

# PRESS RELEASE

## WHITNEY MUSEUM AND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF MANHATTAN PARTNER TO HOST FREE ARTMAKING PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES IN MARCH



*Participate in special artmaking programs featuring educators from the Children's Museum of Manhattan and enjoy free admission to opening day of the 2026 Whitney Biennial during Free Second Sundays at the Whitney.*

**New York, NY, February 26, 2026** — The Whitney Museum of American Art and the Children's Museum of Manhattan (CMOM) will launch a **special partnership in March featuring two public programs designed for young children and families, centered on learning through artmaking and hands-on creative exploration.** The first program takes place at the Whitney during [Free Second Sundays](#) on March 8 with CMOM educators, and on Sunday, March 22, Whitney educators will lead activities at CMOM. Art can be a meaningful way for young children to discover and interpret the world around them, and these programs aim to create impactful experiences that inspire lifelong connections to art and learning. CMOM and the Whitney invite visitors to explore how artmaking can spark curiosity, confidence, and joy in young learners and artists!

## **Sunday, March 8**

**Program:** CMOM Pop-Up Play Lounge during Free Second Sundays

**Location:** Whitney Museum, 99 Gansevoort Street

Families with young kids are invited to explore an engaging pop-up play lounge, created and led by the Children's Museum of Manhattan. Dive into playtime with CMOM's expert early childhood education team. Young learners will have a chance to play in the sand, explore colors and shadows with lightboards, build collaborative structures, dance their way through a bubble party, and take the lead during music and movement circle times. Details about this program can be found at [whitney.org/events/cmom-play-lounge](https://whitney.org/events/cmom-play-lounge).

Additional offerings at the Whitney on Sunday, March 8 include **free admission** from **10:30 am–6 pm** for visitors of all ages, [creating paper performers](#) inspired by beloved artwork *Calder's Circus* from **11 am–3 pm**, and [storytime with Spiral Books](#) at **11 am**. This Sunday is also the first day to catch [Whitney Biennial 2026](#) and last chance to experience [High Wire: Calder's Circus at 100](#) before the exhibition closes on Monday, March 9.

## **Sunday, March 22**

**Program:** Spring Artmaking with Whitney Educators

**Location:** Children's Museum of Manhattan, 212 West 83rd Street

Continue the experience at CMOM with hands-on artmaking inspired by spring botanicals and the work of influential American women artists, including Georgia O'Keeffe. Through close observation, materials-based exploration, and creative expression, children will deepen their connection to art while building skills that support early learning and imagination. For further information about the March 22 programming, please visit [cmom.org/visit/public-programs](https://cmom.org/visit/public-programs).



While general admission to the Whitney is free on Sunday, March 8, **tickets are still required, and capacity is limited. Advance booking is strongly recommended, and tickets can be reserved at [whitney.org/admission](https://whitney.org/admission).**

Admission to the Children's Museum of Manhattan requires a paid ticket. **Tickets for the March 22 program at CMOM can be purchased in advance at [cmom.org](https://cmom.org).**

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

**The Whitney Museum offers free admission to all visitors 25 years of age and younger.** The 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

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## PROGRAM SUPPORT

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Major support for Free Friday Nights is provided by Jen Rubio and Stewart Butterfield and Paul Arnhold and Wes Gordon. Significant support is provided by Leslie Bluhm and David Helfand, and the Brown Foundation Inc., of Houston.

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

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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 Acknowledgment, [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: Free Second Sunday, July 13, 2025. Photograph by Filip Wolak

Left to right: Free Second Sunday, November 9, 2025. Photograph by Filip Wolak; Free Second Sunday, June 8, 2025. Photograph by Filip Wolak; Free Second Sunday, September 14, 2025. Photograph by Filip Wolak

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