

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



CLYFFORD STILL | MUSEUM





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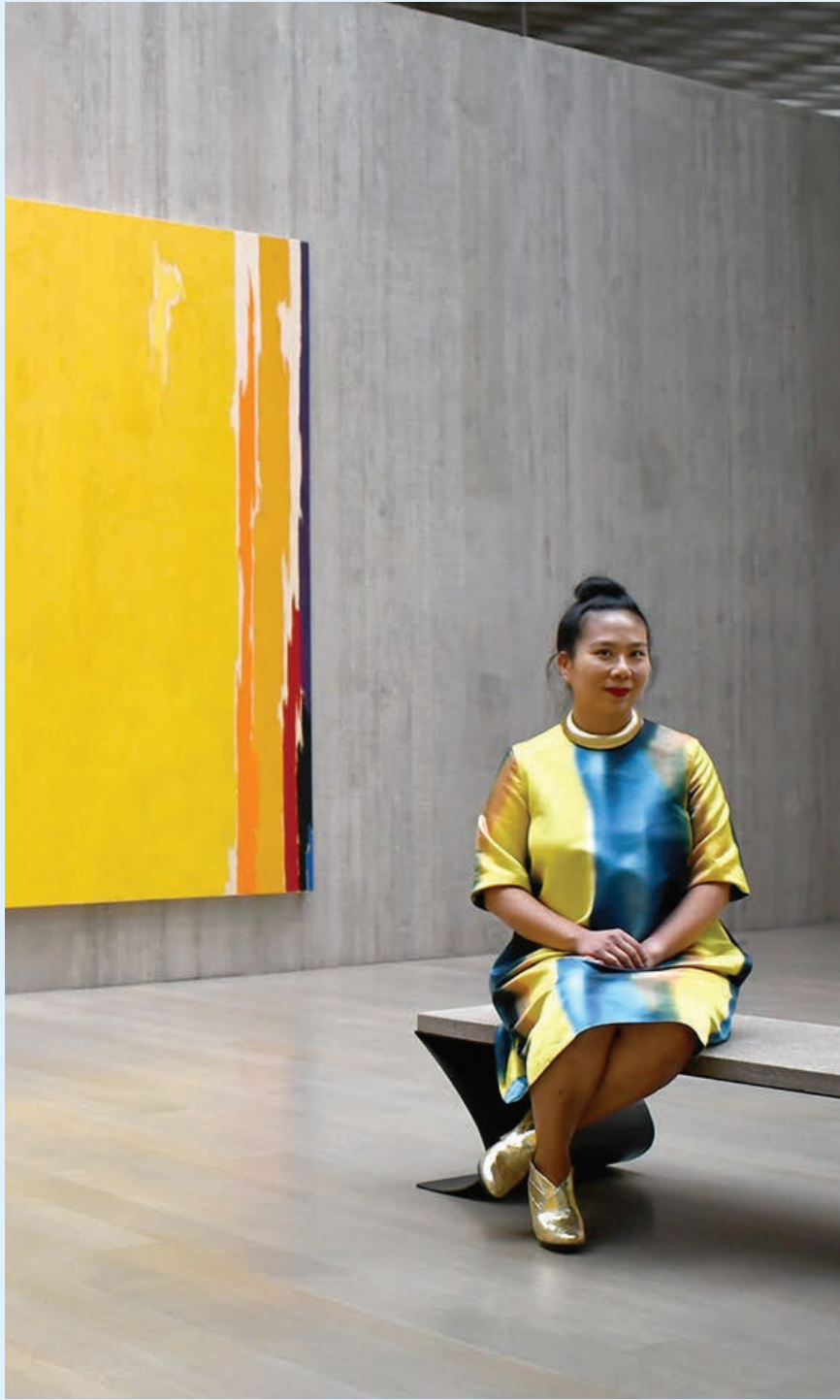
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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Clyfford Still Museum stewards a collection that our namesake and his widow entrusted to the City and County of Denver. Long-time members come to us to draw inspiration, strength, and aesthetic nourishment in our galleries. We've had new members join to take advantage of our growing family programs, including a new, wildly popular, and adorable infant program, Art Crawl.

In 2022, we closed the first exhibition celebrating the year-long celebration of our tenth anniversary in Denver. After *A Decade of Discovery: Clyfford Still in Denver*, we opened ourselves to the future with *Clyfford Still, Art, and the Young Mind*. The show was the first exhibition developed from start to finish with children and their educators across the Front Range, from head-start programs to public schools just down the street from us. *Young Mind* was not just an exhibition. It inaugurated CSM's long-term commitment to learning with and from children while welcoming the families and communities to which they belong. The show built upon research on how early children can share with us what forms and colors they love most, how crucial it is to encourage babies to look with us, and how exposure to art at an early age enhances their development. Throughout the spring and summer, our staff studied how children and families engaged at the Museum and worked with experts to advance our understanding in this field.

As the Museum's tenth anniversary ended, we celebrated our community by showcasing an exhibition curated by our extended networks. *You Select: A Community-Curated Exhibition* drew upon the insights and perspectives of our communities and the ways we seek to enhance, strengthen, and empower them. The show and programs honored a community that has welcomed and enjoyed our museum for over a decade.

Our Museum is deeply embedded in our varied, extended communities. At CSM, we can all feel our connection more fully to one another in front of Still's brilliant paintings and drawings. I'm lucky to spend every day in a museum thoughtfully designed to give visitors a sense of the care invested in preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting Still's art. This is a thrilling time to be at the Clyfford Still Museum.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joyce'.

Joyce Tsai, Ph.D.  
Director



## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susannah Drake, FASLA, FAIA, *president as of September 2022*

Christopher W. Hunt, *president through May 2022*

Morris Susman, M.D., *vice president*

Christy Overgard MacLear, *secretary*

Daniel Benel, *treasurer*

Sandra L. Still Campbell

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Andrew Freyer

Chris Hinds, *city council representative*

Julie Kent

Bobby LeFebre

Robert McDaniel

Maruca Salazar

Judy Schiff

Ginger White



# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## EXHIBITIONS

### *A Decade of Discovery: Clyfford Still in Denver*

October 15, 2021–March 6, 2022

Since opening in 2011, the Clyfford Still Museum has made countless discoveries as the staff has worked to inventory and assess CSM’s vast art and archival holdings; better understand visitors’ interests; learn how various audiences best experience Clyfford Still’s art; and evaluate the artist’s legacy in an ever-changing, 21st-century world.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of CSM’s grand opening and to reflect upon subsequent progress, *A Decade of Discovery: Clyfford Still in Denver* took inspiration from the Museum’s groundbreaking inaugural exhibition while highlighting some of the most compelling revelations along the way. Featured surprises included archival photographs of lost paintings from the 1930s with locations currently unknown; undocumented and mysterious artworks found during inventory; ways in which CSM’s understanding of Still’s earliest years and artistic training has expanded; and even a few architectural quirks of the building. The exhibition text included various staff, scholarly, and community voices to broaden engagement and present a wide range of perspectives.

The Museum staff added several new interpretive elements to the galleries for the first time during *A Decade of Discovery*. The Museum showed an unprecedented number of archival photographs, inventory records, and correspondence alongside related artworks. With CSM’s commitment to serving young children and their families in mind,



the interpretation team created several artwork labels specifically designed to engage families with young children.

This exhibition kicked off a year-long, community-centered presentation of public programs, exhibitions, and partnerships. Beginning with this exhibition highlighting CSM’s growth over the course of its foundational decade, the Museum’s tenth anniversary celebration evolved in 2022 to articulate goals for the next ten years.

### *Clyfford Still, Art, and the Young Mind*

March 11–August 7, 2022

To launch a new initiative welcoming children into the Museum, CSM organized its galleries for the first time to engage early learners and their families in a groundbreaking exhibition for all ages. The first four galleries charted the artistic journey of Clyfford Still in chronological order. Artworks were selected with families and children in mind and hung lower on the walls to account for the height of young visitors. The remaining galleries featured *Clyfford Still, Art, and the Young Mind*, the first show the Museum curated in collaboration with its community.

Co-curated with children from across the Front Range aged six months old to eight years old, *Clyfford Still, Art, and the Young Mind* revealed how children think about art. Co-curators Bailey Placzek and Nicole Cromartie organized the exhibition into five gallery themes: High Contrast, Scale, Pattern, The World Around Us, and Color. The themes correspond with key stages researchers have identified in children’s preferences. Using existing research about visual development and aesthetic preferences in young children as an organizational framework, Placzek and Cromartie worked with local children to better understand the preferences of the children in our community and specifically in regards to the work of Clyfford Still. Local children selected and arranged their favorite artworks; shared their perspectives for the gallery and audio content; and helped design interactive activities.

Though primarily created by and for early learners, the exhibition included various levels of engagement so visitors of all ages could explore abstraction, the progression of visual function and preference, and the intrinsic power behind Clyfford Still’s art. Breaking down the

*(continued on next page)*





EXHIBITIONS

Young Mind (continued)

misconception that abstraction is too complex for young children, *Clyfford Still, Art, and the Young Mind* presented current—and generated new—research illuminating the rich benefits of art museum experiences in young children’s lives.

The exhibition featured several interactive experiences including installations of prisms and mirrors on the terraces; an interactive art projection activity; behind-the-scenes videos of infants selecting paintings; and perspectives from the young co-curators in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language available on a smart device via QR codes.

The *Young Mind* exhibition fundamentally changed the way the Clyfford Still Museum operates, from the early exhibition conceptualization stage (collaborative development and planning) to the installation phase (hanging height of objects), and beyond (marketing strategies and programming).

School partner co-curators include infants, Colorado State University’s Early Childhood Center, Fort Collins, CO; infants–toddlers, Catholic Charities Mariposa Child Care Center, Denver; pre-K students, Head Start at the Dagny School, Lafayette, CO; pre-K students, Boulder Journey School, Boulder, CO; kindergarten–second grade students, Center for Talent Development, Denver; first–second grade students, Gust Elementary School, Denver; and first–third grade students, Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment, Denver; and Rocky Mountain Deaf School, Denver.

In addition to area schools, thought partners for this exhibition include Michael Barla, Olivia Coyne, Nathaniel Cradle, Kathy Danko-McGhee, Jacie Engel, Erin Ford, Enola Garland, Tiffany Hoglind, Karl Horeis, Victoria Martinez, Katherine Millichamp, Akane Ogren Orlandella, Jessica Plate, Alison Vaccaro, Kristen Zimbelman, the School of Education & Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver, the Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Colorado Head Start Association.



EXHIBITIONS

You Select: A Community-Curated Exhibition

August 19, 2022–February 12, 2023

In the final exhibition celebrating the tenth anniversary of Clyfford Still Museum, *You Select: A Community-Curated Exhibition* celebrated CSM’s various community and support networks.

Clyfford Still positioned himself as an isolated outsider, but he clearly understood the importance of community. He willed his collection comprising more than 3,000 objects to an American city, ensuring that his life’s work would be part of a larger civic enterprise. CSM exists because the City and County of Denver and Still’s family committed themselves to executing his vision. The Museum allows the vibrant members of our community to gather and explore the myriad facets of Still’s art and thought.

Designed to foster far-reaching engagement with the collection and encourage visitors to reflect upon their own varied systems of support, *You Select* directly incorporated audience feedback and perspectives. Through a voting platform on the Museum’s website, CSM asked art lovers from the Denver area and beyond to select works in five different categories that represent distinct moments when Still’s environs were particularly influential on him: West Coast Revolution, High-Impact Color, Richmond, Abstract Expressionism, and Movement. After an eight-week voting period, CSM’s curator Bailey Placzek arranged the pieces that received the most votes on the walls of the Museum’s skylit galleries. Exhibition gallery text and interpretive content incorporated participants’ thoughts and drew attention to the affinities between Still’s communal ties and those of the Museum.

The show also included an interactive voting feature in the final gallery for visitors to choose their favorite painting after exploring the exhibition. *You Select* began in gallery 5 following a selection of collection highlights installed in galleries 1–4.





## MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Starting in February, the Clyfford Still Museum closed to the public on Tuesdays to allow us to invest in our staff and improve the visitor experience. During the Tuesday closures, CSM prepared for *Clyfford Still, Art, and the Young Mind*; pursued strategic initiatives; and created pathways to collaborate, engage, and learn together.

In March, the popular hands-on art studio The Making Space reopened for the first time since March 2020 with new activities, materials, a refreshed design, and graphics featuring English and Spanish text. CSM staff worked with *Young Mind* school partner Colorado State University Early Childhood Center to revamp the materials and ensure they are appropriate for all children and families.

In preparation for the *Young Mind* exhibition, CSM staff walked the galleries with some of our young co-curators during exhibition planning to see how they interact with the space, then incorporated their feedback. In the exhibition, staff hung all the smaller paintings lower on the walls. The galleries also included several comfortable areas with floor cushions for people of all ages to enjoy the art from different perspectives. Young co-curators also shaped the style and length of wall text, and the Museum included all wall text in English and Spanish for the first time. The Museum also highlighted the Art Protector program in a new bilingual looping video in the lobbies with

additional instructions upstairs in the galleries. The program encourages children and their adults to keep the art safe by reminding them to look carefully but not touch, and to take two big steps away from the art. Young visitors continued to receive Art Protector stickers at the front desk as well as a Bilingual Family Activity Book. The Museum also provided a bilingual tactile book with untreated and painted canvas samples for checkout at the front desk.

To reaffirm the importance of not touching the art and empower audiences to help educate others on why protecting the art is important, CSM included a new Art Protector installation for all ages on the concrete wall in the first gallery during *You Select*.

*Young Mind* co-curators Bailey Placzek and Nicole Cromartie presented “Places of Possibility: How Children Transform our Practices” at the American Alliance of Museums’ annual conference in Boston in May. Their presentation focused on *Young Mind*’s development process. Placzek and Cromartie published the article, “*This drawing is a tunnel for a hungry monster,*” *Collaborative Curation with Young Children at the Clyfford Still Museum*, in *Exhibition*, a journal of exhibition theory and practice.

The Museum also partnered with several researchers on the *Young Mind* exhibition. One *(continued on next page)*



## MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

of these studies is with Kathy Danko-McGhee, Ph.D., who conducted a study at the Museum to understand how CSM visitors utilize her company’s Baby Art and Literacy Packs. She identified caregivers of 2- to 18-month-old children to participate in a study to determine the effectiveness of the Baby Art and Literacy Packs designed specifically for CSM.

Additionally, CSM contracted with Trainer Evaluation, a Denver-based, nationally recognized museum evaluation company, to help assess if we met our ambitious goals for *Young Mind*. Trainer Evaluation conducted qualitative interviews and, with our volunteers’ help, collected 346 surveys from visitors that captured their feedback about changes instituted for the exhibition from March to August 2022. The summative evaluation revealed that not only do caregivers support the learning of children, as is often seen in informal learning environments, like museums, but that children also scaffold adult learning. Additionally, the added exhibition features enhanced the experience for ALL visitors, not just children or adults visiting with children.

In the spring, CSM staff Bailey Placzek and Erin Shafer began working on the Colville Confederated Tribes Project. With the guidance of Michael Holloman, associate professor of fine arts and coordinator of Native Arts Outreach and Education at Washington State University (WSU) and Colville Confederated Tribes member, Placzek and Shafer traveled to Washington State University and the Colville Reservation. The goals for the project included introduction, discovery, conversation, and partnership. Understanding that relationships with WSU and the tribal community take time to foster, they did not expect immediate offers for collaboration. Instead, they hoped to engage people in meaningful conversations, listen, and perhaps uncover new perspectives about CSM’s collections.

CSM dedicated a wall in the works-on-paper gallery in *You Select: A Community-Curated Exhibition* to the Colville Tribal Community and its significant impact on Still’s life and career. The exhibition included three of Still’s Nespelem portraits, which represent individuals who feature *(continued on next page)*





## MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

prominently in CSM’s collections and whose families have played significant roles in the tribal community’s history. Placzek and Shafer met with members of the families in the portraits on their trip to Pullman and Nespelem.

For the first time in more than two years, CSM brought students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade into the Museum for *inStill Gallery Experiences* in fall 2022. From 2020 through spring 2022, CSM only offered inStill Live, a virtual program for schools. inStill Gallery Experiences are free to schools, and bus funding is available. Lessons are available in English, Spanish, or bilingual. Students in kindergarten through 5th grades explore how they can be artists in “You Are An Artist.” In “Art and Ideas,” students in grades 6–12 explore the ways artists communicate and how viewers interpret their ideas. In addition to gallery experiences, CSM continued to offer free *inStill Live* virtual experiences for K–12 grades during the 2022–23 school year.

In the fall, the Museum started *Abstract Expressions*, a project to evolve the outdoor terraces for the first time since the Museum opened in 2011. The Museum worked with composer and artist Nathan Hall, and Kevin Philip Williams, assistant curator of the Denver Botanic Gardens, to reimagine these spaces through sound and landscape design. The Museum removed the old plants in the fall to make way for the sound elements and new plants in spring 2023.

In November, the Museum released *Colorfully Courageous: Clyfford Still*. The CSM-commissioned children’s book explores the art and life of Clyfford Still. Written by Jason Gruhl and illustrated by Jonathan Saiz, the book offers teachers, homeschool communities, and caregivers a valuable resource to encourage children to express themselves in paint, song, or dance. *Colorfully Courageous* is available for purchase in CSM’s shop, Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Denver Art Museum, SFMoMA, and Denver’s Tattered Cover. Library card holders can check out a copy at the Denver Public Library.



In December, the Museum did a soft launch for its new digital guide on Bloomberg Connects, the free arts and cultural app created by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The Bloomberg Connects app, available via Google Play or the App Store, makes CSM accessible for onsite or offsite visits through photo, audio, and video features, and offers insights into current and past exhibitions, the collections, family resources, programs, and more. CSM plans to expand mobile guide content on the app in future exhibitions.

## 2022 PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

After pausing in-person programs during the pandemic, the Museum reintroduced two audience-favorite programs. Music in the Galleries returned in fall 2021 and continued in 2022. STILLness: Mediation in the Galleries returned in the spring. Partners for Music in the Galleries include Friends of Chamber Music and Swallow Hill Music and for STILLness, CSM partners with the Zen Center of Denver and The Shambhala Center.

On March 6, The Clyfford Still Museum hosted a conversation about the intersection of art and architecture at the Sharp Auditorium at the Denver Art Museum. The panel discussion featured Spencer Bailey, editor and writer; Harry Cooper, head of modern and contemporary art at the National Gallery; Brad Cloepfil, principal architect at Allied Works; and Joyce Tsai, CSM director. The panel also simulcasted live on CSM’s YouTube channel.

In March, the Museum launched Art Crawl, a program for caregivers with newborns through 14 months focusing on community and skill building with a new theme each month. During the program, a CSM educator leads families through the galleries, encouraging an interactive discussion on introducing the caregiver’s baby to art and giving tips for experiencing art together. Since its inception, nearly all Art Crawl sold out.

The Museum hosted large free community programs including Día del Niño in April, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Celebration in July, two summer lawn concerts, and SCFD Free Days each month.

CSM’s largest and most famous painting, PH-247, 1951, also affectionately known to members, visitors, and staff as “Big Blue,” went off view in August for only the second time in the history of the Museum. For more than a decade, CSM had the painting on view in different galleries, only deinstalling it once. Too large to store or transport stretched, CSM staff hosted a program where visitors watched as the team rolled the painting and placed it in storage, where it will remain for several years.

In November, Bailey Placzek and Erin Shafer hosted a panel discussion with Michael Holloman of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, an associate professor of art history at Washington State University, and John Eli Sirois say’ ay’, a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and of the respective Okanagan, Methow, and Wenatchi Tribes. During the panel, Placzek and Shafer dove deeper into the Nespelem archival holdings and shared about their trip to the Reservation. The program took place in the Museum lobby and streamed live on YouTube.





NEW ENGAGEMENT AND PLANNING

Starting in August, the Museum leadership team began working collaboratively with staff and board members over the course of several months to create a blueprint based on recommendations from The Equity Project, a leading equity, diversity, and inclusion consulting firm. At the same time, the team worked with everyone at CSM on the 2023–2025 Strategic Plan, which will help shape the Museum’s priorities over the next three years and provide a roadmap on how to accomplish long-term goals. Both plans were adopted by the Board of Directors in February 2023.



2022 STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Sanya Andersen-Vie  
Anna Boatwright  
Desiree Dick  
David Finch  
Rochelle Johnson  
Majken Koczara  
Meghan Morin  
Joan Prusse  
Barbara Russell  
Marna Steuart  
Joyce Tsai  
Katie Watson-Best  
Taylor Wilson

COLLECTIONS

Milo Carpenter  
Michal Mikesell  
Bailey Placzek  
Britt Scholnick  
Erin Shafer  
Pam Skiles  
James Squires  
Katherine Wilson

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Marie Azzaro  
Mario Chavez  
Andrew Cushen  
Jennifer Davey  
Patrick Harrison  
Katherine Kidd  
Joseph Quinto  
Anthony Telles  
Allie Todd

EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

Steven Aguiló-Arbues  
Sophie Aldinger  
Alicia Baeza  
Marissa Brown  
Emily Bullard  
Mitra Chamanbahar  
Nicole Cromartie  
Nicole Fleck  
Allyson Johnson  
Corinne Kannenberg  
Kenda Keenan  
Hannah Lim  
Marilyn Lindenbaum  
Quána Madison  
Lisa Roll Moore  
Gillian Terespolski  
Melissa Thoet  
Emily Townsend  
Kaitlyn Tucek  
Luisa Zamora  
Caterina Zischke-Rincon





## FINANCIAL REPORT

The summarized financial information below reflects year-end results for the Museum’s operations during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
For the year ended December 31, 2022		
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
<i>Gifts and Grants</i>		
SCFD		\$373,812
Government grant		\$305,447
Grants from related entity		\$3,160,351
<i>General contributions</i>		\$95,012
<i>Admissions</i>		\$107,230
<i>Membership</i>		\$73,894
<i>Other</i>		\$69,437
<i>Investment income</i>		\$0
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE		\$4,185,183
EXPENSES		
<i>Program Services</i>		
Education and programs		\$1,111,249
Museum building and galleries		\$889,518
Exhibitions and collections		\$1,205,522
<i>Supporting Services</i>		
General and administrative		\$1,777,679
Fundraising		\$189,645
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$5,173,613
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		(\$988,430)

(Excludes Clyfford Still Museum Foundation)

## CONTRIBUTORS AND SUPPORTERS

- \$100,000+

Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
- \$10,000–\$99,999

The Clyfford E. Still Endowment Fund

PNC Foundation *Grow up Great Program*

Margulf Foundation

Deborah Buck Foundation

Susannah Drake and Montgomery Cleworth

National Endowment for the Arts through Colorado Creative Industries

Riverfront Park Community Foundation

Wisecarver-Brown Charitable Trust
- \$1,000–\$9,999

MetrixIQ / Rob McDaniel

Morris and Ellen Susman
- UP TO \$999

Too many to list, thank you!



## MEMBERSHIP (\$1,000 LEVEL AND ABOVE)

- FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

Morris and Ellen Susman
- DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$5,000)

Angela and Jeremy Flug

Sharon and J. Landis Martin

Lizabeth Lynner and James Palenchar

Maria and Craig Ponzio
- CURATOR'S CIRCLE (\$2,500)

Joan Prusse and Robert Musgraves

Myra and Robert Rich

- LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (\$1,000)
- Ellen Bruss and Mark Falcone
- Merle Chambers
- Susannah Drake and Montgomery Cleworth
- Jennifer Evans and Jack Tankersley
- Hugh Grant
- Bernice Harris and Teb Blackwell
- Robin and John Hickenlooper
- Kate and Rob McDaniel
- Laura and David Merage
- Sarah and George Messina
- Judy and Rick Schiff
- Christian Schlecht





All photos by James Dewhirst, Torch Media, and CSM Staff