

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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PRESS RELEASE

EXPERIENCE THE FINAL WEEKS OF *WHITNEY BIENNIAL 2026* DURING FREE FRIDAY NIGHTS AND FREE SECOND SUNDAY THIS AUGUST



August is filled with fun, free programs at the Whitney Museum! Visitors can catch the final weeks of the 2026 Biennial, enjoy live music and dance classes at Free Friday Nights, and experience the new Minnie Evans exhibition opening later in the month.

New York, NY, August 5, 2026 — The Whitney Museum of American Art is offering **free admission, music performances, special programs, exhibition tours**, and much more during [Free Friday Nights](#) and the August edition of [Free Second Sundays](#). This month also marks the final weeks of [Whitney Biennial 2026](#). The exhibition, presented across most of the Museum's gallery spaces, will be on view in its entirety through August 23. Select artworks displayed throughout the building and on the Museum's sixth floor will remain on view through October 12. Later this month, visitors can explore [The Lost World: The Art of Minnie Evans](#), which opens on August 22. Just over fifty years since the Whitney debuted the artist's first museum solo exhibition, this landmark survey celebrates the visionary work of one of America's most revered self-taught artists.

Friday, August 7

From **5–10 pm**, all visitors can enjoy **free admission, art, music, and city views** during Free Friday Nights at the Whitney. Featured programs include:

5:30–6:30 pm, [Art + You gallery conversations for younger adults](#),

Facilitated by a Whitney Educator, this session invites visitors to meet new people and join a conversation about works from *Whitney Biennial 2026*. The discussion will focus on installations by artists David L. Johnson and Kainoa Gruspe.

6:30 pm and 8 pm, [Live Music by Flore Laurentienne](#)

Co-presented by Public Records, visitors can enjoy music by Flore Laurentienne. Inspired by the Québec landscape and the vastness of the St. Lawrence River, Laurentienne harmoniously blends strings and analog synthesizers, taking listeners on a journey to the edge of the sublime.



Sunday, August 9

On Sunday, August 9, the Whitney is offering **free admission** from **10:30 am–6 pm** for all visitors for the July edition of Free Second Sunday. Featured programs include:

11 am, [Storytime with Paula Ortiz, co-founder of Barco de Papel](#)

In partnership with Librería Comunitaria Barco de Papel and Centro Cultural, a vibrant community-run bookstore and cultural center, visitors can enjoy listening to art-inspired books that celebrate the beauty of storytelling in both Spanish and English.

11 am–2 pm, [Skyline sketching for all ages](#)

Visitors of all ages are invited to spend time observing and sketching the New York City skyline with the drawing materials provided.

12–4 pm, [Drawing What Matters Most](#)

Inspired by Biennial artist Kelly Akashi's *Monument (Altadena)*, on view in the fifth-floor outdoor gallery, visitors of all ages can draw the people, places, objects, and ideas that matter most.

4 pm, [Movement and Meaning: Black Artists in the 20th Century guided tour](#)

This guided tour, led by Joan Tisch Teaching Fellow Katherine Cheairs, takes visitors on a journey through the work of 20th-century Black artists featured in the permanent collection exhibition "*Untitled*" (*America*), including Barkley L. Hendricks, Richmond Barthé, Eldzier Cortor, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and Alma Thomas.



Friday, August 14

In addition to **free admission from 5–10 pm**, visitors can enjoy music, dance, and more during Free Friday Nights at the Whitney. Featured programs include:

6–10 pm, DJ Sets: Kristine Barilli and Cruz Valdez

Visitors will be immersed in the vibrant beats of Kristine Barilli and Cruz Valdez as they enter the lobby. Barilli is a born and bred New Yorker with a masterful ability to translate her listening habits into rhapsodic DJ sets. Valdez is a multidisciplinary artist based in New York City whose music draws inspiration from electro-pop, house, electroclash, and synth-pop.

6 pm, Queer History Walk

From the Hudson River piers to the clubs, the free walking tours explore the rich queer history of the Whitney's neighborhood, bringing visitors to select historical sites that once provided a place to find and create queer community.

Friday, August 21

Offering **free admission from 5–10 pm**, the Whitney's Free Friday Nights feature **art, drinks, city views, dance**, and more. Featured programs include:

6:30 pm and 8:30 pm, Free Line Dance Classes with Ailey Extension

Dancers of all ages and experience levels are invited to join a free Line Dance class led by Ailey Extension instructor Pilin Anice.

Friday, August 28

From **5–10 pm**, all visitors can enjoy **free admission, art, music, and city views** during Free Friday Nights at the Whitney. Featured programs include:

6–10 pm, Music by DJ Sunny Cheeba

Visitors will be immersed in genre-spanning mixes by DJ Sunny Cheeba as they enter the lobby. A Bronx native and founder of Uptown Vinyl Supreme, DJ Sunny Cheeba is an artist and activist deeply invested in her community.

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, August 9, **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).**

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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: Free Friday Night, July 10, 2026. Photograph by Filip Wolak

Left to right: Installation view of *Whitney Biennial 2026* (Whitney Museum of American Art, March 8–August 2026). David L. Johnson, *Rule* (2024-ongoing). Photograph by Filip Wolak; Mixtape Vol. 5 at Free Friday Nights, June 12, 2026. Photograph by Filip Wolak

Left to right: Free Second Sunday, July 12, 2026. Photograph by Filip Wolak; 2024.11.22 Free Friday Night. Photograph by Summer Surgent-Gough

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