

## PRESS RELEASE

**JOIN 2026 BIENNIAL ARTIST PAT OLESZKO AT  
FREE SECOND SUNDAY, PLUS ENJOY MUSIC AND DANCE  
DURING FREE FRIDAY NIGHTS AT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM**



*Enjoy two additional hours of free admission and an artist-led program with Biennial artist Pat Oleszko during Free Second Sunday, lively DJ sets, Ailey Extension dance classes, and more!*

**New York, NY, April 2, 2026** — The Whitney Museum of American Art is offering **free admission, artist-led programs, Ailey Extension dance classes, exhibition tours, music,** and much more throughout the month during [Free Friday Nights](#). Due to popular demand, the Whitney is thrilled to offer **extended hours** for the April edition of [Free Second Sundays](#)! The Museum will remain open for **two additional hours** providing **free admission for all from 10:30 am–8 pm**. Visitors won't want to miss the [special Free Second Sunday on April 12](#) featuring *Whitney Biennial 2026* artist **Pat Oleszko**. The program is open to artists of all ages and visitors will **create their own wearable sculpture**, transforming into a walking, talking work of art using a wide array of art supplies and recycled materials. After, everyone will put on their wearable works of art and join a parade around the block with a **New Orleans-style brass band from Jazz at Lincoln Center**. Following the parade, visitors can relax in the theater and enjoy the brass band playing a classic, interactive repertoire with an Americana twist.

**Friday, April 3**

From **5–10 pm**, all visitors can enjoy **free admission, art, drinks, and city views**. [DJ Sunny Cheeba](#), Bronx native and founder of Uptown Vinyl Supreme, will immerse visitors with music from **5–10 pm** as they enter the Whitney's **lobby** for this Free Friday Night. 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. From **6:30–7:30 pm**, [Art + You: Gallery Conversations for Younger Adults](#) will be offered in the **sixth-floor galleries**. Guided by Caitlin Chan, Joan Tisch Teaching Fellow at the Whitney, this session invites younger adult visitors to **reflect on select works** from the recently opened **Whitney Biennial 2026**.



### **Friday, April 10**

The Whitney is **partnering with the Black Employee Resource Group (BERG) Collective** to co-host [a special edition of Free Friday Night](#), welcoming Black professionals in tech, sports, beauty, and entertainment to the Museum. In addition to **free admission from 5–10 pm**, visitors can join an **insightful panel discussion** in the **theater** at **6 pm** and enjoy an evening of **dynamic DJ sets by Ty-Michelle** in the **lobby** from **7–10 pm**. The evening also includes an **artmaking program** from **5–9:30 pm** in the **third-floor Artspace** inspired by themes in the 2026 Whitney Biennial and the chance to **mix and mingle** with other guests over cocktails, wine, and beer at the **Studio Bar** and eighth-floor **terrace overlooking the skyline**.



### **Sunday, April 12**

On **Sunday, April 12**, the Whitney is offering **special extended hours with free admission** from **10:30 am–8 pm** for visitors of all ages during Free Second Sunday. At **11 am** in the Museum's **lobby**, visitors can drop by [storytime with Spiral Books](#), celebrating independent bookstores and diverse children's voices. From **11 am–3 pm** in the **third-floor theater**, artists of all ages are invited to create their own [wearable sculptures with Pat Oleszko](#), inspired by the artist's work currently on view in *Whitney Biennial 2026*. Pat Oleszko first began creating her "inflatables" in the early 1980s as a way to make large-scale sculptures without relying on the

need for constructed, heavy armatures. The artist sews these sculptures in sections, which she then connects, unfurls, and inflates on her roof. At **3 pm**, participants can grab their wearable works of art and join a [costume promenade with Pat Oleszko and Jazz at Lincoln Center](#). The parade around the block will be accompanied by a **New Orleans-style brass band** mixing in songs inspired by Pat Oleszko's work. Later in the day from **4:30–5:30 pm**, visitors can drop by the **third-floor theater** for [Jazz at Lincoln Center: Afternoon Lounge](#) to enjoy the brass band playing a classic, interactive repertoire with an Americana twist.

### **Friday, April 17**

Offering **free admission from 5–10 pm**, the Whitney's Free Friday Nights features **art, drinks, special programming, music**, and more. Co-presented by Brooklyn-based performance venue and community space **Public Records**, visitors will enjoy [live music performances by Samer Ghadry and Laraaji](#) at **6:30 pm** and **8 pm** in the **third-floor theater**. At **7 pm**, dancers of all ages and experience levels can join a [voguing class](#) in the **lobby** taught by **Ailey Extension instructor Luz "The Odyssey" Guzman**. 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. For this Open Studio, teens can engage with hands-on artmaking projects inspired by **Whitney Biennial artists Raven Halfmoon and Emilie Louise Gossiaux**, who create ceramic sculptures that celebrate interspecies relationships and community connections.



### **Friday, April 24**

From **5–10 pm**, all visitors can enjoy **free admission, art, drinks, and city views** during Free Friday Nights at the Whitney. From **4–6 pm**, teens are welcome to join [Open Studio for Teens](#) and experiment with mixing natural pigments to create luminous compositions inspired by **artist Johanna Unzueta**, whose work is currently on view in *Whitney Biennial 2026*. Teens will mix organic paint of various hues and consistencies to create beautiful compositions. The latest information about Free Friday Nights programming is always available on [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](#).

While general admission to the Whitney is free every Friday from 5–10 pm and all day on Sunday, April 12, **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.

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## **PRESS CONTACT**

For press materials and image requests, please visit our press site or contact:

**Meghan Ferrucci, Senior Publicist**

(212) 671-8346

[Meghan\\_Ferrucci@whitney.org](mailto:Meghan_Ferrucci@whitney.org)

**Whitney Press Office**

[whitney.org/press](http://whitney.org/press)

(212) 570-3633

[pressoffice@whitney.org](mailto:pressoffice@whitney.org)

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## **PROGRAM SUPPORT**

Major support for Free 25 and Under is provided by Susan and John Hess and Julie Mehretu. Significant support is provided by Judy Hart Angelo.

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

## 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: Installation view of *Whitney Biennial 2026* (Whitney Museum of American Art, March 8–August 23, 2026). Pat Oleszko, *Blowhard*, 1995. Photograph by Filip Wolak

Left to right: 2024.11.22 Free Friday Night. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough; Installation view of *Whitney Biennial 2026* (Whitney Museum of American Art, March 8–August 23, 2026). Kamrooz Aram, *Arabesque Composition (Archipelago)*, 2025. Photograph by Gus Powell; Free Friday Nights, September 6, 2024. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough

Left to right: Installation view of *Whitney Biennial 2026* (Whitney Museum of American Art, March 8–August 23, 2026). Pat Oleszko, *Blowhard (Trump-eter)*, 1995. 2025. Biennial Opening Night, March 3, 2026. Pat Oleszko. Photograph by Darian DiCianno/BFA.com © BFA 2026; Installation view of *Whitney Biennial 2026* (Whitney Museum of American Art, March 8–August 23, 2026). Carmen de Monteflores, *Four Women*, 1969. Photograph by Filip Wolak

Left to right: Left: Laraaji at Free Friday Nights, July 19, 2024. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough. Right: Courtesy Samer Ghadry; Photograph by Filip Wolak