

A Unique Opportunity to Establish an Art Center in the Foothills of the Himalayas

Build an Art Center for the work of The Create Commission and its partners.

About The Create Commission (Est: 2007)

Art changes things. It speaks in ways that move beyond some of our natural defenses. Helping us see truth that we may have missed otherwise.

The Create Commission was founded in response to God's call to see truth transform every life and every sphere of life. Art plays a critical role, presenting God's truth and beauty in unique ways that challenge our thinking. And yet few artists understand the way that they can use their talents to give voice to the vulnerable, to bring truth and to help us think again about issues. Their role in building God's kingdom is too often missing.

The vision of The Create Commission is thus **'to see art shape society with beauty and truth while seeing artists find their place in society and thrive'**. The primary engine to achieve this is the Artist Residency program which brings artists together to reflect and create art in response to specific social themes. Together the artists explore the topic through experiences and engaging with affected communities. These residencies have resulted in transformative experiences for participants, and art that is produced is publicly shared at exhibitions. Over the last 13 years we have built a network among young, emerging, professional Indian artists typically struggling at the beginning of their careers, as well as international artists seeking a cross-cultural missional experience. We believe that in God's perfect design art can change things! Art can change how we see our world, change how we see others, change how we see ourselves. Art brings people together, and shows us who we are and who we are meant to be. Art changes us, and art changes society!

(Please refer to Appendix A for reflections on how The Create Commission has impacted artists)

The Art Center



Need & Opportunity

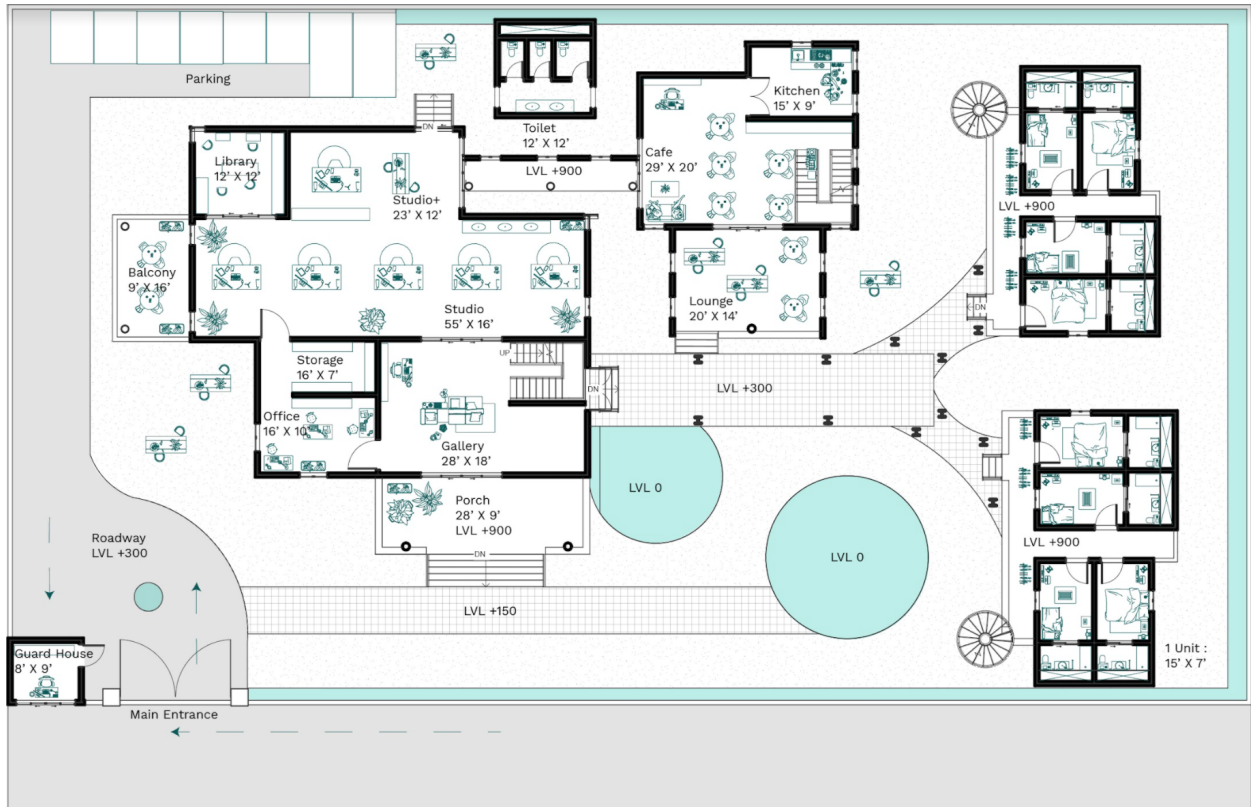
For the past 13 years, The Create Commission has been operating in rented facilities and on shoe-string budgets. We've moved 7 times in the past 13 years, meaning that we are unable to really develop a presence in the community. Money has been lost on rent and time lost in looking for new locations and frequent moving.

The Art Center will give The Create Commission greater stability, a purpose-built space, the ability to really connect with a community, and income.

- **A Retreat** - The primary identity of the Art Center would be as an 'artist retreat center,' a permanent expression and extension of our core artist residency program. This will bring artists from across India and around the world to step away from their regular routines. A space with a clear objective to reflect on our lives, our faith, truth and the world and create together in a naturally beautiful, mutually stimulating, and intentionally supportive atmosphere. The space will give artists the tools and opportunities to develop holistic relationships, as well as creative opportunities. At the Art Center, artists will have conversations that will shape their life, faith and art practices and, through their work, the larger society.
- **Strong Connection with Community** - The Art Center will allow us to establish a relationship with the community, developing relationships in which we can share our gifts. The Art Center will also be a base for reaching out, taking art to marginalized communities, running programs at partnering institutions and ministries, and supporting and promoting traditional artisans and regional culture.
- **A Space to Develop Deeper Relations** - The Art Center is designed for artists to work together in community, with spaces for discussions and meetings and for gatherings around meals and during general recreation.
- **Long Term Sustainability** - At the moment we rent space for accommodation for international artists who attend residencies as well as space for those residencies and exhibitions. We rent office space and space to invite artists to come and create art. The center will not only eliminate these costs (\$20,000 in 2019) but also create income. We will be renting out the space when it is not in use for programs, and we estimate that it will bring in (\$40,000) per year. This will help to cover other program costs, thus allowing us great sustainability and ability to plan long term. *(Please refer to Appendix B for Business Strategy and more details)*
- **Enable artists to get established in their work** - Over 50% of Art graduates choose a different career within two years. This is largely due to lack of opportunities to create, exhibit, find community, and sell their work. In our commitment to serve artists, we hope to be a bridge in this crucial juncture between college/art schools and professional art careers by giving opportunities to make and exhibit art, have mentorship and by providing art materials and space free of cost or at discounted rates.

Location:

The Art Center will be located in Dehradun, a city in the foothills of the Himalayas, about a five hour road journey or 45 minute flight from New Delhi. *(Please refer to Appendix C for more details)*



A Unique Opportunity to Give

We are excited about our calling, the vision of this Art Center, and plans for our future, but we need your help to make it a reality. We would love you to consider giving towards this project. The total budget is:

\$ 215,000 - Budget for the land

\$ 142,000 - Budget for the construction of building

Our hope is to raise 40% of the funds in India and 60% internationally. We would love you to be part of this dream. Every dollar that we raise is important.

Unique Opportunities for Donors:

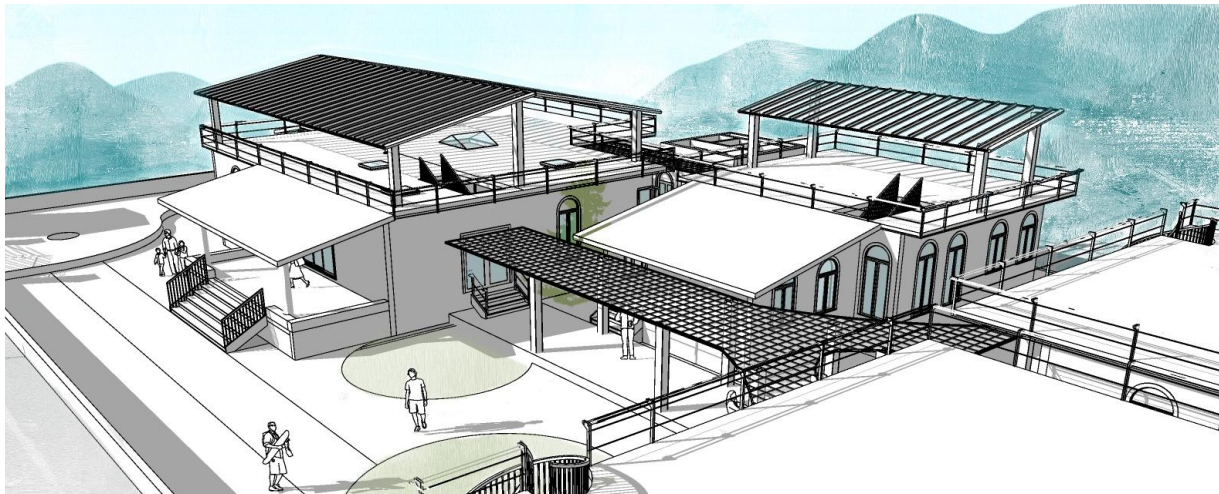
We do have a few unique opportunities. We are also happy to discuss any ideas that you might have.

1. **Naming:** As a unique gift or memorial for someone who loves India, art, or anything related, we would love to offer the opportunity to sponsor a building and have a memorial plaque added to that space. Some possible options:

- a. **\$70,000** - Main complex including the welcome area, gallery, and studio
 - b. **\$10,000** - One of four residential cottages or the cafeteria
 - c. **\$5,000** - Library or Garden and outdoor seating area
 - d. **\$2,000** - Kitchen or Lounge
2. **Partnership programs or partnering organisations:** We would love to offer partner organisations the opportunity to use all facilities at the Art Center at a discounted rate (all these offers are to be used over the first five years that the center is open). Please contact Isaac for more details or to explore other potential options.
- a. **\$20,000** - 50% discount on all facilities, maximum 200 days over 5 years.
 - b. **\$10,000** - 50% discount on studio and gallery space, maximum of 100 days over 5 years.
 - c. **\$5,000** - 50% discount on all facilities, maximum of 30 days over 5 years.
 - d. **\$2,000** - 50% discount on one residential space for up to one year.

We are also happy to discuss other possible partnered projects. For example we could run an art residency for you with a contribution of \$10,000.

Thank you for considering partnering with us in this key project. We believe it's an important next step in our work and allows us to multiply our impact in India. We would love you to be part of making it happen. You can give at <https://reconciledworld.givingfuel.com/the-create-commission-art-center>



Appendix A | Quotes

“I believe my experience last year in India was one of the most profound experiences of my life and I am so very grateful for it.” *Kimberly, California, 2017 participant*

“Artist and author, Makoto Fujimura, has described artists as “border stalkers” who have a gift for imagination and work in the liminal spaces where truth resides. The job of artists is to beckon people to come closer, to see “differently.” Their artwork may not always offer hope, but by calling attention to the art, the artist is making a hopeful act. The artist says, “We can go someplace better.” .” - *Marianne, Texas, 2020 participant, (excerpt from [LINK](#))*

“You will remember that on the first day of the Art for Change residency we also did an exercise called “Common Ground,” where we went up to the rooftop terrace of our studio building in New Delhi and everyone stood in a large circle. Moving from person to person we responded to prompts to share something about ourselves. We started with easy things, such as “I like chocolate chip cookies” (or mangoes! since we were in India). Anyone who shared that “liking” stepped into the circle. The prompts became more challenging—to share something that few people know about you but has shaped you in significant ways, for example—requiring us to consider whether we would risk making ourselves vulnerable to people we had just met. As we progressed, people became bolder with their responses, moving from spontaneous bursts of laughter to silent sober reflection. At the end, this group of strangers had found points of connection on issues large and small. Despite the many differences among us—language, skills, age, gender, race, ethnicity, social and economic background, cultural and religious affiliations—we found a surprising amount of common ground that laid a foundation for building relationships. This exercise reveals that friendship requires vulnerability and risk but the potential rewards are invaluable—understanding, trust, and ultimately, being known and loved for who we really are.” - *Rachel, Indiana, 2018 and 2020 mentor, (excerpt from [LINK](#))*

“I don't even know how to do justice to explain how India and all those I've met and Art for Change have changed me internally and enlarged my heart. It was amazing! The Create Commission cares for artists in a relational, real, and organic way and I fully support and respect their approach. It was an absolute wonderment to be able to be a part of the residency and then continue the artistic journey with my new friends!!” - *Elyce, Indianapolis, 2018 participant*

“The residency I was part of made me think about what I truly want to create and pass on. It made me recognise and accept with equality all the differences that exist. Since the residency, my enquiry and fascination on emotional touch still continues but it all started to take shape in those 10 days in the productive, quiet and open environment.” - *Navya, Jaipur, India, 2020 participant*

“The Create Commission’s programs have helped me see the world in a very unique way. I will not forget the vibe, the energy and what we experienced. I am not someone who gives compliments easily but

when it comes to The Create Commission I can readily say how incredible it is!" - *Samir, Orissa, India, 2016 participant*

"The 2020 International Artist Residency thrust people into a setting that challenged them culturally, ideologically, theologically, physically, and emotionally. Participation was the best way to thrive—feeding off each other's contributions and inspirations. Reconciliation happened through idea exchange, sharing meals and supplies, art critiques, group experiences and personal interactions. I believe that long lasting friendships were formed. It was interesting to me how 21 creatives working in one studio and exploring the same topics together ultimately produced 21 completely different art responses. The exhibition of their work at the India International Centre was not only strong, but amazingly diverse. Many produced work that would never have existed outside of the residency's collaborative environment. A love for neighbors and their differences became the fulcrum for transcendence. ." - *Isaac, Ladakh, India, 2018 and 2020 participant, (excerpt from [LINK](#))*



Appendix B | Business Strategy

We will be using the physical space for income-generating activities such as using the residential facilities to offer art-themed Air-BnB facilities when not running residencies, running a for-profit gallery & retail space, operating a cafe through leasing, running educational programs for local schools, and when not in use renting out the facilities for corporate programs and other organisations, among other ideas. In the future we would also have the option of doubling our capacity through adding a second floor to all the buildings. Below are some of the ways we will be generating income through the center, and the savings on our current costs.

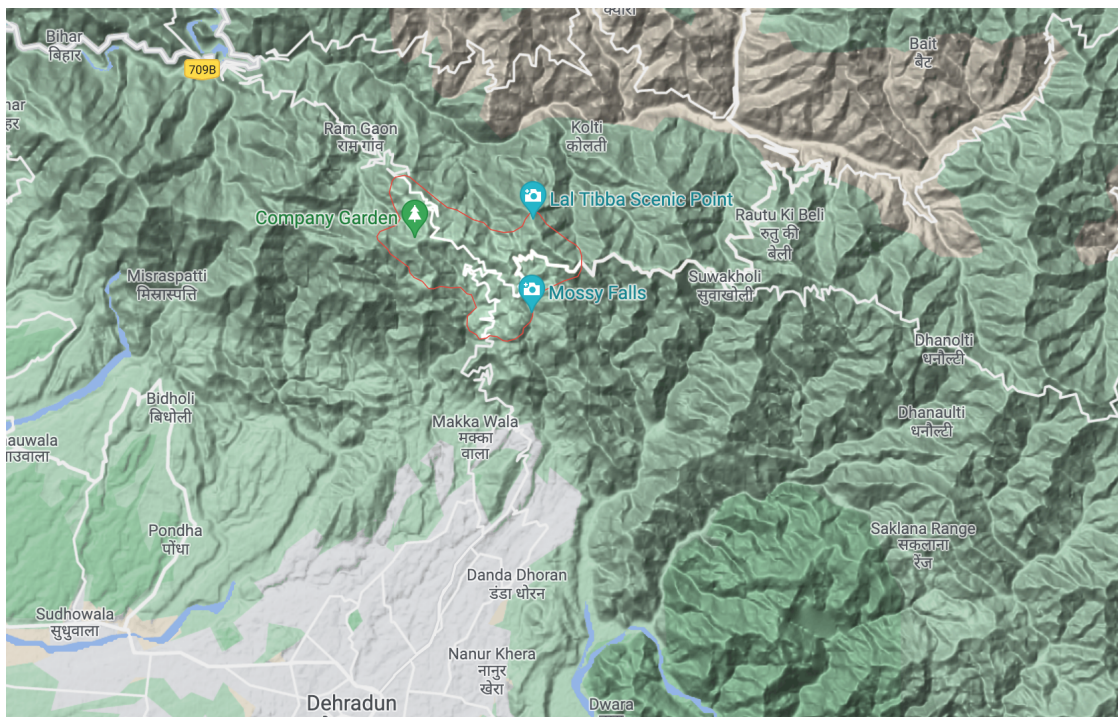
Income Generation	USD	Estimated Income Per Year - Approximates (All figures in INR)	Cost Saving (Per Year) (All figures in INR)
1. International Artists Residencies - Portion of fees paid for studio space and lodging	≈ \$18,813	≈ ₹14,00,000	
2. Rental of spaces when not in use by The Create Commission			
a. Art Studio Rentals	≈ \$2,687	≈ ₹2,00,000	
b. Art-themed AirBnB	≈ \$4,030	≈ ₹3,00,000	
c. Seminars & Conferences	≈ \$4,030	≈ ₹3,00,000	
d. Corporate Events	≈ \$2,687	≈ ₹2,00,000	
e. Collaboration Events	≈ \$2,687	≈ ₹2,00,000	
3. Artist Exchange Program	≈ \$1,343	≈ ₹1,00,000	
4. Membership programs	≈ \$672	≈ ₹50,000	
Costs Reduced			
Office Space			₹4,827
Exhibition Space			\$4,023
EXPECTED ANNUAL INCOME	≈ \$38,000 + \$8850	≈ ₹27,50,000	

Note:

- The figures in the table are conservative and we hope for income generating opportunities to expand in coming years.

Appendix C | Location

Dehradun is both a political and educational hub. While a burgeoning urban city, areas on its outskirts remain amiable, beautiful, and affordable. Just an hour's drive up the hill is Mussoorie, a hilltown famous for its schools and natural beauty to which many of The Create Commission's current leadership have strong ties, relational and missional networks. Given its proximity and connectedness to both New Delhi and the rest of India, we see Dehradun as an ideal location.



Courtesy: Google Maps