

# WHITNEY

Whitney Museum  
of American Art  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### WHITNEY MUSEUM CELEBRATES EDGES OF AILEY WITH LIVE MUSIC, DANCE, AND MORE DURING FREE SECOND SUNDAYS ON OCTOBER 13



*To celebrate the incredible Edges of Ailey, the Whitney will offer free outdoor dance classes, live music by Jazz at Lincoln Center, drawing workshops, Xavier Riddle giveaways, and much more!*

**New York, NY, October 8, 2024** — The Whitney Museum of American Art celebrates *Edges of Ailey* with **free admission and Alvin Ailey–inspired activities** at the Museum on **Sunday, October 13**. This once-in-a-lifetime exhibition explores art, dance, history, and music through the lens of visionary artist and choreographer Alvin Ailey, and this is the first chance to experience the show during one of the Museum’s [Free Second Sundays](#). In partnership with AILEY, [two free West African dance classes](#) are offered to dancers of all ages on Gansevoort Street in front of the Whitney. Other exciting programs include live music by **Jazz at Lincoln Center**, a screening of *Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum*, a chance to **take photos with Xavier Riddle** and bring home special artwork of the beloved character at the Whitney, *Edges of Ailey* exhibition tours, and more!

On **Sunday, October 13**, Free Second Sundays continue with **free admission** all day from **10:30 am–6 pm** for visitors of all ages. At **10:30 am and 2 pm**, join [Maquette Camara](#), faculty member at The Ailey School and Ailey Extension instructor, for [Dancing in the Street](#). **Gansevoort Street will be closed to traffic** for the two celebratory **free outdoor dance**

**classes** to take place **in front of the Museum**. Camara is a globally recognized West African dancer, choreographer, teacher and drummer based in New York City. Participants will immerse themselves in the rhythms of West African music and culture through live drumming. **Jazz at Lincoln Center** returns to the Whitney for a performance at **11:30 am** in the Museum's third-floor theater. This [special concert explores the music that inspired Alvin Ailey's iconic works](#)—from spirituals to the blues—as musicians guide the audience through the musical influences that shaped Ailey's groundbreaking approach to dance and choreography.

At **1:30 pm** and **4:15 pm**, families with children of all ages are invited to [special screenings of \*Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum\*](#), an animated adventure-comedy adapted for PBS KIDS® based on Brad Meltzer and Christopher Eliopoulos's best-selling kids book series *Ordinary People Change the World*, **in the Whitney's theater**. This episode brings viewers back in time to meet an animated Alvin Ailey as a kid and learn about Ailey's contributions to dance and how he became a role model for generations to come. Following the screenings, **illustrator Christopher Eliopoulos will lead a sketch-along session to learn about animation drawing**. Fans of the show will also have an exciting **opportunity to take photos with Xavier Riddle** while the character's mascot makes a guest appearance at this Free Second Sunday. The day also includes **free giveaways of a replica of a one-of-a-kind piece of artwork** by Chris Eliopoulos featuring Alvin Ailey at Whitney Museum. Seating in the theater is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.



The October 13 schedule of programs includes a variety of artmaking activities for artists of all ages. From **12–4 pm**, visitors can participate in [Drawing Dance: Ailey-Inspired Live Figure Drawing](#), a drop-in figure drawing session in the fifth-floor pop-up artspace. Capture the grace and energy of the human form, drawing from live models influenced by Ailey's iconic choreography. Also inspired by *Edges of Ailey*, join Whitney Museum educators in the third-floor theater from **11 am–4 pm** to [make flip-books and thaumatropes](#). Explore art in motion and bring visual creations to life by transforming still images into vibrant sequences of movement and creativity. In between artmaking sessions, follow a [guided exhibition tour of \*Edges of Ailey\* in English](#) at **12:30 pm** or **1:30 pm** to dive deeper into themes and connection throughout the show. There will also be an [exhibition tour in Spanish](#) offered at **3 pm**. From **11 am–2 pm**, get creative in the 8th-floor galleries for [Drawing in the Grove](#) surrounded by the sights and aromas of the Harrisons' [Survival Piece #5: Portable Orchard](#). Explore the indoor citrus grove of eighteen live trees, then grab a gallery stool and art supplies to create drawings of the orchard.

Additional Second Sunday programs include [free story times with librarians](#) from **The New York Public Library** in the Museum's lobby at **11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm**. The full schedule of October 13 programs can be found at [whitney.org/visit/second-sundays](https://www.whitney.org/visit/second-sundays).

While general admission to the Whitney is free on Sunday, October 13, **tickets are still required, and capacity is limited. Advance booking is strongly recommended, and Museum tickets can be reserved at [whitney.org/admission](https://www.whitney.org/admission).**

### **Edges of Ailey Exhibition and Performance Tickets**

Timed tickets for the in-gallery exhibition [Edges of Ailey](#), on view September 25, 2024–February 9, 2025, are currently available at [whitney.org/admission](https://www.whitney.org/admission). Performance tickets are also available for purchase on [whitney.org](https://www.whitney.org) and include same-day access to the exhibition. Performances take place in the Museum's theater, and space is limited. More exhibition and performance information can be found on [whitney.org/exhibitions/edges-of-ailey](https://www.whitney.org/exhibitions/edges-of-ailey).

### **Free Admission Offerings at the Whitney**

Free Second Sundays at the Whitney help connect more people to the Museum and its mission of celebrating contemporary American art and artists. Second Sundays is made possible by a generous three-year grant from the [Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All Program](#), which supports increased access to museums across the country and fosters engagement with local communities by focusing on common barriers to access. The program and another Whitney initiative, [Free Friday Nights](#), both aim to reduce barriers to access, removing admission fees and offering programs that are entry points for anyone interested in visiting.

Photo and video assets from previous Free Friday Nights and Second Sundays at the Whitney can be found at [whitney.org/press/free-days-and-nights](https://www.whitney.org/press/free-days-and-nights).

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## **PRESS CONTACT**

For press materials and image requests, please visit our press site at [whitney.org/press](https://www.whitney.org/press) or contact:

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## PROGRAM SUPPORT

Free Friday Nights are generously supported by Jen Rubio and Stewart Butterfield and Paul Arnhold and Wes Gordon.

Generous support for Second Sundays is provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program.



ACCESS  
FOR ALL

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## ABOUT THE WHITNEY

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for ninety years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

### **Whitney Museum Land Acknowledgment**

The Whitney is located in Lenapehoking, the ancestral homeland of the Lenape. The name Manhattan comes from their word Mannahatta, meaning "island of many hills." The Museum's current site is close to land that was a Lenape fishing and planting site called Saponckanikan ("tobacco field"). The Whitney acknowledges the displacement of this region's original inhabitants and the Lenape diaspora that exists today.

As a museum of American art in a city with vital and diverse communities of Indigenous people, the Whitney recognizes the historical exclusion of Indigenous artists from its collection and program. The Museum is committed to addressing these erasures and honoring the perspectives of Indigenous artists and communities as we work for a more equitable future. To read more about the Museum's Land Acknowledgement, [visit the Museum's website](#).

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## ABOUT AILEY

Founded by Alvin Ailey in 1958 and forged during a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater uplifts the African American experience while transcending

boundaries of race, faith, and nationality with its universal humanity. Recognized as a vital “American Cultural Ambassador to the World,” it is one of the most acclaimed dance companies worldwide having performed in more than seventy countries on six continents. The AILEY organization also includes Ailey II (1974), a second performing company of emerging young dancers and innovative choreographers; The Ailey School (1969), one of the most extensive dance training programs in the world; Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs (1992), which brings dance into a wide range of classrooms and communities of all ages, and lives of people of all ages; and Ailey Extension (2005), offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of AILEY’s permanent home in New York City—The Joan Weill Center for Dance—the nation’s largest building dedicated to dance. For more information, visit [alvinailey.org](http://alvinailey.org).

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to New York City Center December 4 - January 5, with its annual, five-week holiday season celebrating Legacy in Motion. The Company’s extraordinary dancers will bring to life world premieres and new productions by a number of choreographers for whom Alvin Ailey paved the way, including the 25th anniversary of Ronald K. Brown’s blockbuster *Grace*, a rapturous work in which the secular and sacred meet, connecting African and American dance. Tickets on sale September 10. A national tour to over 20 cities will follow, February – May 2025. For further info, email: [aileypress@alvinailey.org](mailto:aileypress@alvinailey.org)

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## VISITOR INFORMATION

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Public hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:30 am–6 pm; Friday, 10:30 am–10 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 10:30 am–6 pm. Closed Tuesday. Visitors eighteen years and under and Whitney members: FREE. The Museum offers FREE admission and special programming for visitors of all ages every Friday evening from 5–10 pm and on the second Sunday of every month.

### Image credit:

Lead image: Ailey Extension *Revelations* Dance Workshop led by Amos Machanic at the Whitney Museum, September 8, 2024. Photograph by Filip Wolak

From left to right: Ailey Extension *Revelations* Dance Workshop led by Linda Celeste Sims, hosted with the Whitney Museum in Gansevoort Plaza on July 23, 2024. Photograph by Filip Wolak; Free Second Sundays at the Whitney. Photograph by Filip Wolak; Jazz at Lincoln Center performing at the Whitney Museum, July 2024. Photograph by Filip Wolak

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