

moca

Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART TUCSON ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Installation image, *were--Nenetch Forms*, MOCA Tucson, 2021. Photograph by Julius Schlosburg.

MISSION

MOCA Tucson inspires new ways of thinking through the cultivation, exhibition, and interpretation of contemporary art.

VISION

MOCA Tucson is the pre-eminent, artist-centered contemporary art institution in the Southwest. We believe that art has the power to change the world. We cultivate critical dialogue between artists and audiences about today's world; support artists through the production and presentation of new, experimental work; and educate the artist and audiences of tomorrow.





LETTER FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being a part of MOCA Tucson! 2021 brought challenges, changes, and remarkable successes—**renewing and strengthening MOCA's dedication to our work with contemporary artists**. This past year we unveiled our most ambitious artist-centered **exhibitions** to date; supported artists and collectives across Pima County through a robust **regranting** initiative funded by the Warhol Foundation; presented vibrant digital and in-person **public programs** and **arts education** offerings; built **partnerships** with respected regional and national institutions and foundations; and hosted a festive **Gala** and Local Genius Awards that raised critical funds and celebrated visionary thinkers in Tucson.

This year alone, MOCA directly supported over **100 artists** through exhibitions, residencies, programs, and direct funding. Our education programs served **8,500 youth, 70 Title I schools** across 7 districts, and continued to reach underserved groups, including LGBTQIA+ youth and seniors through MOCA's signature program, Stay Gold. We also brought thought-provoking programs to nearly **1,000 adults** through artist talks and performances and scholarly lectures.

Over the course of the year, our **community and foundations supported us like never before**. We continue to be closely supported by the **National Endowment for the Arts**; were awarded transformational grants from the **VIA Art Fund and Wagner Foundation**, granted to only five leading contemporary art institutions across the nation, and from the Bruce & Diane **Halle Foundation**; and were selected by The Andy **Warhol Foundation** for the Visual Arts to regrant over \$100,000 to artists across Tucson, enabling MOCA to continue to **nourish the creative ecology of the Southwest**.

These major accomplishments are due to the dedication and resilience of MOCA's staff, board, and our extended community of supporters, including you! It has been a year of change, with a leadership transition and the continued pressures of the pandemic affecting the organization's capacity to consistently fundraise. These challenges are reflected in a net budgetary loss this past year, but also in a responsive decision by board leadership to conduct a robust executive search, helmed by a diverse committee of arts professionals, which will bear fruit later this spring.

As we **look forward to 2022**, we see **excitement** and **growth**: MOCA has conceptualized an arc of programming that speaks to our current moment and place. The upcoming season is composed of a dynamic suite of exhibitions, performances, workshops, and residencies that center **experimental** practices, facilitate intergenerational and intersectional **collaborations**, and create interdisciplinary **dialogues** between fields as diverse as poetry, activism, and ecology. **Together, we will make MOCA's impact unforgettable!**

With gratitude,



Kira Dixon-Weinstein
Board President

2021 EXHIBITIONS

The spirit of MOCA's exhibition program revolves around collaboration and exchange. In my time at MOCA, my focus has been on commissioning new work from artists at different stages in their careers, artists who have something important to offer and to receive from the beautiful and complex Sonoran Desert region. I am proud to say that over this past year we have commissioned meaningful new work from twenty artists, ranging from a feminist colectiva based in Mexico to artists who call this Desert their home, from artists having their first museum exhibition to those who have exhibited at the Whitney, SFMOMA, and other major centers for contemporary art.

Weaving collaboration and new ideas into our programs is the gift these artists bring to MOCA and to Tucson. In exchange, the museum offers resources for artists to live on-site and make new work, and connects these artists to extraordinary people, organizations, and places that infuse their practice with new insights and inform their work for years to come. MOCA thrives when we nurture collaboration, understanding, reciprocity, and generosity—artists and art workers are uniquely able to do just that. I am deeply grateful to you for remaining a part of MOCA's community and for supporting our ongoing work with living artists.

~Laura Copelin, MOCA Curator-at-Large

2021 Exhibitions

Working from Home: New Commissions from Tucson
October 4, 2020 - March 28, 2021

Pia Camil: Three Works
April 10 - September 19, 2021

The Things We Keep: Selections from Olivier Mosset's Archive
July 9 - September 19, 2021

were--Nenetch Forms
October 8, 2021 - March 13, 2022

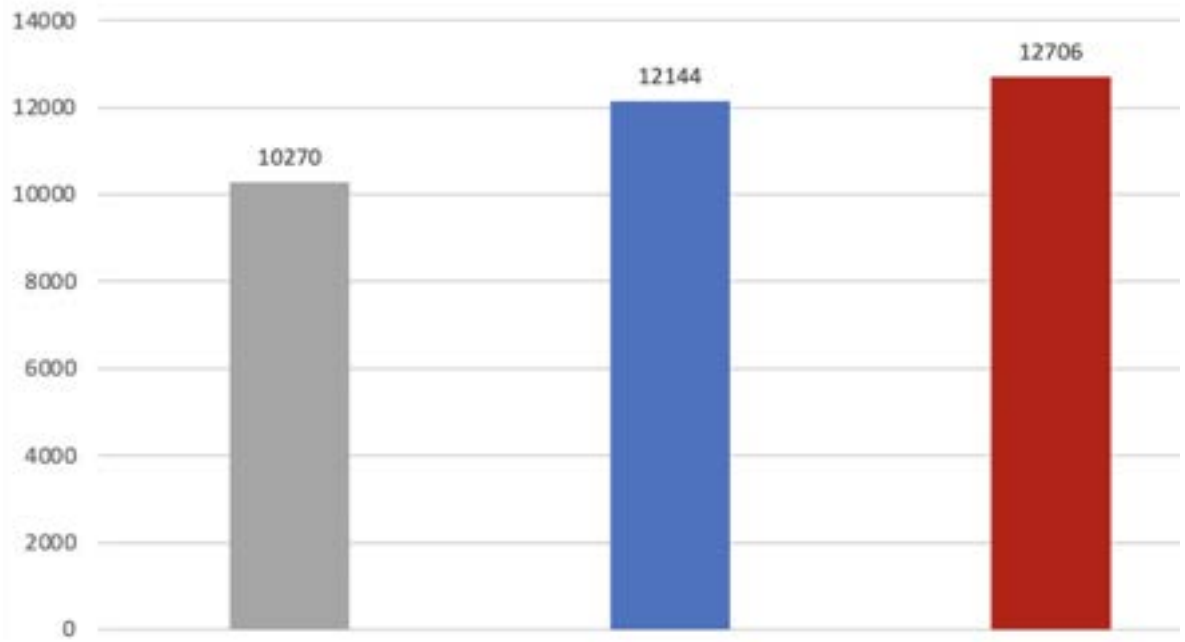
Mujeres Nourishing Fronterizx Bodies: Resistance in the Time of COVID-19
October 8, 2021 - May 1, 2022



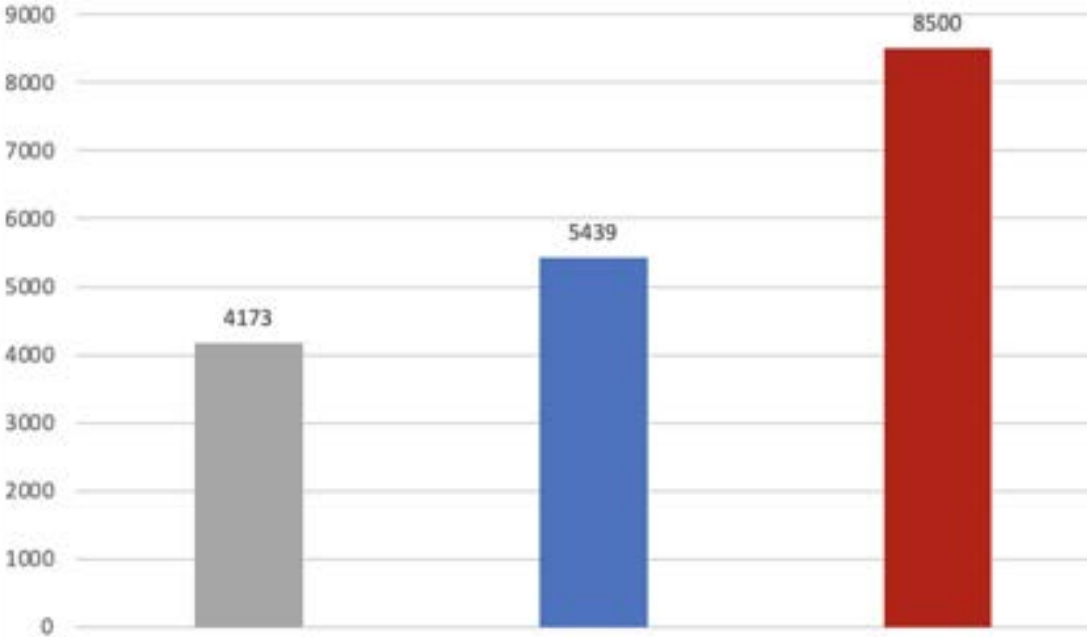
ENGAGEMENT



TOTAL ENGAGEMENT



TOTAL YOUTH SERVED



2021 GALA

MOCA's Gala on April 17th netted over \$90,000 and welcomed more than 300 attendees, who joined virtually and in-person to celebrate the 2021 Genius Awardees: borderland ecological restorer Valer Clark; US Congresswoman and gun safety champion Gabby Giffords; planetary scientist and OSIRIS-REx principal investigator Dante Laurreta; and formative immigration activist collective Las Mujeres de Manzo. Helmed by emcee Cathy Rivers, the evening included inspiring words by Mayor Regina Romero, a film about the Geniuses, a video about MOCA, performances by MOCA School of Drag participants, and music by Joey Burns of Calexico.



Clockwise from upper left: Gabby Giffords, Valer Clark, Las Mujeres de Manzo, Dante Laurreta.

2021 EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

MOCA's 2021 season featured community-oriented programming and educational initiatives for all ages, as well as a slate of new programs that welcomed broader audiences. MOCA's exhibitions were supplemented by a dynamic range of activities, from collaborative adobe making and clothing swaps to dance workshops and poetry readings. MOCA continued to offer its signature education programs—Minor Mutiny Teen Council, School of Drag, Stay Gold, Young Fauves, MOCA Satellite—supported with funding from the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, University of Arizona Institute for LGBT Studies, and the Windgate Foundation. Over the course of the year, MOCA also launched Exo Exhibition Tours, expanding access through tours and conversations with artists and curators, and Midnight at MOCA, a free nocturnal offering of events where attendees experience galleries after-hours and participate in a wide range of programs, including lectures, readings, music sets, and performances.



DANCE: fold workshop and presentation, MOCA Tucson, 2021. Photograph by Julius Schlosburg.

ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION REGIONAL REGRANTING

In 2021 and in collaboration with The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, MOCA launched phase two of Night Bloom: Grants for Artists. The program awarded \$60,000 in funding to artists and collectives based in Pima County to realize experimental and collaboratively-focused projects. Night Bloom awardees were selected by a panel of three jurors who reviewed more than 100 competitive applications. 2021 jurors were: Nicole Miller, Artist; Alana Hernandez, Executive Director & Curator, CALA Alliance; and Kevin Holden, Programs Assistant, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art.

Congratulations to the 2021 Night Bloom awardees:

- Alanna Airitan, Elizabeth Burden, and Elizabeth Denneau
- BorderLens/SW
- Everybody
- Inner Freq: Angelica Lopez and Jorge Bojorquez, with Victor Valencia
- Nazafarin Lotfi and Saretta Morgan
- Alyx Lunada with BCC Tucson
- PUES MAG
- SNAG (School of New Art Geographies): Erik Schmahl and Susanna Battin and more
- Chava Shapiro and Jewish Zine Archive, with Molly Block, Dr. Maxwell Greenberg, Nika Kaiser, and ancestors both named and unnamed
- Feng-Feng Yeh



COLLABORATIONS

In 2021, MOCA grew its partnership with the University of Arizona School of Art. Following the resounding success of *were-:Nenetch Forms* and *Terra Forms*—joint exhibitions between the two institutions—MOCA was invited to hold a seat on UA's Visiting Artists and Scholars Lecture Series (VASE) committee. Furthermore, MOCA and UA conceptualized *Making & Thinking*, which promotes expanded learning experiences by offering university students direct engagement with artists and interlocutors involved with MOCA's exhibitions. The program involves studio visits, special tours, roundtable conversations, and workshops that center collaborative, interdisciplinary, community-oriented practices.

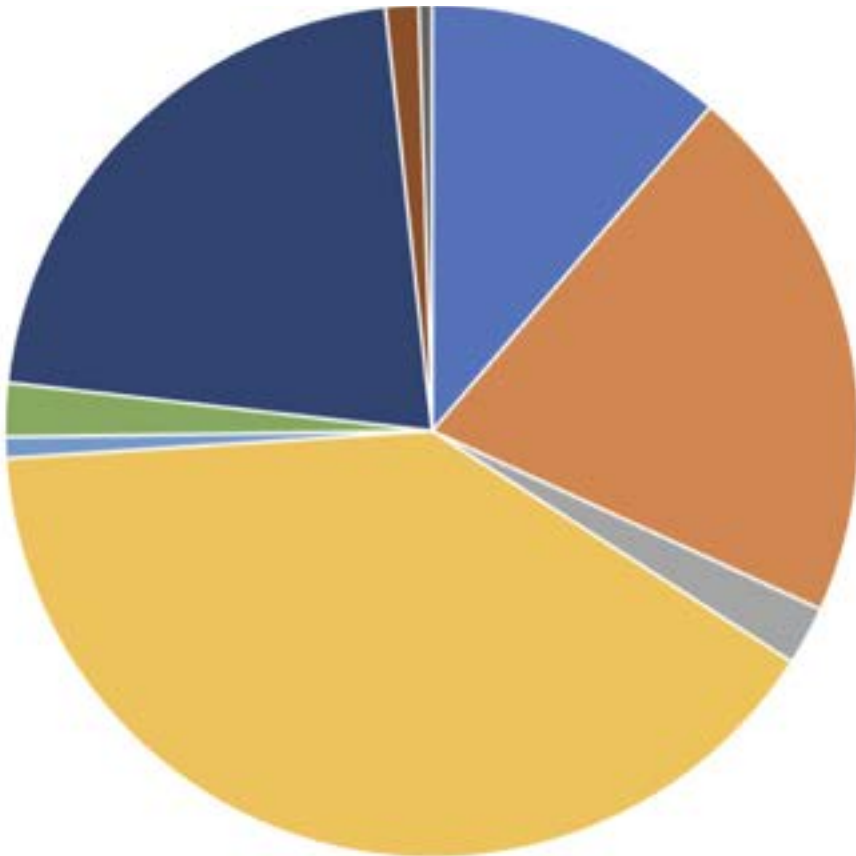


Adobe workshop, MOCA Tucson, 2021. Photograph by Julius Schlosburg.

FY21 FINANCES

In FY21 MOCA grew its professional staff to support expanded exhibitions, programs, and operations. The Museum fully reopened, after partial COVID closures, debuting a full exhibition schedule, supporting more artists than ever, and improving the East Wing Galleries, which all contributed to increased expenses. Moreover, a 2021 leadership transition affected the organization's capacity to consistently fundraise, and while MOCA received significantly more COVID relief in FY20 than in FY21, it did not host its annual gala in FY20, which it did this past year, resulting in increased expenses and revenue in the "special events" category.

2021 REVENUE



	2019	2020	2021
REVENUE	\$672,970	\$794,686	\$761,339
EXPENSE	\$667,961	\$581,311	\$803,832
NET	\$5,009	\$213,375	-\$42,493

■ Board of Directors	\$85,889
■ Individual Gifts	\$156,673
■ Corporate Gifts	\$17,000
■ Private Foundation & Government Grants	\$303,634
■ Admissions & MOCA Shop	\$6,070
■ Membership	\$15,510
■ Special Events & Fundraising	\$163,220
■ Rentals & Fee-for-Service Programs	\$9,545
■ Other Miscellaneous Revenue	\$3,798

2021 MAJOR GIFTS

\$50,000+

E. Courtney Johnson
Fletcher & Liz McCusker
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts
The Bruce & Diane Halle Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
Windgate Foundation

\$25,000+

Kasser Family
VIA Art Fund & Wagner Foundation

\$10,000+

John Burcher
Olivier Mosset & Elizabeth Cherry
Jordan Schnitzer
Amy Zuckerman
Mel & Enid Zuckerman
Arizona Commission on the Arts

\$5,000+

Anthony J. Canchola
Kira Dixon-Weinstein & Adam Weinstein
Terri Kessler & Lisa Lovallo
Evie Stefenson-Marquart & Edward Marquart
Arizona Humanities
The Aslan Foundation
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
Connie Hillman Family Foundation
Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment
Gadsden Company
HSL Properties
Vantage West Credit Union

\$2,500+

Anonymous
Karen Christensen & Ken Kay
Paul DeJoe
Samuel Ireland
John and Kristi Lai
Lauren & Will Pew
Danny Vinik & MaryAnn Brazil
Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona
Blum & Poe Los Angeles/New York/Tokyo
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
Cox Charities
James H. & Frances R. Allen Family Foundation
Southwest Gas Corporation
The University of Arizona Foundation

\$1,000+

Carolyn Bass
Marjorie & Jerry Dixon
Monika Dorman
Randi Dorman
Laurie and Rob Glaser
James Glasser
Kate Green
Pam Grissom
Lia Hager
Hope Hennessey
John Hudak
Bettie Johnson
Pablo Kyriakis
Justin Martinez
Max McCauslin
Barbara Molotsky
Patricia Carr Morgan
Catherine Morton
Yun Gee Park & Scott Duerstock
Cathy Rivers & Kristopher Kerry
William Rutter
Leah Schragger
Shelly & Steve Silverman
Beatriz & Luis Soto Carrillo
Alexander Stimpson
Charles Stone II & Kimberly von Brandenstein
David Taylor
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
Jewish Colorado
Winkelman Family Charitable Fund

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kira Dixon-Weinstein, President
Danny Vinik, Vice President
Luis Soto, Secretary
John Burcher
Anthony J. Canchola
Samuel Ireland
E. Courtney Johnson
Pablo Kyriakis
Justin Martinez
Lauren Pew
Evie Stefenson-Marquart
David Taylor

AMBASSADOR COUNCIL

Carolyn Bass
Burak Bekat
Annamaria Biagini
Elizabeth Cherry
Darbi Davis
Chrissy Frey
Logan Havens
Liz Hernandez
John Hudak
Rick Joy
Angela Kapp
Claudia Kappl Joy
Kristopher Kerry
Terri Kessler
Lisa Lovallo
Edward Marquart
Olivier Mosset
Olivia Miller
Mary Okoye
Jane Poynter
Anne Ranek
Hope Reed
Stacey Richter
Jerusha Schmalzel
Yu Yu Shiratori
Harold Thomas
Kerry Winkelman
Amy Zuckerman
Ana Perez-Arrieta

MOCA TUCSON STAFF

Kevin Burns, Development Manager
Laura Copelin, Curator at Large
Aja Haymore, Engagement Coordinator
Carrie Hess, Finance Director
Harrison Orr, Education Manager
Dominic Valencia, Exhibition Manager & Registrar
Alexis Wilkinson, Assistant Curator

MOCA TUCSON TEACHING ARTISTS

Margo Alves
Eli Burke
Dante Celeiro
Stephanie Engs
Lex Gjurasic
Frank Heightchew-Howard
Tina Howard
Sonja Jenks
Makenna Lockwood
Nazafarin Lotfi
Devan Marin
Em Miller
Sydney Yount

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Installation image, *Pia Camil: Three Works*, MOCA Tucson, 2021. Photograph by Julius Schlosburg.