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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAM receives \$193,753 federal grant to expand local art education programs



CAM teaching artist Tiffany Sutton working with Vashon High School students.

September 16, 2019 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) announced today that it is the recipient of a \$193,753 grant from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS), a federal agency, to expand its ArtReach education programs. The grant allows CAM to better respond to the needs of St. Louis students, teachers, and schools. CAM was among 130 projects selected from 511 applications submitted to the agency's Museums for America program.

"We are thrilled to be selected for the IMLS grant," said Lisa Melandri, CAM Executive Director. "This means that the Museum's investment in our schools and in our youth is being acknowledged on a national level. The bottom line for us is that the IMLS grant enables us to do what we do best and to do it for more students, teachers, and schools. We are proud to be at the forefront of contemporary art education for young people, both regionally and nationally."

The three-year grant provides funding to ArtReach, CAM's longtime art education program, which engages with schoolchildren K–12, with an emphasis on St. Louis Public Schools at the middle and high school levels. Through ArtReach, CAM offers curriculum-based programs and teaching artists at no cost to the schools. The IMLS grant includes funding for ArtReach to increase the number of teaching artists and classroom hours devoted to public schools; offer more mentorship opportunities to art teachers in CAM's partner schools; more fully assess the impact of art education programs on participating youth; and to add a part-time staff position to work in ArtReach classrooms alongside teaching artists and classroom instructors.

In recent years, ArtReach has focused on schools within a one-mile-radius of the Museum, providing contemporary art education and practice to neighboring schools in underserved communities. This initiative includes the Vashon High School Partnership, now in its third year. CAM developed a project-based curriculum in

collaboration with the school's art instructor, providing sophomores access to local artists and hands-on experience in multiple mediums. Vashon now offers an elective art course, and has added more art-related courses for juniors and seniors. As part of the IMLS grant, CAM looks to further develop a new in-school partnership modeled after the successful Vashon High School Partnership.

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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