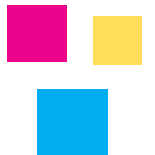
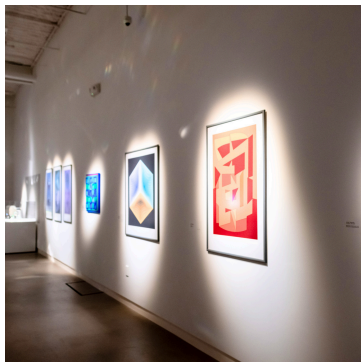




CAFESJIAN ART TRUST MUSEUM

20
24

Year in Review



2024 was a year of incredible growth and community-building for the CAT Museum

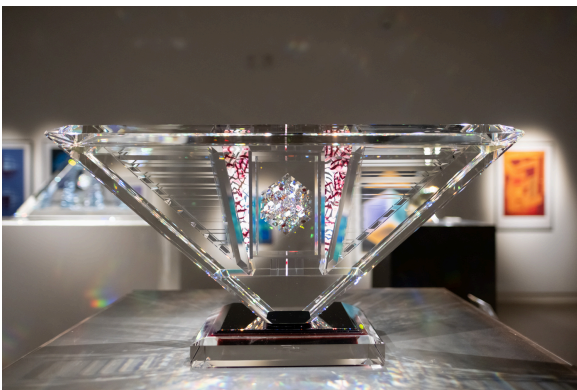
Our team expanded to include a Director of Education and Community Engagement, and we created a brand-new curatorial department, consisting of a Head Curator and an Assistant Curator of Glass.

We continued to rely on our volunteers to lead tours and facilitate meaningful experiences for our guests. More than 20 wonderful volunteers gave **728 hours** to the museum last year, bringing the collection to life in a multitude of ways.



Exhibitions

The Museum hosted two stellar exhibitions in the Main Gallery in 2024. *Fooling the Eye: Optics of Vasarely and Kuhn* explored the intersections between Jon Kuhn's prismatic glass sculptures and Victor Vasarely's two-dimensional optical illusions. *From Origins to Horizons: The American Studio Glass Movement* offered Twin Cities audiences an unprecedented look at the American Studio Glass Movement, from its early years to the present day.



Our Focus Gallery featured four exhibitions: *Lalique Animals*, *Recent Acquisitions*, *Midwest Voices in Contemporary Glass*, and *Vantage Points: Landscapes from the Collection*. *Midwest Voices* was the Museum's first juried exhibition of glass art from the Midwest region. After reviewing a wide range of skillful submissions, ten works were selected to illustrate the diversity of approaches and ideas happening in our area.

New Acquisitions

The CAT Museum continues to acquire new artwork to complement our existing collection, ensuring that we are a dynamic institution and responsive to our contemporary moment.

In 2024, we brought 17 new works into the collection, including works by local Minnesota glass artists, four mixed-media pieces by the de la Torre brothers, and a large-scale photograph by Paul Pfeiffer.



Einar de la Torre (American, b. Mexico 1963), and Jamex de la Torre (American, b. Mexico 1960). **¡2020!**, 2020. Blown glass, cast resin; mixed-media. H: 33 in., W: 22 in., D: 14 in. Cafesjian Art Trust Museum 2024.370.3. Photo: Courtesy of Koplín Del Río Gallery.

Educational Programming

In addition to regular public tours, the CAT Museum offered a wide array of educational programming in 2024 to engage people across the lifespan.

3-year-olds and breakable glass art? No problem! The CAT's **Preschool Pals** program teaches our littlest visitors to get comfortable in a museum through stories, tours, and artmaking. Writes one grown-up participant: "The children were very engaged, lots of interaction, including using their senses and observations. The art project was fun and tied it all together. Thank you for the opportunity to see art in different ways."



We continued offering regular **Story Time at the CAT** programs for elementary-age children, connecting art and literacy through a selection of librarian-curated stories that complement the exhibition content. Each participant took home an Art Kit to make an open-ended art project inspired by an object on view at the museum – we loved seeing what they came up with!

Our first-ever **Family Festival** was a fantastic celebration of intergenerational learning and shared creativity! Over 200 attendees explored exhibitions, completed scavenger hunts, made four different art projects inspired by the artwork on view, danced up a storm with a kids' DJ, enjoyed ice cream treats, and played outdoors with chalk and bubbles.



The **CAT Teen Council** officially began this year, offering the opportunity for six local teenagers to become paid members of the museum team. The Teen Council meets once a month throughout the 2024-2025 school year and will be curating an exhibition in the Focus Gallery. We're thrilled to have the opportunity to introduce eager young creatives to the world of museum careers, and we can't wait to see what they come up with.

As testament to our ongoing dedication to accessibility, we also inaugurated **Connections at the CAT** for people with dementia and their care partners. This program offers a pleasant outing in a safe and nurturing environment. The CAT's breathtaking art and architecture stimulates participants, sparking joy and liveliness. Writes one caregiver: "I appreciate the opportunity to visit in a welcoming atmosphere for the people with Alzheimer's. Wonderful to reach out to this population who still enjoy the arts but become so overwhelmed in public spaces that are unfamiliar."

Student Learning

Despite space constraints that limit the number of students we can have in our gallery, we found many ways to work with schools and teachers in 2024.

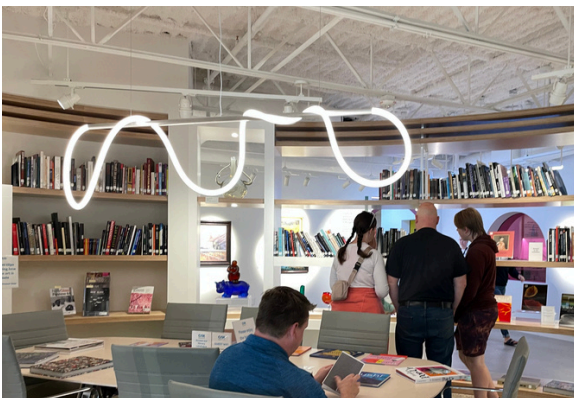
CAT educators taught seven in-classroom presentations for **Island Lake Elementary's** third grade STEAM class, bringing the museum to the school with a lesson on the science behind Victor Vasarely's optical art.



We developed key relationships with local alternative high school programs, including Roseville district's **Fairview High School** and Mounds View district's **ALC**. We worked with the schools' dedicated teachers to implement multi-visit museum projects for the students. We also began a long-term partnership with **Project for Pride in Living's LEAP program**, an initiative to increase employment and educational opportunities for young people facing challenges.



We hosted a special Museum Morning for **Chippewa Middle School** sixth-graders and their families, opening early and providing activities to complement the STEAM learning in the school's maker labs.



We were thrilled to provide field trips for students ranging in age from preschool to college, as well as for several homeschool families and after-school clubs. **Field trips to the CAT are always free**, and we also **provide bus funding to cover the entire cost of transportation** to and from the museum!

By the Numbers

20
24

Year in Review

Total visitors to museum: **9,283**

372 public tours given in 2024

In addition to our public tours, we led **68** unique education & community engagement programs.

- **22** family programs: 566 participants
- **12** student field trips to the museum: 178 participants
- **14** accessibility programs for people with disabilities: 155 participants
- **9** community partner programs at the museum: 89 participants
- **11** off-site programs in the community: 266 participants

As we begin the new year, we have an exciting slate of exhibitions, events, and programs ahead, including new drop-in hours every Saturday. We look forward to welcoming even more people to this incredible catalyst of learning, creativity, and community.

Our Mission:

The Cafesjian Art Trust Museum fosters creative experiences and sparks inspiration for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Our Vision:

To embody excellence in collections stewardship, educational opportunities, and responsibility to our community.