



SO IT GROWS.



THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

Kurt Vonnegut. Indianapolis. The writer cherished his place of birth and acknowledged it as a major influence on his writing, his art, and his perspective.

Seven years ago, a group of Indianapolis citizens embarked on a journey to celebrate Kurt Vonnegut's legacy and his deeply embedded connection to their city. Led by Julia Whitehead, a former Marine, and governed by a group of visionaries willing to take on the tough work of launching a startup nonprofit, the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library was created and housed in a small, downtown storefront gallery. A phenomenon occurred. People from around the world arrived, calling their visits 'Pilgrimages.' Veterans came to pay tribute. Parents brought their children. Renowned journalists contributed both time and support. And community leaders began to take notice.

That little storefront space has quickly grown into a renowned cultural resource and bona fide global destination.

HONORING A NATIONAL TREASURE & ENHANCING HIS LEGACY

World War II veteran, pacifist, satirist, humanist, environmentalist, visual artist, internationally acclaimed writer and Hoosier, Kurt Vonnegut is one of the most influential American writers and thinkers of the 20th century. Vonnegut's work shakes traditional values, while offering offbeat and time-warping, alternative views of life. His bold commentaries on religion, war, the so-called establishment and mortality are woven into stories that challenge readers to examine their own values, inspiring philosophical discussions amongst family, friends, and Vonnegut fans everywhere.

Kurt Vonnegut's literary legacy provides the building blocks upon which the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library (KVML) stands: We can make a difference by our responses to the big questions and issues of our time, and we can do it with civility. The KVML provides a forum for dialogue and reflection, asking its visitors to contemplate the realities of war delivered via the gifts of Kurt's wry, Midwestern humor and unfiltered presentation. A cultural and educational resource, museum, art gallery and gathering space for readers, writers, artists, and students, the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library honors Vonnegut and his dual legacies of creativity and civil discourse. Since its founding in 2009, over 200,000 people have visited or participated in arts and humanities programs.



Kurt Vonnegut at home in Barnstable, Mass. (Photo Courtesy Vonnegut Family Archives)

We are what we pretend to be
so we must be careful what we
pretend to be.

— Kurt Vonnegut

646 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

As we believe Kurt would have wanted, the KVML is committed to being an active and evolving organization. We pay homage to Vonnegut and his principles while striving to stay on the cutting edge of educational innovation by expanding our external focus, building new partnerships and sharing Vonnegut's message to an ever-broader audience. Our value to Indianapolis increases each year as we continue to build relationships with potential supporters and form partnerships to propel our organization to new heights.

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library is currently located in the Emelie Building, in space donated by Katz & Korin. Here, key elements of Vonnegut's life are exhibited, including a replica of his personal writing room. But we have outgrown our space. A move to 646 Massachusetts Avenue would allow for:

MORE SPACE

646 Massachusetts Avenue is four times as large as our current location. This extra space means KVML will be able to:

- Increase museum space
- Offer a classroom and gathering space for students of all ages who come to learn about Vonnegut and reflect on the importance of free expression, common decency, and the peaceful coexistence he advocated
- Double retail space, increasing its merchandise sales revenue stream
- Increase audience capacity for the dozens of arts and humanities events KVML hosts each year



Situated in the Mass Ave. Neighborhood District of Indianapolis, 646 Massachusetts Avenue, is the new permanent home for the Kurt Vonnegut Museum & Library. Near the Athenaeum building designed by Kurt's grandfather, the beautiful Vonnegut mural created by artist Pamela Bliss, and other places of interest to Vonnegut fans, this 20-year-old building is suited for international visitors as well as our local students, veterans, teachers, and general readers.



MORE EXHIBITIONS

VONNEGUT'S LIFE AND LEGACY

Currently, a quarter of KVML's collection is in storage due to the lack of display space. At 646 Massachusetts Avenue, KVML can expand its current exhibition of Kurt Vonnegut's personal items, including his Purple Heart (awarded for what he called a "ludicrously negligible wound" and later, "frostbite"), his pack of infamous Pall Malls as found near his bookcase by his children, military patches from his service in World War II, rejection letters, and an unopened letter the author's father wrote to his son while Kurt was a WWII POW, imprisoned in the underground meat locker that would later inspire his masterpiece, *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

"SLAUGHTERHOUSE-FIVE: TIME UNSTUCK"

This exhibition will explore the themes of Vonnegut's most beloved work, his motivation for writing the novel, how it reflected and impacted the decade in which it was published, and how its lessons and viewpoints can be applied today.

BANNED BOOKS

A permanent Banned Books exhibition, an outgrowth of the wildly popular week-long literary and free-speech celebration, will feature an in-depth look at issues of censorship in our past and present.

MORE PROGRAMMING

KVML will launch new programs in its new home, beginning with celebrating 2017 as the Year of Vonnegut, a partnership with the City of Indianapolis, Visit Indy, and several community partners. Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett has vowed his support for KVML, saying "When the Vonnegut Library opened five years ago, it introduced a whole new generation to the life's work of one of our city's finest native sons. The Library has been recognized as one of the things that makes Indianapolis so distinct. It is such a rare place, and indeed one of our great treasures." In addition to the Year of Vonnegut, KVML's programs include veteran support programs, humanities programs, and other educational programs detailed on the next pages.



Surrounded by a wall of banned books donated by local universities, Rick Provine, Director of Libraries at DePauw University, spent Banned Books Week 2015 living as a prisoner in the museum to draw attention to censorship.

**I urge you to please notice when you are happy,
and exclaim or murmur or think at some point,
'If this isn't nice, I don't know what is.'**

— Kurt Vonnegut

KVML PROGRAMS

SUPPORTING VETERANS

The new facility will enable us to broaden our reading and writing groups for veterans and to launch new programs that help Indiana veterans heal through the humanities.

CELEBRATING THE POWER OF THE HUMANITIES

At VonnegutFest, an annual celebration of the power of the arts and humanities designed to help us communicate and find common ground, nationally recognized scholars and speakers lead events that force us to think more deeply about who we are and how we live.

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library also brings writers, artists, and scholars to Indianapolis for public events and hosts a concert series, Vonnegut Sessions. In 2015, KVML held more than 70 arts and humanities events. The new building will allow us to double our audience.

Wood and Wire performs as part of Vonnegut Sessions. KVML is a venue for more than just literature. Vonnegut's interest in music allows for performances from a variety of musicians.



FIGHTING CENSORSHIP AND UPHOLDING HUMAN DIGNITY

Every year, the KVML hosts Banned Books Week, which raises awareness about censorship. Participants hear about books currently being challenged and individuals who are silenced by censorship, and about the ongoing fight for literary freedom.

With this move, KVML, in partnership with local professional soccer team Indy Eleven, will launch a suicide prevention and anti-bullying writing program for middle school students, programs on the power of personal narrative. This program will work to address Indiana's current ranking of number one in the nation for teenage suicidal thoughts and number two in the nation for actual teenage suicide attempts. Kurt Vonnegut struggled with PTSD and depression throughout his life, and his mother committed suicide.

The organization will also begin a volunteer service day in 2017 with staff and friends of the library offering a variety of volunteer services called Kurt Vonnegut Day of Service.

OFFERING EDUCATION AND EXPLORATION

Through the new *Slaughterhouse-Five* and popular Banned Books exhibitions, the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library's space will continue to invite visitors to learn about Vonnegut's life and work.

Additionally, classroom space in the new building will allow KVML to implement K-12 curriculum, invite local students to visit the museum, and help local teachers learn how to effectively teach Vonnegut through our Teaching Vonnegut program.

**Peculiar travel suggestions are
dancing lessons from God.**

—Kurt Vonnegut

DEDICATED COMMUNITY PARTNER

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library has built a powerful network of community partners, presenting programs that extend its reach and impact in Indianapolis and beyond. Over the past three years, KVML has:

- Participated regularly in central Indiana's Spirit & Place Festival
- Become a Blue Star Museums affiliate, providing free access to the nation's museums to members of the armed services
- Joined the American Writers Museum network, which provides connectivity and program opportunities with similar writer-focused museum efforts around the country. Founder and CEO Julia Whitehead serves on the Affiliate Advisory Board for the future American Writers Museum in Chicago.
- Collaborated on programs and events with:
 - Indianapolis Marion County Public Library
 - IUPUI
 - WFYI
 - Department of Veteran's Affairs
 - Indiana Avenue Cultural District
 - Indiana Civil Liberties Union
 - Athenaeum Foundation
 - Indiana Landmarks
 - Indiana Humanities
 - Other groups at the local, state and national level

OUR AWARDS

- *NUVO* Cultural Vision Award, 2012
- *Indianapolis Monthly* recognized the KVML in its "Best of Indy" issue, giving it an award for "Combining Old and New Media," 2013
- Lieutenant Governor's Hoosier Hospitality awarded to KVML Curator Chris Lafave, 2014
- Lonely Planet travel guides listed the KVML first in a list of reasons to visit Indianapolis in their "Best of the U.S." feature of the top 15 U.S. travel destinations, 2015
- Featured as one of 150 top travel destinations in the recently released 2nd edition of *The New York Times 36 Hours: USA & Canada*



A new home for the KVML will give us more space as we celebrate the Year of Vonnegut in 2017 in partnership with the City of Indianapolis and Visit Indy, among other community partners.

But actually, to practice any art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow. So do it. Dance on your way out of here. Write a love poem when you get home. Draw a picture of your bed or roommate.

— Kurt Vonnegut

A SOLID FOUNDATION OF SUPPORT

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library's achievements were made possible by a growing group of individual and institutional donors. Generous early support came from a range of foundation and corporate partners including:

- Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Trust
- Amazon Publishing
- Apparatus
- Arts Council of Indianapolis
- Ball Brothers Foundation
- C.H. Douglas and Gray, LLC
- City of Indianapolis
- Efroymsen Family Fund
- Eli Lilly and Company Foundation
- Faegre, Baker, and Daniels
- The Glick Fund
- Gregory and Appel
- Half Price Books
- Hope Plumbing
- Idea Festival
- Indiana Arts Commission
- Indiana Business Bank
- Indiana Humanities
- Indiana/Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)
- Indianapolis Foundation
- Judith Krug Foundation
- Katz and Korin, P.C.
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- Lilly Endowment, Inc.
- National Bank of Indianapolis
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- New York Community Trust
- Printing Partners
- Random House
- Rosetta Books
- Seven Stories Press

KVML currently exhibits in 1,100 square feet of gallery space. 646 Mass Ave offers 5,400 feet of space for our exhibitions and programs.



HOW DO WE REALIZE THIS VISION?

In order to fund a move to a new space and further the evolution of our exhibitions and programs, the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library is undertaking a capital campaign. This effort requires the realization of \$2.5 million in gifts over the next four years.

CAMPAIGN COMPONENTS

NEW LOCATION COSTS: \$750,000

The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library needs to raise \$750,000 in cash by July 1, 2016 to move forward on a lease with the option to purchase 646 Massachusetts Avenue. \$750,000 includes the cost of a buildout to renovate the space, the addition of an elevator and climate-controlled display cases, rent, utilities, insurance, and taxes for three years.

NEW EXHIBITION AND PROGRAM COSTS: \$1,750,000

With the move to our new home, the KVML plans to create and install important, new, permanent exhibitions. Costs will include the planning, implementation, and fabrication of these exhibitions, the creation of climate-controlled archival spaces, and the creation of curriculum and discussion-group programming based on the exhibitions.

Additionally, the new space means the KVML can expand its programming to meet the needs of the Indianapolis community and beyond. Through targeted outreach to veterans and youth, arts and humanities programming, and tailored service projects, the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library will increase efforts to help our community better communicate, access the arts and humanities, and benefit from their power to heal.

**Those who believe in telekinetics,
raise my hand.**

—Kurt Vonnegut

JOIN US - BUILD THE LEGACY

By supporting the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library's crucial next step—the acquisition of a new home—you join us in our evolution. Our mission is to champion Kurt Vonnegut's legacy and to continue to serve as an important cultural asset to Indiana's capital city.

“What would Kurt want?” is a question raised at every meeting and honored with every decision.

As Vonnegut himself admitted: “All my jokes are Indianapolis. All my attitudes are Indianapolis. My adenoids are Indianapolis. If I ever severed myself from Indianapolis, I would be out of business. What people like about me is Indianapolis.”

Kurt Vonnegut. Indianapolis. The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library – so it goes. **So we grow.**

From the artifacts loaned to us by Vonnegut's children to the large Schehr Collection of Vonnegut's first-edition books and magazine articles, 646 Mass Ave will allow us to highlight Kurt's writing space and give the public a venue for creating their own stories.





A move will allow us to expand our World War II exhibition showing Vonnegut's purple heart and other war related artifacts, as well as launch a new Slaughterhouse-Five exhibition to give each visitor an immersive experience with this beloved classic novel.

People have to talk about something just to keep their voice boxes in working order so they'll have good voice boxes in case there's ever anything really meaningful to say.

— Kurt Vonnegut

NAMING RIGHTS

\$1,000,000, MUSEUM GALLERY

This is the largest single space in the museum where exhibitions on Vonnegut's life and work, the banned books exhibition, and rotating exhibitions will be displayed.

\$250,000, GIFT SHOP

Support the space where visitors can purchase Vonnegut books and merchandise. This is an important revenue stream for KVML.

\$200,000, *SLAUGHTERHOUSE-FIVE* TIME UNSTUCK

A new, permanent, interactive exhibition devoted to Kurt Vonnegut's most beloved novel will examine the lasting appeal and timeless messages of *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

\$200,000, VONNEGUT IN INDIANAPOLIS EXHIBITION

An extension of the current exhibition about Vonnegut's Indianapolis roots, this exhibition in our new building will include memorabilia never before displayed because of space constraints.

\$200,000, BANNED BOOKS WEEK EXHIBITION

This new exhibition will explore issues of censorship and book banning, focusing particularly on Vonnegut's work to promote free expression.

\$100,000, VONNEGUT'S WRITING ROOM RECREATION

In this space, KVML will continue to operate a lending library of books similar to those Vonnegut had in his study. Visitors to the museum can sit and type on a typewriter similar to Kurt's and we will share their messages with the world on the "Kurt's Typewriter" twitter feed.

\$100,000, MULTIMEDIA ROOM

The KVML will show its current video about Vonnegut, narrated by Morley Safer, as well as new films that highlight his life and work.

\$100,000, CLASSROOM

We have not always had space to host classes or groups visiting the museum. At 646 Massachusetts Avenue, we will be able to offer gathering space for visiting K-12 and university classes, as well as for its writing workshops and book discussion groups.

\$100,000, LOBBY

Help us provide a warm welcome to all of its visitors, as well as create a workspace for our docents.

\$100,000, ELEVATOR

In order to make 646 Massachusetts Avenue handicap accessible, KVML will install an elevator. This is crucial for making our museum open and accessible to all.

\$50,000, BOARD ROOM

Provide valuable meeting space for our staff and Board of Directors, as well as additional group meeting space for visitors.

\$25,000, EXHIBITION DISPLAY CASE

Sponsor a display case within one of our three, permanent exhibitions or for the museum's rotating or visiting exhibitions.

2016 HONORARY BOARD

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