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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAM awarded \$25,000 grant from The Bellwether Foundation for ArtReach teen and pre-teen school programs



Vashon High School students work together on an art project.

January 31, 2022 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) was recently awarded a grant of \$25,000 from The Bellwether Foundation to support ArtReach school programs. These free programs offered by the Museum provide arts instruction, curriculum, and professional development to students and teachers in the St. Louis region.

Through ArtReach, CAM has partnered with Vashon High School to provide the school with a full-time curriculum-based arts program since 2017. In light of COVID-19 related restrictions, CAM continued to meet the needs of St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) through virtual offerings. The Museum has expanded its involvement in SLPS through the addition of an ArtReach partnership with the historic Sumner High School. In collaboration with Sumner alumni, community organizations, and cultural institutions, CAM is part of a three-year, art-focused recovery plan for the school.

In addition to year-round partnerships at Vashon and Sumner High Schools, The Bellwether Foundation grant will support single and multi-day art-making workshops, field trips, and public exhibitions of student work at the Museum. CAM will also offer professional development and training opportunities for local teachers. All ArtReach programs are free to students and teachers in the greater St. Louis region.

"We are deeply appreciative of The Bellwether Foundation's commitment to ArtReach, ensuring access to quality arts education and resources for our public schools, particularly those in the city's underserved communities," says CAM Executive Director Lisa Melandri. "Many of the schools we work with are our neighbors, and it means so much to be able to partner with them to bring the museum directly into their classrooms.

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CAM is free. Visit often!

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These dollars are a direct investment into the students' lives and the future of St Louis as a whole.”

ArtReach student artwork will publicly premiere at CAM this spring. Museum admission is free. Students, teachers, and families can learn more about CAM's ArtReach programs and participate by visiting CAM's website: camstl.org/programs/schools.



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About The Bellwether Foundation

The mission of The Bellwether Foundation is to improve the quality of life for all people in St. Louis by supporting innovative programs that make a positive impact for present and future generations. Our founders wanted to promote their ideals and aspirations for a better St. Louis region through The Bellwether Foundation, an idea we embrace today. For more information, visit bellwetherstl.org.

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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