In 1967 the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City, gave 6 paintings to the Art Center, Inc., S.B. L.A. One is shown at bottom of this page.

DESIGNFAIR DISCUSSION—Ann LeJeune, left, and Frances Love, right, discussed “Change and Adaptation” of fashion with Gloria Vanderbilt in Lafayette when she was here as the special guest of Goudchaux’s. During a City Club luncheon, they had an opportunity to find out why Ms. Vanderbilt is concentrating on color co-ordinating jeans and tops rather than the painting and collage design that she became well known for doing in the late sixties and early seventies. Change in lifestyles was her answer.

The Amon Ra, “king of the gods,” right, is the most important piece in the Egyptian collection, donated to the University of Southwestern L.A. by the late Ambassador Caffery. Its base is inscribed “To His Excellency, Jefferson Caffery, a Distinguished Person, Friend, and Ambassador from Jamal Abdul Nasser, Cairo, 8 January, 1955.” It is 12” tall. The head is probably a likeness of a “priestly official” and dates from 600 B.C. Both bronze.

“Decay” is the title of this oil on canvas painting by Jack Frankfurter. Painted between 1950 and 1960, it was first exhibited in New York at the Whitney Museum of Art. The artist is a native of Vienna, but is a citizen of this country. He lives in Rome and returns annually for exhibitions.
September 10, 2000
To Pete deGravelles, president Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
former president, USL Foundation
From: Frances Love, former director, Art Center for Southwern LA. 1965-1983
attorney, USL Foundation 1971-1983
RE: Art Center or UL Art Museum in its original building/transition.

Dear Pete,

Attached is the data first requested by the Art Center Committee members, then by Randy Haynie, and Mr. Henley of Monroe. Since I put each collection of material together from my personal files, it has taken a while to assemble, since I have a full time business.

As documented, I was with this project from the start, and I accepted the advice of good personal friends and former Foundation presidents, the late Billy Bolton, and J. Winston Fontenot, as well as the first Foundation director, the late Dean Herbert Hamilton. Billy handled the Foundation accounting and Winston was at that time an attorney with Voorhies and Labbe, and president at the outset of the building’s construction.


Please see other information in a recent letter to Dr. Ray Authement, also included. Although I will help the Foundation and the Art Center to restore its collection in that building, built for that purpose by A. Hays Town, I no longer have time for much more. Many friends of ULL hope that transition will be soon. You will see that some fine offers have been voluntarily offered to enhance the collection. Nothing has been finalized or will be until we get an official OK from the Foundation.
JUNE 1, 2000

TO: Committee Members for the Art Center/Art Museum, working with the UL Foundation, Jean Hurley, Frances and John Love, Joyce Bonin, Judge and Mrs. Kaliste Saloom, Jr., Charles Hebert, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. Don Jones of Crowley, Herman Mhire, Mrs. Ann LeJeune Bowen and former Mayor Kenny Bowen, Elmore Morgan, Horace B. Rickey, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Dominic Palmintier, Buddy Palmer, Lessleen Owen, Peggy Nolan, Randy Haynie, and others. Also, Dr. Ray Authement, Brent D. Henley, Fred Daspital, and Julie Falgout, UL Foundation director.

RE: New Information: Here is a summary of some of the things that are on the agenda, this summer. Please let me hear from you re: your opinions.

1. Chamber of Commerce president, Pete DeGravelles, says that the Big Move across the street to the new UL Foundation building is expected to take place sometime in October, 2000, which is only 2 months later than Ray Authement had hoped for a year ago. We probably need to expect additional delays. So I am anticipating Jan. 15, 2001.

2. I was interviewed at my office by Brent D. Henley, Wednesday, of Monroe, LA. He is head of The Pyramid Group, PO Box 2251, Monroe, LA. 71207. Randy Haynie is paying his commission and expenses to work in Lafayette talking with stakeholders (meaning interested and concerned in the arts). By now others of our group may have been called by him. He spent the week here and plans to return to continue talking with more leadership people about building a new art museum for Acadiana.

I told him that my only interest is getting the Foundation’s Art Center back in mint condition, complete with the entire fine art collections, and that I care only about this project, which he understands.

3. Goal: a proposal for a Capitol Improvement project ready to sell to the legislature in 2002. As Randy and he agree, it may be the last chance to have a friendly governor (Foster) to support the arts in the near future. They visualize a facility costing several million dollars that would include a 600-seat auditorium, as well as gallery space. He says its completion date would realistically be 2005 (probably up to 2008). He is unsure how much
money the local area would be expected to raise.

I doubt if Lafayette people will be very excited about fund raising for another museum that is not fully and locally controled, especially since there is a $6 million dollar fund raising campaign now to make the old Heymann Dept. Store usable for a Lafayette Natural Science Museum.

Also, our black community expects to raise at least a million dollars (to start with) for restoration, a museum and an activities center at the Holy Rosary Institute. For the second consecutive year it will be named one of the 10 Most Endangered Louisiana's Historic Buildings by the State Preservation group, and it will be announced to media, June 3, at the annual meeting in New Orleans. National publicity begins January 1. I wrote the proposal for C.R.E.O.L.E. Inc. for both 1999 and 2000. Although they already have donations coming from alums throughout the country, most of the fund raising will be here too. Henley and Randy say that at present committee people, appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, will probably consider two or more site proposals, including (1) another museum downtown, and (2) one located near Girard Park or in the Oil Center.

I would vote against downtown, because unless some existing bldgs. are razed, there would be no space for another museum with adequate free parking. Traffic congestion on narrow streets would be a fire, crime, safety, and emergency hazard. Traditionally, it is hard to convince Acadiana people to park and walk a distance for performances, exhibits, etc. Free parking is important. I have learned that many times in good weather and bad.

5. If you who were present at the meeting, Feb., 1999, between Art Center and Foundation representatives, do you recall Dr. Authement's desire to create a permanent new front entrance to the University on St. Mary Blvd. between Girard Park Dr. and the Oil Center? It would be flanked by the Foundation's new building on one side and the UL Art Museum on the other.

Perhaps a 2nd art museum could be built facing St. Mary between the present UL Art Center and the Chamber of Commerce. Just a thought for a proposed state legislative capitol improvement designation by 2002-2005, if agreement could be reached with the UL Foundation. Please give some thought to this prospect, if you would approve this or another suggestion. It could save money and eliminate duplication by including more gallery space.
Please let me know what you think.

6. Committee people appointed to work on this project from the Chamber of Commerce include Randy Haynie and Gail Romero, Ch of Co; Kathy Weber, Downtown Dev.; Tim Breaux, City\ Parish; Gerald Breaux, LCVC (he said that he has up to $200,000 approx. to use in related tourism facilities annually from state tax from Acadiana hotel/motels rooms).

We should try to meet in July, if possible, to discuss our thinking about the best future possible for the arts. All of the people involved are well meaning, good people.

Tentative plans for a Ch of Co Committee meeting on this subject are for sometime in August.

Thanks,

Frances Love

(E-mail: Associate.pr)

Is Monday, July 17 OK for meeting? If it is, I will tell you where—Petroleum Club, Art Museum, Chamber of Commerce, or at my depending on response. RSVP.

If you haven’t heard:
Kevin O’Brien is the new director of the USL Art Museums. He is from Key West, FL. Background strong in the Fine Arts, Ohio. MA in fine arts from Tulane. I have not yet met him.