

2025



YEAR IN REVIEW

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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on this past year, we would like to extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to the entire CAT community who make our museum come alive. Without our staff, volunteers, visitors, and community, the museum would be just a building storing an art collection. Every person who enters the doors brings something special along with them, and we are a better place for having you in our community.

2025 marked the 3-year anniversary of the museum's opening, and a year of transformation and growth. We now have new drop-in hours to complement our docent-led tours, allowing more visitors to visit the museum than ever before. This year, we hosted our first national touring exhibition *Collidoscope: de la Torre Brothers Retro-Perspective*, an exhibition blending art with imagination, history, humor, and originality.



In 2025 we refined our logo and museum identity and refreshed our website. We thought deeply about our work in relation to our mission and vision: a museum that is free, welcomes all, and is a place of wonder and engagement. We welcomed a new curatorial team to create fresh and thoughtful exhibitions and develop new scholarship of our collection. We acquired some outstanding works of art this year, and many will be on view in the year to come. Last and certainly not least, 2025 was a year our educational and community programming and engagement saw record-level attendance, with more groups coming into the museum than we could have imagined.

Looking to next year, we welcome you to visit us at the CAT and be a part of spectacular new initiatives, programming, and exhibitions in 2026.

Kathie Cafesjian Baradaran
President and CEO

BY THE NUMBERS

1,266

**Students
reached**

109

**Education &
outreach
programs**

49

**Artworks entered
the collection**

23.7%

**Growth in newsletter
subscribers**

10,440

**Visitors to the
museum**

11

**New artists added
to the collection**

187k

**Post views
on TikTok**

11,015

**People engaged,
on- and off-site**

226.7k

**Post views
on Meta platforms**

EXHIBITIONS

Echoes of Life: Paintings from the Collection January 24–September 6, 2025

Echoes of Life showcased a selection of paintings from the museum's collection depicting a range of styles, time periods, and experiences. Although some depicted unusual places or circumstances, the artworks in this exhibition all contained universal elements of our shared humanity.

**"Lovely, stimulating and
washed in beauty"**

–Visitor comment,
Echoes of Life



Focus Exhibitions

Out of the Box: The Glass Art of Kyohei Fujita spotlighted works by a pioneering Japanese artist. Fujita created simple forms, artful surface-decorated vessels, and a modern take on classic Japanese aesthetics.

The CAT's inaugural Teen Council curated their own exhibition, which they titled *Spiral*. Drawing upon works in the CAT collection, this show narrated a drama-filled day in the life of a young woman.



Photos: Top: *Ballerina (Dancer)*, 2003. Fernando Botero (Colombian, 1932–2023). Oil on canvas. Cafesjian Art Trust 2024.124.35.; Bottom: *Lidded Box*, 1990–2000. Kyohei Fujita (Japanese, 1921–2004). Mold blown and cased glass with applied glass frit, gold foil, and silver foil; acid etched. On loan from the Collection of Thomas Cafesjian and Kathleen Cafesjian Baradaran 2006.49.145.

EXHIBITIONS



Collidoscope: de la Torre Brothers Retro-Perspective October 17, 2025–February 7, 2026

“This was the most interesting, colorful, and provocative of all installations we've seen. Bravo for bringing this to Minnesota.”

–Visitor comment
about *Collidoscope*

This year the CAT welcomed *Collidoscope: de la Torre Brothers Retro-Perspective*, an exhibition organized by the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture of the Riverside Art Museum, with support from the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Latino. Inspired by ancient Mesoamerican iconography, Mexican folk art, and Baroque art, the work of Einar and Jamex de la Torre blends art history and pop culture with daring social and political commentary, presenting art with celebration, irreverence, and play.

ACQUISITIONS

The CAT continues to add new works of art to its permanent collection each year, and many new acquisitions will be on view in 2026.

49

New artworks entered the collection

14

Sculptures

27

Works on Paper

8

Paintings

11

New artists
entered the
collection

Julie Buffalohead
Kate Clemens
Jin Jeong
Lyn Liu
Lori Nix
Judith Schaecter
Kelly Sinnapah Mary
Linda Stein
Einar and Jamex de la Torre
Patricia Treib
Steven J. Yazzie

ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS



Judith Schaecter (American, born 1961)
detail of *Raft of the Medusa*, 2021
Stained Glass in lightbox
33 1/8 x 42 3/16 x 2 5/8 in.
Gift of Robert Mersky,
Cafesjian Art Trust Museum,
2025.440.1



Kelly Sinnapah Mary (French, born 1981)
She taught me to listen to the wind,
2023
Acrylic on canvas
46 1/2 x 46 3/4 x 1 1/2 inches
Cafesjian Art Trust Museum,
2025.422.1

ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS



Jin Jeong (Korean American, born 1992)
detail of *Monument Valley*, 2022
Oil on linen
66 × 82 × 1 1/4 inches
2025.420.1
Cafesjian Art Trust Museum
2025.420.1



Einar de la Torre (American, born Mexico, 1963)
Jamex de la Torre (American, born Mexico, 1960)
detail of *Charmer*, 2023
Blown Glass and mixed media
41 1/2 × 18 × 17 in.
Cafesjian Art Trust Museum
2024.370.4

CURATORIAL TEAM

In 2025, the CAT welcomed a new curatorial team to create engaging and innovative exhibitions, programming, and scholarship



The appointments of Jill Ahlberg Yohe, PhD, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, and Linnea Seidling, Assistant Curator of Glass, featured in [Art Daily](#) and [Pioneer Press](#), is a milestone in the museum's young history. A team with decades of experience in curation and publications, Ahlberg Yohe and Seidling are developing a slate of innovative and breathtaking curatorial programming for 2026 and beyond.

Jill Ahlberg Yohe has curated many major exhibitions, including *Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists*. Ahlberg Yohe has written extensively, published widely, and is committed to innovating curatorial practices to benefit the artists and communities she serves.



Linnea Seidling has worked in the museum field for 10 years and has held curatorial positions at institutions including the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Corning Museum of Glass. She holds an MA in the History of Decorative Art, Design, and Material Culture from the Bard Graduate Center.

Top: Jill Ahlberg Yohe, PhD, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art; bottom: Linnea Seidling, Assistant Curator of Glass.

STUDENT LEARNING

Our school programs serve students from preschool to college, offering learners the chance to engage with art and practice creative visual thinking. Every tour is customized to support the group's unique goals.

844

Students visited the museum on field trips

375%

Increase in students visiting the CAT from 2024

422

Students reached through off-site programs

100%

Transportation costs covered for student field trips

51

Student programs offered in 2025

2025 Highlights Include:

- Offering three sessions for **third-grade English language learners** from the Columbia Heights school district. These programs focused on connecting art to literacy by building vocabulary and having students practice speaking to their classmates about what they observed in the artwork.



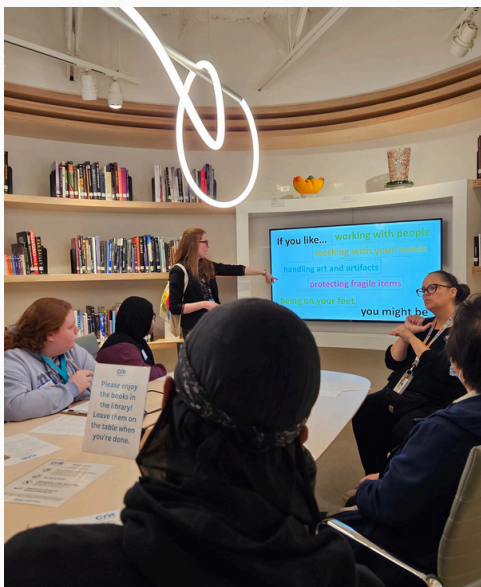
- Creating a special program for a consortium of **homeschool families**, who shared that their visit to the CAT "was, by far, the best museum experience we have ever had as a group!"

- Providing summer enrichment opportunities for 120 **Mounds View middle schoolers** that included a hands-on art making project inspired by what they saw at the CAT.



- Working with **University of Minnesota Chicano & Latino Studies** students and **Augsburg University** art students to supplement their classroom syllabus.

STUDENT LEARNING



The CAT continues to provide arts enrichment opportunities for alternative high schools:

- Students from **El Colegio** high school had a very special opportunity: a Spanish-language tour led by Einar and Jamex de la Torre, the artists featured in *Collidoscope: de la Torre Brothers Retro-Perspective*.
- Mounds View's **ALC students** made 8 visits to the museum in 2025, using our gallery as a classroom space to explore cross-disciplinary connections.
- We hosted students from 4 different schools in **Project for Pride in Living's LEAP network**, an initiative to increase opportunities for young people facing challenges.
- We facilitated 3 tours and careers discussions for **Focus Beyond Transition Services**, a program in St. Paul Public Schools for young adults who have unmet special education needs.



Not only do we host students at the CAT, we also bring the museum to them!

- We reached students from across the state of Minnesota by facilitating nine workshops at SparkPath's annual **Creativity Festival**, teaching students about museum curation.
- We also made **in-classroom visits** to many different school districts, including a "Curious Curators" presentation for all fifth graders at Jefferson Elementary, a "City Shapes" workshop for Mounds View preschoolers, and a "Museum Careers" talk for Venture Academy high school art students.



FAMILY PROGRAMS

Our free family programs create meaningful opportunities for creative engagement for families of all shapes and sizes.

401

Participants in
Family Programs

19

Family programs
offered in 2025

10

Preschool Pals
programs

5

Story Time
programs

Both our **Preschool Pals** and **Story Time** programs are designed to foster a sense of belonging at the museum.

The CAT's family programs encourage children to look carefully at artwork, develop their own conclusions, and then process what they've learned via open-ended creative output.



Our second annual Family Festival was a huge success! This sold-out event saw 200 people enjoying a range of art-making projects, scavenger hunts, music and dancing, chalk art, dress-up, and ice cream treats. We will continue to host this community celebration annually: **save the date for next year's Festival on August 1, 2026.**



TEEN ENGAGEMENT

The CAT provides mentorship and practical experience for young adults interested in museum career pathways.

High schoolers from across the metro are a part of our **CAT Teen Council**, which offers young people behind-the-scenes insight into running an art museum.

Our inaugural 2024-25 Teen Council completed a successful academic year together, meeting monthly to plan public programs and curate their own exhibition. Participants gained valuable real-world experience in museum curation, registration, and education.



The CAT offered its first-ever internship this summer, partnering with Project for Pride in Living to select a high school student from their LEAP (Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential) program.

This **paid internship program** offers a young person the chance to rotate through four different museum departments (education, curatorial, collections, and marketing), making important contributions to each. Our 2025 intern, Laniah Mars, encapsulated her experience with a beautifully written [blog post](#), sharing:

“My coworkers, who were really my mentors, were nothing short of incredible. Museums aren’t loud about the work they do. They’re stubborn, beautifully so, in their mission to keep art alive.”

– Laniah Mars,
2025 Summer Intern



PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

From artist talks to workshops to concerts, the CAT offers a wide array of programs for our valued partners and community members.



We were honored to bring renowned artists **Einar and Jamex de la Torre** to town to lead a special tour of their exhibition *Collidoscope*. We invited key community partners for an evening of festive celebration and fascinating conversation with these two incredible artists. The artists also shared their knowledge at programs co-sponsored by **Foci Center for Glass Arts** and the **American Craft Council**.

Other Highlights:

- We loved having teenagers from **Centro Tyrone Guzman's** Raíces program come to the CAT to take a Spanish-language tour, learn about museum careers and create their own artwork inspired by what they saw.
- We offered team-building sessions for nonprofit neighbors doing important work in our community. We hosted a staff retreat for mental health clinic **Northeast Youth & Family Services**, and for two groups from the **Ramsey County Library**.

PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

- The galleries were alive with the sound of music! We partnered with the **Minnesota Opera** and violinists from the **Minnesota Orchestra** to hold concerts with musical selections made in response to the paintings on view.
- We partner with our neighbor **Churchill St. Restaurant** each month to offer creative art projects at their Tuesday Family Nights. Inspired by the museum's collection, these projects, which change monthly, introduce young children to what the museum can offer.
- We collaborated with **The Mindfulness Movement** to offer yoga classes, both outdoors and in the gallery. We also promoted wellbeing by developing a short guided meditation for our Pergola Ceiling room, accessible to visitors at any time.



- The CAT offered an after-hours workshop for a group of **University of Minnesota Medical School** students, using artmaking and Visual Thinking Strategies to supplement their academic training.



MEMORY CARE PROGRAMS

The need for memory-care programs and caregiver support continues to grow, and the CAT is here to meet that need!



In 2025, we offered seven different tours for people with memory loss, including our **Connections at the CAT** program for individuals with dementia and their care partners, as well as group tours for residents from memory care facilities.

“Words cannot express how incredible that dementia event was for my daughter, my husband and I. Your kind words, attention to him, asking him directly how he feels about a painting was just perfect. It is so rare to find an event like this for people with dementia.”

– Connections caregiver

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

The CAT is nothing without our visitors and volunteers!

23

Active volunteers
at the CAT

280

Public tours led
by volunteers

788

Hours given by
our volunteers

10,440

Visitors to the
museum in 2025

11,015

Total people reached
through on-site
and off-site
engagements



IN THE PRESS

Art Daily

The Cafesjian Art Trust Museum welcomes
dynamic new curatorial team
February 14, 2025

Pioneer Press

"At Shoreview's Cafesjian Art Trust, new
curatorial team aims to expand the
contemporary art museum beyond glass"
February 23, 2025

Mpls St. Paul Magazine

"Cafesjian Exhibitions Showcase Collector's
Paintings and Glass Art"
March 18, 2025

Star Tribune

"Top 10 art exhibitions to check out this fall
in the Twin Cities"
September 12, 2025

MPLS Arts

"Collidoscope: de la Torre Brothers Retro-
Perspective at the Cafesjian Art Trust
Museum"
October 21, 2025

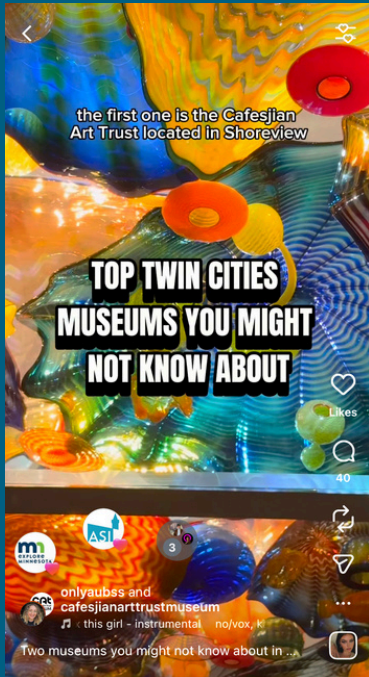
Explore Minnesota

"Don't Miss This in MN: de la Torre
Brothers Exhibit"
November 17, 2025

**"Whether you're steeped
in art history like myself
or just curious to see
something unlike
anything else in town,
Collidoscope offers
something for everyone."**

– Laura Laptsevitch,
MPLS Arts

SOCIAL MEDIA



TikTok

55

Posts

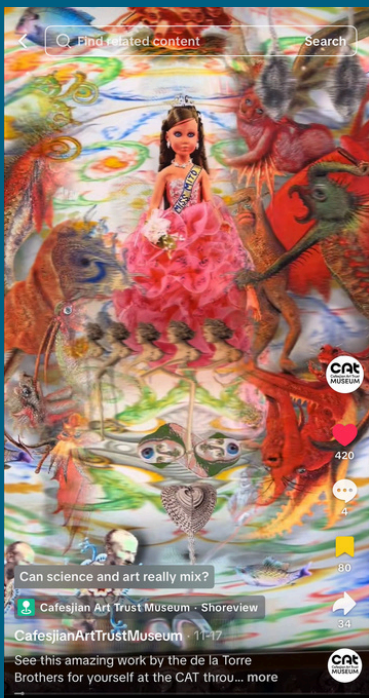
187K

Post Views

4165

Total Followers

Twin Cities influencer @onlyaubss posted a video featuring the CAT that garnered 156k views on Instagram, and helped the museum gain hundreds of new followers.



Meta

(Instagram & Facebook)

172

Posts

226.7K

Post Views

5100

Total Followers

A video highlighting a lenticular artwork by the de la Torre Brothers titled *Miss Mito* received over 5,000 views on TikTok.

NEW IN 2025

New art, new spaces, and new opportunities to visit

Drop-in Hours Expanded Visitation

We are now open on Friday evenings and all day on Saturday for drop-in guests. The shift to the drop-in model resulted in an average of 77% first-time visitors, expanding our audiences across the Twin Cities and beyond.



LOVE Arrives at the CAT

An iconic work in the collection made its debut this summer: one of Robert Indiana's LOVE sculptures, now on view on our front patio.



A New Family Nook

We now have a dedicated space for families to read, relax, and play together. Our family nook reaffirms the museum's commitment to providing a welcoming and fun-filled experience for visitors of all ages.



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