Message from the Director

DURING THE 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR WE CONTINUED OUR WORK TOWARDS FIVE KEY PRIORITIES:

1. Create a program strategy that increases engagement
2. Increase visibility
3. Increase support
4. Bolster infrastructure and facilities
5. Address staffing needs

As you will see in the pages that follow, we made significant progress in all of these areas. Among our proudest achievements are unprecedented growth in attendance: 36% over last year, 86% over the past two years, and for the first time, over 50% attendance from our primary constituents, Lehigh students, faculty, and staff. We launched a new website, which includes over 2,100 artworks online, and acquired 642 magnificent artworks for the collection, including over 500 photographs from donor George Stephanopoulos.

Although we celebrate these achievements, we close this academic year in a dramatically changed world. In March, a global pandemic required that we transition our work online. We continue to battle systemic racism, xenophobia, and partisan division. And as many find themselves more isolated than ever — physically and ideologically — art museums may not immediately come to mind as holding the solutions that we seek. But it is precisely in museums where we can discover how people from diverse time periods and cultures have addressed challenges.

Museums are critical convenors that bring together different voices, where we can interrogate history, and where we can hypothesize about the future. Museums are interdisciplinary engines for advancing critical thinking, cultural understanding, and well-being — the central aims of LUAG’s mission.

We hope you will visit LUAG often, and see all museums as places of possibility—where we can begin to make our world what we want it to be.
PRIORITY 1: CREATE A PROGRAM STRATEGY THAT INCREASES ENGAGEMENT

We continued to mount dynamic, interdisciplinary, and timely exhibitions to draw new visitors to LUAG. A highlight was Crochet Coral Reef by Christine and Margaret Wertheim and the Institute for Figuring in the Main Gallery during Fall 2019. This extensive world-wide community art installation was on view in two locations globally during this time, the other being the 58th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale. With support from the Lehigh Visiting Lecturers Committee, we brought artist Margaret Wertheim to campus for a hands-on workshop on hyperbolic geometry and a public lecture, which combined drew over 300 participants.

In collaboration with Assistant Professor of Art History and Africana Studies Susan Kart and her students, we co-curated the exhibition EQUILIBRAR: Strength in Community which features works by Black and Latinx artists in the LUAG permanent collection. On view at the Siegel Gallery, Iacocca Hall through December 4, 2020, the exhibition was inspired by BALANCE, Lehigh University’s Black and Latino Alumni Network for Community and Equity which is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2020.

The Art, Architecture and Design Faculty Exhibition opened in the spring, featuring all 15 full-time faculty members. A highlight of the exhibition was its series of gallery talks Art In Dialogue, which paired members of the faculty with practitioners in other disciplines from the wider university and community.

With the hiring of LUAG’s first Curator of Education, Stacie Brennan, we launched new and dynamic education programs for a wide range of visitors: monthly Family Days, drop-in hands-on workshops, and inquiry-based tours for PK-12 students. To continue to grow engagement with Lehigh students, our Student Advisory Committee met three times per semester to provide us with critical feedback and programming ideas.

Lehigh Colleges and Academic Departments Reached

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Attendance/participation of Lehigh University Students, Faculty, Staff

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*Detailed statistics of this type were not gathered prior to August 1, 2018*
Lehigh University Classes that visited LUAG in FY20:

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

- Anna Chupa, Professor of Design, Department of Art, Architecture and Design: Honors Project, Independent Study
- Annabella Pitkin, Assistant Professor of Buddhism / East Asian Religions, Department of Religion Studies: REL 90: Buddhism, Psychology, and Medicine
- Claire Silva, Adjunct Faculty, Department of English: ENG 001: Critical Reading and Composition
- Linda Ganus, Adjunct Professor and Manager of Visual Communications and Orchestra, Department of Music: MUS 126: Music and the Creative Arts, MUS 129: Dark Romanticism in Music: the Sublime, The Uncanny, and the Psychological Confession
- Mary Newbegun, Language Specialist, International Center for Academic and Professional English/Office of International Affairs: ENG 003: Composition and Literature 1 for International Writers, ICAPE Intensive English, ESL Academic Writing and Grammar
- Robin Lee, Graduate Student and Instructor, Department of English: ENG 001: Critical Reading and Composition
- Santiago Herrera, Professor of Practice, Department of Biological Sciences: Bio 50-12: Biodiversity in a Changing Planet
- Santa Mazin, Senior Teaching Fellow and Doctoral Candidate, Department of English: WISS 198: Getting Graphic: Gender & Visual Narrative
- Sharon Friedman, Professor and Director of Science Writing Program, Department of Journalism and Communication: COMM/ES 090: Environment Matters: Communicating about the Environment
- Shelby Carr, Master’s Degree Candidate, Department of English: ENG 101
- Susan Karl, Assistant Professor of Art and Africana Studies, Africana Studies Program and Art Architecture and Design: ART 125: Art and Architecture of Africa from Colonial to Contemporary Times
- Tong Soon Lee, Department Chair & Professor of Ethnomusicology, Department of Music: MUS 90-10: Sounds of Asia: Music and Sustainability, Asia 90-12/MUS 90-10: Music and the Asian Diaspora, ASIA 90: Globalization in Asia Through Time and Space

P.C. ROSSIN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES

- Christina Vauv Haden, Professor of Practice, Mechanical Engineering & Mechanics: Humanities Lab Collaboration
- Marshala Timmerman, Professor of Practice, Director of the Technical Entrepreneurship Program: Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics, ENTP250/TE250: Systematic Creativity Techniques

PK-12 Schools and Educators

- Bethlehem Area School District
- Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit # 21 Allentown Learning Achievement School (ALAS)
- Holy Infancy School
- LV Arts Academy

Other Communities/Community Organizations

- ArtsQuest
- Allentown Art Museum Docents
- Cafe The Lodge Staff and Clients
- Community Action Development Corporation of Bethlehem
- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
- Girl Scouts of Eastern PA
- Lehigh Valley Photography Club
- Nazareth Garden Club
- Southside Arts District
- Touchstone Theater
- Via of the Lehigh Valley

Special Events and Rentals Hosted at LUAG

- Bethlehem Area School District In-Service Day
- Center for Gender Equity Staff Meetings
- Colloquium with Giorgio Biancorosso
- Creativate: Baker Institute
- Department of Music departmental meetings
- Faculty and Staff of Color Mixer
- Gryphon Training, Residence Life
- Iris Meetings, Pride Center
- Kenner Lecture Dinner
- Lehigh Environmental Initiative Symposium
- Lehigh Crafting Circle
- Lunchtime Recital featuring Chinese Guzheng Music
- Moravian College Knitting Group
- Notations Series
- Lori Goldstein
- Lee Upton
- Brenda Shaughnessy
- Kate Raccula
- One Stitch at a Time Workshops with Lehigh Student Affairs
- Southside Arts District Design Committee Meetings
- Touchstone Theater, Sustainability Forum for Festival UnBound
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 40 Year Celebration

- Wall Street Council: Women’s Networking Event
- Zoeller Arts Center Preludes
- 5x10: Scrap Arts Music Prelude with Dick Boak
- Ultimate Queen Celebration
- Postmodern Jukebox
- Once
2019-20 Exhibitions

- Crochet Coral Reef: By Margaret and Christine Wertheim and the Institute for Figuring
  September 12, 2019 - December 7, 2019
  LUAG Main Gallery, Zoellner Arts Center

- The Teaching Museum: Selections from the Permanent Collection Ongoing
  LUAG Lower Gallery, Zoellner Arts Center

- Scale Shift
  January 21, 2019 - December 6, 2019
  Siegel Gallery, Iacocca Hall

- Brit Pop Snapshot
  August 26, 2019 - May 22, 2020
  The Gallery at Rauch Business Center

- British Abstraction: Three Views
  August 26, 2019 - May 22, 2020
  Fairchild-Martindale Study Gallery

- The Motion of Light in Water
  August 29, 2019 - May 22, 2020
  Dubois Gallery, Maginnes Hall

- EQUILIBRAR: Strength in Community
  January 20, 2020 - December 4, 2020
  Siegel Gallery, Iacocca Hall

- Department of Art, Architecture, and Design: Faculty Exhibition
  January 28, 2020 - May 22, 2020
  LUAG Main Gallery, Zoellner Arts Center

2019-20 Education Programs and Events

- Art & The Collection
- Archives to Art: A Walk Through the Philip and Muriel Berman Collection
- Art in Dialogue
- Art & Psychology: Jesseca Marsh and William Crow
- Music & Visual Art: Amy Forsyth and Linda Ganus
- Modern Architecture in Catalan Culture: Anna Chupa and Nicholas Sawicki
- The Stories that Pictures Tell: Nicholas Sawicki and Michael Kramp
- Visual Journaling: Jason Travors and Ian Birky
- Artist Talk and Family Workshop: Deirdre Murphy
- In the Belly of the Architect: Anthony Viscardi and Tim Higgins
- Connect and Create Workshops
- Heart Workshop with Be Your Own Initiative from Center for Gender Equity
- Art/Write: The Poetry of Place
- Cocktails with a Curator
- Crochet Coral Reef: By Margaret and Christine Wertheim and the Institute for Figuring Opening Reception
- Department of Art, Architecture and Design: Figuring Opening Reception
- Department of Art, Architecture and Design: Faculty Exhibition Opening Reception
- Family Day Programs
- Lehigh University New Hire Tours
- Lehigh University Staff Development Day: Art of Observation Workshop
- Lehigh Valley Photo Club Exhibitions Preview and Intro to Artstor
- Raise the Reef Tuesdays
- Reading and the Reef Celebration with LTS
- Slow Art Day
- Study Night at the Museum
- The Motion of Light in Water: Curator’s Tour and Composition Workshop

PRIORITY 2: INCREASE VISIBILITY

In summer 2019, at President Simon’s request, we created a new gallery in Alumni Memorial Hall at the entrance to the President and Provost’s offices. Featuring artworks that reflect the diversity of LUAG’s collection, including Carmen Herrera, Jacob Lawrence, and Faith Ringgold, we are delighted that visitors to this new space, particularly those visiting campus for the first time, will have the opportunity to explore the collection.

After more than a year of complete redesign, we relaunched www.luag.org in partnership with CAS Communications. University-hosted, on-brand, instantly updatable, and free of external consultant fees, we are extremely proud of the result. The website now includes up-to-date programming information, news, and highlights from the collection, as well as our publicly-accessible online collection in Artstor, now with over 2,100 entries that have been accessed by over 180 institutions.

In partnership with University Communications and videographer Stephanie Veto, we created a new promotional video for LUAG that features staff members and students, and aims to spark curiosity about LUAG among the many communities that we serve. Finally, we were proud to be selected by President Simon and Development to be featured as the first episode of the new Go Getters podcast, which launched in May.
“Le, Minh. “LUAG features three new art exhibits this fall.”

The Brown and White, Bethlehem, PA
October 1, 2019. https://www2.lehigh.edu/news/exhibition-art-architecture-design-faculty-exhibition/

“Editorial Services. ‘Raise the Reef Tuesdays’ Connects Lehigh to the Community.”

Lehigh News, Bethlehem, PA

“Lehigh University art galleries receives institute of museum and library services grant.”

EurekAlert!, AAS, Washington, DC

“Leh, Brett. “Festival UnBound Blends Lehigh Scholars with Community Artists.”

Lehigh News, Bethlehem, PA


The Brown and White, Bethlehem, PA

“Enjoy Life: Top things to do in the Lehigh Valley – while safe at home.”

The Morning Call, Allentown, PA
May 10, 2020. https://www.mcall.com/entertainment/things-to-do/mc-ent-virtual-things-to-do-0507-20200507-snp5v3p3bwee9m0n0/?fbclid=IwAR1FQIkCJ_3pITlpx685hG73cgvsq0KQsUf9N0-

“GO Gottiere: Episode #001: William Crow”

Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

“Transcending media: LU Art Galleries shifts online.”

The Brown and White, Bethlehem, PA
2019-20 LUAG Director’s Advisory Council

- Amanda and Emilio DiIlorio
- David DeAngelo
- Heather Rodale
- Jay Hoffman
- Lewis Baer
- Nina Diefenbach
- Ollie Foucek
- Priti Merchant
- Sam Shikiar

2019-20 Donors

- Amanda and Emilio DiIlorio
- Anne Tucker
- Annette Fromm
- Bradley Superka
- Christine Lesquier
- David Buente and Frances Dubrowski
- David Kieselstein
- David DeAngelo
- Emily Beaman
- Erin Firestone
- Frederick and Rosalind McGirr
- Heather Rodale
- Jacob Weir
- James Buccola
- Jarrod Kaufman
- Jay Hoffman
- Jennifer and Ralph Puerta
- Jessica Joseph
- John Woynicki
- Julia Herzberg
- Kenneth Aidekman
- Lewis and Lorraine Baer
- Lorraine Wiedorn
- Lynn-Altass-Marsden
- Lynn Milet
- Nina Diefenbach
- Mark Callahan
- Michael Marson
- Ollie Foucek
- Priti Merchant
- Robert Flowers and Rebecca Miller
- Robert Wheeler
- Richard and Alice Thall
- Sam Shikiar
- Susan Vengrove
- Susan Wigodner
- Terri Bartholomew
- Vacu Braze Inc.
- Victoria Reisman

Priority 3: Increase Support

With the aim of increasing support and engagement, as well as providing critical feedback to guide LUAG’s progress, we created the inaugural LUAG Director’s Advisory Council. This initial group of 10 members, which meets twice per year, has committed to sharing their time, expertise, professional networks, and philanthropic support as we increase the scope and impact of our work.

In partnership with Lehigh Alumni Relations, Director William Crow led two special events: Off the Beaten Path, a Friday evening tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on December 6, and An Evening at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, MA on February 27. Both programs sold out within hours of their announcement, which speaks to the high degree of interest in arts programming among Lehigh alumni.

We received 642 generous gifts of art to LUAG’s permanent collection, including over 500 photographs from donors George and Alexandra Stephanopoulos. Now numbering over 2,000 works, the Stephanopoulos’ collection will be featured in the upcoming exhibition Doing Democracy in the 2020-21 season, co-curated with Lehigh students and faculty from a wide range of departments.

2019-2020 Acquisitions Highlights

- RICARDO VIERA
  Gift of Curlee Raven Holton, Raven Fine Art Print Editions, In Honor of Ricardo Viera. LUG 2019 1016 B

- JOYCE TENNESON
  Four Small Trees, 2019.
  Archival pigment print, 5/12.
  Gift of David and Jennifer Kieselstein. LUF 2019 1540

- ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN
  Girl at Gee’s Bend, Alabama, 1937.
  Gelatin silver print.
  Gift of George and Alexandra Stephanopoulos. LUF 2019 1223

- VESNA PAVLOVIC
  Archival pigment print.
  Gift of Jarrod Kaufman In Honor of Victoria and Hannah Kaufman. LUF 2019 1627
PRIORITY 4:
BOLSTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

LUAG’s galleries, storage facilities, art-on-campus, and even staff members are distributed across three campuses. While this can prove challenging, we made major strides to improve our infrastructure and facilities. Preparator and Collections Specialist Khalil Allaik completed a campus-wide inventory of sculptures and art-on-campus, including condition reports and recommendations for care and conservation. Sculpture conservation continued on three outdoor sculptures: Menashe Kadishman’s Trees, located on Goodman campus, Tom Stieren’s Vertical Forms I, II, III, located on Packer campus, and Igael Tumarkin’s Chichen Itza White on Mountaintop campus is being restored after damage caused by a car collision.

With the addition of 900 square feet of space in the Ralph J. Wilson Study Center and Open Storage Facility in Building J, we began planning for a dedicated Digitization Lab. Through a generous loan of equipment from Olympus, in the coming year we will establish a protocol for the systematic digitization of artworks as part of their processing, as well as works in the permanent collection that need high-resolution and web images.

Through a partnership with Lehigh University Libraries, we catalogued our extensive collection of over 2,000 books and publications and organized these resources in our re-imagined LUAG Reading Room in Zoellner Arts Center. These publications are now discoverable through the ASA online library catalog and can be accessed on site by both Lehigh and the broader public.

CONSERVATION PROJECT
Conservator Daniel Kainz (Allentown, PA) works to repair and re-site the sculpture Chichen Itza White, c.1986, by Igael Tumarkin (Israel, b. 1933), a gift to the university by Philip and Muriel Berman. The sculpture—one of over fifty on campus—was struck by a car and damaged during a snowstorm in the winter of 2018. The sculpture is located at the entrance to Lehigh’s Mountaintop campus.
A Renewed Commitment to Anti-Racism

In response to the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others, and the subsequent protests and calls for action, we recommitted ourselves to anti-racism and the ongoing, daily work of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We collaborated with Lehigh student organizations, such as LU Artists for Change/Black Lives Matter Art Challenge on Instagram, to raise awareness and funds, and featured Black/African-American artists in LUAG’s collection on our website and social media. In the year ahead, we will integrate anti-racist strategies in our work, notably with the exhibitions Doing Democracy and EQUILIBRAR, but also as a key component of a 5-year strategic plan.

LU students were invited to select a work of art from the LUAG Permanent Collection to use as inspiration for their own works of art. In another collaboration with LU Artists for Change LU students were encouraged to submit their own works of art with funds going to support the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Response to COVID-19

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, we closed to the public on March 17. Fortunately, given our newly relaunched website we were well-positioned to quickly transition our work and programming online, and created an online hub of resources, LUAG @ HOME. We offered a range of interactive online programs, such as Visual Journaling with AAD Professor of Practice Jason Travers and Ian Birky, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services as part of the Art in Dialogue series. To help alleviate the stress of lockdown, we also offered Cocktails with a Curator, featuring Curator of Exhibitions and Collections Mark Wonsidler mixing a dry martini and connecting it with Ellsworth Kelly’s art. In this final quarter of FY20, over 3,000 people engaged with online resources and programs through LUAG @ HOME.

LUAG staff worked remotely during this time, and prioritized projects that could be accessed digitally and off-site. Staff also attended and viewed several webinars related to collections care during COVID-19, including Mitigating COVID-19 When Managing Paper-Based, Circulating, and Other Types of Collections, presented by Centers for Disease Control and the Institute of Library and Museum Services, Collections Care in the Age of COVID-19, presented by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, and Covid-19 Basics: Disinfecting Cultural Resources, presented by National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (U.S. Department of the Interior).
Looking Ahead

As we prepare for the year ahead, we anticipate many changes given ongoing health and safety concerns related to COVID-19. We will implement social distancing in our programs and galleries, offer online programs as a core component of our work, and, as much as feasible, LUAG staff will continue working remotely. But despite these changes we are enthusiastic to continue our forward momentum, particularly with timely and relevant exhibitions such as Doing Democracy and Well, Well, Well: Picturing Wellness in the LUAG Collection in the coming year.

Clearly this is a pivotal moment for LUAG, and for the arts at Lehigh broadly. With new leadership at both the CAS Dean and Provost levels, and the University’s aim to articulate a new strategic plan, we will align our work with these institutional priorities and the needs of the audiences that we serve. Conversations have begun in earnest to envision the possibility of a new, stand-alone art museum—the Lehigh University Museum of Art (LUMA), and we plan to conduct a feasibility study in the coming year.

In Memoriam: Ricardo Viera

We mourn the loss of longtime Director and Professor Ricardo Viera, an artist, curator and scholar who led LUAG for 44 years and who grew the university’s holdings to a world-class collection. Ricardo passed away on April 1, and was an innovator for visual literacy and an advocate for Latin American art. He retired from Lehigh in 2018, leaving a rich legacy in the arts, having established a nationally recognized collection of Latino and Latin American works on paper, photography and video. As a professor, Ricardo taught courses in museum and curatorial studies, special topics in the history of photography, public art and visual thinking strategies. He will be greatly missed.