

# WHITNEY

Whitney Museum  
of American Art  
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# PRESS RELEASE

## MEMBERS OF DIVINE NINE VISIT THE WHITNEY TO ENJOY FREE ADMISSION, ARTMAKING, AND MORE AT FREE SECOND SUNDAYS ON DECEMBER 8



**New York, NY, December 9, 2024** — The Whitney Museum of American Art welcomed **members of the Divine Nine (D9)** to the Museum this past weekend on **Sunday, December 8**. In partnership with the National Panhellenic Council and the Meatpacking Business Improvement District, D9 members were invited to enjoy all of the [Free Second Sundays](#) offerings, including **free admission, all-ages artmaking activities, and the exhibitions on view in the galleries**. Guests gathered with family and friends for free creative programs inspired by the current exhibitions, including [Edges of Ailey](#), [Shifting Landscapes](#), and [Survival Piece #5: Portable Orchard](#). They also had opportunities to submit personal letters to the recently launched [Alvin Ailey and Me](#), a project that asks members of the public to share personal stories of how the enduring legacy and influence of iconic dancer, choreographer, and artist Alvin Ailey's life and work has impacted them. In between programs, visitors followed

guided tours of *Edges of Ailey* and *Shifting Landscapes*, and listened to free story times with librarians from The New York Public Library in the Museum's lobby.



The National Pan-Hellenic Council serves as an umbrella organization for historically African American fraternities and sororities, which are collectively known as the Divine Nine and are referred to as Black Greek Letter Organizations (BGLOs). BGLOs were established on the principles of personal excellence, racial uplift, community service, civic action, and kinship. The chapters emerged during a period of widespread racial violence and prejudice in America and Black students were excluded from Greek life at predominantly white institutions. Today, the D9 organizations are dedicated to community service and civic engagement, and drive impact through outreach programs focused on literacy, professional development, and voter registration.



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

**Beginning December 11, the Whitney Museum will offer free admission to all visitors 25 years of age and younger.** The new Free 25 and Under program builds on the Museum's popular Free Friday Nights and Free Second Sundays initiatives. With the addition of free admission for visitors 25 and under, the Whitney—already a leader in the field, providing free admission for visitors 18 and under for over a decade—offers one of the broadest and most comprehensive free admissions programs among museums in New York and the United States, affirming the Whitney's commitment to broadening access to American contemporary art and culture, and to reaching new audiences. Free 25 and Under is made possible with the generous

support of two three-year gifts from Whitney Museum Board members, longtime supporter Susan Hess, and artist Julie Mehretu. **On December 13, in celebration of this new expanded free admission program, visitors of all ages are invited to a special Free Friday Night with music, art, refreshments, and more!**

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](http://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](http://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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## 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. Whitney members: FREE. Beginning December 11, the Whitney will offer FREE admission to all visitors 25 years of age and younger. 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: Photograph by Lia Chang

Left to right: Photograph by Meghan Ferrucci; Photograph by Filip Wolak; Photograph by Meghan Ferrucci

Left to right: Photograph by Filip Wolak

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