

LOOP Youngstown FAQ

Q: How will the LOOP Youngstown Arts & Culture Center serve artists?

A: The LOOP initiative will center supporting artists' self-identified needs and goals as artists.

- LOOP will rent small and large studios to artists, providing a secure, permanent place to make art and store materials and equipment.
- LOOP will create opportunities for artists such as gallery shows and arts and craft sales; and connect artists with regional opportunities such as gallery exchanges.
- LOOP will offer professionalization workshops; for example, business building resources such as creating a website or understanding taxes, or resources on honing craft such as artist grants and residencies. A future goal is to host our own artist-in-residence program, tailored to offer mentoring to local artists.
- LOOP will develop opportunities to collaborate and connect with other local artists, for example, in a critique group or interdisciplinary project.

Q: Is LOOP just for Youngstown artists?

A: We will promote and offer resources to regional artists.

Q: Will LOOP provide artist live-spaces?

A: Many arts survey respondents have told us there is a need for artist live-spaces in the Valley, so it is a future goal for us. However, none of the buildings we are currently assessing are zoned residential.

Q: Will LOOP be open to the public?

A: Yes! There will be scheduled public hours for gallery shows, art and craft classes for adults and children, community art projects, open studios/art sales, and other scheduled events. For example, nonprofits like Lit Youngstown that rent office space will have public programs in the LOOP center.

Q: Will there be maker spaces for the public to use?

A: A future goal is to open shops for working in wood, metals, ceramics, glass and other materials, for experienced artists and those who, with safe guidance, would like to try their hand at something new.

Q: Will LOOP serve the local community?

A: Yes! Many LOOPers have experience in community development and are looking forward to bringing art into the community. We imagine painted flower pots, murals on garages, colorful crosswalks, music and poetry on porches, collaborations with local organizations on community-wide projects. A future goal is to bring artists-in-residence into schools or other civic and educational spaces.

Q: Why buy a building? Why not just rent?

A: Our experience has shown that renting leaves the arts vulnerable to real estate transactions; for example, the Soap Gallery in downtown Youngstown and artists in the historic Ward Baking Company were displaced when their buildings changed owners. After this loss of infrastructure and deep cuts in arts programs at Youngstown State University and K-12 education, we are hoping to create a secure and steady presence to foster creativity and artistic experiences.

Q: What is LOOP's timeline?

A: The answer is "as long as it takes," but with a tremendous amount of community support, we are moving forward with our primary goals! We are excited, encouraged, and grateful. We are simultaneously

- raising funds to purchase a building with as little debt as possible. We have raised nearly \$100,000.
- visiting arts and culture centers to learn about different administrative and program models.
- building our team of community members with a breadth of experience, interest and points of view.
- learning about funding structures, commercial buildings, and what communities can provide their artists to allow the arts sector to flourish.

We have many ideas, such as opening a materials reclamation depot and tool library! These ideas will inspire us while we carefully build the project one step at a time. Goal #1 is to purchase and renovate a building, open artist studios, and gain experience developing our program.

Q: What can I do to support LOOP?

A: We are grateful to everyone who has offered encouragement and financial support. Please keep an eye out for our fundraisers, and fill out the Community Arts Needs Survey [here](#). **We appreciate you!**