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.
Dear Friends,

*2022 was an incredible year for MOCA Tucson* and I am thrilled to announce that the year culminated with the **appointment of new executive leadership.** Following a rigorous, year-long search process—conducted with a mind to position MOCA for future growth and vital partnerships with the local community—we have named **Julio César Morales** as Executive Director & Co-Chief Curator and **Laura Copelin** as Deputy Director & Co-Chief Curator. Special thanks to the dedicated search committee, chaired by David Taylor, comprised of M. Jenea Sanchez, Danny Vinik, gloria j. wilson, and myself—we are so grateful for the energy and investment of this committee and for the wonderful outcome.

**Julio**’s vision and experience—demonstrated by his work as a curator, artist and cultural leader—brings so much vitality to MOCA, and will help us continue to serve artists and audiences. His understanding of the art world in Arizona and internationally adds a new, deeply relevant perspective to the museum. Alongside **Laura**—who continues to build momentum, stability, and increase resources for artists at MOCA—their collective vision for shared leadership and the museum’s future opens an exciting new chapter for MOCA.

Reaching this point would not have been possible without your continued support. Over this past year, MOCA directly supported over **130 artists** through exhibitions, residencies, programs, and funding opportunities; our education programs served **5,500 youth, 80 Title I schools** across 8 districts, and continued to reach underserved groups, including LGBTQIA+ youth and seniors; and we brought thought-provoking programs to over **3,000** adults through artist talks, performances, and public programs.

The year also saw increased support by local and national granting agencies and foundations. We continued to have worthy projects funded by the **National Endowment for the Arts**, the Bruce & Diane **Halle Foundation**, and **Arizona Humanities**; and were selected by The Andy **Warhol Foundation** for the Visual Arts to continue to serve as a regranting partner to distribute funds to artists across Tucson, allowing MOCA to continue to **enhance our local creative ecology.**

**Looking ahead**, MOCA Tucson is stronger and bolder than ever, ready to imagine and manifest a museum of the future by **nurturing communities** and **centering artists.** The new year brings site-specific exhibitions by internationally-recognized artists, including Raven Chacon, Na Mira, Keioui Keijuan Thomas, and Cecilia Vicuña, as well as reimagined programming to reach expanded audiences. We look forward to having you with us over the next year as we begin a **new chapter.**

With excitement and gratitude,

Kira Dixon-Weinstein  
Board President
Over the past year MOCA commissioned new work from nearly 25 artists, with major exhibitions by Grace Rosario Perkins, a self-taught painter who filled MOCA’s Great Hall with monumental paintings and invited long-time collaborators to present work alongside her, and by Lynn Xu, a poet and performer whose exhibition gave Xu’s poems three-dimensional space. These two projects were the first museum presentations of both Perkin’s and Xu’s work. MOCA also presented in its East Wing a solo exhibition by Kenneth Tam and a group exhibition titled *Plein Air* that explored shifting ideas of western landscapes, painting, and fieldwork. In line with MOCA’s mission, many of these artists were invited to be in residence in Tucson, to live and work and be connected with people, organizations, and places that infuse their practice with new insights and inform their work for years to come.

2022 Exhibitions

**wer-Enenetc Forms**
October 8, 2020 - March 13, 2021
*MOCA-commissioned stained glass work by Timo Fahler was acquired by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2022

**Mujeres Nourishing Fronterizx Bodies: Resistance in the Time of COVID-19**
October 8, 2021 - May 1, 2022
*MOCA helped to support new works and programs that will see this exhibition presented at the Museo de Arte de Ciudad Juárez in 2023

**Grace Rosario Perkins: The Relevance of Your Data**
April 2 - October 16, 2022
*Perkins had one of her paintings acquired by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art this past year, and is working on her first major book project and several exhibitions across the country

**Kenneth Tam: Silent Spikes**
May 14, 2022 - March 12, 2023
*Tam was profiled extensively by the New York Times for this body of work

**Plein Air**
May 14, 2022 - March 12, 2023
*This exhibition, which curator Aurora Tang conceived for MOCA, will travel to the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena in June 2023

**Lynn Xu: And Those Ashen Heaps That Cantilevered Vase of Moonlight**
November 4, 2022 - January 8, 2023
*Xu and curator Laura Copelin were featured in conversation about the exhibition in prominent translation publication Asymptote Journal

ENGLAGEMENT

The above graph reflects combined annual social media engagement on Instagram and Facebook platforms. This total represents a 35% increase in engagement in 2022 and with a 15% increase in followers.
PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Asymptote, Lynn Xu And Those Ashen Heaps That Cantilevered Vase of Moonlight
BOMB, Between Voice and Image: Lynn Xu Interviewed by Tim Johnson
Artforum, MOCA Tucson Reveals New Leadership
Hyperallergic, Plein Air Is a Sobering Reminder of Human Impact on the Environment
Southwest Contemporary, Curator Profile: Laura Copelin’s Creative Placemaking at MOCA Tucson
Hyperallergic, Artists Reflect on the Harms of Data Collection

COLLABORATIONS

The museum expanded reach within the community through public program and education partnerships with local organizations and businesses including:
- Antigone Books
- Arizona State University National Sustainability Teachers’ Academies
- BICAS (Bicycle Inter-Community Art and Salvage)
- Bookmans Entertainment Exchange
- Children’s Museum Tucson
- CREAM Design and Print
- Exo Roast Company
- Fluxx Productions
- Galeria Mitotera
- I Am You 360
- KXCI Community Radio
- Mission Garden
- Native Seeds/SEARCH
- Pearly Baker Fermentables
- Pima Community College
- Pima County Public Library
- SAGA (Southern Arizona Gender Alliance)
- Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities (ArtWorks)
- Southern Arizona Senior Pride
- The Drawing Studio
- The Downtown Clifton
- The Mini Time Machine Museum of Miniatures
- The University of Arizona Poetry Center
- The University of Arizona College of Architecture, Planning, & Landscape Architecture
- The University of Arizona Department of Public & Applied Humanities
- The University of Arizona Department of Student Engagement & Career Development
- The University of Arizona School Garden Workshop
- The University of Arizona School of Art
- The University of Arizona Southwest Institute for Research on Women (The Lighthouse Project)
- Tohono O’odham Community College
- United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
- Zia Records
MOCA’s 2022 season featured community-oriented initiatives for all ages, as well as new programs and renewed collaborations. The museum continued to offer its signature programs, including Stay Gold; School of Drag; Young Fauves; and MOCA Satellite, which offered instruction in Spanish for the first time this year. New initiatives included MOCA in the Community, bringing learning out of the museum and into spaces community members already frequent, such as Bookmans Entertainment Exchange; Drag Queen Story Hour, featuring Lil Miss Hot Mess; and Mini MOCA, a series of tiny, free galleries installed throughout Tucson. MOCA produced and presented over 30 public programs in 2022, ranging from artist-led workshops, book launches for local authors, poetry readings, music concerts, screenings, performances, conversations, and more. Overall the museum saw increased engagement, reaching nearly 13,000 individuals and especially through the Free Third Thursday program, which averaged 250 attendees per month.
NIGHT BLOOM: GRANTS FOR ARTISTS

2022 Awardee Highlights

BorderLens SW Collective
BorderLens SW, a women’s photography collective, were able to spend a year in development. They grew membership to over 30 people, facilitated a 2-day workshop, and held monthly meetings. The collective also realized a group exhibition collaborating with sister collectives in Mexico.

Southwest Black Arts Network
Lead artists Alanna Airitam, Elizabeth Burden, and Elizabeth Denneau created a network of Black artists, curators, and arts professionals in the Southwest focusing on Black female and non-binary contemporary artists. The Night Bloom funds provided “a foundation on which to build a stable, supportive, and professional community of working professional Black artists” that the group is continuing to grow through the recruitment of new members, and organizing retreats, exhibitions, and public programs.

Chinese Chorizo Project: Feng-Feng Yeh
The artist initiated the first annual Tucson Chinese Chorizo Festival, created “to educate and excite our community about the story surrounding the Chinese chorizo.” The project engaged culinary community leaders such as Maria Mazon, Jackie Tran, and Forbes Meat Company, and over twenty restaurants in Tucson participated, offering multiple opportunities to try exclusive collaborative dishes and learn about the cultural history of the Chinese Chorizo while each business benefitted from new customers, press, and revenue.
MOCA’s 2022 Gala, held on April 23rd, raised more than $200,000 and welcomed nearly 350 attendees, who joined to celebrate the accomplishments of architect Rick Joy and lighting and interior designer Claudia Kappl Joy, two Tucson-based, globally-recognized innovators. The Gala featured the museum’s largest auction to date and was sponsored by companies and individuals from across Tucson, including the Gadsden Company, HSL Properties, Courtney Johnson, Aridus Wine Company, Brink Media, Cloth & Flame, Gruet Winery, The Rialto Theatre Foundation, San Luis Valley Brewing Company, Tucson Lifestyle Magazine, and Whiskey Del Bac/Hamilton Distillers.
FALL FUNDRAISERS

MOCA’s fall season included a membership drive and series of fundraising events, bringing together diverse audiences to support the museum’s mission. The season began with a 25th anniversary celebration and Spaghetti Club takeover that transformed the museum into an immersive, multi-floor dance club, with food by LOCALE, specialty cocktails by Suncliff Gin, and photos by All Frills Pop-Up Photo Boutique. The museum also hosted a concert featuring Jonathan Richman and Tommy Larkins and held VIP dinners in honor of some of MOCA’s longest-serving trustees, including John Burcher, Randi Dorman, Courtney Johnson, Terri Kessler, and Joanne Stuhr.
In FY22 MOCA grew its capacity significantly, sustaining a more robust professional staff, ramping up exhibitions and programs, facilitating the Warhol regranting program, and fundraising more effectively than ever, despite not having an Executive Director in place for the majority of the year. The museum hosted the most successful gala and auction to date and was bolstered by several other special fundraising events spearheaded by trustees and facilitated by staff, including the return of MOCA’s Fall Fundraiser, the first since pandemic closures. Private foundations and government grants expanded, and along with generous individual gifts and a successful membership drive, contributed to the ability to support an expanded budget. Despite the lack of COVID relief, MOCA made great strides this past year, evident in the progress from FY21 income/expense to the numbers for FY22. Board members, committees, and staff carefully monitored and modulated expenses according to funds raised, resulting in a stronger and more responsive budget that increased MOCA’s ability to serve artists and audiences.

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In 2022, MOCA earned resounding support from local and national foundations and granting agencies, receiving more than $300,000 from existing and new supporters. Major support for MOCA’s exhibitions and programs continued to be provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, who also funded the museum’s regranting initiative, Night Bloom, which directly funded ten artists or collectives for community-oriented and experimental art projects. Alongside MOCA’s exhibitions, the museum’s educational initiatives were supported in large part by the Windgate Foundation and E.A. Michelson Philanthropies, who funded the museum’s intergenerational programming, including Stay Gold and School of Drag.
2022 MAJOR GIFTS

$50,000+
Fletcher & Liz McCusker
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

$25,000+
E. Courtney Johnson
Kasser Family
E.A. Michelson Philanthropy
National Endowment for the Arts
Windgate Foundation

$10,000+
Dennis & Tauna Arnold
Elizabeth Cherry & Olivier Mosset
Terri Kessler & Lisa Lovallo
Amy Zuckerman
Mel & Enid Zuckerman
Arizona Commission on the Arts
Gadsden Company
HSL Properties
VIA Art Fund & Wagner Foundation

$5,000+
Anonymous
Kira Dixon-Weinstein & Adam Weinstein
Samuel Ireland
Lauren & Will Pew
Evie Stefenson-Marquart & Edward Marquart
Arizona Humanities
Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment
The University of Arizona Foundation
University of Arizona Institute for LGBT Studies
Vantage West Credit Union

$2,500+
Carolyn Bass
Michael Bradford
Anthony J. Canchola
Gerald & Marjorie Dixon
Laurie & Rob Glaser
Pablo Kyriakis
Jeanette Segel
Connie Hillman Family Foundation

$1,000+
Anonymous
Annamaria & Giuseppe Biagini
Karen Christensen & Kenneth Kay
Monika Dorman
Randi Dorman
Pam Grissom
John Hudak
Paul Ivey
Bettie Johnson
Angela Kapp
Diane Kerrihard
Raman & Silvia Mahabir
Justin Martinez
Max McCauslin
Delos McKnight
Beatriz & Luis Soto Carrillo
Daphne Srinivasan
Charles G. Stone II
Joanne Stuhr
David Taylor
James Tharp & James Lindheim
Danny Vinik & MaryAnn Brazil
Mark Wystrach & Ty Haney
ARTEZONA, Inc.
Blum & Poe Los Angeles/New York/Tokyo
James H. & Frances R. Allen Family Foundation
Opatrny Family Foundation
United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
Winkelman Family Charitable Fund
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022

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MOCA TUCSON STAFF
Kevin Burns, Development Manager
Laura Copelin, Deputy Director & Co-Chief Curator
Carrie Hess, Finance Director
Audrey Molloy, Communications & Development Associate
Julio César Morales, Executive Director & Co-Chief Curator
Harrison Orr, Education Manager
Josh Anthony Torres, Visitor Engagement Assistant
Dominic Valencia, Exhibition Manager & Registrar
Vikó Velázquez, Facilities Assistant
Alexis Wilkinson, Assistant Curator

MOCA TUCSON TEACHING ARTISTS
Margo Alves, Minor Mutiny Teen Leadership Program and MOCA Summer Camp
Alexis Campos, MOCA Satellite
Dante Celeiro, School of Drag
Lex Gjurasic, Stay Gold, MOCA Summer Camp and MOCA in the Community
Makenna Lockwood, MOCA Satellite, MOCA Summer Camp and MOCA in the Community
Frank Heightchew-Howard, School of Drag and Stay Gold Summer Camp
Devan Marin, MOCA Satellite
Deborah Ruiz, Young Fauves
Alyxandra Vigil-Emerson, Stay Gold
Sydney Yount, Young Fauves