

Press contact: Eddie Silva
314.387.0405
esilva@camstl.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Collective Impact seeks to define “safety” through art and public interaction, opening at CAM, March 25, 2022



Local community members discuss ideas for a public artwork.

March 3, 2022 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis announces a community-centered public art project developed for and with residents in neighborhoods adjacent to the Museum and Creative Reaction Lab (CRXLAB): Covenant Blu/Grand Center, Vandeventer, and The Ville. What became known as the “Collective”—a group of locally based artists and members from these communities began meeting in fall 2021 to find a common agenda and eventual theme for a public art project. “Safety,” what it means for the residents of the three neighborhoods, became the topic they jointly found most compelling. The “Collective” is currently in the process of selecting an artist. During the run of the exhibition—*Collective Impact: Community Speaks*, March 25 through July 24, 2022—visitors to the museum may check on the status of the work-in-progress. They are also encouraged to follow a series of prompts to define “safety,” and the lack of it,” for themselves in their own communities.

Collective Impact was established in 2020 as a multiyear partnership between CAM and CRXLAB, an educational organization that trains young Latinx and Black artists as both designers and civic leaders. Collective Impact makes use of an Equity-Centered Community Design™ model to identify, develop, coordinate, and collaborate in artistic interventions that directly relate to the challenges faced in our shared neighborhoods.

The 2021–22 Collective includes: Thomasina Clarke, Audrey Ellermann, L.M. Flowers, Melita Harry, Cynthia McCrea, Armenia Ratliffe, Jayvn Solomon, Simiya Sudduth, Aaron Williams, and Frankie Williams.

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**Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis**
3750 Washington Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
314.535.4660 camstl.org

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Hours
10- 5 Thu
10- 8 Fri
10- 5 Sat & Sun

CAM is free. Visit often!

This program is presented by PNC Arts Alive.

Collective Impact is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services [ARPM-250647-OMLS-22] and a Phillips x AAMD Museums and Communities Grant.



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis



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Collective Impact: Community Speaks is organized in partnership with Creative Reaction Lab's Cordell Billups, Program Coordinator; and Antionette Carroll, Founder, President and CEO; and Ryan Page, Program Director alongside Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis's Michelle Dezember, Director of Learning and Engagement; and Miriam Ruiz, School and Community Partnership Manager.

Related Event

Friday, March 25

Patron Preview 10:00–11:30 am

Member Preview 5:00–6:00 pm

Public Opening 6:00–9:00 pm

For press access on Opening Day

RSVP to Eddie Silva at 314.387.0405

or esilva@camstl.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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