



# **Exhibition Proposal Guide**

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*Anton Art Center*

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## About the Anton Art Center

The Art Center was founded in 1969, and remains housed in the original registered historic Carnegie Library building built in 1904, located in the seat of Macomb County, Mount Clemens, Michigan. The nonprofit became known as the Anton Art Center in 2005 following a major renovation expanding the space with a new addition to the south side of the building. In 2019, the Anton Art Center celebrated fifty years as Macomb County's leading nonprofit art organization.

Our mission is to enrich and inspire people of all ages through the arts. The Anton Art Center hosts regular open call exhibitions each year, such as the prestigious Michigan Annual, a juried, all-media competition held for Michigan artists, as well as K-12 student art shows, showcasing the work of youth artists across Macomb County. The organization also partners with local artist groups for exhibition opportunities, such as the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors, the Lakeside Palette Club of St. Clair Shores, the Birmingham Society of Women Painters, the Mount Clemens Art Association, the Romeo Guild of Art, the Shelby Township Fine Art Society, the Warren Tri-County Fine Arts Association, Inc, and others.

The Anton Art Center serves over 16,000 visitors each year offering a variety of 14 professional art exhibits and over 40 youth and adult art classes. We have many active volunteers, a hard-working staff of five, and strong support of our board of trustees. Our primary activities are exhibitions, education, and special events.

Admission to the galleries is free and open to the public year-round; donations are accepted and appreciated. Parking is available by street or metered lot; free after 6pm and on weekends. Our building is handicap accessible with designated handicap parking and an operating elevator. The building is open for regular business hours Tuesday through Saturday from 10am-5pm.



## Our History

When the Art Center was first established in the historic Carnegie Library Building, the organization's Founding Mothers (Bea Wright, Gretchen Thompson, and Phyllis Wickens) shared a vision to provide art classes for the community's youth and establish a showcase for work by local artists. Art classes began being offered in the basement without delay, as volunteers worked to renovate the main level and prepare gallery spaces to show artwork. The first exhibit at the Anton Art Center, loaned to Macomb County's new artistic venue by the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1970, was titled "Mother and Child." It was a prolific beginning for what would become one of the community's most ambitious and culturally nurturing institutions, committed to improving quality of life through access to the arts and the life-affirming gifts they have to offer.

Through the efforts of community members dedicated to its purpose over fifty years later, the Anton Art Center has become the largest and longest-standing visual arts and exhibiting organization in Macomb County. Its programming has been designed to appeal to all ages and backgrounds and provides experiences that sustain personal growth through a better understanding and appreciation of the arts. Thanks to efforts by Gebran S. and Suzanne P. Anton, the Center expanded its physical facility and completed a \$1.7 million renovation and addition in 2005. In appreciation, the Board of Trustees voted to adopt a new name: the Anton Art Center. For some who walk through its doors, it's their first encounter with art and it is an experience that has the potential to be life changing. We do not take that responsibility lightly.

Many regard Macomb County primarily as a hub for manufacturing and defense, but the arts also have a strong presence with the Anton Art Center solidly at the center. Over the last few years, public art programs have grown across the county, arts commissions are being established, and greater attention is being paid to the importance of arts in education and health. Our own programs bring art experiences to thousands of people each year and help over 150 local artists annually earn income from their work. Considering our annual expenditures in combination with visitor-ship and its positive spillover into downtown Mount



Clemens, we estimate that the Anton Art Center contributes nearly \$1 million to the local economy each year. The difference made in individual lives, however, is immeasurable.

When the Art Center was first established, one of its key purposes was to provide arts experiences to the community's children through classes and summer art programs. We proudly continue this educational tradition today, but our audience is no longer limited to the community's youth. Increasingly, we are compelled to provide access to the arts to minorities, senior citizens, and the impoverished: members of society whose lives are bereft of art and its message of hope. After 50 years, our programming has expanded to include public art projects, musical performance, offsite engagements, greater outreach to partner organizations in the area to increase arts access, and advocacy of art and artists across the region.

Recent projects have brought new murals to downtown Mount Clemens, convened a broad swath of community stakeholders for workshops in creative thinking and problem solving, and engaged new audiences through free and interactive arts experiences. Targeted programs have provided art enrichment in Mount Clemens Schools and throughout our community at a variety of public festivals and gatherings. Today, our mission has evolved to enrich and inspire people of all ages through the arts, driven by a vision to create an open and diverse community joined together around the ideal of creative expression. More than ever, the Anton Art Center is working to elevate the arts and engage our community in both its appreciation and its creation.

*Anton Art Center: A Brief History by Mary Smith and Phil Gilchrist*



## Galleries & Exhibitions

Exhibitions at the Anton Art Center are held in three indoor gallery spaces: the First Floor Gallery, History Gallery, and the Second Floor Gallery. Outdoor artwork may be exhibited outside the building adjacent to the center in the Richard & Jane Manoogian Art Park.

The first level is home to two spaces: the First Floor Gallery consists of a collection of four open rooms (titled the Kiwanis Gallery, St. Aubin Gallery, Willey Gallery, and Jeannette Gallery) with the History Gallery in an adjoining wing titled the Boll History Gallery. The second level is home to our third gallery space, titled Petitpren Community Gallery, which is located on the second level.

The exhibition committee accepts exhibition proposal submissions for review year-round. If selected, the committee will reach out to set plans. Applications are kept on file for an array of exhibition and artist opportunities that may arise. Available exhibition space is limited and planned six months to two years or so in advance. Scheduled exhibitions are on display around four or up to eight weeks, depending on the pre-determined schedule. The first level and history wing exhibits typically run at the same time, though the exhibits are not required to be thematically paired.

Some of the groups that have collaborated with us include: the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors, the Eleanor & Edsel Ford House, Birmingham Society of Women Painters, Pewabic Pottery, Great Lakes Lace Group, Macomb Community College, Oakland University Faculty, Packard Proving Grounds, Interfaith for Racial Justice, Selfridge Air Museum, CARE of Southeast Michigan, Michigan Silversmith Guild, Colored Pencil Society of America: Detroit Chapter, Detroit Historical Society, Romeo Guild of Art, Palette & Brush Club, Sisters of the Brush, Tuesday Printmakers, and Meadow Brook Hall, Mount Clemens Public Library, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the County of Macomb.

We welcome all media to our space, with advance notice required on all site-specific works (electrical, installation, new media, kinetic, works larger than 50 inches, etc.). We do not exhibit work that has a strong, harmful, or offensive scent and/or fumes; toxic, radioactive, leaking, or wet components; or any otherwise damaging or hazardous materials deemed unsafe to handle and/or observe within arm's length for our staff and the public. Auditory work must have an accessible volume control. The Anton Art Center reserves the right to final interpretation to these rules at any time.

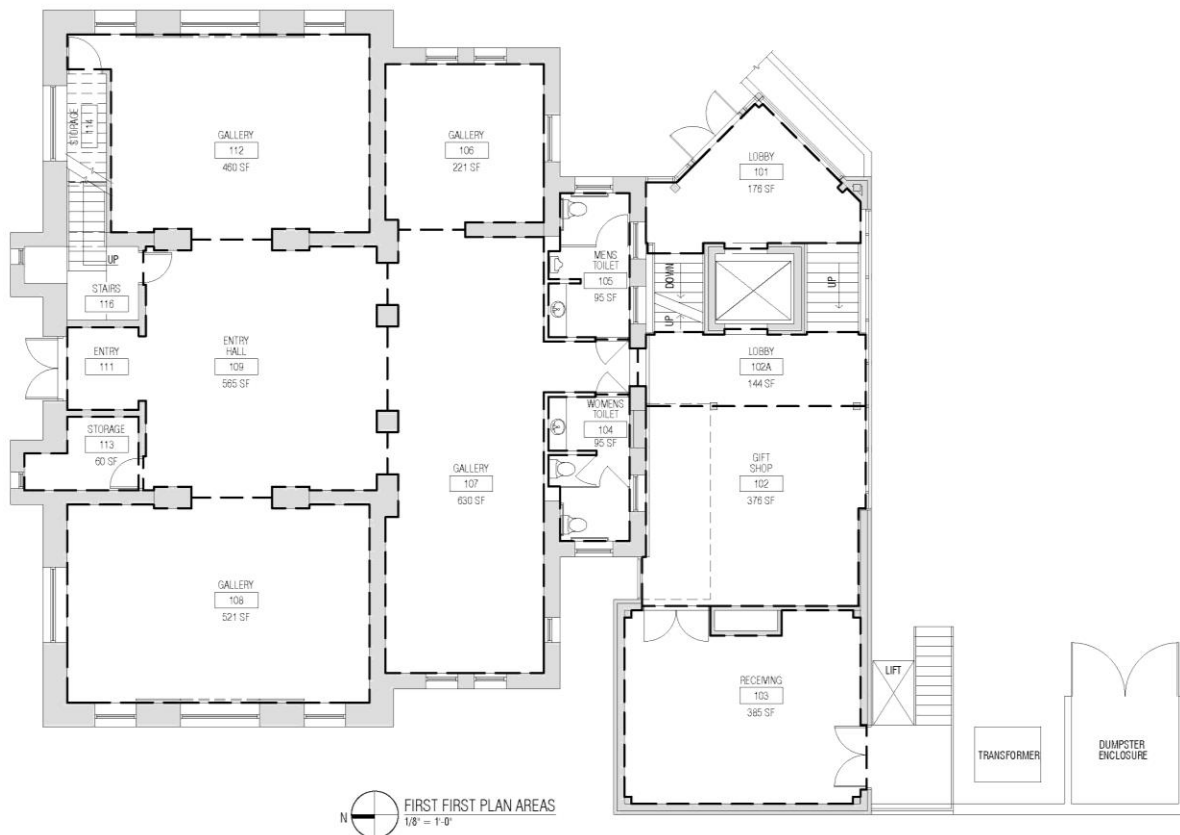


## First Level Floor Plan

**First Level Gallery:** 'St. Aubin' (#108), 'Jeannette' (#109), 'Kiwanis' (#112), 'Willey' (#107)

**History Gallery:** 'Boll' (#106)

Notes: Square footage is noted per room. Ceiling heights vary by room between 9 to 15 feet.

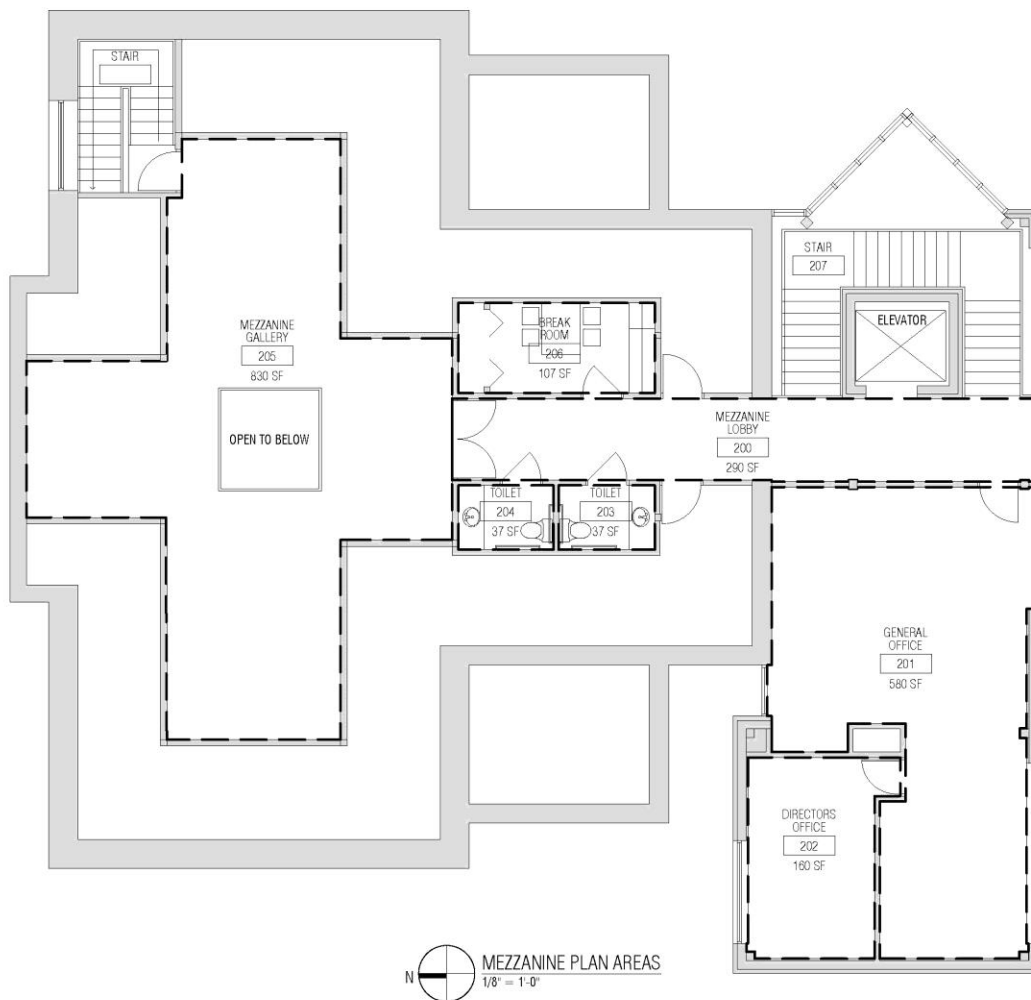




## Second Level Floor Plan

### Second Level Community Gallery: 'Petitpren' (#205)

Notes: Gallery measures 830 square feet. Ceiling height varies 7 to 8 feet.





## History Gallery – ‘Boll’

### *First Level*

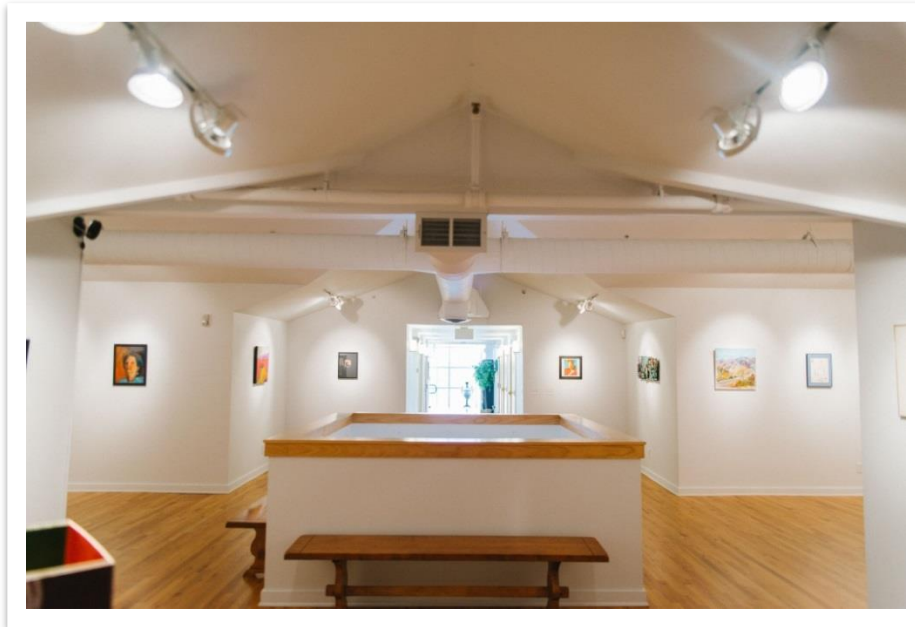






## Second Level Gallery – ‘Petitpren’

*Second Level*

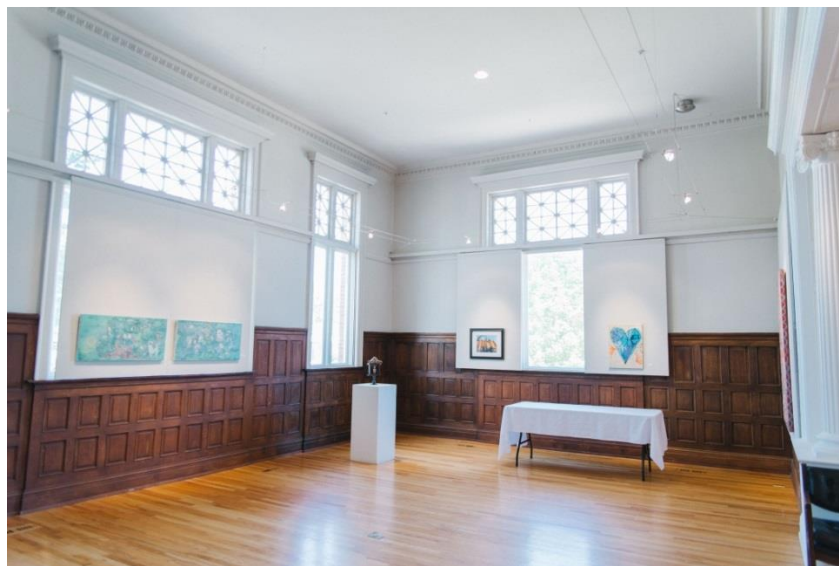




**First Level Gallery – ‘Willey’**  
*First Level*



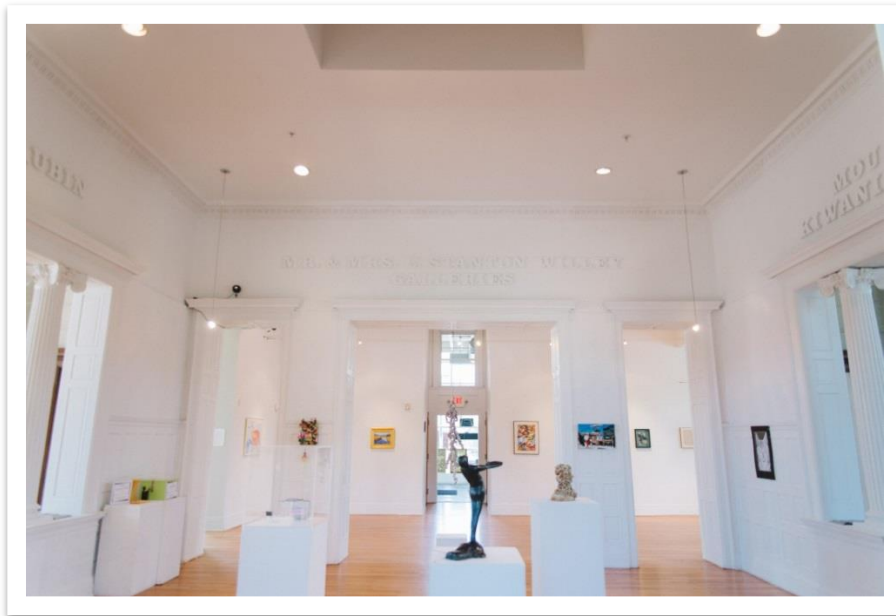
**First Level Gallery – ‘Kiwanis’**  
*First Level*





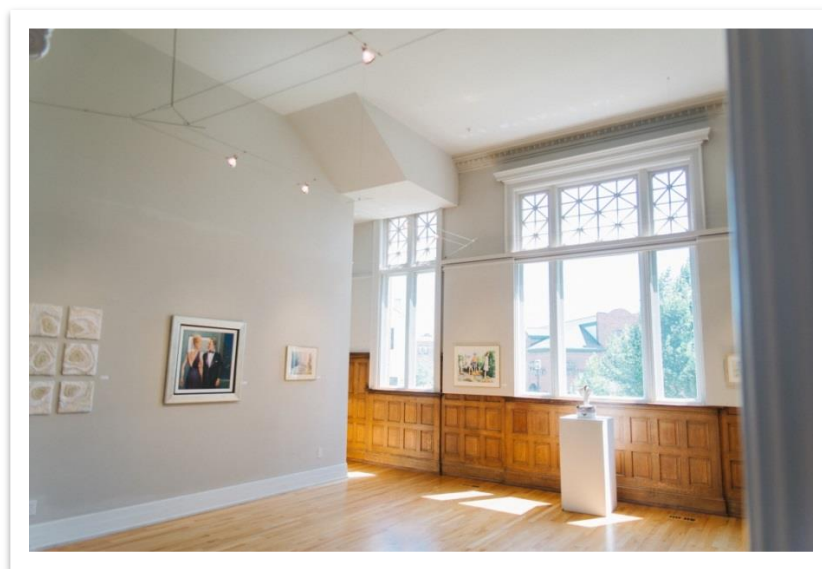
## First Level Gallery – ‘Jeannette’

*First Level*



## First Level Gallery – ‘St. Aubin’

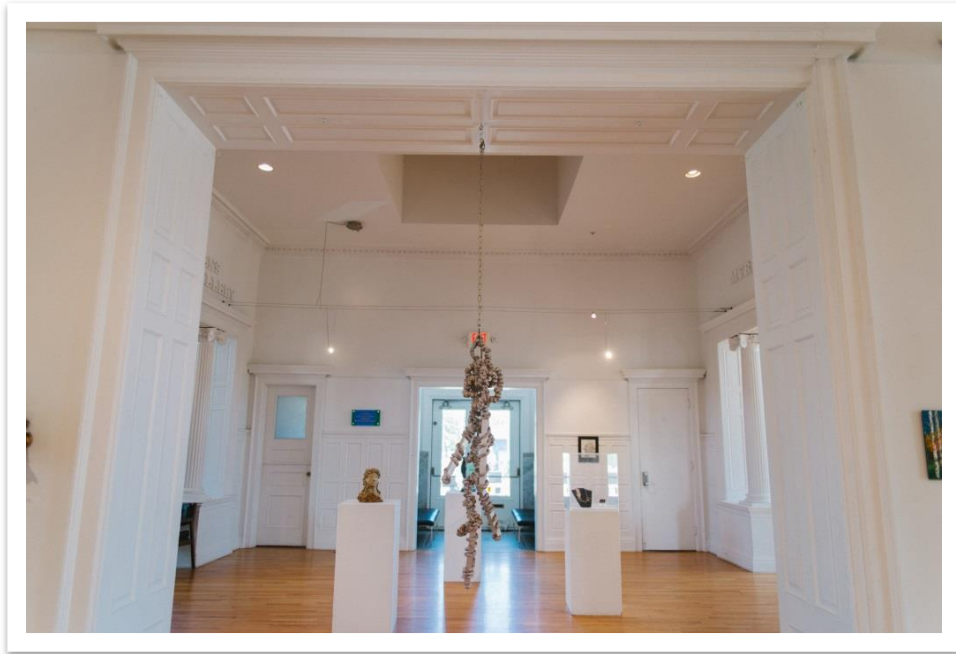
*First Level*





## First Level Gallery – ‘Jeannette’

*First Level*





## Exhibition Proposal/Portfolio Submission Form

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Group Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Desired Exhibition Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Or check here if open to any available dates

Artwork media, sizes, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate number of artworks: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief exhibition description, summary, and/or other: (☐ Check here and attach additional pages if needed)

Artist name(s): (☐ Check here and attach additional pages if needed)

Please select: ☐ Juried members exhibit ☐ Curated exhibit ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach additional pages, if available (check all that apply):**

☐ Artist Statement(s) ☐ Artist Biography(s) ☐ Website(s) ☐ Artist/Member List

☐ Artwork Images ☐ Group History and/or Description ☐ Additional Contact Person(s) Information

☐ Exhibition Description/Summary ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for your interest! This form may be mailed or emailed to the Anton Art Center for submission.***

CONTACT: Stephanie Hazzard, Exhibition Manager, [sahazzard@theartcenter.org](mailto:sahazzard@theartcenter.org)

ANTON ART CENTER 125 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens, MI 48043 USA

Tel. (586) 469-8666 | [www.theartcenter.org](http://www.theartcenter.org)

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00AM-5:00PM | Closed Sunday & Monday

ADMISSION: Free and open to the public. Donations are accepted and appreciated!

PARKING: Metered street and lot parking; 50 cents/hour. Free after 6pm and weekends

ACCESSIBILITY: Our building is handicap accessible with designated handicap parking and an operating elevator.