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## Opening reception for art show set for July 20 by area youth learning art profession from mentors KyCAD, LVA partner to teach aspiring artists in 'The Future Is Now'

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*Louisville, KY*—A July 20 reception will open an art exhibition showcasing the work produced during a mentoring program operated jointly by the Kentucky College of Art + Design at Spalding University and Louisville Visual Art.

The program, called The Future Is Now, matches high-school art students with working artists from the Louisville area. The exhibition, which runs through August 4 at the 849 Gallery, will feature art created by the six students enrolled in the six-week program. The exhibition's opening night includes a reception from 5 to 7 p.m.

[The Future Is Now](#) is open to rising freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors who are considering visual art as a career.

Over the course of The Future Is Now program, each student/mentor team works toward creating individual and collaborative pieces for the exhibition.

Along the way, program facilitators from [Louisville Visual Art](#) and [KyCAD](#) work with the artist mentors to teach the students new artistic processes, portfolio building, how to get the most out of a critique of their work, how to give meaningful critiques of their peers' work, exhibition design, installation, marketing, and what it takes to be a professional artist.

The program started on May 30 and culminates in the gallery, where students experience curatorial practices by participating in exhibition layout and installation of artwork. They also help with promoting and hosting the opening reception.

LVA started the Future Is Now program two years ago. KyCAD joined with LVA for 2017, providing academic support and offering a scholarship to full-time, incoming first-year students who complete The Future Is Now program and go on to attend KyCAD. The \$1,000 scholarship can be used to help cover the cost of tuition, books and course fees.

Sarah Sik, Associate Professor of Art History at KyCAD, gives a lecture during the program, and Matt Walsh, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, offers a critique of the students' work.



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“The Future Is Now is excellent preparation for the KyCAD curriculum or for anyone aspiring to be a professional artist,” said Andrew Cozzens, one of the organizers of the program. Cozzens is an assistant professor of interdisciplinary sculpture for KyCAD as well as a member of the LVA board of directors.

LVA Executive Director Lindy Casebier said: "LVA is extremely pleased to partner with KyCAD to provide this opportunity for these emerging artists and their inspiring mentors. This experience will have a lasting impact on their career in the creative industry."

The students selected to participate this year, their high schools, and their mentors, are:

- Nicole Scott, Ballard High School. Mentor: [Jake Ford](#)
- Brittney Sharp, Eastern High School. Mentor: [Bobby Barbour](#)
- Rashad Sullivan, Western High School. Mentor: [Deb Whistler](#)
- Hannah Lyle, Ballard High School. Mentor: [Dominic Guarnaschelli](#)
- Heavenly Tanner, The Academy @ Shawnee. Mentor: [Linda Erzinger](#)
- Sunny Rae Podbelsek, duPont Manual High School. Mentor: [Lauren Hirsch](#)

Photos and more information about each student are available at [this link](#).

Applications for next year’s The Future Is Now class will be due March 2018.

**849 Gallery Hours: Thursday-Friday 11:30am-2:30pm or by appointment. (502) 873-4373**

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THE KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN AT SPALDING UNIVERSITY ([KyCAD](#)) is a 501(c)(3) started in 2009 with the vision to build one of the top art schools in the nation. Students in the KyCAD program can receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art from Spalding University. KyCAD maintains a variety of arts outreach programs, including the 849 Gallery, which showcases rotating exhibitions, lectures and workshops by artists from KyCAD and from across the country.

[Louisville Visual Art](#) has been improving lives through visual art education, community outreach, and artist support since 1909. As a creative hub now established in the Portland neighborhood, they are dedicated to encouraging artists through programming such as MAP, Artebella, Open Studio Weekend, and weekly calls for artists. LVA is shaping and inspiring the next generation of creative leaders by providing quality instruction to over 5,500 students annually through Children's Fine Art Classes and outreach programs in schools and community centers. LVA aims to engage, inspire, and improve our community and city through the arts.