



The Art Students League of New York

Dear League Community:

When I wrote to you recently, I said: “Hard as it is to imagine, the day will come — eventually — when we don’t have cement trucks lined up on 57th Street and we don’t need all that protective scaffolding. At that time, we hope to embark on a project to expand studio space at the League and generally improve our facility, realizing all the while we are landmarked and will be limited in what we can do that would change our appearance.”

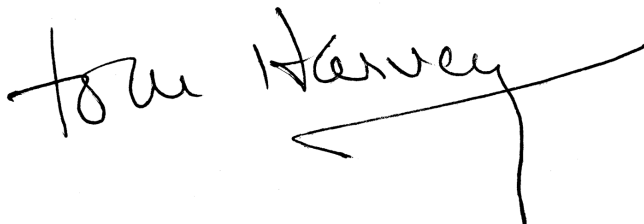
Some of the changes that will occur are being forced upon us. Parts of our physical plant are reaching the end of their projected useful life. Most of our air conditioning was installed in 2003. That equipment has a life expectancy of 15 to 20 years.

The Board has begun discussions of possible changes to improve the experience of creating art here at the League and to introduce new people to our facility and our programs. A few have already taken place. As you will have noticed, The American Fine Arts Society room across from the main office has been turned into exhibition space. The lobby is being refreshed and, beginning with the *Open House* in September, will be used as exhibition space as well.

We will shortly be soliciting comments from students and members regarding what they like about the League as it is and what they think could be done to make their experience here better. I hope you will all participate. In time, we will also be working with focus groups to judge the climate for change. At the last Members Meeting, one member inquired about the possibility of establishing an annex to provide additional studio space. We have been considering how this may be done in the future.

Actually, making significant changes will take time, but now is the time to begin considering what might best improve the League. Any planned changes will be discussed at length with the Membership at Members Meetings, Town Hall Meetings, and other forums to assure that we have buy-in from you, our most important stakeholders.

I believe that transparency and communication are essential to leadership — especially in a membership organization such as the League. I hope that you find these occasional letters from me to be informative and helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Harvey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right and a vertical line extending downwards from the end of that stroke.

Tom Harvey
President