



Annie Van Avery
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Dear Photo Center Students and Alumni,

I am thrilled that with the help of our Student and Alumni Committee we are launching this initiative to regularly communicate with you what is going on at the Center. So many of you have lent your support and advocacy to the Photo Center throughout the years and we want you to know that you, our community, keeps us a vital part of the lives of photographers in our region and beyond. These quarterly newsletters will help keep you in the loop about the Center's current projects, future goals, and relevant discussions happening with the staff, faculty, and board.

What is happening at the Photo Center these days? We have been focusing quite a bit of our energy on the transformation that will be taking place on the 2nd floor of our building. Since the Photo Center moved into our beloved 1920's ambulance building this space has been dedicated to color analog darkroom space. Our founder, Alin Shethar advocated for the inclusion of a color processor as she was an avid printer herself. This space has served more than 1,000 photographers and students over the years. Although this has been a critical component of our curriculum and facilities, we began to see a few years ago that the space would take more resources than it would produce for the Center. Committed to color photography as an important foundation we hung on to the processor for another three years. We are now at a point where digital printing has matched c-printing and have invested in resources to support our film shooters and film curriculum, while transitioning the space to a much needed alternative resource. (Alin Shethar gives us her blessing, by the way.)

So what will happen to this space? We are currently working with architects and developers to transition the color darkroom area and the small second floor classroom into a daylight studio/classroom and second media lab. The concept is that the space would allow classes and artists to have an integrated space that spans from shooting, to post production work. The large, daylight studio will also be able to serve as a classroom space, meeting space, community room, and will have additional gallery walls to display work. The small classroom will be transformed to include 10 computer stations (we hope with video capacity if we can raise the funds), film

scanners, state of the art digital printers, a viewing board, projection space and more. The idea with the new spaces will not only continue to be a place where film photographers can produce and edit work and where we can teach color photography, but it will also open up a new project and classroom space which is something the Center is in need of. Currently we use each of our available facilities and classroom spaces every week night which makes access to our facilities outside of a class a challenge. We are filled to capacity, but as of fall 2011 we should have the studio completed. Your support with fundraising will be something that will help us complete this work. Participating in Long Shot will be our first step with fundraising for this project so we hope you join in. If you are interested in supporting this project please be in touch. We are confirming the construction costs next month, but expect that the project will exceed \$100,000 so we need all hands on deck!

We have so much more to report – but I will leave it at that for this quarter. Please feel free to communicate with me anytime. I love to hear your ideas, why you love the Photo Center, what we can do to make improvements, and how we can strengthen our community. Thank you for being a part of our past and our future. I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

All the best,

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