

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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PRESS RELEASE

WHITNEY MUSEUM CELEBRATES ONE YEAR OF FREE SECOND SUNDAYS WITH FREE ADMISSION AND DANCE-INSPIRED PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES ON JANUARY 12



The Whitney Museum welcomes the Louis Armstrong House Museum to Free Second Sundays with a special performance, free artmaking, and more to mark one year since the Museum expanded its free admissions programs.

New York, NY, January 7, 2025 — The Whitney Museum of American Art is offering **free admission and all-ages artmaking activities** at the Museum on **Sunday, January 12**. This marks one year of [Free Second Sundays](#) since the expanded free programs launched in January 2024! Gather with family and friends for free creative programs inspired by the exhibitions currently on view, including *Edges of Ailey* and *Shifting Landscapes*. The Whitney is **partnering with the Louis Armstrong House Museum** for the first Free Second Sunday of 2025 to host **special programming and a multimedia performance**. There's no better way to kick off the New Year than with resolutions to enjoy more art with free access to the Whitney.

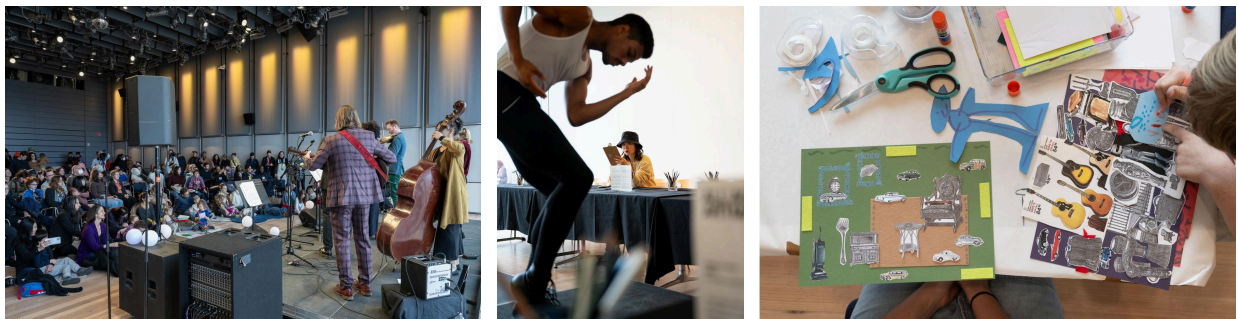
On **Sunday, January 12**, Free Second Sundays continue with **free admission** all day from **10:30 am–6 pm** for visitors of all ages. Join Whitney Museum educators in the third-floor theater to make [collages with the Louis Armstrong House Museum](#) from **11 am–4 pm**. Explore the

collages by artist Romare Bearden currently on view in [Edges of Ailey](#) and then incorporate improvisation, experimentation, and play in creations of your own. At **11:30 am**, grab a seat in the theater for a [special music performance by tap dancer and choreographer Lisa La Touche](#). Presented as part of Armstrong Now, a residency-based project connecting artists with the Louis Armstrong Archives, La Touche's dynamic performance delves into the intersections of jazz, tap, and African American migration history. From **11 am–3 pm**, visitors are invited to participate in [Drawing Dance: Ailey-Inspired Live Figure Drawing](#), a drop-in figure drawing session on the eighth floor with dancers from Ailey Extension. Capture the grace and energy of the human form, drawing from live models influenced by Alvin Ailey's dynamic choreography.

Additional artmaking programs for artists of all ages include [Shapes in Space](#) from **11 am–3 pm**. First, experience Torkwase Dyson's sculpture [Liquid Shadows, Solid Dreams \(A Monastic Playground\)](#) on the Whitney's fifth-floor terrace where visitors can touch, sit, and engage with the installation. Then head over to the pop-up art space to create artwork inspired by Dyson's use of shape, space, and light. Dyson thinks of the installation as a kind of playground, inviting visitors to interact with and experience it in a hands-on way. **This is the last Free Second Sunday to see this installation before it closes to the public on February 2.**

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 [Edges of Ailey exhibition tour in Spanish](#) offered at **3 pm**. Other guided tours include an [exhibition tour of Shifting Landscapes](#) at **3 pm**. The Whitney also invites visitors to check out [the Artist's Archive](#), a program organized in partnership with the Louis Armstrong House Museum, at **2 pm** on the eighth floor. The program includes a conversation considering the importance of an artist's archive, and how it can be used as a tool for legacy building as well as a touchstone for expansive creativity, and listening sessions of recorded music and interviews inspired by the Ailey and Armstrong legacies.

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 complete schedule of January 12 programs can be found at whitney.org/visit/second-sundays.



While general admission to the Whitney is free on Sunday, January 12, **tickets are still required, and capacity is limited. Advance booking is strongly recommended, and Museum tickets can be reserved at whitney.org/admission.**

New Free Admission Offerings at the Whitney

The Whitney Museum now offers 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.

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.

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. Performance tickets are also available for purchase on 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.

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 Sapponckanikan ("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](#).

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 twenty-five 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:

Photograph by Filip Wolak

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