



Photo by Joe Gall

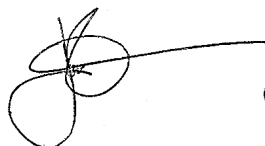
# MO CAD IMPACT REPORT 2023

# THANK YOU!

Together, we're cementing a new community-centered vision for MOCAD, creating an art space that's accessible to everyone. In 2023, MOCAD cemented its position as the hub for creativity and intellectual exploration in Detroit, and we are excited to share some of the highlights that your support has made possible:

- **Launched the first exhibition season in our history featuring all womxn identifying artists and storytellers.** This included legendary Detroit muralist Sydney G. James' first solo museum show *Girl Raised in Detoit*, Liz Cohen's exhibition *Café Pan-Soviético Americano*, which invited visitors to consider labor rights while sipping a freshly brewed coffee; Gina Osterloh's *Her Demilitarized Zone: Image Without Weapon*, which explored the legacies of war on the female body; and Jennifer Harge and Devon Drakes: *a clearing*, a moving image-based love letter to Detroit.
- **Invested in the presentation of exhibitions that highlight the possibilities of new media**, such as KESSWA's *Transcendence*, SPIRITUALS's *shadowworking*, and Mark Thomas Gibson's *A Retelling*. All of which emphasize the importance of media in community storytelling and dissemination of information.
- **Hosted over 144 innovative public programs**—including artist talks and activations, film premieres, poetry, slams, live concerts, and hands-on art-making workshops for children and adults.
- **Forged new partnerships that thoughtfully engage our community**—including a partnership with Michigan Justice Fund to showcase the creativity of formerly and currently incarcerated artists, a pop-up exhibition with the Progressive Arts Studio Collective (PASC), which provides creative enrichment and career pathways to artists living with disabilities. A partnership with Cinema Detroit, one of the last remaining independent film hubs in Detroit that has been without a physical space to provide free movies to our community and spotlights of local artists in our Museum store. This is in addition to offering painting classes to local college students and supporting local unions through our exhibitions.
- **Continued to be a hub for community resources** such as providing Narcan training to combat opiate abuse and hosting one of the area's largest Alcoholics Anonymous meetings every week.

Your support has been a pivotal driving force behind each of these successes and our future growth as an institution. Although we have only just begun our co-leadership, we are so excited about what we have planned on the horizon.



Jova Lynne



Marie Patton

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

As Artistic Director, Jova Lynne leads the Museum exhibitions and public programs teams. Lynne is an arts practitioner and administrator who proudly served as MOCAD's Susanne F. Hilberry Senior Curator. Her artistic practice has been supported by the Center for Curatorial Leadership, the Studio Museum of Harlem and the Knight Foundation.

As Chief Operating Officer, Marie Patton oversees critical Museum operations. Patton previously held positions at MOCAD as Finance Director and Deputy Director over her tenure at MOCAD, as well as nearly 20 years of experience in museum management. Patton serves on the Midtown Inc. Board and is a graduate of Crain's Leadership Academy in 2021.



Artistic Director Jova Lynne and Chief Operating Officer Marie Patton.  
Photo by Clare Gatto

# MOCAD 2023 IMPACT

MOCAD proudly functions as a hub for exploring emerging ideas in contemporary art and presenting art at the forefront of contemporary culture. **The Museum remains responsive to the cultural content of our time**, fueling crucial dialogue, collaboration, and public engagement. Admission to the Museum is donation-based, and our free or low-cost programs ensure that MOCAD remains accessible to all. We invite you to visit MOCAD today and to join us as we create the history of our future.

## GOOGLE REVIEW FROM 2023

**"LOVED this Museum.** The staff are knowledgeable and kind, the work is beautifully shown and installed, the space is huge! You can feel an incredible level of care - for the art, for the community, for Detroit, for the public. Wish I lived closer so I could be back soon"

## ONLINE/SOCIAL



**53,228**

website sessions



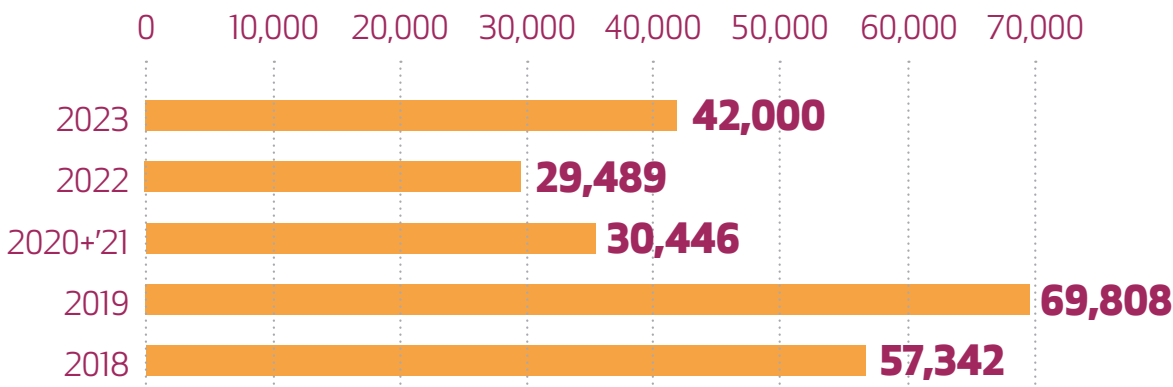
**42K**

Instagram followers



Our public events can be found on the **BLOOMBERG CONNECTS** app and Smart City Kiosk's in downtown Detroit.

## VISITATION



## OUR MISSION

The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) presents exhibitions and programs exploring the best contemporary art, connecting Detroit and the global art world. MOCAD focuses on art to nurture social change and human understanding, reflecting our community. We encourage innovative experimentation by artists, musicians, makers, cultural producers, and scholars to enrich all who participate and to educate visitors of all ages about the power of art. Whether from Detroit or worldwide, we welcome creative voices who can guide us to an equitable and inclusive future. We believe that art can change us, and it's our responsibility to hold a space where challenge, acceptance, hope, and beauty can coincide.



# 2023 VISITORS



Museum visitors in KESSWA's *TRANSCENDENCE*. Photo courtesy of MOCAD

# 42,000

visitors

MOCAD saw about 42,000 visitors in 2023, giving opportunities to attend **ten art exhibitions** and over **144 free public programs**, including lectures, live productions, and workshops. The arts inspire and build community. When we need to escape the news and the day's events, we sink into a moving work of art, performance, film, or book, and it restores us.

**65%** of visitors resided in Wayne County

**67%** of visitors identified as BIPOC

MOCAD's visitor's reflect the community we live in.



Indigenous basketweaving workshop with Detroit artist Lorena Cruz Santiago on Cinco De Mayo. Photo by Vincent Cervantez

Nearly **100% of visitors** surveyed in 2023 rated their experience at MOCAD as "**outstanding**" as the Museum fulfilled its goals to serve as a hub for **contemporary art, culture, and community in Detroit**.

# 2023 PROGRAMS

# 144

public programs



Brea Harris, Monster Drawing Rally Artist, at Monster Drawing Rally 2023. Photo by Vincent Cervantez

# 6,000

public program attendees

# 460

attendees for annual 2023 *Monster Drawing Rally*

# 2,340

Alcoholics Anonymous attendees

MOCAD hosts one of the largest **Alcoholics Anonymous** meetings in the City of Detroit, along with free to low-cost **yoga programs** and community clubs such as the **Fiber Club**.

# 1,800

attendees for Noel Night



Youth program, Family Day participant.  
Photo by Vincent Cervantez

The Museum hosted Grammy-winning musician Terri Lyne Carrington alongside visual artist Mickalene Thomas for an art/music showcase in partnership with the Carr Center. Together, Carrington and Thomas filled our cafe with dynamic visuals and a lush soundscape featuring local musicians.



# YOUTH + TEEN COUNCIL

# 4,500 YOUTH

attending portfolio reviews,  
art workshops, exhibitions,  
family days, and field trips

This year, **Teen Council**  
**'19 graduate**  
**Jeremiah Steen**

became one of the  
youngest philanthropic  
trustees in Southeast  
Michigan, contributing  
his creative expertise

to the Skillman Foundation board. In November, he was awarded  
Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's prestigious **Spirit of Hope Award**  
through the Michigan Community Service Commission.



# 14

Teen Council  
members

# 100%

graduation rate of  
High School seniors,  
participating in MOCAD's  
Teen Council Program.

**ANNUAL TEEN EXHIBITION**  
APRIL 28 – MAY 21, 2023:

**80** works of art

**20+** area high schools  
represented

**840** exhibition visitors





# EXHIBITIONS

In the spring, we launched our **first exhibition season featuring all womxn artists**, including legendary Detroit muralist **Sydney G. James's** first solo museum exhibition, **Liz Cohen's *Café Pan-Soviético Americano***, **Gina Osterloh's *Her Demilitarized Zone: Image Without Weapon***, and **Jennifer Harge + Devin Drake's *a clearing***.

Our Fall/Winter season features ***A Retelling*** from **Mark Thomas Gibson**, **SPIRITUALS's *shadowworking***, **KESSWA's *Transcendence***, and **MOCAD: *Doors Open*** highlighting MOCAD's history through archival materials and collections. ***Mike Kelley's Space for Public Good*** is a non-traditional exhibition inspired by the mission of Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead* of fostering art as service. A highlight is a co-curated with Progressive Art Studio Collective (PASC), ***Intimacy: The Artistic Community of PASC*** surveys the past three years of growth within PASC.

# 15

art exhibitions

# 108

artist exhibited

# 75

Detroit artist exhibited



MOCAD celebrated Womxn artists including **Devon Drake, Jennifer Harge, Sydney G. James, Liz Cohen, and Gina Osterloh.**



***A Retelling*** exhibits **Mark Thomas Gibson's** extensive research and visual archive of race in proximity to American culture and identity. The comedic cadence of Gibson's work pokes fun at how information is passed on, produced, and retold from news sources. It addresses how power structures and information technologies impact our collective reality.



# EXHIBITIONS

## MIKE KELLEY'S *MOBILE HOMESTEAD*

Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead* served the community through exhibitions and workshops.

MOCAD partnered with the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum and the Michigan Justice Fund to present the timely exhibition, **Free Your Mind: Art and Incarceration in Michigan**. This exhibition aimed to cultivate a better understanding of how incarcerated individuals' growth is linked to our society's broader health, featuring artists, poets, and storytellers of outstanding achievement, who are either currently or formerly incarcerated.



Featuring the individual and collaborative work of **Halima Afi Cassells and Shanna Merola, *Swan Song***, combined their photo-based collages alongside sculpture and installation. Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead* held this exhibition, which examined the causes and effects of colonization, resource extraction, climate crisis, and corporate domination. While Merola's dystopian landscapes seem fractured beyond repair by free market deregulation, Cassell's work manifests the collective liberation of both people and land from the grip of white heteropatriarchal systems of oppression.





**THANK YOU  
AND WE LOOK  
FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOU  
IN 2024.**

**MO  
CAD**