ANIMATION PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

To apply for admission to LCAD, you must present a portfolio of your best work that demonstrates your strengths, interests and artistic growth. LCAD recognizes that students enter college with diverse artistic backgrounds; therefore, each portfolio is evaluated on an individual specific basis. The work can include class projects, professional work experience or personal assignments. Maximum 20 images.

PORTFOLIO GUIDELINES

- **Life drawing** (3 pages) – A minimum of 9 observational gesture drawings of people and animals with emphasis on dynamic poses, strong silhouette value and clear actions/attitudes. A mix of posed drawings and work done outside the studio is desirable. Suggested venues for sketching are parks, zoos, beaches, restaurants, museums and malls.

- **Character designs** (3 pages) – A minimum of 6 designs that demonstrate the applicant's ability to develop personality in designs of humans, animals and inanimate objects using cartoon stylization, exaggeration and simplification.

- **Expression Sheets** (4 pages) – A minimum of 8 drawings that show a broad range of emotions for a single character using both facial features and body posture.

- **Storytelling Drawings** (4 pages) – A minimum of 4 images that communicate an important emotional beat or moment from a larger story.

OPTIONAL SUBMISSIONS

- **Animation reel** - QuickTime movie reel of traditionally drawn, computer or stop-motion animation

- **Storyboards** – A single sequence of up to 24 sequential story sketches/panels that demonstrate the applicant's visual storytelling skills. Emphasis is on clarity of drawing, effective staging and composition, understanding entertainment potential and dramatic structure.

- **Backgrounds** – Drawings of buildings or natural environment sketches showing the applicant’s understanding of perspective.

- Up to 4 additional images of the applicant’s choice may be included.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

*Observational Drawing*: Sketches done from direct study of people, animals or landscapes. (While photos should not be used, video is permissible for study of fast actions such as human and animal locomotion.)

*Gesture Drawing*: A loose, quick drawing which captures the essence of an action with more emphasis on personality and movement than on detailed anatomy.
**Dynamic Poses:** Drawings that have a good sense of weight and balance and suggest a clear movement or emotion in the subject. (Try showing your work to a friend to see if she can easily identify the action or attitude you’ve drawn.)

**Silhouette Value:** A drawing that retains clarity of the attitude or action even when completely filled in with black. (This is a good way to check the strength of your pose to make sure it still “reads” even in silhouette.)

**Staging:** The presentation of an idea so that it’s clear using composition, silhouette, lighting and character placement.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS**
A more detailed explanation of terms used here and drawn examples may be found in the following books:

*Character Animation Crash Course!* by Eric Goldberg (ISBN: 978-1879605791)
*The Illusion of Life* by Frank Thomas and Ollie Johnston (ISBN: 978-0786860708)
*Drawn to Life* by Walt Stanchfield (Edited by Don Hahn) (ISBN: 978-0240810966)

**SENDING YOUR PORTFOLIO (IMAGE FORMAT)**
Submit your portfolio to the Office of Admissions. When submitting your portfolio by mail, a digital CD is preferred. Digital portfolio images should be saved as .jpg files that are no larger than 1 MB each (video projects exempt). Your portfolio should include an inventory list that identifies each work by number, title, media and completion date. Each image should be labeled as follows 01_(APPLICANT’S LAST NAME), 02_(APPLICANTS LAST NAME), etc. Portfolios with prepaid return postage will be returned via the US Postal Service. LCAD is not responsible for lost or damaged portfolios.