

# WHITNEY

Whitney Museum  
of American Art  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### WHITNEY MUSEUM CELEBRATES WEST SIDE FEST WITH FREE PROGRAMS, LIVE MUSIC, AND MORE FOR VISITORS OF ALL AGES!



*In celebration of West Side Fest, the Whitney is offering free admission, live music, and special programs during Free Friday Night and Free Second Sunday.*

**New York, NY, July 7, 2025** — The Whitney Museum of American Art invites visitors to West Side Fest this July! Returning July 11–13, West Side Fest coincides with the Whitney's [Free Friday Night](#) and [Free Second Sunday](#), offering **free programs, live music performances, artmaking activities, open studios for teens, neighborhood walking tours, and more** to New Yorkers of all ages. The Whitney's celebration of its 10-year anniversary in the Meatpacking District culminates with West Side Fest, a three-day festival organized by the West Side Cultural Network—a group of museums, parks, performing arts centers, and cultural institutions located within a half-mile portion of historic New York. As part of a neighborhood rich in history, creativity, and cultural exchange, the Whitney has played an integral role in contributing to this vibrant cultural center on Manhattan's west side by bringing art, ideas, and community together with its state-of-the-art exhibitions, education programming, free admissions initiatives, and strong engagement with partner organizations and neighbors. Further details about the Whitney's West Side Fest offerings can be found at [whitney.org/west-side-fest-2025](https://whitney.org/west-side-fest-2025).



### **Friday, July 11**

The Whitney is kicking off West Side Fest with [Open Studio for Teens](#) from **1–3 pm on Friday, July 11**. 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. Later in the evening, visitors can enjoy **free admission** from **5–10 pm** during Free Friday Night. From **4–5 pm**, visitors **25 years old and under** can participate in [Art + You: Gallery Conversations for Younger Adults](#). Facilitated by a Whitney Museum Educator, this session invites visitors to exchange points of view about artworks in the exhibition *Amy Sherald: American Sublime*. The evening features a [Decade Downtown Whitney Walking Tour](#) at **6 pm** and [live music by Miles Okazaki](#), an American guitarist and composer based in New York City. Organized in partnership with Public Records, Okazaki will perform *Work: the compositions of Thelonious Monk* for solo guitar on the **fifth-floor terrace** at **7 pm and 8:15 pm**.

### **Saturday, July 12**

On July 12, visitors can explore the current shows on view and the **new exhibition “Untitled” (America)**, which opened at the Whitney on July 5. Guided exhibition tours led by Whitney Educators will also be offered on Saturday, and include [tours of Amy Sherald: American Sublime](#) at **11 am and 3 pm**, a [tour of Shifting Landscapes](#) at **12:30 pm**, and a [tour of Christine Sun Kim: All Day All Night](#) at **1:30 pm**.



### **Sunday, July 13**

On **Sunday, July 13**, the Whitney is offering **free admission** from **10:30 am–6 pm** for all visitors for the July edition of **Free Second Sunday**. From **11 am–4 pm**, artists of all ages can explore the new exhibition “Untitled” (America) and [create their own NYC-inspired work of art](#) in the **third-floor Artspace**. There will also be a [collective composition artmaking session](#)



from **11 am–3 pm** in the **third-floor Artspace** where visitors can drop in, get inspired by artist Christine Sun Kim, and explore the survey of her work, *All Day All Night*. Other all-ages artmaking programs include [live figure drawing](#) on the **fifth floor** from **11 am–2 pm**. Visitors can grab some pencils, take a seat, and sketch as live models pose in a variety of postures and costumes throughout the day.

The Whitney will host an [artmaking program celebrating Disability Pride Month](#) on the **eighth floor** from **11:30 am–1:30 pm**. Led by Annie Nishwani Lachhman, a disabled artist, and Lakshmee Lachhman-Persad, an educator on disability inclusion and accessibility, the workshop invites participants of all ages and backgrounds to learn about the progressive Disability Pride flags, explore various aspects of disability, and create their own art. This event has been created with care around the Museum's disabled visitors and their families. All are welcome to share in artmaking that explores their own pride and joy.

Visitors can also participate in [Decade Downtown Whitney Walking Tours](#) at **12 pm or 4 pm**. Join a Whitney Museum Educator or Teaching Fellow to learn about the vibrant and varied cultural highlights within just a few blocks of the Whitney. 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**.

While general admission to the Whitney is free every Friday from 5–10 pm and all day on Sunday, July 13, **tickets are still required, and capacity is limited. Advance booking is strongly recommended, and Museum tickets can be reserved at [whitney.org/admission](https://whitney.org/admission).**



### **Weekend-Long Program: Step Into Hopper**

In celebration of artist Edward Hopper's 143rd birthday and in partnership with the Meatpacking District Management Association, visitors are invited to experience [Step Into Hopper](#). In this immersive program, 3D recreations by Theresa Rivera Design bring three of Hopper's most iconic paintings to life. Visitors will be able to step inside the life-size, interactive installations **beginning at 12 pm on Friday, July 11 and on view at the West 14th Street Promenade and Gansevoort Landing through Sunday, July 13**. Viewers can pose on a bar stool in the *Nighthawks* diner, enjoy French cafe culture in *Soir Bleu* with Tillie the Clown who will be there to set the scene during select times throughout the weekend, and wander the sleepy streets of 1930s New York in *Early Sunday Morning*.

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

**The Whitney Museum 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](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.

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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 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](#).

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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. 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: Second Sunday, May 11, 2025. Photograph by Filip Wolak

Left to right: Photographs by Filip Wolak

Left to right: Installation view of *Amy Sherald: American Sublime* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, April 9-August 10, 2025). *If You Surrendered to the Air, You Could Ride It*, 2019. Photograph by Filip Wolak; Second Sunday, May 11, 2025. Photograph by Filip Wolak; Installation view of *Marina Zurkow: Parting Worlds* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, April 9, 2025-January 11, 2026). *Mesocosm (Wink, TX)*, 2012. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough

Left to right: Photographs by Filip Wolak

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