MOCAD YOUTH PROGRAMS

We believe youth have a place in museums, not simply as passive viewers, but as active creators, and we practice this by supporting youth leadership in co-planning and co-producing youth-centered events.

We believe that art is a bridge to connect people across cultural and socio-economic intersections, and we practice that belief by intentionally bringing together young people from across Metro Detroit to work and explore artistic and creative practices together.

We believe that youth are not just the museum audiences of the future, but that they are the museum audiences of today, and we practice this by offering a multitude of pathways for young people and families to enter the museum and take up space with their acts of creative exploration and expression. For the sixth year in a row, MOCAD is proud to announce that 100% of Teen Council Members have graduated from high school and are college bound, with 96% attending the college of their first choice. Through its programming, MOCAD has dedicated itself to long-term youth transformation and development. Most of all, MOCAD helps get our youth to college and excited about being leaders in creating a more civic-minded world.

Elysia Borowy-Reeder, Executive Director

We proudly thank our 2019 funders who support this sometimes challenging, but always rewarding work, including the Applebaum Family Compass Fund, the Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation, the Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Edith S. Briskin/Shirley K. Schlafer Foundation, and Heart of Neiman Marcus.
The MOCAD Teen Council is a select group of young creatives from around Metro Detroit, ages 13-18, who meet weekly to propose, plan, and produce events for their peers. Our members are passionate about the arts and their power to question conventional thinking and norms. Youth are naturally curious and often search for a place to exercise their curiosity to make sense of the world around them. Teen Council is a place to do just that, with support from caring adults, our funders, and supporters who step back to let youth lead, while holding the programmatic structure they need to succeed. They work together to develop agreements and practice new ways of decision-making that give space to every voice at the table. They take on the tasks of program planning, proposing ideas, organizing themselves into working groups, defining roles and timelines, and hosting their events. They reflect and assess each event, learning as they go to shape stronger and stronger events and programs for their peers.

For their individual growth, Teen Council members also receive support through resume development, college tours, museum and gallery visits, cultural field trips, teen-focused exhibitions, career development, portfolio development, expanded networks, inspiration, positive adult mentoring, and much more.

“I’ve met a lot of close friends through this, and I love it. I learned a lot of new things, I’ve met a lot of new artists, and we have been given a lot of opportunities and resources along the way.”

-MOCAD Teen Council Member
The Annual Applebaum Teen Exhibition is a teen focused exhibition which brings together young people from around Metro Detroit to display their creative works in a museum context. With leadership from the Teen Council, exhibition themes are proposed and selected by the youth themselves. In every step along the way, from crafting the exhibition statement, to promoting the call for entries, curating works, and installing the exhibition, youth are actively learning, guiding, and directing in various capacities. Not only do teens have the opportunity to learn how to mount a museum-quality exhibition, but they also get a chance to exhibit their works alongside those of their peers, which have included drawings, paintings, prints, and sculpture, as well as video and live performance.
The Youth Open Studio is a place where young creatives ages 13-18 come to explore a variety of media and methods, with the guidance of caring and passionate adult teaching artists. Teens gather bi-weekly to focus on a specific media and experiment with voice and technique through specific personal or social themes. Open Studio workshops offer a place for young people who may not have access to high-quality arts programming at school a chance to build their arts skills, while building a creative support community to serve them beyond the workshop. These workshops are free, with all materials provided, offering a safe weekend space for young people to gather and make together.

**PAST WORKSHOPS:**
- Speculative Design with Ozzy Abaddon
- Port Prep: Life Drawing and Portfolio Review with Sabrina Nelson
- Visible Brown: Lighting and Photography with Asia Hamilton
- Selfie, Squared: Collage to Painting with Fatima Sow
- Genuine Article: Garment Design and Construction with Margaret Hull
- Get Loud: Speaker-Building with Reuben Telushkin

“One thing I learned in this workshop that I can apply to my creative life is that the creation of your desired work will have errors, but the joy of the process makes it worthwhile.”

- Get Loud Workshop Participant
MOCAD **TEEN NIGHTS**

MOCAD Teen Nights are events proposed, co-planned, and co-produced by youth, working alongside adult museum staff. These nights are dedicated to uplifting youth culture, through the framework of critical response, educational, and literacy-based creative activities. Teens take on the responsibility of developing these events from the ground up, selecting themes, activities, and entertainment. Along the way they develop life, logic, and reasoning skills by figuring out what is most engaging for their peers, following a budget, executing plans, and reflecting on completed events. These events offer a safe destination and gathering place for youth, where teens take ownership of MOCAD as a place where fun things are happening for them.

**PAST TEEN NIGHTS:**
- Pop-Up Shops, Clothing Swaps, and Beat Drops
- Teen Lock-In
MOCAD produces in-house camps, as well as camps presented in partnership with other organizations. These camps offer an opportunity for youth to focus intensely on the development of creative and artistic skills, with the support of caring and passionate teaching artists. For days or weeks at a time, youth gather to co-create studio spaces where they produce work both independently and collaboratively, through a variety of media and disciplines that has included music, architecture, sculpture, animation, illustration, character design, and more.

PAST CAMPS:
- Hip Hop Architecture Detroit
- KAWS Effects: Character Design Camp for Middle School Youth

“Honestly, everything about the camp was perfect! I loved how it wasn’t just like a boring class, like “hey, draw then make a doll.” We learned a lot of valuable things and had a lot of fun doing it!”

- KAWS Effects: Character Design Camp Participant
YOUTH LITERACY PROGRAMS

Youth literacy programs foster creative discourse between students and develop youth confidence and efficacy through self-assured articulation. MOCAD continues to engage highly acclaimed partners, InsideOut Literary Arts and Kids-TALK, to achieve this very important work. Through workshops developed by partners, young writers work with professional poets-in-residence to explore and express their thoughts and feelings through poetry, in a safe and nurturing space. Workshops culminate in youth taking the stage for emotionally-charged open mic events that often leave audiences stunned by their profundity and gravity. MOCAD hosts over 20 schools and organizations across Michigan to compete for the state title poetry slam and has transformed the lives of young leaders.

PAST YOUTH LITERARY PROGRAMS:
- Kids-TALK (CAC) Youth Poetry Slam
- Detroit Youth Poetry Slam
- InsideOut: Louder Than a Bomb
FAMILY DAYS

MOCAD Family Days offer an opportunity every season for families to engage with MOCAD exhibitions in a fun, child-friendly space made just for them. Families with children of all ages engage with a variety of creative activities, which are inspired by the themes and media associated with exhibitions on display. From drawing characters and creating abstracted maps to painting faces and taking photos, MOCAD Family Days help open conversations with children about art and its meanings, while making memories that last a lifetime.

PAST FAMILY DAYS:
Noel Night Merry Making
Neighborhood Patterns from Above
KAWS Character Design Challenge
OUTTA HERE: MOCAD FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an important part of any young person’s life, and especially those that expose them to new ways of seeing and thinking. Outta Here! Field Trips offer a chance for young people to experience that rush of going on an adventure, but one that has the potential to be consciousness shifting by deepening their social and historical knowledge. MOCAD takes young people on college campus tours to explore career paths in the arts, to visit galleries and museums to help them gain comfort in these spaces, and invites young people to attend gatherings and conferences to broaden skill sets, networks, leadership capacities, and encourage higher career aspirations in youth.

PAST FIELD TRIPS:
- Michigan State University
- MSU Broad Museum
- Doug Aitken’s MIRAGE DETROIT
- Youth Driven Spaces Conference
- N’namdi Gallery

“I got to meet a lot of different people with the same views that just want to better the world. It was great!”

- Youth Driven Spaces Conference Participant
The Youth Advisory Group is made up of dynamic, supportive adults who promote MOCAD’s youth programs in the community and help draw more young people to our programming. They are professors, musicians, filmmakers, teachers, coaches, parents, non-profit directors, poets, and former Teen Council members, whose work serves not only to support creative youth at MOCAD, but also to strengthen synergies among youth organizations around the region. They volunteer to attend MOCAD youth events, support individual youth through advising and mentoring, and refer high-caliber teaching artists, creative professionals, and potential funders to the program. These caring adults acknowledge that youth voice is at the center, and respect that youth occupy powerful decision-making positions in the program. Our Youth Advisory Group knows how to step back to allow young people to lead, while they act to hold that space and support them in their growth along the way.

**YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS**

Patrick Burton  
Nichelle Daniels  
Bianca Danzy  
Bryce Detroit  
Sandra Gonzales  
Felisha Hatcher  
Talitha Johnson  
Raven Jones-Stanborough  
Mindy Mitchell  
Devin Samuels  
Vera Smith  
Jeremiah Steen  
Blair Watts  
Shelley Williamson
For more information about MOCAD’s Youth Programs, please contact Youth Program Producer, Erin Martinez at emartinez@mocadetroit.org or call 313.832.6622