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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Enjoy conversations, performances, and hands-on art experiences centering accessibility and shared communal space during First Friday: Gather 'Round at CAM on November 7



Photo: Wil Driscoll

October 29, 2025 (St. Louis, MO)—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents [First Friday: Gather 'Round](#) on **November 7 from 5:00 pm–9:00 pm**. As part of First Fridays in Grand Center, this evening centers accessibility as a shared creative practice, inviting visitors to authentically share communal space. Presented in dialogue with [Access Is an Invitation: CAM Connect Showcase](#), members of CAM's Disability Justice Steering Committee and local artists will activate the Performance Space through conversations, performances, and hands-on art experiences that explore the question: What does it mean to truly feel welcome?

Throughout the evening, visitors are invited to take part in a range of drop-in activities. Highlights include a pop-up art display by Angela Botz, a collaborative fabric art activity with Asia Johnson-Brimmage of Artists First, and a hands-on book art activity with Martha Valenta. Healing Spaces STL will host an interactive station exploring intersectional identities, accompanied by a dance performance by Gray Wilde. At 8:00 pm, guests are invited to experience the activation of [Haegue Yang's Mound Vehicles](#)—a new work commissioned by CAM that takes inspiration from Cahokia Mounds, engaging the region's

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

CAM is free. Visit often!

precolonial history and the Mississippi River landscape. This work is currently on view in CAM's Main Galleries as a part of [Haegue Yang: Quasi-Heartland](#).

Snacks will be provided and drinks available for purchase. This program is free and open to the public; no registration required.

In addition to the festivities, visitors will have the opportunity to view [CAM's fall 2025 exhibitions](#) as the galleries will be open late until 9:00 pm—including *Access is an Invitation*, which features 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.

Visitors are also encouraged 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. The fall 2025 exhibitions will be on view through **February 8, 2025**. For more information, visit camstl.org.

Event Details

What: First Friday: Gather 'Round

Where: Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (3750 Washington Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63108)

When: Friday, November 7, 2025

Time: 5:00 pm–9:00 pm

Admission: This event is free and open to the public

Event Schedule

5:00 pm: Galleries open with current exhibitions on view; drinks available for purchase

5:30 pm: Drop-in activities begin, including a pop-up art display by Angela Botz, a fabric art activity with Asia Johnson-Brimmage of Artists First, and a DIY book art activity with Martha Valenta

6:00 pm: Interactive station on intersectional identities with Healing Spaces STL

7:00 pm: Dance performance by Gray Wilde

8:00 pm: Activation of Haegue Yang's *Mound Vehicles*

To learn more about *Access is an Invitation: CAM Connect Showcase*, [visit our exhibitions page](#). For press access on November 7, including interview opportunities with artists and curators, contact Alexia Majors at amajors@camstl.org.

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

About CAM Connect

CAM Connect provides inclusive access to contemporary art for St. Louis residents. CAM Connect is designed to strengthen social connection, community advocacy, and creative expression. The program specifically focuses on three historically marginalized and isolated community segments: people with disabilities, residents of North St. Louis, and older adults.

This initiative is designed to provide high-engagement partnerships with local organizations and community members that co-create art projects, engage in accessible workshops, and have their work exhibited at CAM. Through sustained engagement, we hope that CAM Connect participants feel welcome, represented, included, and encouraged to return with each season.

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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