

Louisville Visual Art

Arts Programming Overview + Teaching Artist(s) Bio

Programming

LVA offers OST education and other art-centered programs for youth at 35-40 locations annually; in-school programs at 15-20 schools and sites. These include JCPS schools, private and parochial schools, colleges/universities, community centers, churches, partner non-profits, and more.

Adult programs occur almost entirely off-site, engaging close to 100 locations each year. These include artists' studios, public mural sites, exhibition venues such as Metro Hall, AC Hotel, the Humana Building, and 21C Hotel, Art Sanctuary, the UofL Cressman Center, the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, and many others.

LVA serves close to 10,000 people each year with direct countable participation. When public artworks and online/broadcast engagement are factored in, the number is well over 100,000.

LVA Youth Education serves approximately 3000 students in grades 4-12 each year. The balance of participation with our programs includes all ages, with rapid growth among 22-35-year olds.

Teaching Artist(s) Bios(s)

Annette Cable, Education Director. Annette Cable grew up near Columbus, Ohio and graduated from the Columbus College of Art and Design. As an illustrator, she has worked for commercial clients all around the country, including having illustrated 20 children's picture books to date. She has worked for LVA off and on for many years as a CFAC teacher, Open Doors teacher, and Summer Camp coordinator and teacher. Annette currently works extensively with OST and in-school art education offerings for youth, including Spring Break and Summer Art Camps. She hires and manages all teaching artists in these programs, and still sometimes leads sessions herself.

Desmone Stepp, Outreach Coordinator. Desmone is a recent graduate from the University of Louisville, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Art with a minor in Psychology. Her artwork consists of oil paintings and charcoal drawings that express the beauty of Black women and Mother Nature. Desmone has a background in bringing stress resilience and coping skills to her community in the form of mindfulness and meditation, working 2-years as a Health Advocate Leader for UofL's Health Promotion Department. In this space, she learned to use art as a means for creating loving and rejuvenating atmospheres for others, as well as herself. As a Health Advocate Leader, Desmone also worked in outreach, organizing and facilitating workshops that connected the campus community. She has also worked as an artist and

volunteer with the Healing Walls Project, an organization of BIPOC artists who travel across the United States promoting healing and justice, for those who have been marginalized and oppressed, through the use of public art. Recently graduated from the University of Louisville with a Bachelors in Visual Art, Desmone is program lead for the Mural Art Program and Local Muse, and is stepping into a leadership role with Open Doors (mostly in-school youth art education).

Keith Waits, Operations and Gallery Director. Keith was born and raised in Louisville, and first worked for LVA in the late 1980s. After a time away from Louisville, Keith returned to his home city and joined LVA's staff as Facility Manager in 2006. He now manages the day-to-day operations of LVA gallery. Keith studied Fine Art at three institutions of higher learning, including the Louisville School of Art. He has also been involved with Walden Theatre, including support work in set design and construction and management of a visual art exhibition space at the Theatre. Keith has also worked professionally as a Manager and Purchaser in retail bookselling. In addition to his work at LVA, Keith is also the Managing Editor of www.arts-louisville.com, which covers visual arts, theatre, and music in Louisville.

Artistic Content of Programming

LVA's art- and artist-focused programs continue to grow in scope and evolve in response to community needs. Open Studio Louisville (OSL) showcases Louisville-area artists' work spaces, shining a light on processes & inspiration that often remain hidden. Formerly a single weekend, OSL is now two consecutive Saturdays in October, a format change well received by participating artists & visitors. The art[squared] exhibit & auction involves 275+ artists at all career stages, & many report that the new online auction format has helped them promote their work. Our Curate/Purchase/Inspire initiative will select local curators to work with an area nonprofit to select artwork by (a) local artist(s) for installation in the nonprofit's publicly accessible space. The Free Wall, established in summer 2021, is an incubator for local muralists to develop skills, refine ideas, or create full scale works for self-promotion. The Local Muse secures booth space for emerging Louisville artists at local art fairs. PACE-Artist Catalyst program lead artist, Jaylin Stewart, worked with the California community center on a mural project & series of workshops. The LVA Honors continue to celebrate achievements of local artists; and exhibits at Metro Hall, AC Hotel Nulu & the Humana building show their work.

Recently LVA's outcome assessment efforts have been enhanced by new data collection and analysis tools and processes, including an expansion of our use of online follow-on surveys, coupled with a revision of the forms themselves, which are often paired with pre-participation surveys. Now, beyond seeing overall rates of satisfaction in a large program like Children's Fine Art Classes, we can zero in on exactly which classes score lower on certain measures, improving the efficiency of our efforts to improve. Criteria for success are evolving with this enlarged data collection project, but currently include 85%+ positive responses on follow-on surveys, increased retention and return participation in persistent programs, year-on-year participation increases in established programs, and increased representation of diversity in any programs where the demographic mix does not equitably reflect the demographic mix of Greater Louisville. All LVA staff are involved in assessment of programs for which they have primary

responsibility, and the Executive Director is involved in assessment of all programs. Board members participate in assessment of programs/offerings when they are directly involved in planning and delivery, and also when a program is of particular importance to the mission of the organization, such as our youth art education offerings.

Educational Content of Programming

Youth Art Education includes Children's Fine Art Classes (grades 4-8) and the Academy of LVA (grades 9-12). With student learning outcomes tied to National Core Creative Arts Standards, and classes led by highly qualified instructors, these outside of school time offerings provide longitudinal support of students' advanced learning of art techniques, themes in art history, and processes of critical reflection and response. Many graduates gain admission to selective post-secondary art programs. For those in Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), work done in LVA education programs can enhance their required backpack of skills portfolio. Benefits reach beyond visual art to include social belonging, transferable skills building, and increased sense of self-worth. Research indicates that for those in low art/low socio-economic status circumstances, involvement in programs like ours increases likelihood of participation in the political process, high school graduation, and post-secondary study in pursuit of professional aspirations.

Implementation of a badging program to track and celebrate specific achievements of our youth art education students is underway. This program will provide better data on learning outcomes, and will facilitate student's use of accomplishments in LVA classes as part of their JCPS backpack of skills. A continued emphasis on more effective (not necessarily more numerous or frequent) surveys and questionnaires is also part of our strategic plan. Elevating the quality of input and feedback better supports program improvement and institutional health. In 2021 and early 2022, this has resulted in significant revision and standardization of enrollment forms and follow-on surveys, all connected with the design and implementation of a live database to keep the information we collect more current and make it easier to search. That database will also result in a "dashboard" on our website to provide a real-time view of key metrics, such as demographic diversity of participants and offering locations, graphically represented to show trends over time. Better tracking of demographics has already pointed to an urgent need for increased diversity of participants in our high school level youth art education classes.

Adult education centers on the Artists' Resource Series (ARS), roughly monthly webinar/seminars on topics such as tax implications for artists, preparing for a studio visit, & copyright law. Participants also indicate educational value in being part of Open Studio Louisville and the art[squared] exhibition and sale.

Process for hiring, training, and evaluating performance/effectiveness.

Education Director, Annette Cable, and Outreach Director, Desmone Stepp, bear primary responsibility for hiring, training, and evaluating teaching artists. They have frequent and attentive support in those efforts from Executive Director, Kristian Anderson. Prospective teaching artists are often referred by established teaching artists. Many others find their way to LVA Education via our online channels of communication, or as a result of participating in another LVA program/offering. Many are familiar with LVA from having taken classes with us in the past, or as a result of teaching art in JCPS, where LVA is well known. To be hired, teaching artists submit credentials and sit for an interview. Training occurs at twice-yearly teaching artist orientations, and evaluation occurs via student/family feedback forms (offered after every class and camp) and the observations of the LVA Staff member(s) with oversight of the relevant program. LVA works with about 60 teaching artists each year, and the vast majority are highly regarded by program participants. When there are concerns about a teaching artist's effectiveness, LVA Staff investigate the situation fully, and work for resolution.

How are participants of all backgrounds and abilities included in programming?

In 2021- 2022, all new Staff hires have been BIPOC, with Desmone Stepp joining as the FT Outreach Coordinator, and Caryle Blondell joining as a PT Data Management and Diversity Advancement Coordinator. We also have Jaylin Stewart in a long-term, contracted leadership role with our PACE Artist Catalyst Program to develop public art capacity in historically disinvested neighborhoods. Darren Harbour, who is Black and legally blind, is on contract as consultant to the Multisensory Public Art for Clifton project, which is itself an important accessibility initiative. We prioritize BIPOC-owned businesses when we need services such as catering, live music, skilled labor, etc. Recent BIPOC hires in this realm include Foxx Catering (Travis Foxx), Mad Moon Vybe (DJ Chip Calloway), and electrician Raphael K. Pulliam. A primary effort to build diversity of program participants is via intensified demographic data collection and analysis effort. One specific result of that work is a clear recognition that diversity in our youth art education program decreases between 8th and 9th grades. This has prompted review and revision of that program, which may result in significant changes to the fee structure, a more robust scholarship program, and/or increased marketing/communication in the neighborhoods and communities from which we hope to recruit. Louisville-based interactive diversity/inclusion company Elephant in the Room led a workshop for LVA Staff and Board on 5/19/21.

How do we engage teachers and community center staff before, during, and after programming?

LVA engages the staff of partner organizations in often quite extensive preparatory meetings, which frequently include our Executive Director along with the relevant LVA Staff member(s). Some programs, such as TAG and 5X5 offerings facilitated by the FFTA, provide material for requesting teachers to review in advance.

LVA Staff maintain close contact with our own teaching artists and teachers or staff of organizations to which we bring our program throughout the duration of an offering. This contact is frequently in person

or by phone. After programs, follow-on surveys are the most common form of contact we have with people in these roles, although more extensive partnerships do benefit from post-mortem meetings in person to capture best practices for future collaboration.

How do we engage participants in the creative and learning process?

LVA Youth Art Education uses hands-on art-making supported by demonstration and feedback, presentation and discussion of artworks by professional artists, guided critique, and full-cohort exhibitions to engage students in learning about visual art and development of skills and confidence making their own art.

Adult education involves lecture/discussion seminars/workshops, as well as experiential learning in programs such as Free Wall, Local Muse, Open Studio Louisville, and art[squared], where emerging artists learn by doing with guidance and support from LVA staff.