

MEMBERSHIP YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2022–JUNE 2023



ART ENCOUNTER

This past year has been full of renewed purpose for Art Encounter, and we couldn't have done it without the support of our members. From participating in our public programs to supporting our outreach and community programs, members remain the backbone of our organization.

Here's a look back at all that we've accomplished together over the last year.

A CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO SERVING MEMBERS NEAR AND FAR



Our new-found ability to bring online programming to members outside the Chicago area was an unexpected blessing of the pandemic. And though we've returned to meeting in person, we remain committed to offering accessible online programs for our members near and far. This past year, we offered half of our **Winter Series** and **Night Visions** sessions online, as well as our new **Lunchtime Art Chats**, free and just for members! For local art lovers, we hosted a robust menu of in-person programs, including our **Expanding Visions** series visiting private collections, artist studios, and special exhibitions; **Summer Visions** and **Weekend Art Walks** exploring what's hot in the Chicago gallery scene; a four-part **Street Art and Sculpture Tours** series; and additional special events throughout the year. In our travel program, we explored the exceptional art and architectural treasures of

Pittsburgh, PA; and in the new membership year, we look forward to visiting **Paris** and **Cuba** with our members!

Pictured: Participants discuss work at the DePaul Art Museum during our Winter Series

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENTS TO REMEMBER

One benefit of Art Encounter's membership program is our bi-annual appreciation events. This past November, we gathered with Friends level members and above at the **Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago** for a private tour of *Intricate: Calder and the Poetry of Science* with exhibition curator Lynne Warren, followed by a talk between Artistic Director Joanna Pinsky and Lynne, who discussed her fascination with Calder's work and her long career at the MCA. In April, our Members' Party brought us to **Alma Art and Interiors**, a spectacular loft space in Bridgeport showcasing over 9,000 square feet of vintage home furnishings and contemporary art, where we viewed work by over 60 artists and discussed the gallery's history with one of Alma's owners, Kimberly Oliva. More special events will be announced soon for our new membership year, so stay tuned! *Pictured: MCA Curator Lynne Warren discusses Calder's work at our Friends Appreciation Event*



THRIVING CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



This past membership year was full of fruitful community and cultural partnerships, work that is central to our mission. Our school programs served **650 Chicago Public School elementary students** across 28 classrooms, **300 Evanston youth** in 10 schools through our Youth & Opportunity United partnership, plus a brand new program with Mercy Home for Boys in Chicago. Our senior programs partnered with **three senior residences** in Chicago and Evanston, and our year-long partnership with Center For Independent Futures grounded our work serving adults with disabilities. In our mural program, we provided mutual benefit to **nine community partners**, including Curt's Café, Evanston History Center, Trulee Evanston, Dawes Elementary, Alcott Elementary, Main Dempster Mile, Downtown Evanston, One River School, and Shorefront Legacy Center. Finally,

our public and member programs cultivated deeper relationships with MCA Chicago, EXPO Chicago, the National Museum of Mexican Art, and Evanston Made. *Pictured: Lead artist Sholo Beverly, left, working with youth from Curt's Café on a mural project*

GROWING OUTREACH PROGRAMS THROUGH GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Thanks to member support during our year-end appeal and special fundraising events, as well as several grants we received this past year, we have been able to grow many of our outreach programs. Notable foundation support included Community Resiliency Grants through the **Evanston Arts Council** for a special mural project with young adults living in at-risk situations, an *Art and Activism* teen program, and our *Art for All Abilities* program serving adults with disabilities. We also received a grant from **The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust** to bring *Making for Memory: Art and Connection* to seniors, as well as a **Union Pacific Foundation** grant to support an Evanston women's history mural project. In our school programs, grants from **Ingenuity Inc.** and individual donations have enabled us to bring our *ARTiculations* program to several new CPS classrooms. It has been deeply rewarding to strengthen our community impact with this support over the past year. *Pictured: A student from Goethe Elementary School working on a clay project as part of our ARTiculations program*



A SHARPER FOCUS ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION



Beyond our programming, this past year we completed an organization-wide project to identify renewed priorities for growth in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through a grant from the **Evanston Community Foundation**, we partnered with two excellent consultants from the **YWCA Equity Institute**, Dr. Gilo Kwesi Logan and Carol Jungman, who engaged us in educational sessions for our full staff and board; audited our organization's programs, policies, and processes; and surveyed key external stakeholders. This powerful learning experience has helped us shape specific commitments for the future. We look forward to launching our action phase with newly received project funding from the **Arts Work Fund** towards one of our first priorities: expanding representation in our traveling art collection for outreach programs. More will be shared soon about this important work in the months ahead. *Pictured: Teaching artist Betsy Zacsek discusses a painting by local artist Fran Joy from our traveling art collection during a school outreach program*

ANNIVERSARIES, ACCOLADES, AND AWARDS IN OUR 45TH YEAR

Our membership year was bookended by joyous celebrations and special recognitions. In October, we commemorated a milestone for our mural program with a special celebration, **5 Years : 25 Murals**, where supporters mingled with our muralists and community partners over music, tacos, an art raffle, and a few "muralinis" for good measure! A month later, our mural program proudly received the **2022 Mayor's Award for the Arts** in Evanston. In February, we received the exciting news that Art Encounter has been awarded our first-ever **National Endowment for the Arts** grant to support expansion of our signature *ARTiculations* program in Chicago Public Schools. And this spring, we celebrated Art Encounter's 45th year of service at our annual benefit and art auction, **Kaleidoscope**, recognizing Tony Karman of EXPO Chicago as our Art Impacts Honoree and Jeff Morthorst of Center for Independent Futures as our Community Partner of the Year. It was an inspiring evening! *Pictured: From left: Community Partner of the Year Jeff Morthorst, Art Impacts Honoree Tony Karman, Artistic Director and Co-Founder Joanna Pinsky, Executive Director Lea Pinsky, and Board President Elizabeth K. Whiting*



MEMBERS MAKE OUR MISSION POSSIBLE.

JOIN US IN THE NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR!