

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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PRESS RELEASE

WHITNEY MUSEUM OFFERS SPECIAL PROGRAMS DURING FREE SECOND SUNDAY AND FREE FRIDAY NIGHTS THROUGHOUT APRIL



The Whitney's exciting April lineup of free programs includes music and DJ sets at Free Friday Nights, Jazz at Lincoln Center during Free Second Sunday, open studios for teens, and special all-ages programs to celebrate the recently opened Amy Sherald: American Sublime.

New York, NY, April 10, 2025 — The Whitney Museum of American Art is offering **free admission, music, artist-led programs, artmaking activities, and more** all month long during [Free Friday Nights](#) and [Free Second Sunday](#). Gather with family and friends this April to enjoy free programs and experience the exhibitions currently on view, including [Amy Sherald: American Sublime](#), the New York debut of Sherald's career survey. Opening today, April 9, *American Sublime* examines the artist's powerful impact on contemporary art and culture. The exhibition features Sherald's poetic early portraits alongside the distinct and striking figure paintings for which she is best known. [Mary Heilmann: Long Line](#), [Collection View: Louise Nevelson](#), [Marina Zurkow: Parting Worlds](#), and [Hyundai Terrace Commission: Marina Zurkow](#) also open to the public on April 9.

Admission to the Museum is free for visitors of all ages from 5–10 pm every Friday night and from 10:30 am–6 pm on the second Sunday of each month. **Don't forget that admission to the Whitney is always free for visitors age 25 and under!**

On April 25, a special edition of Free Friday Nights will feature a thought-provoking panel titled *American, Black & Beautiful: A Celebration of Amy Sherald*. The program explores the profound intersection of beauty and culture throughout Black American communities. Happening in the Whitney's third-floor theater, this multi-generational conversation is inspired by *American Sublime*, which presents portraits of Black Americans and highlights subjects often unseen or underrepresented in art history.

Friday, April 11

The Whitney's April 11 Free Friday Night will feature music and [unique sets by DJ Danglez](#) in the **lobby** from **5–10 pm**. A key figure in Brooklyn's music scene and member of Federation Sound, DJ Danglez is known for his wide-ranging musical tastes that span reggae, dancehall, Soca, R&B, and beyond. From **5–9:45 pm**, enjoy the [Sunset Lounge](#) in the **third-floor theater**. Relax and recharge while taking in the sunset views of the Hudson River with playlists curated by Brooklyn-based music and performance venue Public Records. In between sunset and music sessions, join Whitney Educators on a [15-minute tour of *Amy Sherald: American Sublime*](#) at **7 pm** or **7:30 pm** in the **fifth-floor galleries**. There will also be an [open studio for teens](#) in the **third-floor Artspace** from **4–6 pm**. Teens can join contemporary artists and educators to learn new techniques through hands-on artmaking projects inspired by themes and artists in the Whitney's exhibitions and collection.



Sunday, April 13

On **Sunday, April 13**, the Whitney is offering **free admission** from **10:30 am–6 pm** for visitors of all ages. The Museum is also excited to welcome back [Jazz at Lincoln Center](#) for **Jazz as Portraiture**, a family-friendly concert inspired by *American Sublime*, in the **third-floor theater** at **11 am**. Just as Amy Sherald's paintings highlight her subjects' identities, emotions, and lived experiences, jazz can create a musical portrait, bringing to life the stories of people, places, histories, and cultures through melody and rhythm. From **12–4 pm** in the **theater**, visitors can participate in [All Ages Artmaking: Layered Polaroid Portraits](#). Strike a pose for a Polaroid portrait, then swap photos with someone in the program and transform the Polaroids into colorful, layered works of art. From **11 am–3 pm**, artists of all ages are invited to join [My America, a Collective Composition](#) in the **third-floor Artspace**. After exploring *American Sublime*, visitors can take part in a collaborative artwork that reflects individual perspectives on the American experience. There will also be a [live figure drawing session](#) from **11 am–2 pm** on the **fifth floor** where visitors can drop in and experiment with portraits of their own. 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 March 9 programs can be found at whitney.org/visit/second-sundays.

Friday, April 18

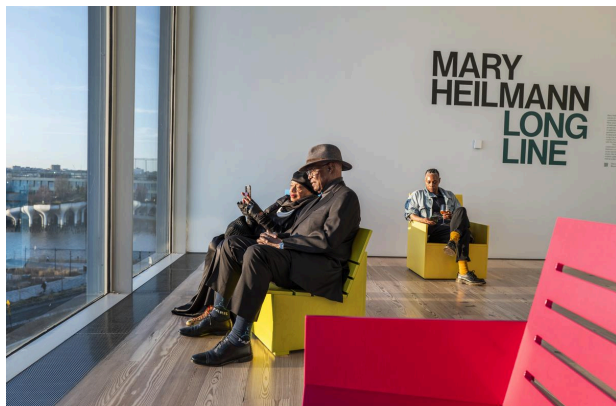
In partnership with Public Records, this Free Friday Night features [live music by indie rock musician Ron Gallo](#). Gallo's music often hovers between the feelings of optimism and despair, creating sounds that resemble the noise of NYC mixed with dank-punk and noise pop. On April 18, Gallo will be joined by Santa Chiara, the solo project of Italian singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Chiara D'Anzieri. The performances will begin at **6:30 pm** in the Whitney's lobby. From **5–9:45 pm**, enjoy the [Sunset Lounge](#) in the **third-floor theater**. Enjoy the sunset views of the Hudson River while listening to the playlists curated by Public Records.

Friday, April 25

[DJ Bembona](#) will immerse visitors with music from **5–10 pm** as they enter the Whitney's lobby for this Free Friday Night. With her community-oriented and Afro-diasporic approach, the Brooklyn-born and raised Puerto Rican-Panamanian DJ Bembona has established herself as a singular voice in the landscape of New York City nightlife and beyond. Earlier in the day, there will be an [open studio for teens](#) in the **third-floor Artspace** from **4–6 pm** where participants will draw inspiration from current exhibitions and the Museum's collection and explore new methods through hands-on artmaking projects.

Ongoing Exhibition Tours

A variety of free exhibition tours led by Whitney educators, ranging from family-focused to 15-minute tours, are offered during Free Friday Nights and Free Second Sundays. Select tours include [15-Minute Tours: Highlights of Amy Sherald: American Sublime](#), [15-Minute Tours: Highlights of Whitney's Collection](#), [15-Minute Tours: Highlights of Christine Sun Kim: All Day All Night](#), [Recorridos Familiares](#), and [exhibition tours of Shifting Landscapes](#). For further details on upcoming tours, please visit whitney.org/events.



While general admission to the Whitney is free every Friday from 5–10 pm and all day on Sunday, April 13, **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.

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:

Lead image: Installation view of *Amy Sherald: American Sublime* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, April 9–August 10, 2025). *The Rabbit in the Hat*, 2009. Photograph by Matthew Carasella

Left to right: Jazz at Lincoln Center performs at Second Sunday, January 2024. Photograph by Filip Wolak; Embodiment Session V/VI: Figure Drawing with Alex Schmidt. Photograph by Filip Wolak; Second Sunday: All Ages Artmaking: Seven Part Work of Art. Whitney Museum of American Art. March 9, 2025. Photograph by Filip Wolak

Left to right: Photograph by Matthew Carasella; John Roseboro performing at Free Friday Nights, January 10, 2025. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough

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