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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAM's New Art in the Neighborhood awarded \$15,000 from Bayer Fund



New Art in the Neighborhood students meet with artist Liz Johnson Artur. Photo: Theo Welling.

December 27, 2021 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) announced the receipt of a \$15,000 grant from Bayer Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer in the US, for the Museum's flagship teen education program, New Art in the Neighborhood. The in-depth artist-training program, which began at the museum in 1995, gives St. Louis-area high school students the opportunity to work directly with major contemporary artists from around the world. This free program provides up to thirty participants, ages 14–18, more than fifty hours of studio time each semester, immersing them in contemporary art and ideas in order to develop a greater critical awareness of their own art-making and art history, and build practical skills for career success.

“Bayer Fund’s continuing support allows CAM to provide local teens exceptional training in and exposure to contemporary art practice,” said Michelle Dezember, CAM Director of Learning and Engagement. “The award comes at a moment of transition as New Art in the Neighborhood students return to the museum studio following a period of virtual learning. The Bayer Fund grant allows us to hit the ground running, welcoming the next generation of young artists to a shared creative space where they can meet face to face with some of the most important artists of our time.”

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Since the program's inception, it has served more than 700 high school students and partnered with more than 100 local, national, and international artists—Stephanie Syjuco, Derek Fordjour, Christine Corday, Amy Sherald, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Mickalene Thomas, and Sanford Biggers, among others—through workshops, studio visits, portfolio reviews, and lectures. With participants from St. Louis City, County, and Illinois, from public and private schools along with homeschoolers, New Art in the Neighborhood connects a diverse group of young artists who share ideas, collaborate on projects, and forge relationships that extend beyond the program's duration. Participating students are eligible for college credit through Webster University and the Kansas City Art Institute.



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“Thanks to the support of Bayer Fund we continue to provide teens with real incentives to stay in school and offer pathways to further their education,” says Dezember. “We are honored to receive an award from Bayer Fund, who consistently give to make for better individuals and better communities. These are dollars well spent. By supporting these young creatives and helping them apply their skills in a variety of fields, we are investing in a better future for us all.” NAN supports the expansion of recognized leadership and career skills for teens, such as critical-thinking skills, creativity, and adaptability. Program graduates have gone on to careers in a variety of sectors, as professional artists, teachers, engineers, healthcare professionals, researchers, analysts, and more.

“Throughout the years, the grants given through Bayer Fund have helped strengthen our communities across the United States,” said Al Mitchell, President of Bayer Fund. “We’re proud to be able to provide support to develop programs that help combat challenges such as food insecurity, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education and support services to patients and families managing an illness or disease.”

In 2020, Bayer Fund awarded more than \$17 million to over 3,400 charitable and nonprofit organizations to help address essential needs in food and nutrition, STEM education and community development. Over the last five years, nonprofit organizations across the U.S. have received more than \$80 million.

To learn more about New Art in the Neighbor visit <https://camstl.org/programs/teens/new-art-in-the-neighborhood/>

To learn more about Bayer Fund visit <https://www.fund.bayer.us>.

About Bayer Fund

Bayer Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer in the US, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for food and nutrition, education and community development projects.

About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis creates meaningful engagement with the most relevant and innovative art being made today. Founded by civic and cultural leaders in 1980, the Museum transformed from a small gallery into an internationally recognized arts institution, now permanently housed in a flexible, open, and inviting building designed by renowned American architect Brad Cloepfil. CAM's distinct architecture reflects the organization's values and supports a dynamic range of exhibitions, public programs, educational initiatives, and community collaborations. The only museum in the region solely dedicated to contemporary art, CAM is one of the preeminent non-collecting institutions of its kind in the United States. We are a site for discovery, a welcoming space, free and open to all. For more information, visit camstl.org.

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