# **Evanston Art Center Proposal**

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Team 2

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# The Big Idea

Expand the focus beyond just getting people to enroll in classes. Inspire people to appreciate, support, and continue the arts.

#### **Opportunities for Improvement**

#### Reaching New Markets

- Untapped potential with NU students & organizations
- 20-30 year olds
- Future supporters

#### Improving the Experience

- Foster a welcoming environment
- Converting visitors to customers or donors
- Getting people to come back

#### Online Communication

 Get people talking on social media

 Shape EAC's image through its website

# Reaching New Markets

# 70.2%

of Northwestern students surveyed have not heard of the Evanston Art

Center

# How do Northwestern **Students** discover the EAC?

- **34%** said they heard about the EAC through a **family or friend**.
- **21%** found out about the EAC through a **poster**
- Only 7% discovered the EAC via Social Media

# Evanston Demographics

- **30.7%** of Evanston's population are in their **20s or 30s**
- This averages out to roughly23,210 people in this demographic
- 14.5% of males and 13% of females fall into the 25-34 demographic

# Why

get Northwestern students to come to the EAC?

- Big part of Evanston community
- Wealthy alumni
- Potential future donors
- Build a love and appreciation of art in young people

# **EXPOSURE > RETENTION**

1. Group One-Time Classes

# 73.8%

of Northwestern students would take a one-time class at the EAC.

#### **Group One-Time Classes**

Targeted at student groups, Greek organizations

#### Strategies to make that happen:

- Establish relationship with event chairs
- Schedule in advance and for a minimum number of people



# 67.9%

of Northwestern Students would pay up to \$20 for a single class

This decreases to

# 20.2%

when the price increases to \$30

# Classes that Northwestern students would like to take the most

- **56%** said they would be interested in taking a **Ceramics** class
- 45.2% were interested in Painting
- 42.9% of those surveyed are interested in Digital Art & Photography

2. Art Theory and Practice Exhibitions

#### Art Theory and Practice Exhibitions

Partner with the department of Art Theory and Practice at Northwestern
University

 End of quarter displays for Intro-level and Advanced classes for Painting, Drawing, Sculpture and Photography

#### Outcomes:

 Increase student awareness and presence



# 3. BYOB Art Parties

#### **BYOB Art Parties**

- 21-30 demographic grad students and young professionals
- Bring your own wine and snacks
- Private events: birthdays, work gatherings, bachelorette parties
- Special occasion events:
   Valentine's Day celebration
   (couples), long weekend,
   happy hour



# Improving the Gallery Experience

# Why

improve the experience of visiting the Evanston Art Center?

- Make sure every person who walks through the door feels welcome
- People will feel more comfortable interacting with the art
- Get one-time visitors to come back
- Establish relationships with potential future donors

## 1. The Front Desk





#### The Front Desk

- Verbal communication is better than having visitors read a sign
- Signs as a supplement/more info
- "Welcome! Have you been here before?"
- "The gallery is free, but if you have the means to donate we'd love your support on your way out"
- Move the computer off to the side; no obstruction to communication
- Make clear what the sign-in/email sheet is
- "My name is \_\_\_, let me know if you have any questions!"

# 2. The Exhibitions









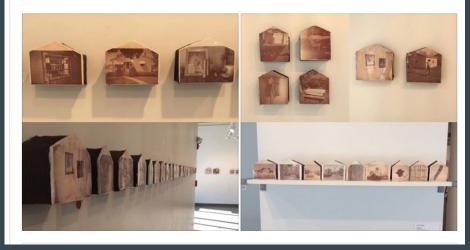
#### The Exhibitions

- More information about the artwork
  - Artists' bios
  - Artwork explanation/intro
  - The process (photos if possible)
- Student artwork
  - The class, the instructor
  - Opportunities to get involved
- Providing that first step
  - Allow viewers to fill in the blanks, build a story
- A projector/screen can display this



Make sure to come and check out two current exhibitions displayed in our first floor galleries, on view through March 4!

Jill Birschbach creates small sculptures that combine photography and ceramic material in order to document the people, spaces and important objects in her life. Combining these two elements by using photographic ceramic decals, Birschbach's images merge with the glaze rendering these moments permanently preserved and frozen in time.



# **Online Communication**

# Why

improve the Evanston Art Center's online presence?

- Ability to touch many people frequently
- Build a following through buzz
- Spread the love of art

## 1. The Website

CLASSES

**EXHIBITIONS** 

**EVENTS** 

SUPPORT

**ABOUT** 

DONATE

#### **SEARCH FOR CLASSES**

Here at the Evanston Art Center we comfortable. Search our database to

#### **SEARCH CLASSES**

**SEARCH TERMS:** 

**DEPARTMENT:** 

<Any>

TYPE:

<Any>

**INSTRUCTOR:** 





CLASSES **EXHIBITIONS EVENTS** SUPPORT **ABOUT** DONATE

#### **SEARCH FOR CLASSES**

Here at the Evanston Art Center we



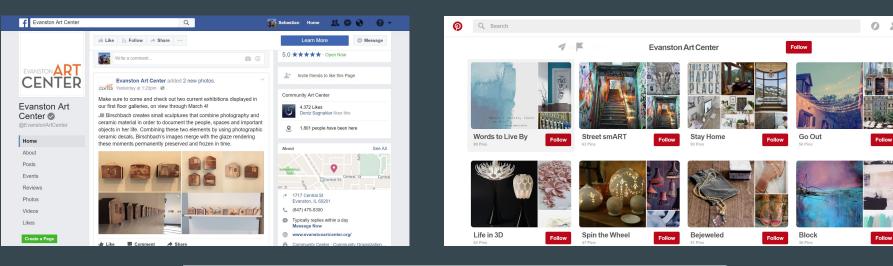
- Feels very commercial
- Emphasizes classes and donations
- We'd like to see more art

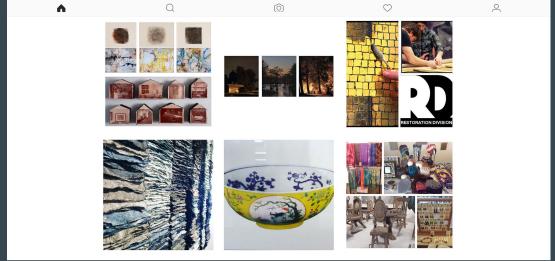
## **Emphasize the impact**





## 2. Social Media





#### Social Media Engagement

- Facebook average 3-4 likes per post, 4000 followers
- Twitter average 0-1 likes per tweet, 2000 followers
- Pinterest 64 total followers
- Instagram average 30-40 likes per post, 1000 followers

### Concentrating Media Efforts

- Focus on platforms that will have an impact
- Everyone uses facebook
- Facebook events -> notifications

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#### **Concentrating Media Efforts**

- Focus on platforms that will have an impact
- Everyone uses facebook
- Facebook events -> notifications
- Posting photos from events to generate buzz

# To wrap it up...

By focusing on new markets, improving the experience at the gallery and online, the Evanston Art Center can grow while fulfilling its mission of spreading an appreciation for art.