

Press contact: Eddie Silva
314.535.0770 x313
esilva@camstl.org



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

3750 Washington Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
314.535.4660 camstl.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAM's 2019 Dada Ball & Bash raises \$363,000 to support exhibitions and education programs



At the Dada Ball & Bash (left to right): Dada Co-chairs Erik Karanik and Alexis Cossé, Jordan Gaunce and CAM Executive Director Lisa Melandri, and Dada Co-chairs Mary Ann and Andy Srenco. Photo: Michael Thomas

March 6, 2019 (St. Louis, MO) – The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) held its biannual Dada Ball & Bash on Saturday, March 2. The fundraiser supports the Museum's stellar exhibitions and inspiring education programs. This year's party theme, "We are made of star-stuff," was inspired by the current exhibition *Christine Corday: RELATIVE POINTS*, which through materials and ideas encourages visitors to consider themselves in relationship to the cosmos. **The event generated \$363,000 through ticket sales, the Fund the Need auction, and sponsorship revenues.** Dada Ball guests raised their paddles during the Fund the Need auction in support of such programs as New Art in the Neighborhood and the Museum's partnership with Vashon High School, which provides art instruction to approximately fifty sophomores. **Over the course of fifteen minutes, more than \$123,000 was raised, a new Fund the Need record.**

Many guests arrived in space-age costumes, mixing space odyssey with space oddity while enjoying dining and dancing at Palladium and Joule in Lafayette Square. The Dada Ball co-chairs Alexis Cossé and Erik Karanik, and Mary Ann and Andy Srenco, spoke prior to "dining among the stars." Wendi and Samiah Elmore represented two generations of CAM youth program participants. Wendi spoke of her teenage experiences as a member of the flagship education program, New Art in the Neighborhood, and her 13-year-old daughter Samiah told the audience about her current participation in LEAP Middle School Initiative. "In LEAP I work with different young artists from different neighborhoods from all over St. Louis," Samiah said. "Because the programs are free, everybody gets to apply."

Following the Ball many of the guests moved to Joule and joined the revelers at the Dada Bash after-party. Entertainment included a live set by avant-funk music artist

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Fusilier, zero-gravity dance music by local favorite DJ Agile One, and a sparkling performance by SAILEM FROM HELL, the “Hellbound Hussy.”

“Everybody was a star at the Dada Ball and Bash,” said Lisa Melandri, CAM Executive Director. “The contributions we received shine a light on all that CAM is and all that CAM does. They help make CAM a place that is free and open to all.” Dada Ball co-chair and CAM Board Chair Alexis Cossé added, “We were all greatly moved by Wendi and Samiah Elmore. A mother and daughter representing two generations of aspiring artists for whom CAM’s youth programs were and are an inspiration. Thanks to the generosity of CAM’s supporters, we may tell such stories for generations to come.”



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Wells Fargo Advisors was the Supernova (Presenting Sponsor) of the Dada Ball & Bash. Centene Charitable Foundation was Glamstar sponsor. Major Dada star sponsors included Alexis Cossé and Erik Karanik, Edward Jones, F3 – Ferring Family Foundation, Nancy and Ken Kranzberg, Barrett Barrera Projects, First Bank, Libby and Marc Goldstein, Greensfelder Hemker and Gale, P.C., HOK, J.P. Morgan, Major Brands, PNC, projects+gallery, Nancy and Craig Schnuck, Mary Ann and Andy Srenco, Stifel, Dawn Sturmon and David Moore, Washington University, Pat Whitaker and Dick Miles, and Jackie Yoon. CAM extends a special thanks to Dierberg Estate Vineyard and Evtiv.

High resolution images may be found [here](#).
Photos by Michael Thomas

About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis presents, supports, and celebrates the art of our time. It is the premier museum in St. Louis dedicated to contemporary art. Focused on a dynamic array of changing exhibitions, CAM provides a thought-provoking program that reflects and contributes to the global cultural landscape. Through the diverse perspectives offered in its exhibitions, public programs, and educational initiatives, CAM actively engages a range of audiences to challenge their perceptions. It is a site for discovery, a gathering place in which to experience and enjoy contemporary visual culture. CAM is located in the Grand Center Arts District.

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