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Contemporary Art  
Museum St. Louis

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Celebrate art as a beacon of imagination and possibility at Spark:  
CAM's 2026 Gala on April 17 at 21c Museum Hotel St. Louis**



Design: Anna Cruz

**March 17, 2026 (St. Louis, MO)**—The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis presents [Spark: CAM's 2026 Gala](#), the Museum's annual fundraiser, on Friday, April 17 from 6:00–10:00 pm at 21c Museum Hotel St. Louis. This year's theme, Spark, celebrates the moments of discovery, creativity, and connection that contemporary art inspires.

"A spark can begin in many ways," says Lisa Melandri, CAM Executive Director. "It is the moment a young artist feels their future expand—the shine in their eyes when a new technique clicks. It is the shift in perspective when a visitor encounters a work of art that stays with them long after they leave the gallery. This evening is all about commemorating the ways CAM continues to be a spark for St. Louis: a beacon of imagination, and possibility that radiates across the region."

Held at 21c Museum Hotel St. Louis, the evening will unfold in a space where contemporary art, hospitality, and community meet. The night will begin with cocktails and conversation, followed by a seated dinner and CAM's annual Fund the Need auction led by local journalist Chelsea Haynes in support of the Museum's free exhibitions and education programs. At 9:00 pm, guests are invited to continue the celebration in the Spark Lounge, where they can enjoy a nightcap, mingle with fellow supporters, and take in the beautiful soundscape curated by local saxophonist Rhoda G. Guests are encouraged to arrive dressed to impress in cocktail attire with a touch of sparkle—looks

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**CAM is free. Visit often!**

that shimmer, glow, and light up the night. Outfit inspiration can be found on CAM's [gala mood board](#).



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***With special thanks to event Chairs Bob and Jane Clark, and our Honorary Chairs Alexis M. Cossé and Erik Karanik. All proceeds from this event benefit CAM's innovative exhibitions, initiatives, and education programs.***

Join us in igniting a spark that will continue to glow for years to come. Support from the evening ensures that CAM remains free and accessible to all, strengthens programs that empower young people through art, and provides artists with a platform where their visions can shine. For additional details, tickets and sponsorship opportunities contact Sherry Thomas, Director of Development (314.535.0770 x213, [stthomas@camstl.org](mailto:stthomas@camstl.org)) or visit [camstl.org/event/spark](http://camstl.org/event/spark).

### **Event Details**

**What:** Spark: CAM's 2026 Gala

**When:** Friday, April 17, 2026

**Time:** 6:00–10:00 pm

**Where:** 21c Museum Hotel St. Louis, 1528 Locust Street, St. Louis, MO 63103

### **Spark Gala Sponsors**

**Beacon Sponsor:** Clayco, Alexis M. Cossé and Erik Karanik

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### **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](http://camstl.org).

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