gallery for the World*

*"This was one of my favorite drawing experiences. I loved the atmosphere, teacher, size, and content of the class!"*  
Sydney Lister, Drawing Camp 2011 Participant and High School Senior at Walnut Hills High School

September 21, 2011

Dear Friend of Manifest,

Everyone needs it. But it is easy to misunderstand or even discount as a frivolous luxury. Throughout history, the arts have served as the pulse of civilization. In the big picture, looking across eons, our humanity is intertwined with our visual expression. This to such a degree that now we find it hard to see, to recognize as an aspect of our collective self. Like wholesome food, art is a staple of a healthy society. But it is awfully easy to opt for fast food and a quick fix—to not take our vitamins or to exercise our brains, our bodies, our hearts.

At Manifest we believe in the importance of visual art to individuals and to society. Because of this, we persist, championing a stand for quality and excellence in visual arts and in the public encounter with inspired creativity. We remain focused and clear in our goal to do this in three distinct ways. Our educational studio programs, gallery exhibits, and publications all serve as strategies for generating inspired connections and experiences. Through these, Manifest brings artists, art, and the public together in meaningful ways.

In its seven years, Manifest has built a national reputation in the visual arts. At the College Art Association conference's book and trade fair in NYC this year we met scores of people from across the U.S. who greeted us with warmth, exclaiming how happy they were to see us there and how much they love what we're doing. Manifest has become an ambassador to the world for our city and for the artists who share their work here. At the same time, we have served thousands of people directly in our neighborhood and region, providing a real place for the first-hand experience of creativity and by bringing the world to them, one work of art at a time.

Each year our members provide about 10% of our operating budget. This past season we increased our membership list by 55% to nearly 170 supporting individuals whose average donation was \$85. These generous people represented seventeen different states and four foreign countries! In order to continue strengthening Manifest's role in our city and in the world we will rely on more of this kind of support. Not only does it provide a financial boost, it also symbolizes the public approval of and investment in Manifest as a valued 501(c)(3) non-profit serving a broad community. We have much to do in the coming year, including the continuation of a few major facility projects. And, as you will see in the enclosed information, we have a very exciting season of exhibits planned. Manifest is hitting on all cylinders, but only because we have the help of generous donors, members, and enthusiastic artists reinforcing our existence. We need help to sustain our presence and secure our programming in good form moving forward.

I hope you will agree that our mission and track record merit your support. 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, even in challenging financial times, our society cannot remain whole without creativity.

We need your support. Please let us know you want Manifest to continue offering the kinds of exhibits and programs seen in our first seven seasons by becoming a member and encouraging others to do so as well. Enclosed you will find information on how to contribute as well as options for membership. Any amount of donation will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

We look forward to seeing you at the gallery!

Sincerely,



Jason Franz, Executive Director