

# We Need Your Help.

Here's the truth: Rising costs in a post-COVID environment mean we rely more than ever on your support. The transformative work we do is made possible only through your generosity.

Help us continue revitalizing Northeast Lincoln through the arts and the Uni Place Creative District. Help us sustain a diverse offering of art classes for families and provide access to the arts for historically excluded communities. And finally, help us continue to support artists—creatively and financially.

*Make a gift today.*

We depend on you. Will you become a member of the LUX this season, or consider making a gift? Even better, a recurring monthly donation would support our efforts year-round. This work doesn't happen without YOU.

*With heartfelt gratitude,  
Joe Shaw  
Executive Director*

**Make a gift to support the programs of the LUX today!**



Scan the QR Code or visit [www.luxcenter.org/annualgiving](http://www.luxcenter.org/annualgiving)

## Young Artist Thrives Through LUX Art Scholarship: Rakeb Shimeles Shares Her Journey

LUX Art Scholar, Rakeb Shimeles, a 12-year-old artist with a passion for creative expression, received a scholarship when she was six years old. Through the LUX Art Scholar program, Rakeb was able to explore various art forms and immerse herself in a community of like-minded individuals.

Rakeb shared that the freedom to express herself is a key part of what draws her to art, as she primarily focuses on drawing people and objects.

*"It means that I have more opportunities to explore my artistic skills and I'm involved in a community that relates to my passions,"* Rakeb told us.

Rakeb's six-year journey with the LUX has shaped her both as an artist and as a person. One of her favorite experiences has been printmaking. "I really enjoyed being able to carve the block because the feeling was very therapeutic," she explained. Her passion for this particular medium became evident when she found herself teaching others how to use the ink press just two weeks into a printmaking class—a proud moment for the young artist.

For Rakeb, art is more than just a hobby—it's a part of her future. "Definitely, because it's a way to enjoy myself and entertain myself, so it'll definitely be something that I will keep in my future," she said, confidently envisioning a life where art continues to play a central role.

Rakeb, who is entering 7th grade at Lefler Middle School, is not only a dedicated artist but also an active student council member, viola player in the orchestra, and dancer, participating in ballet, tap, and jazz. Her well-rounded involvement in both the arts and school leadership speaks to her drive and commitment.

"Rakeb has been an integral part of our arts scholar program for the past six years," said Destiny Felder, Education Specialist at LUX. *"Her passion and dedication have led her to find printmaking as her preferred medium for learning and self-expression. She has not only grown personally and professionally but has significantly enriched the LUX community by becoming a respected and influential figure."*

As Rakeb continues to grow within the LUX community, she hopes to one day become a LUX Instructor or Intern, continuing to share her knowledge and inspire the next generation of artists. With her enthusiasm, talent, and dedication, her future in the arts looks bright.



# Creating a community of creativity.



**Annual Report**  
2023-2024

# Your support brings inspiration, creativity, and hands-on art experiences to Lincoln.

Dear LUX Friend, thanks to you, the LUX Center for the Arts has experienced a phenomenal year of growth and transformation. Your support has brought inspiration, creativity, and hands-on art experiences to the people of Lincoln and Lancaster County, and we are deeply grateful.

With your help, we've provided exceptional arts education to Lincoln's families, adults, and children. You've also opened the door to first-time art experiences for refugees and immigrants, broadening the cultural horizons of our community.

Because of your contributions, we hosted thought-provoking exhibitions and welcomed a new cohort of talented Artists-in-Residence. Your generosity also made possible exciting public art projects, including three new murals in the Uni Place Creative District, all aimed at nurturing a vibrant culture of creativity in our neighborhood and city.



## Mural Projects

In 2023-24, we proudly added **three new murals** during the EMERGE LNK Street Arts Festival in September. These included a mural by Uni Place artist Susie Shepherd, created in collaboration with NeighborWorks Lincoln and sponsored by the NEA. We also unveiled a mural by artist Sarah Rowe across from the LUX, and another by artist Wes Staley, commemorating the 30th anniversary of Brandon Teena's tragic death. Wes was selected through an open call for LGBTQ+ artists.

Additionally, we collaborated with Visit Lincoln and the International Quilt Museum to create a mural now installed at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Your support makes art happen. Please consider making a gift to the LUX today.



## Exhibitions

This past year, we welcomed 11,097 visitors, with 7,122 experiencing our exhibitions. We hosted **21 exhibitions** in 2023-24, including three in the LUX Print Gallery. Our Community Gallery featured works from local art groups, while our East and West Galleries showcased 12 exhibitions by artists such as Elaine Buss, Madison Svengard, Thomas Coffey, Toan Young, Christopher Williams, Barbara Greving, and TJ Templeton. Special recognition goes to Sweet Fields/Campos Dulces by artist Jonathan Christensen Caballero, which honors the resilience of the Latin American community. As Jonathan describes:

*"This show represents the strong will of the Latin American community to work for a better life for their families and themselves... It is a moral imperative that our bodies aren't solely destined for labor but also for love, joy, and acceptance."*



## Education

Our education programs served **2,275 students** in 2023-24, with approximately 1,400 children and the remainder adults. We offered 303 classes, held 241, and 151 of them sold out—an impressive 63% reached full capacity.

This year, we welcomed four new Artists-in-Residence, while the 2023-24 cohort concluded their term in June. Through our United Way-Nebraska Arts Council outreach program, we served 157 children, and an additional 611 children and adults through partnerships with community organizations like Family Literacy Lincoln. Our collaboration with Lincoln Public Schools' Family Literacy Program has been especially impactful, fostering meaningful connections with families, many of whom are new to our country. A program administrator shared:

*"The partnership between the LUX and our Family Literacy Program has quickly become one of the most meaningful ways in which our newest Americans engage with their new community and home."*

We extend our deepest thanks for making these incredible art experiences possible.

**11,097**

Total Visitors

**2,275**

Total Students Served

**768**

Total Outreach Students Served

**157**

Students Served in United Way Program

**611**

Students served in Other Outreach Programs

**330**

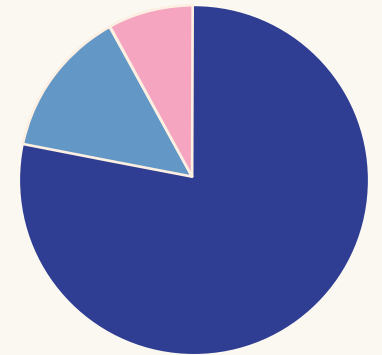
Art Classes Offered

**151**

Sold Out Classes

**21**

Exhibitions



Total Expenses FY 23/24: \$963,014

Program Services: 76.5%

Management: 14%

Fundraising: 8%

A Year of Impact