

**What is *Art Lab* anyway?**

## **Art Lab: the program**

*Art Lab* is The Aldrich Museum's intensive and highly interactive leadership program for juniors and seniors who have experience and/or interest in the arts. The program combines performing and visual arts and the exchange of ideas in an exciting process that helps young people become a greater asset to the community through the arts.

Students apply to the program and go through an in-person interview to be considered for one of the few coveted open spots.

From September through May, students meet every week with Aldrich staff. During nearly 30 meetings throughout the school year *Art Lab* members:

- Put their creative energy into something other than school or a job
- Socialize with a new group of friends from various area high schools who share an interest in art
- Meet contemporary artists
- Volunteer during big Aldrich fundraising events
- Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of The Aldrich Museum
- Strengthen leadership and mentoring skills
- Attend various Aldrich events and programs, including exhibition openings, and artist panels
- Organize *Art Lab*-run events and workshops
- Speak their mind about contemporary art
- Collaborate closely with contemporary artists
- Develop an awareness of and experience the impact the arts has on the community
- Share their artwork and ideas with each other
- Learn to plan and promote events for the community
- Get an insight into career options in museums, education, and in the arts in general

## **Art Lab: the Web site**

**Who will use the Web site?**

*Art Lab* students

*Art Lab*'s friends

Other students, ages 13 to 18, in the U.S. and worldwide (we hope!)

**What will the Web site mean to teens?**

An introduction to The Aldrich for and by teens

A way to comment on and speak up about art

A way to connect to and share ideas with other teens interested in art

A way to connect to the contemporary art world  
A link to other high school students  
An art resource Web site  
A means for *Art Lab* to reach out to other students

## **More stuff that might give you more insight:**

### **Art Lab Mission Statement**

It is the mission of *Art Lab* to:

- Be aware and make others aware of the importance of contemporary art and ideas
- Help students find themselves as artists, through the creation and discussion of art
- Prepare for a life in the arts by working with people both inside and outside the art community

### **Education Department Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the education department of The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum to harness the power inherent in direct interaction with contemporary art and artists—and to use it to inspire and nurture the big ideas that lead to transformative learning experiences. The studio practices of the Museum's exhibiting artists will inspire our laboratory approach to learning, which engages diverse communities of children, teens, adults, seniors, families, and educators in the creative process. By cultivating critical and creative thinking, and encouraging curiosity and reflection, we will demonstrate how the power and value of art benefits our diverse communities.

### **Museum Mission Statement**

It is the mission of The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum to be a national leader in the exhibition of significant and challenging contemporary art with an emphasis on emerging and mid-career artists, a world-class innovator of museum education programs, and a vital cultural resource for our community.