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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Access is an Invitation: CAM Connect Showcase uplifts community-created artworks and centers accessibility as a shared creative practice, opening September 5, 2025



Photo: CAM Staff

August 4, 2025 (St. Louis, MO)—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis presents *Access is an Invitation: CAM Connect Showcase*, an exhibition that uplifts artworks and ideas created in collaboration with community members who have historically faced barriers to the Museum. *CAM Connect: Access is an invitation* will be on view in the upper galleries at CAM from **September 5, 2025–February 8, 2026**.

CAM Connect is the Museum's ongoing initiative to strengthen social connection, community advocacy, and creative expression among groups who have been traditionally excluded from cultural spaces—specifically people with disabilities, residents of North St. Louis, and older adults. The initiative centers the belief that access is not an add-on but an active invitation to shape culture.

“Everyone deserves the opportunity to experience art, to express themselves creatively and have a safe and accessible space to do so,” says Alexis Creamer, Community Access Manager at CAM. “CAM Connect is an invitation—ongoing, evolving, and

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Hours
10–5 Wed
10–5 Thu
10–8 Fri
10–5 Sat & Sun

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grounded in trust. This exhibition is a celebration of what's attainable when museums center the voices, perspectives, and leadership of the communities around them."



Access is an Invitation brings together artworks, conversations, and creative expressions co-created with CAM Connect participants and partners. Highlights include collaborative quilts made by Central Baptist Church elders; artwork developed through CAM's Tornado Relief Summer Camp and at Fountain Park as part of 314 Oasis; and reflections from the North St. Louis Creative Field Guide, a growing resource rooted in neighborhood storytelling and cultural knowledge.

In addition to the featured works, visitors are invited to contribute to the Disability Justice Dreamer Space, an interactive installation that invites the public to imagine accessible futures and celebrate community-driven artmaking. This space fosters dialogue around disability justice, collaboration, and what it means to belong.

"This showcase reflects CAM's commitment to equity and creative partnership, aligning with broader institutional goals to expand access, nurture relationships and belonging, and build new models for collaboration through the arts."

Access is an Invitation: CAM Connect Showcase is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Alexis Creamer, Community Access Manager.

CAM Connect is presented by PNC Arts Alive.



About the Contributors

Members of the North St. Louis Creative Field Guide: Qhuin Binion, Cary Brown, Gabi Cole, AleXeana harlem Lopez, Tosha Phonix, Ronda Smith Branch, and Frankie Williams with lead artists Dail Chambers and Juan William Chávez

Community Collaborators: 314 Oasis, Central Baptist Church, City of St. Louis Planning and Urban Design Agency, Creative Reaction Lab, Northside Workshop, and Forest ReLeaf

Disability Justice Steering Committee: Alexis Williams-Cavanaugh, Angela Botz, Asia Johnson-Brimmage of Artists First, Gray Wilde, Hana McChesney



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Related Events

Friday, September 5

Patron and Press Preview, 10:00–11:30 am (RSVP required)

Member Preview, 6:00–7:00 pm

Public Opening, 7:00–9:00 pm

For press access on September 5, including interview opportunities with the curator, contact Alexia Majors at majors@camstl.org

For full event details, visit camstl.org/calendar

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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