

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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PRESS RELEASE

FREE TEEN PROGRAMS, FAMILY ARTMAKING ACTIVITIES, AND MUSIC AT THE WHITNEY DURING FREE FRIDAY NIGHTS AND FREE SECOND SUNDAY



The Whitney's December lineup for free programs includes open studio for teens, DJ Danglez at Free Friday Night, and Divine Nine Sunday coinciding with this month's Free Second Sunday.

New York, NY, December 4, 2025 — The Whitney Museum of American Art is offering **free admission, music, artmaking activities, and much more** throughout December during [Free Friday Nights](#) and [Free Second Sunday](#). In partnership with the **National Pan-Hellenic Council of NYC** and the **Meatpacking Business Improvement District**, the Whitney is excited to welcome members of the Divine Nine (D9) to the Museum on December 14 for **Divine Nine Sunday**. The National Pan-Hellenic Council of NYC serves as an umbrella organization for historically African American fraternities and sororities, collectively known as the Divine Nine. D9 members are invited to enjoy a full day of free artmaking, community activities and experience the exhibitions on view, including [High Wire: Calder's Circus at 100](#), which celebrates the centennial of one of the most beloved in the Whitney's collection, and [Sixties Surreal](#). There's something for everyone at the Whitney all month long!

Friday, December 5

From **4–6 pm**, teens are welcome to join [Open Studio for Teens](#), a free artmaking program the Museum offers on select Fridays. Drawing inspiration from themes and artists featured in the Whitney's collection and exhibitions, teens can engage with hands-on artmaking projects in collaboration with contemporary artists and educators. Later in the evening, from **5–10 pm**, all visitors can enjoy **free admission, art, drinks, city views**, and more during the Whitney's Free Friday Nights.



Friday, December 12

[DJ Danglez](#) will return to the Whitney for the final time this year and fill the **lobby** with music and unique sets 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. All visitors can enjoy **free admission, art, drinks, city views**, and more during the Whitney's Free Friday Nights.

Sunday, December 14

On **Sunday, December 14**, the Whitney is offering **free admission** from **10:30 am–6 pm** for visitors of all ages. This edition of Free Second Sundays features exciting artmaking programs inspired by the artworks on view in the galleries.

At **11 am** in the Museum's **lobby**, visitors can drop by [Sunday storytime](#) with Latanya DeVaughn, CEO of Bronx Bound Books, a mobile bookstore bringing literature to the Bronx and now the Whitney. A [still-life sketching session](#) will take place in the **fifth-floor galleries** from **11 am–2 pm** and is open to all ages. Participating artists can explore the playful world of artist Claes Oldenburg, whose drawings and sculptures are on view in *Claes Oldenburg: Drawn from Life*, *"Untitled" (America)*, and *Sixties Surreal*, then grab supplies to create works of their own. From **11 am–3 pm** in the **third-floor Artspace**, artists of all ages can contribute to the [Whitney Community Quilt of Thanks](#) inspired by artist Martha Jane Pettway's work on view in current exhibition *Shifting Landscapes*. In the **third-floor theater** from **11 am–4 pm**, visitors are invited to [create gratitude gardens](#) inspired by artist Florine Stettheimer's work on view in *"Untitled" (America)*.

Coinciding with Free Second Sunday, the Whitney welcomes members of the Divine Nine for a day filled with community artmaking programs, vibrant exhibitions, free admission, and more. [Divine Nine Sunday](#), organized in partnership with the **National Pan-Hellenic Council of NYC** and the **Meatpacking Business Improvement District**, is a day for D9 members to gather with friends and reunite with alumni to enjoy all the Museum has to offer and take advantage of

special discounts in the neighborhood. **D9 visitors** who would like to participate in a **group photo** are invited to gather on the **fifth-floor terrace** at **3 pm**. The full schedule of activities can be found at [whitney.org/visit/second-sundays](https://www.whitney.org/visit/second-sundays).



Friday, December 19 and Friday, December 26

Offering **free admission from 5–10 pm**, the Whitney's Free Friday Nights features **art, drinks, special programming, music**, and more. Though admission is free, tickets are required, and capacity is limited. Advanced tickets are recommended. The latest information about Free Friday Nights programming is always available on [whitney.org](https://www.whitney.org).

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. For further details on upcoming tours, please visit [whitney.org/events](https://www.whitney.org/events).

While general admission to the Whitney is free every Friday from 5–10 pm and all day on Sunday, December 14, **tickets are still required, and capacity is limited. Advance booking is strongly recommended, and tickets can be reserved at [whitney.org/admission](https://www.whitney.org/admission).**

New 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](https://www.artbridgesfoundation.org), 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](https://www.whitney.org/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

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Major support for Free Second Sundays is provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program. Significant support is provided by Julie and Doug Ostrover.



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 Acknowledgment, [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: Second Sunday, October 12, 2025. Installation view of *Ken Ohara: CONTACTS* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, October 10, 2025–February 8, 2026). Artwork © Ken Ohara. Photograph by Filip Wolak, digital image © Whitney Museum of American Art

Left to right: Alexander Calder, *Calder’s Circus* (detail), 1926–31 (installation view, *High Wire: Calder’s Circus at 100*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, October 18, 2025–March 9, 2026). Wire, wood, metal, cloth, yarn, paper, cardboard, leather, string, rubber tubing, corks, buttons, rhinestones, pipe cleaners, and bottle caps, dimensions variable. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase with funds from a public fundraising campaign in May 1982. One half the funds were contributed by the Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Charitable Trust. Additional major donations were given by The Lauder Foundation; the Robert Lehman Foundation, Inc.; the Howard and Jean Lipman Foundation, Inc.; an anonymous donor; The T. M. Evans Foundation, Inc.; MacAndrews & Forbes Group, Incorporated; the DeWitt Wallace Fund, Inc.; Martin and Agneta Gruss; Anne Phillips; Mr. and Mrs. Laurance S. Rockefeller; the Simon Foundation, Inc.; Marylou Whitney; Bankers Trust Company; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth N. Dayton; Joel and Anne Ehrenkranz; Irvin and Kenneth Feld; Flora Whitney Miller. More than 500 individuals from 26 states and abroad also contributed to the campaign 83.36.1-72. © 2025 Calder Foundation, New York / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photograph by Gus Powell; Installation view of *Sixties Surreal* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, September 24, 2025–Jan 19, 2026). Jordan Belson, *Samadhi*, 1967. Artwork © Estate of Jordan Belson. Photograph by Trevor Felder; 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 Lia Chang; Second Sunday, June 8, 2025. Installation view of *Mary Heilmann: Long Line* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, April 9, 2025–January 19, 2026). Photograph by Filip Wolak; Second Sunday, November 9, 2025. Photograph by Filip Wolak, digital image © Whitney Museum of American Art

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