

MEDIA ALERT

**BROADCAST AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:
CELEBRATE AILEY AT THE WHITNEY WITH MUSIC,
DANCE, AND MORE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13**

Dancers of all ages will fill Gansevoort Street during free dance classes hosted by the Whitney — Gansevoort Street will be closed for this event.

Xavier Riddle, star of the PBS KIDS® show Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum, will make a special appearance at the Museum!

New York, NY, October 9, 2024 — The Whitney Museum is offering **free admission for all visitors and Alvin Ailey-inspired activities** at the Museum on **Sunday, October 13**. This is the first chance to experience the once-in-a-lifetime exhibition during one of the Museum's [Free Second Sundays](#). Gansevoort Street will be closed to traffic for the celebratory **free West African dance classes** taking place **in front of the Museum** for dancers of all ages. Led by Maguette Camara, faculty member at The Ailey School and Ailey Extension instructor, **participants will be immersed in the rhythms of West African music and culture through live drumming**. Other 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, exhibition tours, and more!

DATE: Sunday, October 13, 2024

TIME: 10:30 am–6 pm Media are welcome to capture imagery and video.

10:30 am and 2 pm: Free Outdoor West African Dance Classes
Instructor-led West African dance classes with live drumming and music.

Location: Gansevoort Street in front of the Whitney (street closed for this event)

11:30 am: Jazz at Lincoln Center Performance

Special concert explores the musical influences that inspired Ailey's iconic works.

Location: Theater, Floor 3

1:30 pm and 4:15 pm: *Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum*

Alvin Ailey makes an appearance in this episode screening at the Whitney. Meet illustrator Christopher Eliopoulos for sketch-along sessions after the screenings. Xavier Riddle mascot will also be in attendance for photos and free giveaways.

Location: Theater, Floor 3

12–4 pm: Dance-Inspired Figure Drawing and Artmaking Activities

Capture the grace and energy of the human form, drawing from live models influenced by Ailey's iconic choreography.

Location: Artspace, Floor 5

11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm: New York Public Library Story Times

Free storytimes with NYPL librarians will take place in the lobby.

Location: Floor 1

**LOCATION: Whitney Museum of American Art
99 Gansevoort Street, New York, NY 10014**

While general admission to the Museum is free on Sunday, October 13, **tickets are still required, and capacity is limited. Advance booking is strongly recommended**, and tickets can be reserved at [whitney.org/admission](https://www.whitney.org/admission). For more details about the October 13 schedule of activities, please visit [whitney.org/visit/second-sundays](https://www.whitney.org/visit/second-sundays).

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).

PRESS 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

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](#).

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.

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

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

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