

Please Speak Up Regarding Our Move!

Grand Valley Artists boasts a 60-plus year history in West Michigan and currently has 240 members! Since 2018, GVA has been the beneficiary of a very generous lease agreement from Dave Bazen (GVA member) and Bazen Electric—but we cannot hope to replicate our monthly rent of approximately \$1700 on the open market. Our three-year lease on Service Road has expired, Bazen’s business is expanding and Bazen Electric needs the space we now occupy. Grand Rapids’ commercial real estate is booming! Premium lease rates and high demand mean limited choices in desirable locations. In addition, GVA needs parking space, studio/gallery space and program space, leaving very few affordable options.

The GVA Studio Search Committee has looked at over twenty options and crisscrossed the greater GR area multiple times. It has considered members’ demographic data and tried to target areas that would allow access to all of our members and be attractive to new members as well.

However... in order to do the job well, **it is imperative that we hear from our members!** We need to know what members want from GVA and how much they are willing to pay (with time, talent and money) to get what they want. So please take the time to write a few short sentences (cut and paste if you find that easier) in response to two questions. Multiple choice surveys just don’t give us a complete understanding of your thoughts and opinions, so please help us represent you fully!

- 1. What kinds of services do you want GVA to provide?** (classes, workshops, studio time, evening studio time, sketch groups, gallery space, gallery shows, renting to other groups, social gatherings, more/other?)
- 2. How would you choose to help pay for the services you desire?** (help raise money, donate, pay higher membership dues, surcharges for sketch sessions, find matching funds, volunteer to keep the studio open to attract more members, volunteer with shows and exhibits, other/more?) Get creative...for example, having members volunteer to sit for Monday portrait sketch would save the organization \$1750 per year!

Send your responses **today** to danaBdonnell@gmail.com.... Thank you!

Submitted by the GVA Search Committee