

MOCA TUCSON 265 S. CHURCH AVENUE TUCSON, AZ 85701
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Installation view, *Fay Ray: PORTALS*, MOCA Tucson, 2024. Photograph by Maya Hawk.

moca
Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson

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

MOCA Tucson is the leading, 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 resource the artists and audiences of tomorrow.



Installation view, Sara Hubbs & Sarah Zapata: *Between gravity and ground*, MOCA Tucson, 2024. Photograph by Maya Hawk.



Installation view, *Juan Obando & Yoshua Okón: DEMO*, MOCA Tucson, 2024. Photograph by Julius Schlosburg.

LETTER FROM MOCA'S BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear MOCA members,

2024 has been quite the roller coaster of a year for MOCA, our treasured conduit to contemporary art. It began with our imminent arrival on the national stage with large grants from the Mellon Foundation, Teiger Foundation, and Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. It is hard to overstate both the importance and significance of this kind of acknowledgement. We are doing something right. These are the largest grants MOCA has ever received, and they've provided us the platform to be considered for other highly selective grants, including from the Ford Foundation. In addition, MOCA was also one of three recipients selected to participate in the Teiger Foundation's innovative Climate Action for Curators program, which provides additional funding and sustainability coaching to a subset of the grantees.

MOCA produced six art exhibitions in 2024, which featured the work of emerging and established artists, commissioned dozens of new artworks, engaged over 17,000 adults through public programming, directly supported 100+ artists through residencies and programs, and employed 15 teaching artists. MOCA continued to serve as a regional grant partner with the Warhol Foundation to distribute funds to artists and collectives in Pima County through the museum's Night Bloom: Grants for Artists program, which this year awarded \$60,000 to support 11 new community arts projects. This program has disbursed \$240,000 in funds to local artists since 2020.

Notwithstanding the unfortunate "Forkgate" episode, our gala in April 2024, honoring departing president Kira Weinstein, was one of the highest netting gala's we've ever thrown. This year, I can assure you there will be lots of forks and food in a theoretically more organized fashion. And it will be 32% more fun!

Locally, we received 25k in grant support from the Arts Foundation of Tucson and Southern Arizona to support teaching artists who provide in-school instruction through our signature Satellite program which provided nearly 6,000 students classroom-based art instruction. And in 2024, the museum's Summer Camp engaged youth ages 8-17 in arts-focused activities over three weeks, with instruction provided in English, Farsi, and Spanish—and this last year, MOCA was able to provide 25 scholarships to youth who had never attended a summer camp before.

Hyper-locally we had a new community partnership with Brick Box Brewery along with our sustained partnership with KXCI making our Third Thursday events more interesting, collective, and better attended than ever. It is not an overstatement to say that our arts event programming has no equal in Tucson.

These successes are the result of a collective vision built with the board, staff, our communities, and leadership over the last five years. Our Co-Directing model proved this year that collaboration works. At the end of the year, Julio Cesar Morales, on good terms, stepped down. Laura Copelin, seamlessly stepped into the Interim ED role, allowing us the luxury of a very smooth transition.

Skipping platitudes about art, I think it's fair to say that Contemporary Art is one of the strongest ways left for us to protest the senseless things happening in our world. If you are finding yourself helpless or frustrated, I would suggest becoming even more involved with MOCA than you are now.

Yours truly,



Danny Vinik
Board President

2024 EXHIBITIONS

Both interdisciplinary and experimental, MOCA's 2024 exhibitions amplified artists whose work offers radical examinations and creative solutions to our most urgent, current questions.

In the Great Hall, MOCA presented the first solo museum exhibition by Los Angeles-based artist **Fay Ray**. Featuring large-scale hanging sculptures with seven new site-specific commissions, including an immersive photo collage, Ray's exhibition was inspired by the artist's biography, histories of abstraction, spiritual iconographies, and the Sonoran Desert. Next, MOCA presented a large-scale multimedia installation by **Juan Obando** and **Yoshua Okón**, exploring the complexities of "astroturfing"—a marketing ploy that generates fake public demonstrations intended to appear as grassroots political movements.

In the East Wing Galleries, MOCA presented a video installation by artist **Sofía Córdova** that explored water in Arizona's arid landscape and in Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria. Simultaneously, a two-person exhibition by **Sara Hubbs** and **Sarah Zapata** featuring glass and textile works that combine craft-based techniques with experimental processes to explore identity, history, and futurity. Next, MOCA presented an exhibition of nine newly commissioned text-based sculptures by poet **CAConrad** that speak to ecological grief, love, and liberation alongside the first solo museum exhibition by artist and musician **Karima Walker** layering sound, sculpture, and durational performance to respond to the hydrological death of the Santa Cruz River.

In 2024, MOCA presented:

Sofía Córdova: SIN AGUA
February 2 - June 23, 2024

*Córdova's work was featured on the cover of ARTFORUM's *The Year In Review* issue with her exhibition at JOAN in Los Angeles listed as one of the best exhibitions of 2024.

Sara Hubbs and Sarah Zapata: Between gravity and ground
February 2 - June 23, 2024

*Hubbs' work was included in the major exhibition titled *Designing Motherhood* at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft. Zapata was featured in programs and exhibitions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.

Fay Ray: PORTALS
March 8 - September 22, 2024

*Ray recently opened a major solo exhibition at Compound in Long Beach featuring several works from *PORTALS* commissioned by MOCA.

CAConrad: 500 Places at Once
September 13, 2024 - February 16, 2025

*MOCA and the University of Arizona Poetry Center co-published a new collection of the artist's poems with Fivehundred Places Press.

Karima Walker: Graves for the Rain
September 13, 2024 - February 16, 2025

**Graves for the Rain* included a series of five public performances by Walker, engaging over 180 visitors in total. This exhibition at MOCA was the artist's first museum show.

Juan Obando and Yoshua Okón: DEMO
October 11, 2024 - February 9, 2025

*Obando and Okón presented an iteration of DEMO at the Noorderlicht gallery in the Netherlands and at the Museo Espacio in Aguascalientes, Mexico.



Installation view, *Sofía Córdova: SIN AGUA*, MOCA Tucson, 2024. Photograph by Maya Hawk.



Installation view, *Juan Obando & Yoshua Okón: DEMO*, MOCA Tucson, 2024. Photograph by Julius Schlosburg.

ENGAGEMENT

| 2024 ANNUAL TOTALS | |
|--|---------------|
| Overall Museum Engagement | 15,478 |
| Total Museum Visitors | 8,574 |
| Total Education Participants | 7,112 |
| MOCA Satellite (included in total education participants) | 5,941 |
| Digital Audience | 25,000 |
| Digital Engagement | 73,000 |

COVERAGE & COLLABORATIONS

SELECT PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- AZ Luminaria, *Past and future of Santa Cruz river is captured in a haunting sonic performance at MOCA*
- Lee Fang, *How to Purchase a Protest Movement*
- Southwest Contemporary, *Feminist Theory and a Family Trucking Business Inform Fay Ray's New Visions of the Borderlands*
- Southwest Contemporary, *Karima Walker's "Grief Rituals" Seek the Non-Linear Wisdom of Walking in Circles*
- Southwest Contemporary, *MOCA Tucson is an Incubation Space and "Not Just Arbitrators of Archives"*
- The Border Chronicle, *Death and New Life at the Santa Cruz River*

COLLABORATORS

- Act One
- Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum
- Arizona State University Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts*
- Arizona State University National Sustainability Teachers' Academies
- Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona*
- Bookmans Entertainment Exchange
- Border/Arte*
- Brick Box Brewery*
- Center for Imagination in the Borderlands
- CREAM Design and Print
- The Downtown Clifton
- Exo Coffee Co.
- Fivehundred places press*
- Galeria Mitotera
- Hamrah Arts Club
- KXCI Community Radio
- The Loft Cinema
- Los Descendientes de Tucson*
- Mapping Q, a program of the University of Arizona Museum of Art
- The Mexican American Heritage and History Museum*
- The Mini Time Machine Museum of Miniatures
- Native Seeds/SEARCH
- Pidgin Palace Arts
- Pima County Food Alliance (PCFA)*
- Pima County Health Department*
- Pima County Public Library
- Safos Dance Theatre*
- Sol Grant Partners*
- Sorta Summer Rowhouse*
- Southern Arizona Clay Artists (SACA)*
- Southern Arizona Film Society*
- Southern Arizona Senior Pride
- Splinter Collective
- The University of Arizona's:
 - Adalberto and Ana Guerrero Student Center*
 - Confluencer for Creative Inquiry*
 - Department of Mexican American Studies*
 - The LGBTQ+ Institute
 - Poetry Center
 - School Garden Workshop
 - School of Art

*New partner



Book launch for *Disabled Ecologies* by Sunaura Taylor in *Fay Ray: PORTALS*, MOCA Tucson, 2024. Photograph by Julius Schlosburg.

PROGRAMS

In 2024, MOCA produced and co-presented **42 public programs**. Overall, the museum reached **5,500 individuals** through free public programs alone—a **16% increase from the previous year**. The museum's popular **Free Third Thursday** program brought over **50 local organizations**, musicians, and artists to showcase their expertise and host programs at the museum, and partnered with dozens of small businesses. In the last year, this program reached **over 1,800 community members**, with an average attendance of more than 200 people each month.

MOCA's 2024 Public Programs:

Free Third Thursday

February: *Magma & Pearls* Guided Tour & Conversation with artists Keioui Keijaun Thomas & Suomo Snook

March: *Fay Ray: PORTALS* Guided Tour & Conversation with curator Laura Copelin & artist Yu Yu Shiratori

May: Pima County Food Alliance & Southern Arizona Clay Artists

June: Summer Camp Fashion Show

September: Poetry Reading by CAConrad

October: Sonoran Desert School Gardeners' Almanac Celebration

November: *Stories from Home* animations screening with Artistic Director Yvonne Montoya and artist Wesley Fawcett Creigh

December: MOCA Sidewalk Sale

Artist Talk: Keioui Keijaun Thomas

Poetry Reading: Glory Be...with Isis Awad, zee rashida, and Keioui Keijaun Thomas

Creative Workshop: TC Tolbert *Practices with Grief and Attention*

Poetry Reading: Glory Be...with TC Tolbert

Public Reception: *Sofía Córdova: SIN AGUA* and *Sara Hubbs and Sarah Zapata: Between gravity and ground*

Performance: Keioui Keijaun Thomas *Magma & Pearls*

Poetry Reading: Glory Be...with Aura Valdez, kumari giles, Naomi Ortiz, and Eva Sierra

Artists in Conversation: Sara Hubbs & Sarah Zapata

Artist Talk: Ben Morea

Public Reception: *Fay Ray: PORTALS*

Performance: *Consequencies Upon Arrival: An Ensembled Monologue* by Saretta Morgan with Amber Morningstar Byars, Raquel Gutiérrez, Sasha Hawkins, and Coco Montellano

Workshop: Arts Grant Writing Workshop with Sol Grant Partners

Conversation: Hamrah Arts Club With Nazafarin Lotfi and Mahdia Seyed Abed

Album Release: *Female Gaze Tender Futures*

Book Launch: *Disabled Ecologies* by Sunaura Taylor, moderated by Dr. Lydia Otero

Convening: Mothering + Creativity, Panel & Breakout Discussion

Public Reception: *CAConrad: 500 Places at Once* and *Karima Walker: Graves for the Rain*

Film Screening: *Fresh Kill*

Public Reception: *Juan Obando & Yoshua Okón: DEMO*

Panel Conversation: Lee Fang, Juan Obando, and Yoshua Okón

Workshop: *How To Start Your Own Art Collection* with the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona

Performance Series: *Karima Walker: Graves for the Rain*

Guided Tour & Conversation: *DEMO* by Juan Obando

NIGHT BLOOM: GRANTS FOR ARTISTS

Night Bloom: Grants for Artists is a grant program organized in partnership with **The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts** that funds collaboratively-focused visual arts projects by individual artists and artist groups within Tucson and the broader Sonoran Desert region. **In 2024, this program disbursed \$60,000** to support new community arts projects. Since launching the program in 2020, Night Bloom has provided **\$240,000 in direct funds to artists working in Pima County**.

The 2024 grant cohort included **11 projects**:

- **Cybertramp** by Jazzy Benson (aka Jazzy Boho)
- **Deep Rooted Guidance** by Palmira Miro Gutierrez
- **Earth, Bloody** by Desireé Arevalo
- **Extra Space** by Alex Von Bergen
- **Hollow Space, Solid Body** by Sara Hubbs and Yu Yu Shiratori
- **LANDING PLACE** by Kimi Eisele and Maxie Adler
- **Lilith: A Dark Erotic Arts Experience** by Knomi Flores and Allyson Plantz
- **Ok Well Tucson** by Anto Chávez and Emilia Villegas
- **Precious Cargo** by rocki swiderski, Kevin Fisher, and the American Institute of Thoughts and Feelings.
- **The Covenant Project** by Elizabeth Denneau
- **Urgent Care Art** by Lex Gjurasic and Eli Burke



Opening reception, *CAConrad: 500 Places at Once*, MOCA Tucson, 2024. Photograph by Julius Schlosburg.

FUNDRAISING

Over **370 attendees** joined our annual gala to celebrate **Kira Dixon-Weinstein**, MOCA's departing Board President, following her fifteen year service to the museum. The evening featured live music by the Mexican Institute of Sound and silent and live auctions—all in support of MOCA's exhibitions and programs featuring contemporary artists in the borderlands and beyond.

The Gala was **sponsored by companies and individuals from across Tucson**, including The Gadsden Company, HSL Properties, Desert Diamond Casinos, Copenhagen Imports, John & Kristi Lai, Hazelbaker & Ranek, Rio Nuevo District, Cox, Click Family Foundation, Hecker Pew PLLC, Phaedra Wilson with Altitude Home Loans, The Sundt Team, Tucson Lifestyle Magazine, Brink Media, KXCI Community Radio, The Loft Cinema, Lori Carroll & Associates, Don & Nan Rollings, Dad Grass, Iron John's, Monsoon Production Services, Nossa Imports, Sonoran Ocotillo, LLC., Suncliffe Gin, Tucson Foodie, and West Press.

Gala net income: \$125,637

MOCA's 2024 fall season included a successful community **Membership Drive** featuring new MOCA merchandise and **MOCA at Home: Iconic Tucson Architecture**, a series of three intimate events celebrating art and architecture in Tucson.

These events also marked the launch of MOCA's new **Planned Giving program**, initiated in partnership with Marcia & Tim McDonough, and with support from the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. Special thanks to **Michael & Angela Kapp, Marcia & Tim McDonough, and Evie Stefenson-Marquart & Andy Burgess** for hosting these events.



2024 Gala, MOCA Tucson, 2024. Photograph by Julius Schlosburg.

EDUCATION

MOCA's **education programs** are an integral aspect of the museum's public programming and support our ongoing efforts to amplify and actively **co-create opportunities for community-based learning and leadership in the arts**. In 2024, the museum continued to offer its signature programs, Minor Mutiny, Satellite, Stay Gold, and Summer Camp.

MOCA Satellite, the museum's popular free mobile arts learning program, brought teaching artists into classrooms across 5 Pima County districts to engage youth and certified educators in curriculum connected to MOCA's exhibitions. In 2024-2025, **the program expanded its reach to 6,000 participants at 86 schools, and provided bilingual programming to over 1,000 students**.

The museum's arts-focused **summer camp celebrated its 10th year** with "DIY Fashion Lab" themed sessions, engaging youth in art-making, play-based learning, and collaboration focused on sustainable fashion concepts and activities. This year, **MOCA provided 25 scholarships** to youth who had never attended a summer camp before, and for the first time, **offered sessions in Spanish, Farsi, and English languages**—a significant milestone that demonstrates the program's commitment to inclusivity and broadened access for families and students who lack arts learning opportunities.

A significant achievement of the education program in 2024 was the co-facilitation of Hamrah Arts Club at MOCA. Founded in 2021 by artist Nazafarin Lotfi, this **multilingual arts program reaches refugee-status, asylum-seeking, and immigrant youth** aged 12 to 17. In 2024, this program was co-led by Mariel Miranda (MOCA Education Department) and Sirilak Rottler who **drew upon their diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds** to adopt an asset-based approach in education and community building. The program has primarily served Afghan and Syrian youth, and in 2024, welcomed Hispanic and Latinx youth to foster intercultural solidarity.



Stay Gold Chalk Activation, MOCA Tucson, 2024. Photograph by Julius Schlosburg.

FY24 FINANCES

Fiscal Year 2024 was a planned growth year for MOCA: the museum expanded its team and advanced key staff members, increased artistic compensation, and met several newly expanded development goals. Shortfalls in individual giving alongside delays in grant awards contributed to a moderate end of year deficit. This shortfall was largely offset by **new multi-year grant funding awards** received in 2024 from the Mellon Foundation and Teiger Foundation, alongside ongoing support from the Windgate Foundation, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and the Arizona Commission on the Arts. **These successes have provided the support and recognition necessary for the museum to leverage subsequent funding sources** anticipated in FY25, which will help stabilize and sustain museum operations moving forward.

As in FY23, while the museum maintained fundraising efforts, its overall **focus in 2024 was on expanding operational capacity, cultivating new and existing partnerships, and increasing audience engagement in meaningful ways.** MOCA underspent on budgeted expenses and launched a new Planned Giving initiative—an action that invites new, longer-term pathways for individuals to support the museum.

| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Revenue | \$817,419 | \$814,140 | \$975,359 |
| Expense | \$821,848 | \$911,891 | \$994,375 |
| Net | -\$4,429 | -\$102,002 | -\$20,942 |

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

MOCA received **significant support from local and national granting agencies** in 2024 with new, amplified support from private foundations—amounting to over \$500,000 in grant funds in 2024 to assist in the production and implementation of the museum’s exhibitions, programs, and operations. In 2024, the museum was awarded three-years of funding from the **Teiger Foundation** to support exhibitions and programming, and is one of three in their cohort to receive an additional **Climate Action Grant**. The museum was also awarded a multi-year grant from the **Mellon Foundation**, the largest MOCA has ever received, in support of the museum’s programs and future plans. Ongoing support from **The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts** through their Regional Regranting Program supported the museum’s *Night Bloom: Grants for Artists* program, which provided \$60,000 to 11 new arts projects in Pima County. Additional, project-based support from **Arizona Humanities, Foundation for Contemporary Art,** and **Community Foundation for Southern Arizona,** supported the museum’s 40+ public programs, with continued support for MOCA’s education program, *Satellite*, from the **Windgate Foundation**.

FY 2024 REVENUE BY CATEGORY

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Board Giving | \$27,864 |
| Individual Gifts | \$88,192 |
| Corporate Gifts | \$4,400 |
| Private Foundation & Government Grants | \$505,400 |
| Admissions & MOCA Shop | \$15,092 |
| Membership | \$19,324 |
| Special Events & Fundraising | \$280,185 |
| Rentals & Fee-for-Service Programs | \$19,099 |
| Investment Interest | \$8,403 |

2024 MAJOR GIFTS

\$50,000+

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts
Teiger Foundation

\$25,000+

Arizona Commission on the Arts
Courtney E. Johnson
Kasser Family
Marcia & Tim McDonough
Windgate Foundation

\$10,000+

Arizona Humanities
Arts Foundation for Tucson & Southern Arizona
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
The Gadsden Company
HSL Properties
Evie Stefenson-Marquart & Edward Marquart

\$5,000+

Elizabeth Cherry & Olivier Mosset
Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment
Marjorie & Jerry Dixon
Angela & Michael Kapp
Lisa Lovallo & Terri Kessler
University of Arizona Poetry Center

\$2,500+

Annamaria & Giuseppe Biagini
Connie Hillman Foundation
Mary Ann Brazil & Danny Vinik
Kira Dixon-Weinstein & Adam Weinstein
Randi Dorman
Cynthia Hansen / Copenhagen Imports
James H. and Frances R. Allen Family
Foundation
Kristi & John Lai
Nazarian / Curcio
Jeanne & Mike Pickering
Anne Ranek & Paolo DeLorenzo
David Taylor

\$1,000+

Anonymous
Albert Chamillard
Laura & Ken Charest
Jim Click
Darbi Davis
Jodi Engelberg & Jurg Zundel
Susan & John Hand
Anne Maley-Schaffner
Max McCauslin & John Smith
Grace McEniry & Jack Rodat
Lauren & Will Pew
Frank Propati
Rio Nuevo District
Deborah & Jim Quirk
Bettie Schroth Johnson
Jeannette Segel
Beatriz & Luis Soto Carrillo
Daphne Srinivasan
Sally & Joshua Strebel
Melissa Vito
Jane & Bob Wienke

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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David Taylor

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Randi Dorman, Emeritus
Courtney Johnson, Emeritus
Terri Kessler, Emeritus
Joanne Stuhr, Emeritus

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John Hudak, Emeritus
Olivier Mosset, Emeritus

MOCA TUCSON STAFF

Laura Copelin, Deputy Director & Lead Curator
Carrie Hess, Finance Director
Alyx Lunada, Facilities Assistant
Mariel Miranda, Head of Interdisciplinary
Learning & Engagement Research
Audrey Molloy, Communications &
Development Manager
Julio César Morales, Executive Director & Lead
Curator
Calista Olander, Gallery & Administrative
Assistant
Dominic Valencia, Lead Exhibition Installation &
Design
Alexis Wilkinson, Curator
Spencer Yeager, Visitor Engagement Assistant

MOCA TUCSON TEACHING ARTISTS

Mariel Miranda, Hamrah Arts Club, Minor
Mutiny, Stay Gold, and Summer Camp
Sirilak Rottler, Hamrah Arts Club
Djamila Jean Charles, Minor Mutiny
Alexis Campos, MOCA Satellite
Dani Valencia, MOCA Satellite
Dante Celeiro, School of Drag
Frankie Heightchew-Howard, School of Drag
CAConrad, Stay Gold
Paul Elliot, Stay Gold and Summer Camp
Madeline Schierl, Stay Gold
Karina Buzzi, Summer Camp
Raquel Denis, Summer Camp



Opening reception, Fay Ray: *PORTALS*, MOCA Tucson, 2024. Photograph by Julius Schlosburg.