

Owning Our Future

An Opportunity to
Buy the Old Art Building



Can You Imagine Our Community without the Old Art Building?

Our Commitment to Community

The Old Art Building is a center of generational importance, connection and cultural growth. As one of the oldest community centers in the state we proudly host nearly 20,000 visitors a year. We annually foster over 450 established and emerging artists, lecturers and musicians to the benefit of Leelanau County residents, friends and visitors.

A Year at the Old Art Building

Classes offered	455
People attending classes	5,522
Leelanau Cultural Community Center events	42
People attending events	9,100
Community sponsored events	46
People attending events	5,040
Volunteers making it all possible	320



The mission of saving the Old Art Building in 1992 was to preserve a Leland landmark with all the memories it holds. It was a very important project – hundreds of people participated – resulting in what is now the heart of the community. Owning the building begins a historic new era.

Sally & Bob Biggs
Founding Board member,
Cultural Curator and Honorary Campaign Chairs



A Window of Opportunity has Opened!



Our Opportunity

In 2019, discussions with Michigan State University, current owners of the Old Art Building, opened a long-sought window of opportunity to purchase the beloved structure. For the first time since 1939 we learned that ownership of the iconic Old Art Building could return to the community.

After years of being a tenant with an uncertain future, the Leelanau Community Cultural Center now has an agreement with MSU to purchase the Old Art Building.

Our Campaign is Launched

Our offer was accepted, and the clock is now ticking on this exciting new prospect. Our goal is to raise \$1,500,000 to purchase and endow the building and property in perpetuity. It is an ambitious plan that marks a bold step in our long history.

Purchase	\$800,000
Endowment	\$700,000
Total	\$1,500,000

The Making of a Legacy

Restoring ownership of the historical Old Art Building reinvigorates the commitment envisioned by Allie Mae Best to build a welcoming cultural center owned and operated by the Leelanau community. In addition, a stronger endowment will help fortify and sustain programs and operations well into the future. With increased endowment funds we foresee the ability to enhance the riverfront property to potentially include appealing outdoor spaces for lectures, music and art installations.

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As a working artist I find the Leelanau Community Cultural Center provides a great service to me and to the public in general. As a community arts organization it engages the local community in arts programming that is both educational and entertaining. As a cultural center the Old Art Building strives to help fulfill the needs and goals of the area's artist community by providing exhibition space, lectures and educational opportunities for beginners and mature artists alike.

Richard Kooyman
Artist, 2014 Ann Hall Visiting Artist



1922

Allie Mae Best raises funds to build a community cultural center in memory of her husband, Walter T. Best (nationally known as "Maro the Prince of Magic"). The couple summered in Leland in the early 20th Century.

1939

The building is given to Michigan State University for use in its summer art program. It is a period that defines the strong cultural identity of Leland and Leelanau County.

1989

The MSU summer program closes. The Michigan Historical Commission places the building on the State Register of Historic Places.

1992

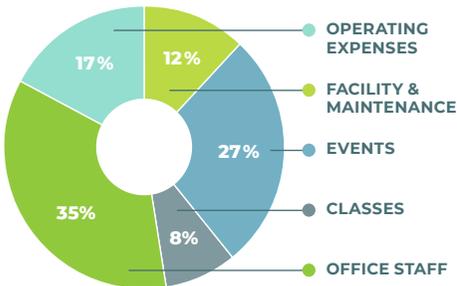
Urged by community supporters, Leland Township leases the building from MSU. The Leelanau Community Cultural Center board is formed under the leadership of Amy Chatfield and Sally Biggs to protect and revitalize the historic landmark.

Building Our Future

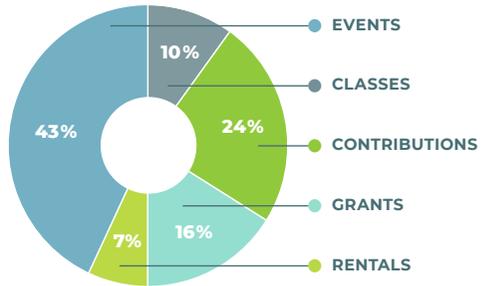
Over a third (36%) of the Leelanau Cultural Community Center (LCCC) operational expenses go to pay artists and performers who share their talents with the community. Another 35% represent the cost for staff who plan, coordinate and oversee a myriad of cultural programs, from classes to musical performances, art exhibitions and special events.

A large portion (60%) of the LCCC income comes from events, classes and rentals. The remainder of our income is made up from contributions, grants and sponsorships from our community.

2019 Operational Expenses



2019 Operational Income



1994

The first paid program director is hired. The annual benefit, *Art Leelanau*, is established.



1998

To fund an office addition to the Old Art Building, the first Capital Campaign is initiated.



2006

The *Ann Hall Artist in Residence* program is established with a generous gift from the Hall Family.



2007

The 85th Anniversary Art Exhibit honors 50 years of the MSU summer art program at the Old Art Building.

The bar charts below show the generous support we have received as well as what is still needed in order for us to realize our goal of raising \$1,500,000. Every gift helps, no matter the size. For an up-to-date status of our fundraising efforts please visit our website: www.OldArtBuilding.com/Owning-Our-Future.

Donations: \$5,000 and Above
(as of June 30, 2020)



Donations: Below \$5,000
(as of June 30, 2020)



2011

The Leelanau community supports a second Capital Campaign in response to increasing facility usage. Expanded meeting, office, kitchen and storage spaces are completed. State-of-the-art interactive digital audio-visual equipment is installed.

2012

The Old Art Building partners with *Leelanau Summinars*, reviving the original Chautauqua type community forums.

2014

Leland Air, the Old Art Building's plein air event, is initiated over Memorial Day weekend.

2015

The inaugural coffee house style concert series is launched to showcase local musicians.

Realizing Our Dream

We are at a pivotal moment to claim ownership of the Old Art Building, an incredible place – a place touching countless lives for nearly 100 years. Our dream as stewards is to see the Old Art Building legacy extended well into the future. With your help this dream will soon become a reality, affording current and new generations the joy of community, creative expression and cultural enrichment.

We look forward to your reply and thank you for your consideration.



I knew Allie Mae Best who, in 1922, envisioned and built what is now known as the Old Art Building. If she were to return to Leland today, she would have loved seeing the incredible vitality of her vision and how it continues to unfold and develop.

Ellie Golden
Artist and long-time teacher at the Old Art Building



2016

HollyPOP! is launched over Thanksgiving weekend. The two-day artful market brings creativity and community together in the heart of Leland.



2019

All Points North Foundation funds installation of 60 solar panels on the roof of the Old Art Building, providing power throughout the year.



2020

The Leelanau Community Cultural Center signs a purchase agreement with Michigan State University to purchase the Old Art Building, thus initiating the *Owning Our Future* campaign.



2022

The Old Art Building turns 100 years old!

