



## *A look to the future...*

The Larson Gallery has been operating since 1949 in the same building which was originally built as part of the new Yakima Junior College campus with property and funds from the estate of A. E. Larson. This building has continuously operated as a gallery without changes to the interior except the construction of new track lighting in 1985 and new interior walls in 2011. LED lighting was added in 2012, and new art storage cabinets in 2016.

One of the challenges of the existing building is that the top half of the building is glass block, which makes lighting the gallery a challenge as the south wall of the gallery receives direct sunlight through the glass blocks that interferes with LED light and is damaging to artwork. In 2016, special mesh blinds were installed to mitigate some of the harmful rays.

One of the long-term strategic goals of the Larson Gallery Guild Board was to build a new gallery that would be able to control lighting and humidity and meet guidelines for accreditation established by the American Alliance of Museums. It is toward this goal that a new facility as part of Yakima Valley College's West Campus project has been established.

In addition to a new Larson Gallery on West Campus, the new building will also house the Yakima Valley College Vineyard & Technology Tasting Room and an outdoor sculpture garden. We are grateful to YVC for including us in this project.

**Challenge:** Many members and visitors have told us about the challenges of parking. Although parking passes can be sent by email, passes are often picked up at the gallery, then the visitor must return to the car to place the pass.

**Response:** The new gallery will be situated in the large West Campus parking lot with easy access to the gallery.

**Challenge:** In years past, the college had designated areas for school busses to park. With recent expansion of the campus, these are no longer available. School buses may drop off and pick up students but must wait off-site.

**Response:** School buses will be able to enter off 16th Avenue and park at the rear of the gallery.

**Challenge:** Loading area for the gallery is through a gate off a busy street, between the gallery and another building, which is only accessible by car or passenger van. **Response:** New loading doors and access to the rear of the building will allow larger trucks that would provide the capability for better and

larger exhibits.

**Challenge:** The current exhibition area has 150 linear feet that is expandable to 180 linear feet with moveable walls. The current moveable walls are large and heavy, and it is difficult to arrange help to move them. **Response:** The new exhibition space will increase in size and provide the capability for more than one exhibit at a time. Exhibition linear wall space will increase to 265 linear feet. The exhibition area will be accessed through a hallway from the front door, and will eliminate natural light and create the ability for all light to be measured and controlled. This control of light and humidity has become a crucial component as more traveling exhibits and delicate objects are put on display.

**Challenge:** The current Larson Gallery restroom is located in the office and not originally intended for public use. The bathroom is only available for one person and also contains a utility sink for painting. **Response:** The new facility will have two bathrooms brought up to code and accessible to the public for both the Larson Gallery and YVC Vineyard and Technology program. The bathrooms will also be distanced away from the more public spaces such as the exhibition area and tasting room.

**Challenge:** The current kitchen contains a sink and microwave and is only usable by one person. **Response:** The new kitchen will be useable by caterers including wash sinks, dishwasher, refrigerator, hand-washing stations, and warming oven.

**Challenge:** The current facility does not have a dedicated workshop space that is used for preparing works for exhibition. Labels, framing and other preparatory work is completed on office tables. **Response:** The new gallery building will contain a dedicated workshop and art storage facility for incoming and outgoing exhibits and exhibit preparation.

**Challenge:** The reception area in the current facility contains both the desk for the receptionist, a work-study student, and the gift shop. The design of this reception area also creates conflict visually, as it is part of the exhibition area. **Response:** The new dedicated reception area will include an attached larger gift shop. This new gift shop area will have the capacity for more items and books, accessible by both gallery patrons and the tasting room. The gift shop and reception area are visually separated from the exhibition area and will allow for a grand entry into the gallery.

And we are keeping the existing gallery for workshops and events!

