

PRESS RELEASE

WHITNEY MUSEUM'S EDGES OF AILEY CLOSES WITH FREE DANCE PARTY AND EXTENDED HOURS DURING FREE SECOND SUNDAY ON FEBRUARY 9



The Whitney is hosting a free dance party for visitors of all ages on Sunday, February 9 to celebrate Edges of Ailey—the first large-scale museum exhibition to explore the life, dances, influences, adjacencies, and enduring legacy of visionary artist and choreographer Alvin Ailey.

New York, NY, January 30, 2025 — The Whitney Museum of American Art is offering **free admission, dance classes, and all-ages artmaking activities** at the Museum for the February edition of [Free Second Sundays](#). This is the last chance to see [Edges of Ailey](#) before it closes to the public on **Sunday, February 9** and **the Museum will be open until 8 pm**, so you won't want to miss it! To celebrate the landmark exhibition, the Whitney is hosting a **free dance party** for visitors of all ages featuring **two sessions led by Ailey Extension faculty**. The Whitney is also **partnering with the Studio Museum in Harlem** to provide special programming.

On **Sunday, February 9**, Free Second Sundays continue with **free admission** all day and **extended hours** from **10:30 am–8 pm** for visitors of all ages. Gather with family and friends for free creative programs inspired by the exhibitions on view in the galleries, including *Edges of Ailey* and *Christine Sun Kim: All Day All Night*. A [free dance party for dancers of all ages and experience levels](#) will be hosted from **12–5 pm** in the **third-floor theater** featuring two **high energy dance classes with Ailey Extension instructors**. Visitors can improvise their own moves or stretch and groove with the incredible dancers of Ailey Extension. The **West African**

Dance class at **1 pm** will feature live drums and be led by **Maguette Camara**, a globally recognized West African dancer, choreographer, teacher, and drummer based in New York City. Immediately following at **2 pm** is an **Afro’Fusion** class full of technique, drilling, and choreography led by **Judith McCarty**, a French, Congolese, Cape Town-raised choreographer and artistic director. During this program in the theater, visitors can also step into one of the **mini photo studios and draw inspiration from the photography of James Van Der Zee** currently on view in *Edges of Ailey*. Get creative with props and lighting and take turns stepping behind the lens and in front of the camera, exploring the roles of both director and model.

Join Museum educators in the **fifth-floor pop-up Artspace** for [Visual Poetry Collages with The Studio Museum in Harlem](#) from **11 am–3 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. Visitors can also participate in a **drop-in artmaking session** from **11 am–3 pm** in the **eighth-floor galleries surrounded by the work of artist Christine Sun Kim**. This will be the first Free Second Sunday that the artist’s new exhibition, [All Day All Night](#), will be on view.

In between artmaking sessions, follow a [guided exhibition tour of Edges of Ailey](#) 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**. 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 February 9 programs can be found at whitney.org/visit/second-sundays.



While general admission to the Whitney is free on Sunday, February 9, **tickets are still required, and capacity is limited. Advance booking is strongly recommended, and Museum tickets can be reserved at whitney.org/admission.**

In addition to extended Museum hours on Sunday, February 9, **the Whitney will remain open until 8 pm on Saturday, February 8.** For further details, please visit whitney.org/visit.

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.

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PROGRAM SUPPORT

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

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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:

Lead image: Installation view of *Edges of Ailey* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, September 25, 2024–February 9, 2025). Photograph by David Tufino

Photograph by Filip Wolak

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