



*Art comes alive  
daily at LUX!*



**2024-2025 Impact Report**



## Dear Friends,

You have made this another extraordinary year for LUX Center for the Arts.

In classrooms and galleries, on neighborhood walls, and across our community, your support for the power of creativity has made it possible for art to flourish—and for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience its impact.

Over the past year, we've welcomed more than 10,000 visitors, served thousands of students, and brought new murals and exhibitions to life. We've deepened our partnerships in schools and neighborhoods, and we've seen firsthand how art can build confidence, connection, and opportunity.

**Front Cover:** Painted brick from our 'Decorate Your Stonewall Brick Workshop' in May 2025.

### **It doesn't happen without you.**

Over the last decade, we've built momentum—growing our reach, deepening our impact, and igniting creativity across Lincoln. As our 50th anniversary approaches in 2027, we stand at the threshold of our most inspiring chapter yet.

The LUX is not just a place to make and enjoy art—it's a place where lives are changed through creative expression, learning, and a sense of belonging.

Thank you for being part of this thriving artistic community. We are grateful to you for making the arts come alive daily in Lincoln.

 Joe Shaw,  
Executive Director



Summer Camp Instructors & Interns



Lincoln NAACP Youth Council at the Black History Month Celebration



## Arts Education & Community Outreach

At LUX, every class begins with possibility. **In 2024-25, that spark reached 2,176 students**—from first-time painters to lifelong makers—through tuition-based classes, hands-on workshops, and summer camps in our four bustling studios.

Our nationally selected **Artists-in-Residence** brought fresh ideas and professional expertise into the mix, leading **71 of our 286 classes** and providing **one in every four hours of instruction**. More than teachers, they are mentors and creative leaders who model what's possible when art meets dedication.

Beyond our walls, the **United Way outreach program**—now in its seventeenth year—delivered **71 free art classes to 125 children** at four Title I elementary schools, ensuring creativity reaches every corner of our community. And nearly **60 scholarships** helped open doors for youth and adults alike, including the **Art Scholar Program**, which in its eighth year provided support for up to 52 Title I students to discover the joy of making art.

## LUX Member Spotlight: Sally Herrin

Sally Herrin first came to LUX to see her friend Brad Krieger's artwork and later joined her pal Bob Koza for a Tuesday night figure drawing class. She was instantly hooked. Encouraged by instructor Nathan Murray in both drawing and ceramics, Sally found her way back to making art—a passion she first discovered as a girl through classes at the Toledo Museum of Art.

A writer by profession with national and state awards for her fiction, Sally has embraced LUX as a place to reconnect with her creative roots. She has taken figure drawing and clay classes, launching a personal project inspired by prehistoric Aegean figures. **“The LUX welcomes everyone,” she says. “It’s affordable, accessible, and joyful—I can forget I’m in a wheelchair and just be an artist.”**

Her commitment extends beyond her own practice: seeing the impact on children, Sally began gifting family memberships to friends so their kids could experience LUX classes. For her, LUX is more than an arts center — it’s a community where creativity is shared and nurtured.



In her words...Three words to describe LUX:

*Accessible. Arts-driven. Affordable.*

How LUX makes her feel:

*Joyful and energized.*



## Exhibitions & Visitor Impact

Our galleries provide free access to exceptional art from local, regional, national, and international creators. In 2024-25, the West and East Galleries presented a diverse range of professional artists, including Larry Roots, Maggy Hiltner, Joseph Cavalieri, and Chanakarn Semanchai, alongside our Artists-in-Residence Jewelya Coffey, Madison Svendgard, Hannah Faas, and Stacy Larson. **Nearly 6,500 visitors experienced exhibitions at the LUX this year.**

The Community Gallery remains a vibrant space dedicated to expanding opportunities for community-based artists. This year Live Yes Studios Group Exhibition celebrated differently abled artists, Fiber Works and the Lincoln Modern Quilt Guild

brought fiber arts into focus, and the joyful creations of Lincoln Public Schools' Art Mentor students lit up the spring season.

### *Coming up at LUX*

Gifted—November/December 2025

LUX Fellows Clay Show—December/January 2026

LUXe Art Auction and Party—April 17, 2026

Matthew Sontheimer—Spring 2026

Gretchen Larsen—Spring 2026

Surface Impressions—Summer 2026

David Routon—Fall 2026



# LUX Print Collection

The LUX Print Museum preserves nearly 500 master prints gifted by Gladys Lux in 1997. In 2024–25, four curated exhibitions were presented in the Gladys Lux Historical Gallery: *Come Up and See Our Etchings*, *A Perfect Day*, *Scenes of Real Life*, and *Urban Encounter*.

Curator Susan Soriente—supported in part by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation—oversees the collection and organizes exhibitions. The museum also collaborates with Nebraska Wesleyan University Art History students, who visit to study Renaissance prints and Japanese woodblock prints.



Left to Right: Maddie Hinrichs, Hannah Demma, Emily Palmer



Susan Soriente



Chloe Burgett's Mural at the South Branch Library



Left to Right: Joe Shaw, Chloe Burgett



Uni Place Creative District's Maker's Market



# Public Art & Mural Projects

In 2024–25, we continued to transform Lincoln’s public spaces with vibrant, community-centered art that tells stories, celebrates identity, and fosters connection.

Highlights included a new mural by artist **Chloe Burgett** at the South Street Branch of Lincoln City Libraries, adding to the city’s growing public art identity. We also hosted the third biennial **Surface Impressions** exhibition, a juried international printmaking show featuring 75 large-scale prints. Nine selected artists—**Margaret Berry, Patrick Casey, Oria Simonini, Anne Burton, Peggy Gomez, Danny Reneau, Lindsey Weber, Santiago Cal, and Hannah Demma**—expanded the exhibition’s reach with a collaborative wheat-paste mural series installed at four sites: LUX, Constellation Studios, Open Harvest Grocery and Hub Café.

Themes of inclusion, identity, and neighborhood revitalization remained central to our work. In the Uni Place Creative District, the Maker’s Market became a hub for local artists and small businesses, and the Creative District achieved 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in 2025—paving the way for deeper partnerships and long-term sustainability.

Public art is increasingly shaping Lincoln’s future. The City’s new **University Place Subarea Plan** includes infrastructure investments that recognize the arts as a driver of community development.

In recognition of our impact, LUX received the **Tom Lorenz Tourism Development Award**, honoring our role in engaging residents and visitors while enriching Lincoln’s cultural life.



Left to Right: Santiago Cal, Lindsey Weber, Danny Reneau, Anne Burton, Karen Kune, Joe Shaw, Margaret Berry, Patrick Casey, Peggy Gomez

# Philanthropy & Support

Gifts to LUX are investments in creativity, connection, and community. In 2024-25, we received transformative contributions that will help sustain and grow our mission for years to come.

## Introducing the LUX Next 50 Fund

*Investing in the next 50 years of creativity*

A generous gift established the LUX Next 50 Fund, a bold new initiative to ensure the future of exhibitions, residencies, and arts education at LUX. This fund provides permanent support so the next generation can discover, create, and connect through art.



## Honoring a Legacy Through Art

We are grateful to Kendra Angle for her \$25,000 gift in memory of her parents, Mark and Phyllis Allen of Barre, Massachusetts. Lifelong creatives, the Allens believed in the power of art to bring people together. Kendra's gift supports scholarships and inclusive art education—especially for young artists with special needs.

"Expressions of Art and Hope has been such a gift. It gave me a chance to connect with others who share the cancer journey, while also discovering the joy of creating art. **The friendships and support I've found here are just as healing as the art itself.**"

– LUX Student

"I became a member because I love discovering new artists and supporting them by collecting their work. One of the highlights for me was purchasing a piece from an Artist-in-Residence class I had taken. It made the experience even more meaningful. In the classes I have taken, you not only learn new techniques but connect with others. Every time I walk into a classroom, it feels like I'm among friends. **That sense of community is what makes LUX so special.**"

- Cristy Joy, LUX Member

"When I first signed up for a class at LUX, I was a little intimidated—I didn't know who my classmates would be and worried about being alongside professional artists. **But I quickly discovered how supportive and welcoming it is here.** The LUX is truly the least intimidating place to try something new and creative."

- Nancy Gade, LUX Student

"When I was in high school (a country boy), there were no places like the LUX. **I want kids and families to have the artmaking opportunities I didn't have.** Art classes and instructors have opened many doors for me, but I wish it had happened earlier in my life. We need community support to keep the LUX and artmaking going."

- Todd Cuddy, LUX Member

"**Family Literacy classes empower new immigrant and refugee families to navigate their communities, connect to resources, and thrive.**"

- Family Literacy Participant

**Words  
from our  
Community!**



## **Art is not a luxury.** *It is a necessity.*

From the first cave paintings to today's murals and digital creations, art has always been humanity's way of making sense of the world. It gives voice to the voiceless, form to the invisible, and hope in the face of uncertainty.

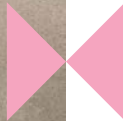
Art heals. It soothes trauma, sparks resilience, and brings people together when words fall short. It also challenges. It confronts injustice, stirs empathy, and helps us imagine a better future. Without art, we stagnate. With it, we thrive.

At LUX, we ensure that art is not reserved for a few—it belongs to everyone. Through classes, exhibitions, public art, and artist residencies, we connect thousands of people each year with the power of creativity.

But this work is only possible with your support. Your gift sustains the art that sustains us all—keeping it alive, accessible, and transformative for our community.

Stand with us. Invest in art. Invest in life.

**Give to LUX today.**



## Free Gift for Sustaining Donors!

**Become a sustaining donor and receive an exclusive Gladys Lux inspired tote bag as a token of our appreciation!**

Monthly gifts of \$20 or more qualify. Sign up for recurring donations online by scanning the QR code:



### *Questions About Your Giving?*

If you have questions about your donation or would like to discuss legacy giving, please contact Michele Peón Casanova, Development Manager, at [michele@luxcenter.org](mailto:michele@luxcenter.org).

## 2024-2025 LUX Board of Directors

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Surface Impressions: International Juried Print Exhibition

## The Arts Need Us—Now More Than Ever

Public support for the arts is under threat—and those impacts are being felt right here in Lincoln. At LUX, every day we see how art creates joy, builds community, and transforms lives. From free community programs and youth classes to exhibitions that spark dialogue and inspiration, your support makes it all possible.

### *Be Part of What's Next*

Every gift—large or small—helps LUX offer transformative arts experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds. One of the most effective and meaningful ways to support our mission is through a recurring monthly donation.

Monthly gifts provide reliable funding that helps us plan, expand programs, and respond to community needs with creativity and care. Make a deeper, sustainable impact with a recurring monthly donation.

Whether you support scholarships, exhibitions, or inclusive education, your ongoing generosity fuels the future of the arts in Lincoln.

**Join us as we build the Next 50 years of the LUX—together.**



2025 LUX Art Scholars



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