WHITNEY

PRESS RELEASE

Whitney Museum of American Art
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EXPERIENCE THE 2026 BIENNIAL DURING FREE FRIDAY NIGHTS AT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM

Enjoy free admission every Friday night, an evening of music and conversation with DJ April Hunt and artist and musician Darold Brown (a.k.a FERG), free pop-up dance classes led by Ailey Extension instructors, and the recently opened 2026 Whitney Biennial!

New York, NY, March 12, 2026 — The Whitney Museum of American Art is offering **free admission, Ailey Extension dance classes, 2026 Biennial tours, music,** and much more during Free Friday Nights throughout the month. The Whitney will host a special edition of Free Friday Nights on **March 13** with **Mixtape Vol. 4.** Co-hosted by Harlem visual artist and musician **Darold Brown (a.k.a FERG)** and Mixtape founder **April Hunt,** the evening will include DJ sets by TGUT and April Hunt as well as a dynamic conversation with FERG about his artistic journey. Free Friday Nights are also the perfect chance to experience the 2026 Whitney Biennial, which opened to the public on March 8. Featuring 56 artists, duos, and collectives across most of the Museum's galleries, *Whitney Biennial 2026* offers a vivid, atmospheric survey shaped by a moment of profound complexity. Rather than offering a definitive answer to life today, the exhibition foregrounds mood and texture, inviting visitors into environments that evoke tension, tenderness, humor, and unease, while proposing imaginative, unruly, and unexpected forms of coexistence.

Friday, March 13

From **5–10 pm**, all visitors can enjoy **free admission, art, drinks, and city views.** Returning for its fourth edition at the Whitney, **Mixtape Vol. 4** is co-hosted by **Harlem visual artist and musician Darold Brown (a.k.a FERG)** and **Mixtape founder April Hunt.** The evening will include **vibrant DJ sets by TGUT** and April Hunt, a dynamic conversation about FERG's artistic journey, a photobooth, and more. The **conversation with FERG** will happen in the **third-floor theater** at **7 pm,** and while admission to the talk is free, tickets are required and advance booking is recommended. Earlier in the evening, from **4–6 pm,** teens are welcome to join **Open Studio for Teens,** a free artmaking program the Museum offers on select Fridays.

Friday, March 20

Offering **free admission from 5–10 pm**, the Whitney's Free Friday Nights features **art, drinks, special programming, music,** and more. Beginning at **5 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. At **6 pm,** dancers of all ages and skill levels can join **free pop-up Afro-Latin dance classes** in the **lobby** taught by **Ailey Extension instructor Katherine Jimenez.**

Friday, March 27

From **5–10 pm**, all visitors can enjoy **free admission to the Whitney.** Co-presented by Public Records, this Free Friday Night features **live performances by Tigue** at **6:30 pm** and **8:30 pm** in the **lobby.** Tigue is a Brooklyn-based trio of percussionists who make their own kinetic and hypnotic blend of instrumental minimalism. Their boldly colored compositions mix tightly crafted rhythmic structures and frenetic improvisations. Visitors can also relax and recharge in the **Sunset Lounge** with playlists curated by Brooklyn-based music and performance venue Public Records. From **4–6 pm,** teens are welcome to join **Open Studio for Teens,** a free artmaking program where teens can engage with hands-on artmaking projects in collaboration with contemporary artists and educators.

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.

While general admission to the Whitney is free every Friday from 5–10 pm, **tickets are still required, and capacity is limited. Advance booking is strongly recommended, and tickets can be reserved at whitney.org/admission.**

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.

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.

Art Bridges Foundation | 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: Installation view of *Whitney Biennial 2026* (Whitney Museum of American Art, March 8–August 2026). From left to right: Teresa Baker, *To The Morning Light,* 2025; Teresa Baker, *The Harvest Melting On Our Tongue,* 2025. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough

Left to right: Mixtape Vol. 3 at Free Friday Nights, January 23, 2026. Photograph by Filip Wolak; Installation view of *Whitney Biennial 2026* (Whitney Museum of American Art, March 8–August 2026). Malcolm Peacock, *Five of them were hers and she carved shelters with windows into the backs of their skulls,* 2024. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough; 2024.12.13 Free Friday. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough

Left to right: Free Friday Night, February 27, 2026. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough; Free Friday Night, March 6, 2026. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough; Installation view of *Whitney Biennial 2026* (Whitney Museum of American Art, March 8–August 2026). Anna Tsouhlarakis, *SHE MUST BE A MATRIARCH,* 2023. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough

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