

# PR 4

Office of the President  
June 19, 2015

Members, Board of Trustees:

## NAMING OF UNIVERSITY BUILDING: ART AND VISUAL STUDIES BUILDING

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the official naming of the new home of the School of Art and Visual Studies in the College of Fine Arts, located at 236 Bolivar Street, Lexington, Kentucky, as the “Art and Visual Studies Building.”

Background: The Lexington-based firm Omni Architects was commissioned to renovate the interior of an historic building erected in 1899 as a Leggitt & Meyers tobacco processing plant. Located at 236 Bolivar Street, the building had been recently renovated as an apartment complex under the name "University Lofts." At its June 2011 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the acquisition of the building. At its June 2012 and September 2013 meetings respectively, the Board approved the initiation and subsequent renovation, upgrade and repair of the building.

The “Lofts” building contains over 20,000 square feet more in useable space than the School’s current studio home (the Reynolds Building.) The "Lofts" building also is more structurally sound, with concrete floors throughout. The building has two wings. The west wing, built in 1917, is a two-story structure with a central axis lit by skylights. The original east wing, built in 1899, is a four-story structure sited perpendicular to the west wing. It will house the administrative offices, digital media labs, gallery, and faculty and student studios.

The 1917 wing houses many of the traditional art studios and possesses high ceilings, wide passageways, and appropriate light and space for all types of media interaction and exploration. The College has a long tradition of students and faculty creating ambitious, large-scale work in installation, performance, sculpture, ceramics, painting, and drawing. With the new building, this tradition will continue to grow.

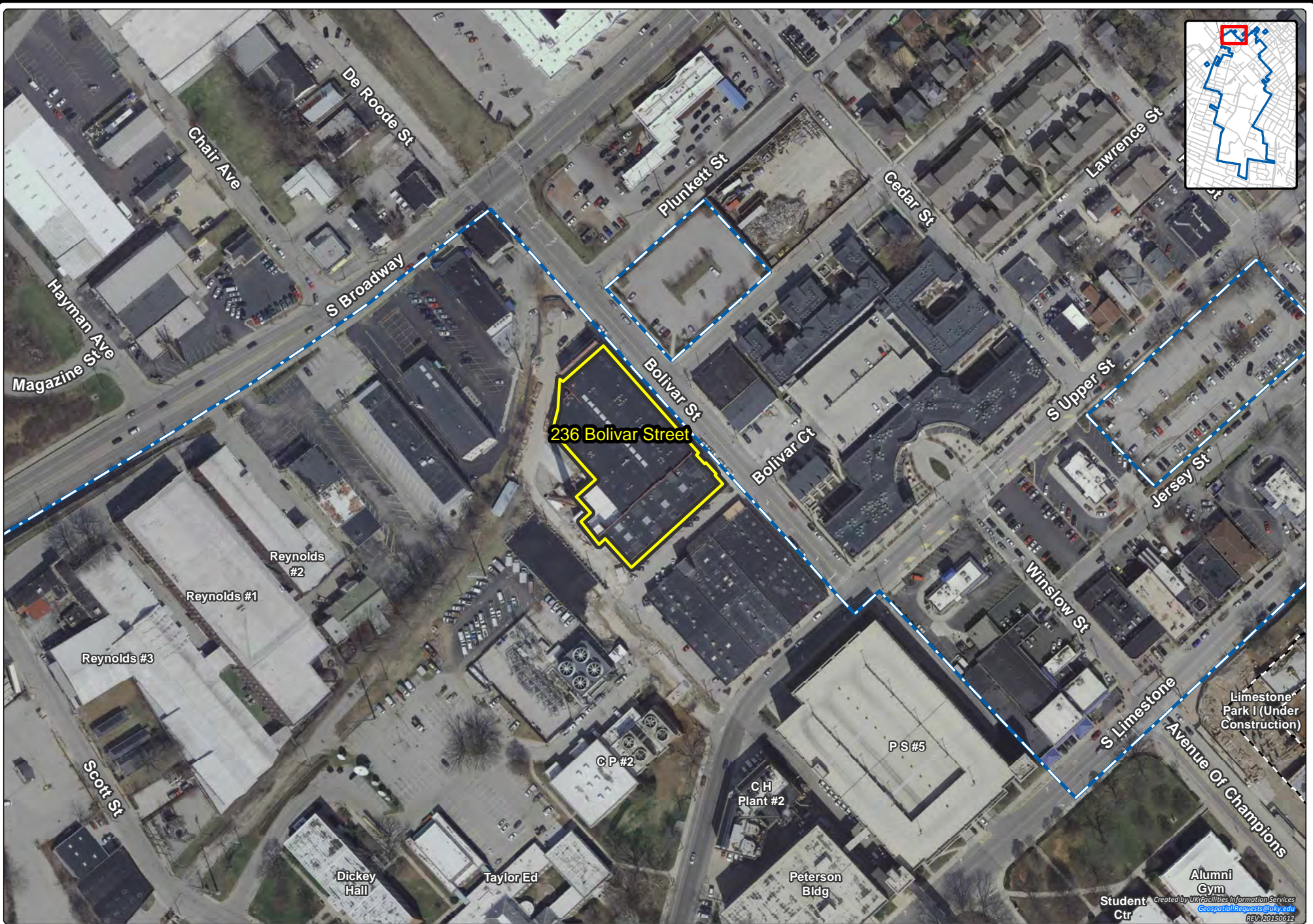
The building will be a 21st Century research laboratory that fosters collaborative, interdisciplinary projects. Student and faculty studios will be housed in close proximity to state-of-the-art new media labs, a multipurpose 3-D fabrication lab, a photography suite, a ceramics facility, printmaking shop, wood shop, metal shop, and drawing, painting and design workshops. There will be spaces that foster experimental and cross-disciplinary conversations and critiques. Faculty and students should find the new building to be both larger and more intimate than the Reynolds Building; and without Reynolds' structural and environmental issues.

The renovated building is scheduled to open as the new home of the School of Art and Visual Studies in the summer of 2015.

The request to name the building was submitted by Dean Michael Tick, College of Fine Arts. The Advisory Committee on Naming University Property has reviewed the request and found it to be in compliance with university policy Administrative Regulation 9:5 and recommends approval of this name designation.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_



236 Bolivar Street

