New Member Orientation 2020
Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in joining LexArt – the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society. We welcome you to our community of artisans, bound together by the passion to learn, create, and share art and craft.

This brief overview will introduce you to our history, activities, structure, and the benefits and responsibilities of membership.

We hope you find joy and personal fulfillment as you pursue your creative journey with us.

Wayne Davis, LexArt President
Vision

Enriching lives through the power of creation in art and craft.

Mission

LexArt is an educational non-profit collaborative that supports, encourages, and inspires artisans at all stages of their creative journeys and promotes art in the community by providing studio space, gallery shows, classes, and workshops.
A Rarity in the Arts World

* LexArt’s tagline is **LEARN • CREATE • SHARE**

Our Mission Statement calls us a “collaborative”.

*What do these mean?*

At LexArt, we

- **Learn** from and with each other, through mentoring and in formal classes and workshops and by
- **Creating together** in our shared studios, and then we
- **Share** our work with each other and the broader community through a regular series of exhibits and markets, while
- **Collectively** our artisan-members share responsibility for running the organization.

If you survey the landscape of arts institutions in the U.S. today, you can find schools that offer classes, “makerspaces” with shared studio and equipment, artisan guilds and collaboratives that sell their members’ work, spaces for rent, and galleries and museums that hold exhibits and shows.

But you would be hard-pressed to find another institution that combines education PLUS space and equipment PLUS exhibits and sales AND is substantially governed by its members. *LexArt is a rarity.*
History

1935 - The Lexington Arts and Crafts Society was founded. LexArt was founded by a group of artists and craftspersons with the objective “to foster in the community a more active interest in the arts and crafts and encourage higher artistic standards.” For nearly twenty years, the Society carried on its activities in members’ homes and in various public buildings in Lexington.

1953 - The Society incorporated as a non-profit organization. Land here at 130 Waltham Street was purchased and the Society broke ground for its own building. The building, which consisted of just the front section, was dedicated the following year.

1965 and 1973 - Additions to the building were constructed. Our building currently has a large painters’ studio, a full ceramic studio with kilns, well-equipped woodworking and metalworking shops, a weaving studio with numerous looms, a large gallery, an office with a small gallery/gift shop, and multi-purpose meeting rooms.

2018 – 2019 – New Identity, New Directions. The Society rebranded itself as LexArt, adopted a new logo, and began a multi-year effort to revitalize its ability to serve its mission, members, and the broader community.
Our Home
Classes and Workshops

Numerous classes and workshops (day, evening, and weekends), are offered to members at a discount and the general public at reasonable fees.
Exhibits

A variety of exciting exhibits are mounted in our Parsons Gallery year-round by our guild members, as well as by invited guest artists.

Guild members can exhibit/sell their works at these gallery showings. They also can learn how to curate, mount, and manage shows.
The public is invited to our opening receptions, which often include a speaker, demonstration, or entertainment.
The Gallery features ongoing sales showcasing the works of each guild’s artists and crafts persons.
The Society has three Annual Sales*: Holiday Marketplace in December, Artisans Market in the summer, and the Annual Fundraiser Fall Fair in October, at which the public can purchase quality arts and crafts handcrafted by our guild members. Guild members receive 70% of their sales in the Holiday Marketplace and the Artisans Market.

*Eligibility to participate in Artisans Market and the Holiday Marketplace requires participating with merchandise in the Fall Fair Fundraiser.
Annual Fundraising Fair - October

Fall Fair is the Society’s largest fundraising event.

Along with cash contributions, the Fair typically contributes about $20,000 to help cover the Society’s operating expenses.

All Guild members contribute to the Fair with merchandise and/or cash.
Active artisans typically join one or more of the Guilds.

We also have Junior and Sustaining Members.

Total membership ~300

Each Guild has:

- Its own schedule of meetings, classes, workshops, and exhibits, so guild members can work with artisans with similar interests, sharing ideas and expertise
- Some have their own specialized tools and equipment
- Its own dues and volunteer requirements
- A monthly business meeting which should be attended by all Guild members
Society Membership

**Society Guild Members** are active, producing artists and craftspersons, who belong to one or more Guilds. They support the aims and objectives of both the Society and their Guild(s). They pay dues to both the Society and their Guild(s) and have an Annual Fair Commitment of $75 in sales items (100% to the Society) or cash.

**Society Sustaining Members** are people that enjoy opportunities to be part of the community of artists and craftspeople. They also receive:

- Discounts on classes.
- Membership in North American Reciprocal Museum, an affiliation of institutions whose qualified members receive reciprocal membership. This includes the Peabody Essex Museum, the Fuller Crafts Museum, Harvard’s Fogg Museum, and other institutions in Massachusetts and across the United States.
- Invitations to Gallery openings and the Holiday Marketplace Preview Party.
- Invitations to be part of the Instructor Student shows.
- Advance registration for LexArt classes.
- Discounts at selected stores.
Benefits of Guild Membership

Guild meeting space, some with fully equipped studios, specialized tools

Opportunities to exhibit or sell one’s work

Eligible to participate in workshops, demonstrations, meetings, and events which are open to Guild members only

Discounts on classes and workshops at Guild member rates

Participation in Guild Gallery Shows
Benefits for All Members

• Eligible to participate in workshops, demonstrations, meetings, and other members-only events
• Discounts on classes and workshops at Society member rates
• Free Parking
• Holiday Marketplace Preview Party
• Meet and interact with a community of people who share your interests
• Receive member discounts at museums, other art associations and quality retailers.
• Satisfaction of supporting the arts
Youth Programs

Junior Members (ages 13-18) are eligible to take classes and workshops and participate in exhibitions which are open to junior members.

Teen dedicated pottery classes meet weekly.

Summer Youth Art Camp (ages 6-12 and teens) occasionally offered during the summer.

Regional High School Show
High School Art Majors (from 9 town high schools)

Scholarships from multiple Art Scholarship Fund are available to graduating seniors from Lexington High School. In addition, we provide continuing support to scholarship recipients in furthering their art careers at accredited art institutions.
# Society Membership Dues

## SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Society Guild Member (there may also be Guild dues)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ceramics and Woodworkers</td>
<td>$260*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metalworkers and Weavers</td>
<td>$210*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorative Arts, Needle Arts, Painters, Photography, Polymer Clay &amp; Beading</td>
<td>$160*</td>
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* *Guild Members over 80 years old pay 50% of annual Society dues.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Society Sustaining Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>$112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 80 Years Old</td>
<td>$ 80*</td>
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** *Members interested in NARM (North American Reciprocal Museums privileges may opt to pay the minimum requirement of $100 for membership dues.*
Society Members’ Responsibilities

“Members” ... not “Consumers”

Volunteering, both with your time and with your skills, is one of the simplest and most rewarding ways to help our cause. We believe the best way for our initiatives to be successful is for the community we serve to get actively involved. Your volunteer efforts give life to LexArt.

LexArt is unique among arts organizations because we run our daily operations primarily with volunteers. It takes a village to do what we do. We appreciate and depend on every minute our members share with us. You can make a difference and grow friendships every day by serving on a committee, helping to run shows, organizing sales, maintaining and improving the building and facilities, coordinating group efforts, posting to social media, and so much more.

Please volunteer on a regular basis.
Operational Support

Paid Staff
- A part-time Education Director & Operations Manager
- A part-time Office Administrator
- A part-time Custodian
- A bookkeeping service

Many management and labor functions are performed by members, like you, on a volunteer basis

An all-volunteer governance structure
- Board of Directors, including President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary
- Guild Chairs
- Committee Chairs
- Members (who help to support committees and events, and assist with clerical and other Society tasks)
Governance Structure

- LexArt is a not-for-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) status.
- Members elect the Board of Directors
  - A majority are typically active guild members.
  - Independent directors provide outside perspectives and connections with the broader community.
- Much of LexArt’s work and program development is accomplished through committees, on which all members may serve.
- Each Guild manages its own affairs, with an elected set of officers.
- The Council of Guild Chairs coordinates cross-guild activities and also provides advice to the LexArt Board of Directors.
Hours

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm

Gallery Hours (typical):

Exhibits run 2 weeks

Tuesday - Friday & Sunday Noon - 4pm

Saturday 10am - 4pm
Questions??

• We will now collect your application and check(s). (Please make separate checks payable to LexArt and to your individual Guild, if applicable).

*We would appreciate your email address when filling out your Membership Application; it is more efficient and cost-effective for the Society*

  - You will receive full class brochures, notices, and correspondence.

• Tour of Building
Thank you for attending and becoming a Member of this wonderful organization

After we have processed your application, you will receive a welcome letter, membership card, member directory, and parking sticker.