

The logo for Skafffell, featuring the name in a handwritten-style font.MYNDLISTARMIDSTÖÐ AUSTURLANDS
CENTER FOR VISUAL ART

Seyðisfjörður, 12 September 2022

The Honorable Björn Ingimarsson
Sveitarstjóri og Hafnarstjóri Múlaþings
Lyngási 12
700 Egilsstaðir

Dear Björn Ingimarsson,

I write as the Director of Skafffell Center for Visual Arts and on behalf of the Board of Directors, to respectfully request that the elected officials of Múlaþing consider donating to Skafffell the building at Öldugata 14, in Seyðisfjörður.

It has recently come to our attention that Múlaþing is weighing a decision to remove the building from its inventory of properties owned and maintained by the municipality. The purpose of this letter is to offer a compelling case that the building should be given to Skafffell. It is our belief that the building would be of greatest benefit to the municipality as a cultural and creative workspace.

Presently, Öldugata 14 is occupied by the offices of Skafffell and Austurbrú. It also houses a very popular workshop for yoga and mediation that is open to the public in the mornings and evenings. Significantly, it is now the new workshop of Seyðisfjörður Prentverk — an artist collective comprising Skafffell, the Lunga School, the Heima Residency, and the Technical Museum. Together, we work in longstanding partnership with Iceland University of the Arts, which holds an annual printmaking workshop for its art students here, an event that has become embedded in the curriculum of the University. Seyðisfjörður Prentverk is also a community-facing center for the art of printmaking, actively hosting workshops for people of all ages who are interested in printmaking.

The landslide of 2020 devastated the town's resources in the printmaking arts. Since that time, Seyðisfjörður Prentverk, spearheaded by Skafffell, has contributed significant effort and expense (in the form of public funding) to establish Öldugata 14 as a viable printmaking workshop, including the purchase of a state-of-the-art intaglio printer.

If Seyðisfjörður Prentverk is forced to shutter its operation, it might take years to identify a site and build a facility — all at tremendous cost of human and financial resources. This is why it is most efficient to continue to enhance what has already been established, and to do so in a building we can improve by our own hands, efforts, and expense. This seems a far more reasonable path than to start over from the beginning yet again. The building is known to be in dire need of repair.