ART ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI

Philanthropic Giving Pathways



Inspiring Creativity. Transforming Lives. Securing the Future.

For more than 157 years, the Art Academy of Cincinnati has been a place where artists discover their voice, creativity becomes a career, and bold ideas shape culture. Founded in 1869, AAC has educated generations of artists, designers, writers, and creative leaders whose work has enriched Cincinnati and reached communities around the world. Today, that legacy remains as important as ever. By investing in the Academy, you help ensure this extraordinary institution continues to educate, inspire, and serve future generations while preserving one of Cincinnati's most enduring cultural treasures.

Today, that legacy continues through the generosity of those who believe in the power of creative education. Every gift to the Art Academy of Cincinnati helps shape the future by opening doors for talented students, empowering exceptional faculty, preserving our historic campus, and ensuring that the next generation of artists and changemakers can thrive. Whether you choose to make an annual gift, establish a multi-year commitment, or include AAC in your estate plans, your investment becomes part of a lasting legacy that will inspire generations to come.

Your generosity supports

- **Student Scholarships:** Expanding access for talented students from diverse backgrounds to pursue professional art and design degrees.
- **Faculty and Program Excellence:** Ensuring competitive compensation, professional development, and the integration of emerging technologies and interdisciplinary practices.
- **Facility Preservation and Enhancement:** Maintaining and modernizing AAC's historic campus in Over-the-Rhine to meet 21st-century standards for safety, accessibility, and creative innovation.
- **Community Engagement and Partnerships:** Extending AAC's reach through public art projects, exhibitions, and collaborations that foster civic pride and cultural vitality.

Ways to Give

Appreciated Securities
Donating appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds may provide a charitable income tax deduction based on the fair market value of the securities while potentially avoiding capital gains taxes.

Charitable Gift Annuity
A charitable gift annuity provides fixed payments for life in exchange for a charitable gift. Payments may begin immediately or be deferred to a future date, potentially increasing both your charitable deduction and future income.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)
A Qualified Charitable Distribution allows individuals age 70½ or older to make tax-efficient gifts directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to qualified charitable organizations such as the Art Academy of Cincinnati. Annual IRS limits apply and are adjusted periodically.

Charitable Lead Trust
A charitable lead trust provides annual payments to AAC for a specified period, after which the remaining assets pass to your designated beneficiaries. This strategy may reduce gift and estate taxes while supporting AAC during the life of the trust.

Charitable Remainder Unitrust
A charitable remainder unitrust provides annual income based on a percentage of the trust's value, recalculated annually, while ultimately benefiting AAC through a future charitable gift.

Donor-Advised Funds
A donor-advised fund offers a flexible way to support AAC through a community foundation or sponsoring financial institution. You may recommend grants during your lifetime, and your family may continue your philanthropic legacy in the future.

Life Income Gifts
Life income arrangements provide income to you or your beneficiaries while creating future support for AAC. These gifts can offer meaningful tax advantages and are often incorporated into long-term estate planning.

Life Insurance
A paid-up life insurance policy naming AAC as owner or beneficiary can provide a significant charitable gift while offering potential tax benefits. Policies that are no longer needed for their original purpose may become valuable philanthropic assets.

Matching Gifts
Many employers match charitable contributions made by current employees, retirees, spouses, and board members. Contact your employer's Human Resources office to determine whether your gift qualifies for a matching contribution.

Outright Gifts
Outright gifts include cash, checks, credit card contributions, appreciated securities, real estate, tangible personal property, matching gifts, and gifts-in-kind. These gifts provide immediate support for the College's highest priorities or designated funds.

Real Estate or Retained Life Estate

Real estate—including a personal residence, vacation home, farmland, undeveloped land, or commercial property—may provide substantial tax benefits while supporting AAC. A retained life estate allows you to continue using the property during your lifetime while making a future charitable gift.

Retirement Plan Beneficiary Designations

Naming AAC as the beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), SEP IRA, or other qualified retirement plan can be one of the most tax-efficient ways to support the College through your estate.

Planned Giving

Including AAC in your estate plans creates a lasting legacy that supports future generations of artists and designers. Planned gifts may be made through wills, trusts, retirement plans, life insurance, or other charitable giving vehicles.

Bequests Through a Will or Revocable Living Trust

A bequest is one of the simplest and most meaningful ways to create a lasting impact. You may designate a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder of your estate to AAC through your will or revocable living trust. We encourage you to notify the Office of Institutional Advancement of your intentions so we may recognize your generosity and help ensure your wishes are fulfilled.

Corporate Giving and Sponsorships

Businesses and corporate partners may support scholarships, academic programs, exhibitions, community engagement initiatives, capital projects, and workforce development through sponsorships, grants, and charitable contributions.

Cryptocurrency

AAC welcomes conversations about gifts of cryptocurrency through approved charitable giving platforms. Please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement for current giving instructions.

Gifts of Art

The Art Academy of Cincinnati welcomes gifts of artwork that support its educational mission and enhance the student experience. Proposed gifts are reviewed in accordance with the College's Art Collection Committee and its Gift Acceptance Policy. Donors are encouraged to contact the Office of Institutional Advancement to discuss potential gifts, appraisal requirements, and applicable IRS regulations before making a donation.



Named Scholarships

AAC encourages a progressive approach to giving:

→ Begin with an annual scholarship
→ Transition to a multi-year fund
→ Establish a named endowed scholarship



Annual Access Scholarships - $1,000 – $5,000
Immediate Impact - One-Year Support

- Supports 1-2 BFA or MAAE students annually
- Expands access to creative learning experiences
- May be directed toward program areas

Recognition

- Inclusion in AAC Annual Report
- Acknowledgment in program materials (optional)

Sustained Scholarship Fund - $5,000 – $9,999 Multi-Year Impact - Renewable Support

- Establishes a named, non-endowed scholarship fund
- Provides continuity across program cycles
- Strengthens degree programs and the creative workforce
- Aligns with donor priorities

Recognition

- Named designation (e.g., The [Name] Community Access Scholarship Fund)
- Annual impact updates and student stories
- Recognition on AAC website and select materials

Named Endowed Scholarship - $10,000 Minimum
Permanent Legacy - Generational Impact

An endowed scholarship establishes a permanent funding source, with the principal invested and annual earnings awarded as scholarships in perpetuity.

Structure

- Minimum investment: $10,000
- May be fulfilled through a one-time gift or multi-year pledge
- Additional contributions may be made to grow the fund over time

Impact

- Creates a lasting legacy in honor of an individual, family, or organization
- Provides consistent annual scholarship support
- Advances long-term access and equity in arts education

Recognition

- Permanent named scholarship (e.g., The [Name] Endowed Scholarship for Community Engagement)
- Inclusion in AAC Endowment and Legacy recognition
- Annual reporting on recipients and outcomes
- Opportunities for engagement with scholarship recipients

Named Academic Leadership Position

The Art Academy of Cincinnati's greatest strength has always been its faculty. Many have devoted decades to the Academy, and many are distinguished alumni who returned to teach because they believe in our mission and our students. A Named Academic Leadership Position provides permanent support to recruit, retain, and recognize exceptional academic leaders, ensuring AAC's tradition of personalized, studio-based education continues for generations to come.

$2 Million Endowment

Permanent Legacy and Academic Excellence in Perpetuity

A gift of $2 million establishes a permanently endowed academic leadership position. The principal is invested as part of the Art Academy of Cincinnati's endowment, while the annual distribution provides ongoing support for the position in perpetuity. Annual earnings from the endowment help bring compensation closer to national benchmarks for independent colleges of art and design, provide sustainable support for merit and cost-of-living increases, and supply flexible resources that strengthen academic leadership and program excellence for generations to come.

Available Named Positions

- Dean of Academic Affairs
- Chair of Fine Arts
- Chair of Liberal Arts
- Chair of First Year Experience
- Chair of Master of Arts in Arts Education
- Program Head of Painting & Drawing
- Program Head of Sculpture
- Program Head of Photography
- Program Head of Design
- Program Head of Illustration
- Program Head of Digital Arts Animation
- Program Head of Print Media
- Program Head of Creative Writing



Impact

A Named Academic Leadership Position provides permanent support that enables AAC to:

- Recruit and retain nationally recognized artists, writers, designers, and educators.
- Bring leadership compensation closer to national market averages for independent colleges of art and design.
- Provide sustainable funding for merit increases and cost-of-living adjustments.
- Support curriculum innovation, academic excellence, and student success.
- Strengthen strategic initiatives, professional development, and program operations.
- Preserve AAC's tradition of individualized mentorship and studio-based learning.
- Ensure exceptional academic leadership for future generations of students.

Recognition

Donors creating a Named Academic Leadership Position receive:

- Permanent naming of the position in honor of an individual, family, foundation, or organization.
- Recognition in the Art Academy of Cincinnati's Endowment and Legacy Society.
- Inclusion in institutional publications and donor recognition materials.
- Annual stewardship reports highlighting the impact of the endowed position.
- Opportunities to meet with faculty, students, and academic leadership.
- Invitations to special exhibitions, lectures, and campus events.

Named Campus Spaces

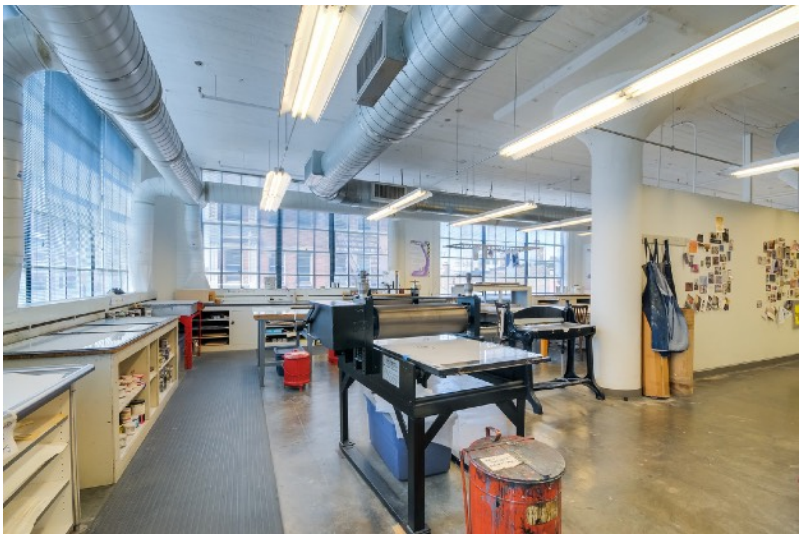
The Art Academy of Cincinnati's campus is where creativity comes to life. Every studio, classroom, gallery, and gathering space shapes the student experience and inspires artistic discovery. A Named Campus Space creates a lasting legacy by preserving and enhancing the places where generations of artists learn, create, and grow. Through a philanthropic investment, donors may name an existing space or support future campus improvements that reflect their vision and values. Your generosity helps ensure these inspiring environments continue to serve creative leaders for generations to come.

Customized Investment

Permanent Legacy and Modernized Facilities in Perpetuity

Academic & Community Spaces

- Lecture Hall
- Liberal Arts Studio and Reading Room (Library)
- Student Commons
- SITE1212



Academic Programs & Studios

- Painting & Drawing
- Sculpture
- Photography
- Design
- Illustration
- Digital Arts Animation
- Print Media
- Creative Writing
- Liberal Arts
- First Year Experience

Future Naming Opportunities

- New studios and classrooms or department expansions
- Galleries and exhibition spaces
- Future campus renovations and capital projects

Impact

A Named Campus Space provides lasting support that enables AAC to:

- Preserve, enhance, and sustain the campus and inspiring learning environments.
- Modernize studios, classrooms, and shared spaces.
- Invest in new technologies, equipment, and creative resources.
- Support exhibitions, public programming, and student engagement.
- Preserve AAC's historic home while preparing it for future generations.

Recognition

Donors creating a Named Campus Space receive:

- Permanent naming of the position in honor of an individual, family, foundation, or organization.
- Recognition in the Art Academy of Cincinnati's Endowment and Legacy Society.
- Inclusion in institutional publications and donor recognition materials.
- Annual stewardship reports highlighting the impact of the endowed position.
- Opportunities to meet with faculty, students, and academic leadership.
- Invitations to special exhibitions, lectures, and campus events.

Your Legacy Begins Here

The greatest works of art begin with a single act of courage and imagination. Philanthropy is no different. Your generosity will empower students, inspire faculty, preserve a historic institution, and strengthen a creative legacy that will endure for generations. Thank you for helping write the next chapter of the Art Academy of Cincinnati.



Ready to Make a Gift?

Contact

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Make checks payable to:

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SCAN TO GIVE