

LAMOA PLACE

One proposal for the Los Alamos Museum of Arts that also would realize several of the Los Alamos community's goals, consistent with the County Economic, Creative District and Tourism Plans, is a multiuse, residential, small business, theater, museum collaborative project incorporating a museum for LAMOA's 1,600 art object, world-class collection, programs and performances, examples of which already have been successful in California and Minnesota: WAV in Ventura and the Eco-Village and Creative Center in St. Louis Park.

Economic Vitality Strategic Plan:

Goal 2) Diversify the economic base; Goal 3) Increase quality of life opportunities; and Goal 4) Increase the availability of housing in the County, both affordable and at market rate. (page 5)

Revised Creative District Plan:

Physical development of the Creative District presents an opportunity over time to transform downtown into a magnetic, cohesive, and vibrant small urban area that reflects the unique and extraordinary character of Los Alamos . . . **Related to this are cultural facilities, venues and spaces** that support the programming envisioned for the Creative District. (page 24)

Tourism Strategic Plan: Tourist Draw

Cultural districts drive cultural and heritage tourism, improved visitor experience and increased draw of Los Alamos through selective investments in capital improvements that benefit the local community and visitors. Historic sites, Native American culture, **arts and museums** consistently rank as four of the top five reasons for visiting the state. They are often associated with the construction of new cultural facilities, museums, and performing arts centers, as well as public gathering spaces. Well-managed districts result in increased direct and indirect spending, more jobs, higher local and state tax revenues....Well-managed districts **result in increased direct and indirect spending, more jobs, higher local and state tax revenues, and, over time, increased property values.** (page 4)

WAV - Working Artists Ventura A Sustainable Place for Creatives



In 2009, PLACE opened the WAV, the first sustainable arts community in the world. WAV (pronounced *wave*) is a state-of-the-art, sustainable village designed for artists and creative businesses. Located in the cultural district of downtown Ventura, California, WAV provides affordable living and working space for over a hundred creatives of every kind.

The WAV Theater Gallery offers performances, art openings and public gatherings. Creatives small businesses include coffee houses, galleries, cafes, wine bars and jazz clubs that draw foot traffic and contribute to the vitality of the neighborhood. WAV provides sixty-nine new units of affordable housing. Market-rate penthouses bring higher-income households to the community and help to cross capitalize the

affordable components. The entire community is designed and built to the highest standards of green building technology (LEED Silver Award), including recycled building materials, car sharing, water and energy conservation, and renewable power from the sun.

Of the total cost of \$57 million, only \$2.5 million has been contributed by the City of Ventura, mostly in the form of land and planning costs. Ventura has worked with PLACE, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit developer of artist studio and living spaces. PLACE is a 501(c)(3), a publicly-supported charity. "We exist to improve people's lives and their communities through the creation of places that bring together, homes, food, transportation, energy, art and culture, education and jobs. Our projects are not designed and created for profit. They are designed and created for public benefit. [https://www.welcometoplace.org/our_communities]

Strategy 3.5 of the Los Alamos Creative District Plan anticipates such a project:

The Creative District management entity with the Los Alamos Commerce & Development Corporation and County staff should research the feasibility of....A live/work facility for..."creatives" [to] promote downtown residential living, create new affordable housing, and help extend the daily life/work cycle of downtown. Developments focused on artists' live/work are often done at very low cost to local government, handled by a nonprofit organization specializing in such projects that provides access to funding (e.g., ArtSpace USA and PLACE, both located in Minneapolis). (page 26)

St. Louis Park, Minnesota

A New Eco-Village and Creative Center

The structure identified in the following drawing as Solar Canopy could be the Los Alamos Museum of Art designed with a solar roof.



PLACE is collaborating with the City of St. Louis Park to create a mixed-use, mixed-income, transit-oriented community demonstrating profound environmental design. Located on Minnesota's future southwest light rail line and the largest dedicated regional bike trail in the country, this community now offers 217 healthy apartments, affordable and market rate, along with space for local businesses and live/work space designed for creatives as part of Via Sol... Via Sol provides access to nature in an urban setting via an Urban Forest featuring public art. PLACE's patent-pending E-Generation process is a neighborhood-scale food and energy system that unites multiple sustainable energy sources, including the creation of renewable energy from organics, and the growth of organic produce in onsite greenhouses. Every PLACE project relies on a deep and robust community process. We will be leading dozens of public meetings throughout the project's development.

Dear Los Alamos County Council,

April 12, 2022

The Los Alamos Museum of Art (LAMOA) is requesting the assistance of the Los Alamos County Council to facilitate a physical location for LAMOA in order to preserve our world-class art collections—the great majority collected by scientists—and keep them in Los Alamos.

Robert Wells, one of LAMOA's largest collectors, passed away at the end of December 2021. Secundino Sandoval, a prominent local artist, passed away in January of 2022. This is a reminder that many of the works of art that form the base of LAMOA's collections are in the hands of people in their elder years. These collections are at risk of being lost to our community if dispersed by family members, sold on the open market, or otherwise given to other museums. The loss of these significant collections would extend beyond our core community. It would be a loss for our regional neighbors and all of our visitors.

The Los Alamos Tourism Strategic Plan states, "*Los Alamos is in a position to harness the economic impact of tourism development by using it as a driver to grow and diversify the local economy and as a catalyst for increased options for the local community*" (p. i). The plan includes a survey of 211 residents in which the top reason to visit Los Alamos was "*Outdoor recreation (59%)*." At the bottom of the list was "*Art + culture (2%)*" (p. 10). The addition of the Los Alamos Museum of Art directly fills this perceived void and adds another, tourist-driving anchor to the Creative District (see page 4 following).

LAMOA's large and unique collections number over 1,300 art objects, 1,274 of which were collected by scientists. Many of these art objects were brought back from the worldwide travels of LANL employees. Art and science are themes mentioned in all of the county development plans. The county's goal of tourism growth will be advanced by LAMOA's Science-in-Art, experiential education programs and the international draw of its permanent collections.

LAMOA's collections are a natural and eye-opening complement to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. They provide an extremely fascinating window into the otherwise hidden but rich, cultural interests and activities of scientists then and now—a human story behind scientific research.

LAMOA will partner with regional schools to help students understand the arts and their diverse cultural origins, and provide an educational meeting place for both young and old. It also will provide an anchor for the Creative District, serving as a driver drawing tourists and incentivizing them to extend their stays in Los Alamos. It will provide one more marketable draw toward creating a critical mass of attractions to make Los Alamos a tourism destination.

Over 200,000 tourists visit Bandelier National Monument yearly. Only about 25% of them visit the Los Alamos town site. The Los Alamos History Museum averages about 50,000 visitors a year and the Bradbury averages 60,000. Overnight stays in hotels are a small fraction of regional tourism. With its large, world-class collections and experiential programs, LAMOA can improve those numbers by adding an incentive for tourists to visit and stay in Los Alamos.

LAMOA's collections are promised to LAMOA on condition of finding adequate and suitable space to house and exhibit them. LAMOA has identified several possible locations for consideration, and thoughtful discussion may reveal other options.

Possible locations for the Los Alamos Museum of Art

1. Two vacant County-owned lots:
 - a) the area adjacent to the Justice Building in Ashley Pond Park
 - b) the open area between Bathtub Row and the Senior Center
2. The Reel Deal Theater Building or CB Fox could be remodeled for a museum and performing arts space.
3. The vacant, old Smith's building. Petition Kroger to donate it. The Kroger website cites the following:

"The Kroger Family of Companies is committed to community engagement, positive social impact and charitable giving at the national and local levels. Every community is unique, but our common goal is to welcome in the neighborhoods we serve and help the people there live healthier lives." (<https://www.kroger.com/i/community>)

This space also could become a shared, permanent location for the Los Alamos Visitor Center, the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Visitor Center, and a small performing arts space. For a concept layout of the museum, arts and visitor center in this building, see page 3 of this document. LAMOA could occupy this site in conjunction with an affordable, live/work space for creative class members in science, technology and art (see page 5 of this document).
4. The historical WAC building could be a part of a LAMOA campus in conjunction with other existing buildings to provide for storage, exhibitions, and classroom space.
5. The two-story building at 1911 Central Ave., owned by Joe Arellano, has a recently remodeled second floor that would be ideal for installation of a significant portion of LAMOA's art collection. A favorable leasing arrangement or lease to own agreement could be worked out. The first floor could eventually be used for museum expansion. It is centrally located across from Ashley Pond and across the street from the proposed hotel.
6. A similar arrangement could be worked out with Peggy Poling for the second floor of 1650 Trinity. It is centrally located between Trinity and Deacon Street. It could become the hub for the long proposed reconfiguration of Deacon Street.

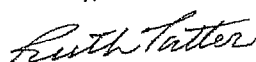
All of these options are consistent with the Creative District Plan, the Los Alamos Strategic Plan, and Economic Vitality Strategic Plan (see pages 4 and 5 of this document).

A permanent location for the Los Alamos Museum of Art's collections is an opportunity to enhance our community culture and improve tourism draw to our Creative District, if the opportunity is pursued before the promised collections dissipate irrecoverably.

The Los Alamos Museum of Art is requesting the assistance of the Los Alamos County Council to facilitate a physical location for LAMOA in order to preserve the world-class art collections collected by scientists, and keep them in Los Alamos.

We would like to meet with the Council to discuss these possibilities. Please suggest a date and time.

Sincerely,



Ruth Tatter, LAMOA Board President



Los Alamos Museum of Art

www.lamoa.us

P.O. Box 790
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Dear Los Alamos County Council,

May 5, 2022

The concern we expressed in our letter of April 12, 2022 is continuing. See the quoted letter below. Without the council's timely assistance to facilitate a location for housing the unique and valuable collections LAMOA has been promised, Los Alamos will lose a once-in-a-lifetime, world-class art museum and major tourist attraction anchor for the Creative District.

What makes LAMOA's situation entirely different from other nonprofit startups in Los Alamos is that the 1,350-piece, promised startup content of the museum is in the hands of very elderly collectors who will not transfer their large collections until they are assured that LAMOA has a permanent and appropriate location to exhibit their art. This precludes a protracted and small-scale, gradual startup: first, because when these collectors become deceased the disposition of their art collections becomes uncertain, so time is of the essence; and second, the transfer of the collections will be in their entirety of up to hundreds of pieces, not piecemeal over years, so a small storefront to begin with is unworkable.

The opportunity still exists to preserve the quarter-million-dollar, 100-piece portion of the Wells Legacy Collection for Los Alamos, if acted upon with reasonable dispatch. Establishing a suitable facility for LAMOA will also preserve the other 90% of LAMOA's more than 1,300-piece, promised collections for Los Alamos residents and the tourism public.

From: TWB
Date: Wed, 4 May 2022 17:44:31
To: Ruth Tatter <rjtatter@gmail.com>

May 4, 2022

Dear Ruth,

Thank you for all your efforts spearheading the initiative to establish a Los Alamos Museum of Art (LAMOA). I am sorry that my father will not be able to see the vision realized; I know he very much wanted to leave the community with the gift of the Wells Legacy Collection that he had been amassing over the last four decades.

Our family is committed to donating the collection on his behalf. As I mentioned on Thursday, we are currently having the works appraised. But it's our intention to donate 100 museum-quality pieces totaling a value of at least \$250,000 USD. The collection would include pieces by such notable local sculptors as Michael Naranjo, R.C. Gorman, Glenna Goodacre, George Rivera, Marco Oviedo and Tammy Garcia, as well as sculpture from over 30 different countries.

Because he was uncertain if Los Alamos County would commit to a permanent exhibition space, my father was in discussion with other museums about the disposition of certain artworks, particularly his Inuit collectibles.

However, our first priority as a family is to fulfill my father's verbal commitment to LAMOA and to make certain that you receive a core selection of pieces that relate to storytelling & cultural continuity and that reflect the array of techniques, materials and styles inherent to the art & practice of sculpting.

Thus, our plan would be to donate 100 pieces outright to LAMOA, contingent on LAMOA having secured a permanent space, and to make a handful of other sculptures, such as *Inua*, available for loan, for example, for the initial museum opening or for future temporary exhibitions.

As we'd discussed previously, my brother Rob and I are willing to pay for professional packing, storage and insurance for the collection for a period of two years. So we'd need to have some sort of memorandum of understanding or formal agreement in place by December 2023, or we will invite other institutions to consider the collection for donation.

We hope to have the collection moved to storage by the end of the summer. If you'd like to have anyone from Los Alamos County view the collection, we can set up an appointment before June 15th. Thereafter, the collection will be boxed and crated and only be viewable via digital photos.

We have already donated more than 250 of my father's art & design books to LAMOA to serve as the core for research library. We will make arrangements with you before the end of the year to transfer the portrait of Margaret "Margo" Putsche that you'd requested, together with wooden bookcases, educational models and a handful of other items that may be helpful to your endeavor.

Sincerely,

Tamara Wells Banar

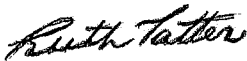
LAMOA is grateful to Tamara and Rob Wells for their genuine concern in preserving a significant portion of their father's collection for the benefit of Los Alamos. Other heirs have not been so concerned, and LAMOA already has lost smaller collections in their entirety as heirs disposed of recently deceased, family member's art.

But LAMOA still has commitments for over 1,300 works of art of enormous value and rarity, not found in any other U.S. museums, and constituting a collection of collections that will be of great interest to a large portion of the traveling public and to local residents.

We would be happy to arrange a viewing for council members of the Wells Legacy Collection for LAMOA, at Oppenheimer Place between now and June 15, after which it will go into family storage.

Please consider this letter a timely addendum to our letter of April 12, and please schedule a meeting with us to review and consider the possibilities.

Sincerely,



Ruth Tatter, LAMOA Board President

May 27, 2022

Ruth Tatter
Los Alamos Museum of Art

Dear Ruth:

I was very sorry to hear about Robert Wells death. I was looking forward to meeting him again and seeing his collection, especially the Alaskan art because Alan spent a lot of time in Alaska doing scientific research and later environmental work.

LAMOA has been of interest to me for several reasons. Both Alan and I loved education. I know how much you envision that as a major part of the museum. Tribal art fits so well with where Los Alamos is located: in the heart of American tribal art country. I can envision exhibits and education that tie the tribal arts of the world together. LAMOA would have great partners in the local area with whom to work on such projects. Being a UNM graduate and knowing of their collections and work, I can envision some significant collaboration there as well.

Science is another great topic for these collections, from the many types of materials used in tribal art to how that relates to so many other topics, including the environment, technology, music and religion. From the many tribal art museums I have visited and from the books about their collections, I have yet to see a museum which tied the world together. LAMOA has all the potential to do that.

My own inventory of my collection is not quite finished but it is well over 1,000 African tribal art pieces (covering African tribal daily life to objects of art used in ceremonies and official functions) let alone the Oceanic, Alaskan, Mexican and Asian pieces. Because of what is currently happening in many of the countries involved, art of this type and caliber will not be available in the future. Wars, famine and economic colonization are continuing to deprive the world of the artisans, the very tribes and their cultures.

I still am committed to donating nearly my entire collections to LAMOA on the condition that the County helps LAMOA find adequate and suitable space to exhibit them. I am concerned that some may not fully appreciate the scale and the national draw of these collections. From the tours you provided me last summer, I can see where a museum like LAMOA would bring in the type of tourist industry that would fit with Los Alamos. People coming to the area to visit the parks and reservations and the art of Santa Fe and Taos would find Los Alamos a convenient central location to stay, dine, relax and visit a nationally unique museum like LAMOA. And this would undoubtedly increase visitors to the other museums in town. I very much want my collections to be seen publicly and used for educational purposes.

When I am in New Mexico this summer we will need to meet and discuss the situation concerning the County's support of this project. We could discuss what might be an appropriate document such as a letter of intent on both our parts. I have begun investigating discussions with other museums and am contemplating having the collection evaluated for sale. From the auction catalogues I see on line via The Tribal Arts magazine, sales returns would be substantial.

I will be contacting you soon as I make my plans to visit. Thank you and all your associates who work so diligently on this project. It was a pleasure to meet some of them this past summer at the exhibit you had at the Art Center at Fuller Lodge, which was so well attended.

Sincerely,

Kay Collins

Visual Art in the Clinical Setting

Visual artists in residence and visual artist volunteers bring the creative arts to patients, families and staff through painting, drawing, collage, sculpture and crafts. Pediatric and adult patients are able to experience the visual arts individually at the bedside, or gather together in workshops under the guidance of trained artists and volunteers.

On average, 1,200 visual art activities are led by an Arts in Medicine visual artist in residence at the bedside or in workshops annually.

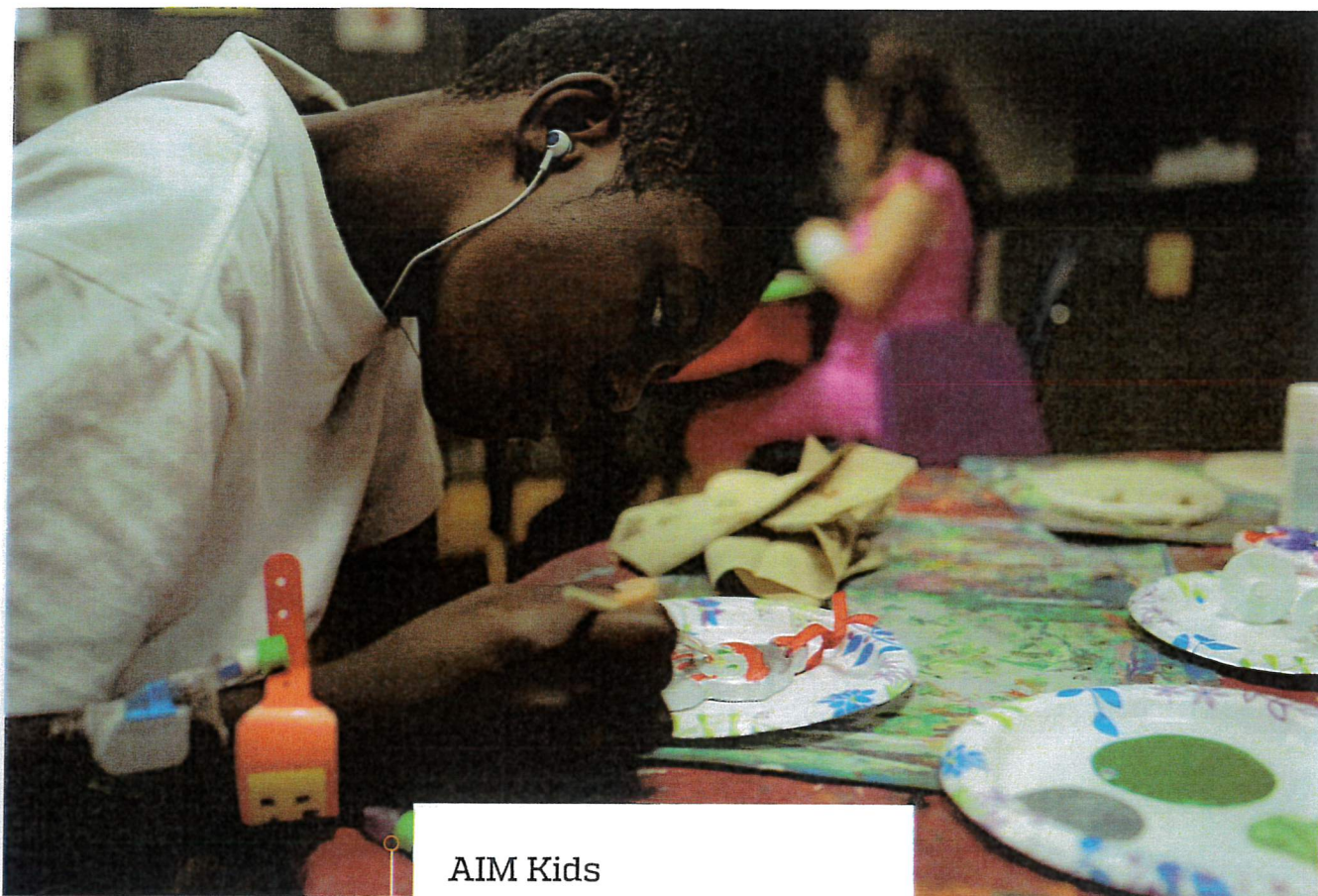


Visual Art Referrals

One on one consultations and art experiences ranging from delivering arts materials for patients' independent work to a multi session collaborative art making with an artist in residence. Serving pediatric and adult inpatients. Consultation requests available through EPIC or by calling 352-733-0880.

WATCH: ARTISTS IN THEIR OWN WORDS- SARAH

photo by Giuliano De Portu



AIM Kids

A twice weekly arts and crafts workshop for pediatric inpatients.

photo by Charlotte Kesi Photography

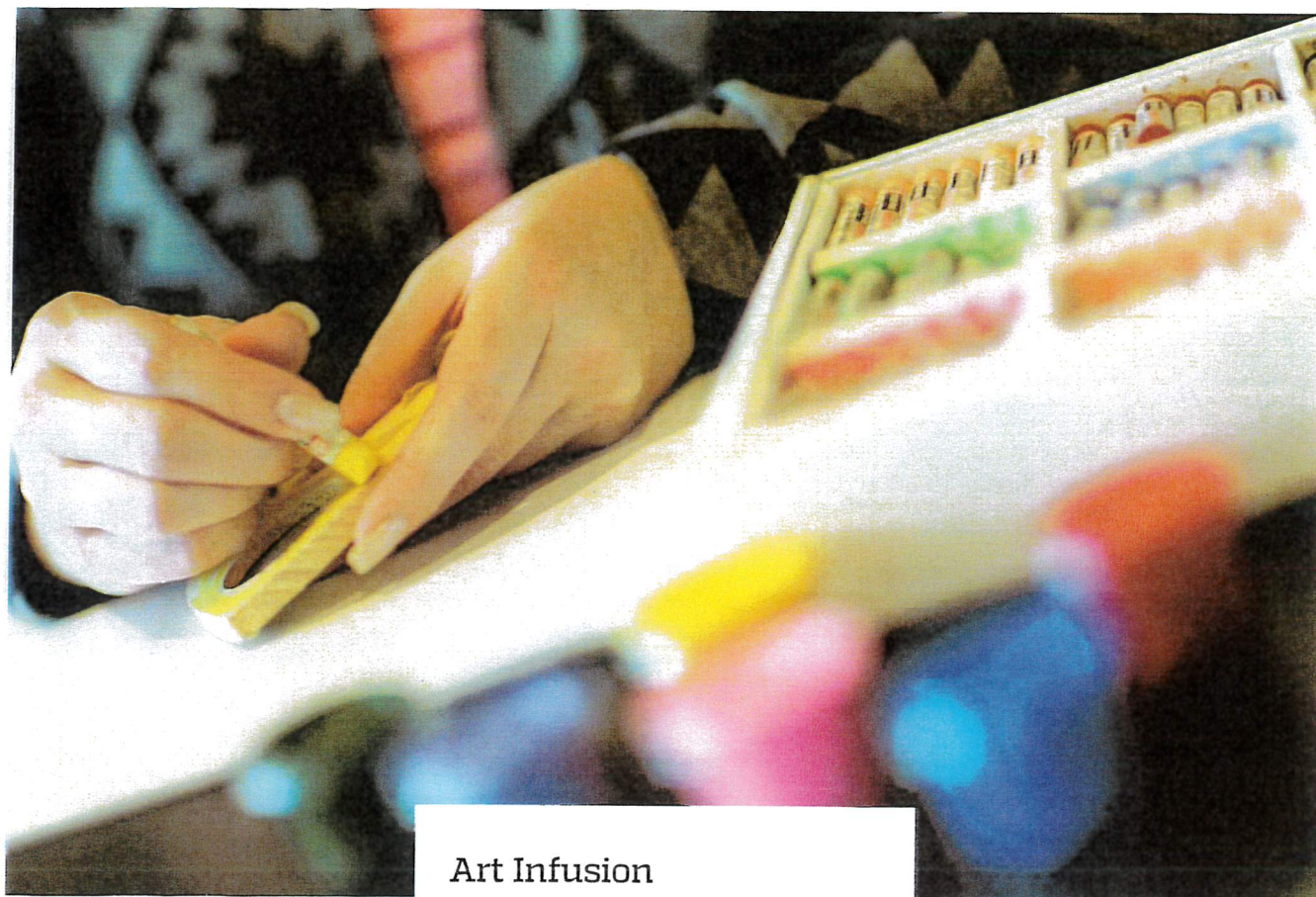




Awaiting Baby

Personalized bedside offerings of arts and crafts with ante-partum mothers on bed rest.

photo by Giuliano De Portu



Art Infusion

Weekly creative art activities for adult oncology outpatients undergoing chemotherapy





Brushes with Hope

Weekly arts and crafts with adult radiation/oncology outpatients

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VIRTUAL

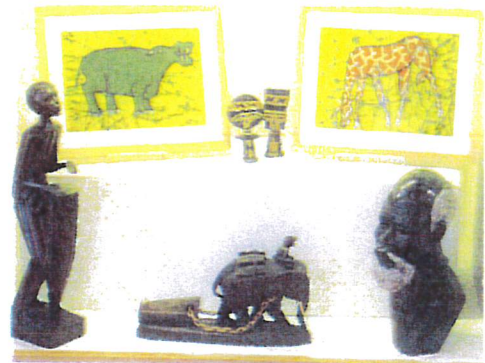
Charlie's Corner

A weekly virtual arts workshop for adult inpatients on unit 66/67 of UF Health HVNM Hospital (East Tower). Art supplies provided prior to workshop.

Art Museum Opens New Exhibit

The Los Alamos Museum of Art (LAMOA) reveals a sampling of its treasures in an exhibit at Fuller Lodge Art Center in the Creative Arts District of Los Alamos.

African beadwork, bark-cloth tapestry, and sculptures; bronzes from the Wells collection and a wall filled with intricate renderings by Alabama birder and artist Tuck Hayward. Plus works by Kate Krasin, Glenna Goodacre, Guilloume, Michael Naranjo, Craig Dan Goseyun, Marco Oviedo, and others.



"This is just a sample of the wonderful and varied artworks in our museum's collections," says LAMOA's board president Ruth Tatter. "Our largest collection contains nearly 1,000 unique objects of Tribal African and Oceanic art. The Wells collection has over 100 bronzes from all parts of the United States." Another 250 objects come from six other art collectors.

All corners of the exhibition space are filled with regional and global art,

from the "kroj" Czech folk costume and the bronze sculpture, "Inua", of an Alaskan whale hunt, to a pearl inlaid Italian accordion from the Tomei collection, a pueblo deer dance painting and a Congolese statuette.



Throw in some Op Art, STEAM activities, and video interviews with local artists, and you have interesting samples of this budding art museum's extensive collections.



Take the lovely trek off HWY 84 up the hill to Los Alamos and Fuller Lodge Art Center, across from the pond, and visit this interesting exhibition. The Fuller Lodge Art Center is open from 10 - 4, Monday through Saturday. LAMOA's exhibit will be up through July 24.

LAMOA exhibit at the Art Center

Fuller Lodge Art Center

2132 Central Ave, Los Alamos, NM 87544





Visitor Comments

LOS ALAMOS MUSEUM OF ART EXHIBIT at Fuller Lodge Art Center, 5/28/21 - 7/24/21

This art is an amazing opportunity for Los Alamos and its fans and residents to have a great treasure. I hope a suitable space is found.

AMAZING ART. HOPE IT IS HERE TO STAY! ☺

True treasures! Great opportunity for Los Alamos. Thank you!

Wonderful collection-Enjoyable visit!

Beautiful art! Thank you so much.

Love it! Especially Tuck's colored pencil work! Fabulous!

The whaling statue is lovely.

The African artifacts are extremely unique and rare.

You don't find a collection like this in many places. - NY, NY

First time in Los Alamos...best wishes in development of the museum. - Philadelphia

Came in to see St. Francis and it was worth the trip!

Beautiful! - Texan
Wonderful - WA
I agree. - Germany

The artwork is stunning.
It is fantastic that different cultures are represented!

WHAT A FABULOUS COLLECTION!

We live in Albuquerque but drove up to visit. We absolutely love this gallery and are so excited to see it grow! Thank you for blessing our day with this art experience!

What an astounding collection! Superb sculpture!
I strongly advocate for the LAMOAO!

Best wishes for the L.A. Museum of Art!

Great collection - good luck in making this go.

This collection of artwork is beautiful. The variety of artists, medium, and their influence is phenomenal.

Absolutely stunning collection - thank you for bringing these pieces to the eyes of the public.

Lovely gallery, very interesting! Thank you. I particularly enjoyed the Czech corner and African display.

What a collection!! I am a frequent visitor of Los Alamos, and a museum featuring these pieces would be an incredible lifelong asset to L.A. I strongly advocate for this.

We had a lovely time looking at the wonderful art on display! It was wonderful looking around the world here. Thank you! - Minneapolis

This is very exciting, this idea of a working/living museum. I look forward to seeing this vision become reality. Thank you for sharing this small portion of your collections.

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