



Community
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CINCINNATI, OH

Friday, December 22nd, 2023

WAVE POOL AND LEARNING THROUGH ART, INC. TEAM UP TO EXHIBIT *STORY QUILTS*, AN EXHIBITION OF NINE COMMUNALLY-MADE QUILTS, AS TOLD AND SEWN THROUGH THE EYES OF CINCINNATIANS.

Wave Pool and Learning Through Art, Inc. (LTA) have teamed up to exhibit *Story Quilts*, on view at Wave Pool's gallery from January 13th through March 2nd, 2024. This will be the first time that all nine of these community-crafted quilts will be on view to the public.

Story Quilts was a project LTA first began in 2021, as part of a regional and national "truth and reconciliation" program in partnership with ArtsWave and the Centre for Community Resilience at The George Washington University.

Since the project's inception in 2021, LTA organized ten Community Conversations, which included citizens and neighbors from Cincinnati and beyond who joined in facilitated discussions to share their personal and complicated truths about their experiences with systemic racism and social injustice—as well as proposed solutions which might help us reach reconciliation.

The resulting quilts demonstrate the concerns of those included in these art-making community discourse driven gatherings. For example, the "Join Forces for Children" quilt made by educators and health care professionals reflect their care and understanding of the body; whereas the communal textile work crafted by those who attended the Lincoln Grant Scholar House's Community Conversations, emphasize the organization's mission towards academic achievement and tending to the health and post-secondary education of single-parent families.

Each of the nine quilts on view is special and uniquely addresses the difficult questions posed in the midst of these public conversations: that societal injustices are complex and require community buy-in for real change to happen. These conversations are just one step in that process of integration back into the community. But witnessing and holding space for difficult truths is another way in which that healing can happen. To that aim and as part of this exhibition, Wave Pool will also host a Community Conversation on Thursday February 1st, 5 - 7 PM at the gallery, facilitated by LTA.

As part of the Opening Reception at Wave Pool where all nine *Story Quilts* will be on view, The Welcome Project across the street from the gallery will also be open to the public with alcohol and drinks for sale, as well as free food samples for the community to taste and vote on. Please join us in helping to decide what food we will offer at Welcome in 2024.

For more information or further questions about *Story Quilts*, you can reach out to Wave Pool's Director of Exhibitions and Artist Support Initiatives, Maria Seda-Reeder at maria@wavepoolgallery.org.



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Wave Pool creates community fulfillment through artistic opportunities.

IF YOU GO:

What: Exhibition Opening Reception

When: Saturday, January 13th, 2024, 5 - 8 PM

Where: Wave Pool Gallery, 2940 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45225

Admission: FREE, open to the public

IF YOU GO:

What: Story Quilts Community Conversation

When: Thursday, February 1st, 2024, 5 - 7 PM

Where: Wave Pool Gallery, 2940 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45225

Admission: FREE, open to the public

IF YOU GO:

What: Quilt Gifting, Closing Reception

When: Saturday, March 2nd, 2024, 5 - 8 PM

Where: Wave Pool Gallery, 2940 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45225

Admission: FREE, open to the public

Attached Images Credit:

1. *Lincoln Grant Scholar House*, 2022. Quilted fabric. 40 x 53 in. Story Quilts: Community Conversations, Cincinnati, OH. Collection of Learning Through Art, Inc.

2. *Avondale, Joining Forces for Children*, 2021. Quilted fabric. 44 x 54 in. Story Quilts: Community Conversations, Cincinnati, OH. Collection of Learning Through Art, Inc.

About LTA:

Learning Through Art, Inc. (LTA) is a Cincinnati-based non-profit building resilient communities through art, and providing quality performing arts programs in support of arts integrated education, literacy, community development and engagement- encouraging multi-cultural awareness and understanding for more than 31 years.

About Wave Pool:

Wave Pool is a socially-engaged art center that acts as a conduit for community change through artist opportunities and support. Pairing communities' knowledge of their needs with artists' sense of possibility, Wave Pool provides a structure whereby contemporary art and artists can be integral contributors to the fabric and success of our city, country, and beyond, by helping us build relationships and collective knowledge around complex issues, centering the insights and experience of those most intimately affected.

www.wavepoolgallery.org