WHAT'S NEW: OUTREACH PROGRAMS

MUSEUM ADVENTURES WITH OUR CPS STUDENTS
We’ve had an energetic start to the school year in our Chicago Public Schools residency programs! At Goethe Elementary, 3rd grade teachers were happy to have Art Encounter teaching artists Yadi Royster and Miriam Bisby back in their classrooms for our ten-week ARTiculations 1 residency. The group recently took a field trip to the National Museum of Mexican Art to explore their Day of the Dead exhibition and impressive permanent collection, as well as tour many of Pilsen’s beautiful murals. At Darwin Elementary, teaching artists Miriam Bisby and Leslie Luning have designed a special Ingenuity-supported residency for the school’s 3rd and 4th graders called Art Explorations from the City to the Classroom. This program focuses on field trips to the National Museum of Mexican Art and the Art Institute of Chicago, with related hands-on art projects back in the classroom. We’ve been having a blast! Pictured: Students from Darwin discuss a painting by Roberto Matta at the Art Institute of Chicago

SOCIAL JUSTICE EXPLORATIONS AFTER SCHOOL
Back in Evanston, our partnership programs with Youth Opportunity United (Y.O.U.) are back with after-school art clubs at Title 1 schools Washington, Oakton, King Arts, Walker, and Dawes. New and returning teaching artists Jamie Thome and Courtney Reed Tanner joined Yadi Royster as part of our Y.O.U. teaching team this fall. With support from the Evanston Arts Council, Yadi is also leading a custom, year-long program for high school students called The Leadership Project: Arts and Activism. During their first term, these talented student artists are creating powerful self-portrait sculptures that express their emotions about a social justice issue of their choosing. Yadi gives the students the tools and techniques they need to create while also helping them express their feelings through their artwork. These projects will evolve into an exhibit for the public in the spring. Pictured: Y.O.U. student works on a mask project

CREATING MASTERPIECES WITH CIF
Our partnership with neuro-diverse adults from the Center for Independent Futures continues this fall with a very special year-long program called The Masterpiece Project. With support from the Evanston Arts Council, teaching artist Val McCune is working with each artist’s individual needs to create a series of personal artworks over an extended time. The group is also touring the studios of local professional artists to learn about their artmaking processes. We’re looking forward to an exhibit of the final masterpieces later this spring and a community project… Details to come! Pictured: A participant from The Masterpiece Project works on an action painting

A JOYOUS RETURN TO SERVING SENIORS
After a three-year pause, we are pleased to relaunch our long-standing senior programs this year. Thanks to support from The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, we will be bringing Making for Memory and Connection, an eight-week personal history program first piloted in 2019, to three senior residences. In this program, participants discuss artworks from our traveling collection dealing with memory and journeys, then create their own shadowbox pieces using found objects, collage, painting, and drawing. Pictured: Teaching artist Colleen Ostrander with a participant at the pilot program of Making for Memory and Connection at Westminster Place
WHAT'S NEW: PUBLIC & MEMBER PROGRAMS

DISCOVERING LOCAL TREASURES IN STUDIOS AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

This fall, our Wednesday Expanding Visions program has brought members to outstanding private collections, artists’ studios, and exhibition spaces from Bridgeport to Highland Park. Members are buzzing about this season, which included visits to the Zhou B Art Center and the home studio of René Hugo Arceo, and will feature upcoming sessions at the beautiful homes of collectors Karin Tappendorf and Chris Robb. Our evening program, Night Visions, has met twice in person and will continue online this winter with two unexpected and surprising artists: mosaic artist Jim Bachor, a.k.a. Chicago’s “Pothole Guy”; and Robin Slonina, a body-painter based in Las Vegas. There's always something new to see! Pictured: Visiting the studio of artist Sally Ko at the Zhou B Art Center as part of Expanding Visions

ART TRAVEL THIS FALL + WHAT'S NEXT

In October, Artistic Director Joanna Pinsky led a group of 16 Art Encounter members to the hilly city of Pittsburgh for visits to unique local artists’ studios, the Carnegie Museum of Art's 58th International exhibition, The Andy Warhol Museum, The Frick, and a wonderful day trip to Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece, Fallingwater. It was a lovely trip, and we are glad to have our travel program back in full swing. Looking ahead, we are excited to share that we are planning a trip to Paris, France in fall of 2023! Stay tuned for more details. Pictured: Art Encounter travelers visit a local artist's studio in Pittsburgh

WHAT'S NEW: MURAL PROGRAM

FOUR BIG COMMUNITY-DRIVEN MURALS

In 2022, we brought over 6,000 square feet of new public art to Evanston through four big projects. One highlight was our partnership with Curt’s Café on Central Street, which provides work and life-skills training for disenfranchised young adults. With support from the Evanston Arts Council, local artist Sholo led café youth in creating a mural expressing their dreams, struggles and passions. At Trulee senior residence, artist Molly Z. worked with residents and volunteers to paint a colorful, abstract mural inspired by the four seasons. In downtown Evanston, the masterful Max Sansing created a stunning mural of young adults in profile, surrounded by improvised natural imagery evoking nature's healing properties. And on the Main Dempster Mile, Rockford's Brett Whitacre produced two tropical-inspired murals at the plein-air Custer Oasis. What a year! Pictured: Mural by Max Sansing in Downtown Evanston

CELEBRATING AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE + A BIG AWARD

We commemorated EMAP’s 5th anniversary and the completion of 25 murals in October with a celebration and fundraiser, 5 YEARS : 25 MURALS at the Hyatt House Evanston. 100 attendees mingled with our muralists and community partners over music, tacos, an exciting art raffle, and a few “muraltinis” for good measure! And in November, the Evanston Mural Arts Program proudly received the 2022 Mayor’s Award for the Arts at the Evanston Arts Council’s annual Bright Night for the Arts. We already have more exciting mural projects planned for 2023! Pictured: EMAP muralists pose with program founders. From left: Sholo, Cheri Lee Charlton, Molly Z., Dustin Harris, Lea Pinsky, Anthony Lewellen, Ruben Aguirre, and Max Sansing

THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE OUR MISSION POSSIBLE!