

**box** **eIGHT**

gallery | studios | events

## **MISSION**

BOXeight's mission is to facilitate the creative and professional development of emerging artists in downtown Los Angeles. These efforts will benefit not only the arts, but also the financial and cultural re-development of downtown Los Angeles.

## **OVERVIEW**

BOXeight is a community of emerging artists in downtown Los Angeles. In this uniquely productive environment the artists have found a balance for both the inspiration of art, and also fostering the business know-how to survive as working artists. As a community, BOXeight artists learn to successfully create, promote and exhibit work. It is the goal of BOXeight to be a launching platform for artists early in their careers.

## **HISTORY**

In the fall 2005, Peter Gurnz found the Broadway & 9th studio space that would become BOXeight's home. He had witnessed LA's pool of undiscovered creatives - all early in their careers and knew that this was the ideal location to grow his small collaborative. Pete and the six founding partners set up workspace on the 7th floor of the still active zipper factory at Broadway and 9th. During that year they pushed each other's creativity and productivity further than any one artist could have hoped to do alone.

By the spring of 2006, the founding partners had very much become a family and were working toward their premiere exhibit together. On June 17, 2006 the first BOXeight show became a huge success - the artists sold work and their newly made gallery was packed with supporters.

It was this show that caught the attention of downtown LA's prominent Gallery Row Organization and BOXeight was invited to become a registered gallery on the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk. This put BOXeight on the map - both literally and in the minds of the downtown arts community. Within a few short weeks they had a waiting list of artists eager to join their workspace and by August of 2006 BOXeight had tripled its workspace capacity.

It was also at this time that BOXeight founder, Peter Gurnz, was asked to run for a seat on the influential Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council. And with unprecedented support from his new artistic community, Peter was elected as one of three Arts, Culture and Education Directors in September of 2006.

Now, spring of 2007, BOXeight is pleased announced it's first corporate partnership bringing a series of unique art events to downtown. In association with The Titan Organization and Rose Group PR, as well as investments from silent partners, they are inaugurating this series of six events with a 2-day Fashion Show at the historic LA Theater on March 16th and 17th. The partnership is also pleased to announce the BOXeight Art Bar, a special monthly event held at Titan's Grand Avenue Club.

## **THE FUTURE**

BOXeight is looking forward to announcing the BOXeight Gallery & Retail Shop with fine art, in-house fashions, and BOXeight branded products. This new business and cultural center will be located in the first floor storefront of their prominent, 8 story building at Broadway and 9th, with 28,000sqft of artist studios. The storefront is expected to significantly enhance the downtown Broadway revitalization effort, and become the face of the artists' efforts.

## STATS

- 42 Artist Members.
- 15 artistic mediums represented, including: Painting, Photography, Ceramics, Metal, Stone & Glass Sculpture, Silk Screening, Graphic & Web Design, Video, Music, Fashion & Jewelry Design.
- International artists representing 6 countries.
- Studio space in historic, centrally located building at Broadway and 9th
- Corporate partnerships with Titan Organization, Rose Group PR and Pure Post Media.
- Foundations partnerships with The Downtown Artist Project, Los Angeles Artist District Space, and The Life Through Arts Foundation.
- Gallery Row Membership and exhibition in the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk.
- Representation on the Downtown LA Neighborhood Council and The Downtown Arts Committee.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Gary Warfel, Titan Organization
- Mark Walsh, LADAD
- Brady Westwater, DLANC

## WHAT IS BOXeight?

- **Affordable Studio Space:** BOXeight provides affordable artist studio space in its historic Broadway and 9th building.
- **Community & Support:** Through its unique launch pad model, BOXeight uses the talents of each of its members to create a supportive, financially viable creative community. By leveraging corporate and foundation partnerships BOXeight helps its member artists to develop the skills, business know-how and maturity to grow their own careers.
- **Gallery Space:** BOXeight holds special art exhibitions and installations for its member artists, as well as hosting monthly Open Studios as part of the Downtown Art Walk. BOXeight is currently developing a permanent exhibition space in the first floor storefront of the 910 S Broadway BOXeight Studios building.
- **Art Bar:** Music and Live Performances with an Art Exhibition Lounge in a monthly series at the Grand Avenue Club, located just a few blocks from BOXeight Studios.
- **BOXeight Branded Products:** BOXeight artists develop unique, branded products the sales from which provide financial stability for the artists and BOXeight Studios.
- **Special Events:** In partnership with Titan Organization, The Rose Group PR, The Life Through Art Foundation, The Downtown Arts Program and various downtown venues, BOXeight is helping to create series of unique events to showcase and enhance downtown's vibrant community. The premiere event of this partnership is a Two-Day Fashion Show at the LA Theater on March 16th and 17th, 2006, featuring noted designers: Eduardo Lucero and Jarod Gold.
- **Consulting:** BOXeight's artists encompass so many mediums and backgrounds that it has been a logical progression to put their skills to work as a creative consulting firm. BOXeight artists partner to create a full-service firm offering: Graphic, Web, Industrial and Fashion design.
- **Ongoing Professional Development & Grant Assistance:** Through partnerships with successful local artists and business owners, BOXeight Artists participate in an ongoing program of professional development. BOXeight artists are also eligible for assistance through grants from The Downtown Arts Program and The Life Through Art Foundation, as well as support in applying for outside grants and private donors.



## ARTIST & SUPPORTER QUOTES

### [To be used as design elements]

"My work is stronger because I am surrounded and inspired daily by driven, talented and visionary individuals." – Amber shields, Painter, Member Artist

"Being here has provided a variety of experiences and created a confidence that can be seen in my work." – Ryan Weigner, Ceramist, Member Artist

"Painting is a very solitary thing; BOXeight has been a nurturing environment that keeps pushing my work farther." – Thomas Voorhies, Painter, Founding Partner

"The community we have created at BOXeight is the positive, professional work environment I need as an artist." – Snowy, Artist, Founding Partner

"Every artist that joins BOXeight brings their own army of resources: education, work, friends, family, etc. And it is these collected resources that has so deeply benefited the artists." - Peter Gurnz, BOXeight Founder

"BOXeight gives me a place to go when I feel like I have no place to go. If I ever decide to pack up and move to a new city, the first thing I will look for within that city is a coffee shop, a church, and a closely knit community of artists." –Kurz

"Life Through Art Foundation (LTAF) is proud to support BOXeight in its efforts to celebrate art. LTAF recognizes that Los Angeles is a melting pot and collaboration of all art form. It is my dream that we will all realize a Life Without Art is not worth living." Bob Dixon ~ Event Chair, Life Through Art Foundation

"Life Through Art Foundation (LTAFO) has become my way of giving back what was once given to me and I have been fortunate enough to find people who share this dream. We are excited to share this dream with BOXeight. Whether it is painting, photography, music, acting, or the culinary arts, our goal is to aid young people in both their development as artists and as individuals." Jeffery Brooks ~ President Life Through Art Foundation

"Otherwise I'd be painting in my kitchen going nuts without any artists to bounce ideas off of." – Amber Shields, Painter, Member Artist

