

Elevate the Arts!

The Lapeer Center for the Arts Council has begun a fundraising campaign toward the installation of an elevator to provide barrier-free access to Art Classroom space on the lower level of Gallery 194.

Currently the basement is sporadically used for art instruction, storage and office space, depending on participants' ability to negotiate the stairs. "Creating a more inclusive space with an elevator translates to permanent classrooms, studios, meeting and exhibit space along with a way to maneuver heavy equipment up and down without risk of injury," says Gallery Director Carolyn McCarter.

"Fully utilizing the gallery's lower level is critical to securing Gallery 194's future as a contributor to Lapeer's cultural and economic development. By creating an inclusive venue throughout the building, we can grow toward sustaining ourselves with facility rental and class registrations, adding significantly to the quality of life in Lapeer through artistic initiatives for many years to come."

The preliminary cost estimate for the construction of the elevator shaft, mechanical and electrical work, other associated building modifications, and purchase and installation of the LULA (Limited Use, Limited Access) elevator component is **\$142,000**. The City of Lapeer DDA has pledged to contribute \$10,000 as matching funds toward a grant from the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural affairs (pending). **Much more financial support is needed!**

Planned fundraising activities include:

- *Sale of limited edition, numbered prints of a custom-created artwork by renown Grand Blanc artist James Conner depicting Lapeer landmarks (commonly known as the "Lapeer Montage") – available beginning May 30, 2008. The project is being spearheaded by **the Lapeer County Press**.*
- *A summer Garden Art Tour planned for 2009*
- *Benefit concerts sponsored by **Lapeer Music**, planned for 2009*
- *A non-permanent fund has been established through the **Lapeer County Community Foundation** to receive and manage contributions. and provide administrative and marketing support*

Support Art Education!

To contribute to the **Gallery 194 Elevate the Arts Fund**, please contact the Lapeer County Community Foundation to make a tax-deductible contribution:

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Phone: 810-664-0691, or Email: lccf@charterinternet.com