2013 was another stellar year for the Art Center. We achieved new records in fundraising, studio class enrollment, and Museum Shop sales; added new outreach partners; acquired major works of art for the permanent collections by artists such as Olafur Eliasson, Damien Hirst, Fischli & Weiss, and Fred Wilson; and presented exhibitions of global scope. Eliasson’s new work was a commission for the Pappajohn Sculpture Park, which enhanced our already very visible presence in downtown Des Moines. In addition, we published a new permanent collections catalog, doubling the size of the previous edition.

The Art Center applied for and received accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums for the first time in its history. This self evaluation and field review process helped us to enhance existing policies and procedures and to create new ones where needed. The staff, board, and the community also developed a new three-year strategic plan focusing on three major components: “shouting out” or better informing the Des Moines community about what we do; enhancing and building relationships with donors and various audiences; and improving our physical and logistical infrastructures. We sadly said goodbye to our longstanding restaurant manager, but acquired qualitative new managers in Sara Hill and David Baruthio who will maintain the “destination restaurant” reputation of our unique facility.

Through all of these activities, the Art Center has touched and transformed thousands of lives. We could not do this work without the participation of the Des Moines metro; our enthusiastic individual, corporate, and foundation supporters; and a community that expects excellence in all that we do. Thank you for your support. We look forward to an exciting and equally rewarding 2014.

JEFF FLEMING / DIRECTOR
JIM HUBBELL / PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE ART CENTER PRESENTED 14 EXHIBITIONS IN 2013 offering an international array of artists in a variety of formats. Artists from countries as diverse as Great Britain, Iran, Israel, Nigeria, and South Korea and worked with the Art Center to present the best of the art of our time. Group and solo projects featured works in video, performance, painting, installation, photography, sculpture, printmaking, and drawing, and added scholarship to the cultural record.

Vibrations
January 22 – May 12, 2013 / Print Gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

Double Feature: Art and the Movies
January 22 – April 14, 2013 / Blank One Gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

1 Single Channel 3: Time and Circumstance
Superflex (Denmark)
February 1 – April 28, 2013 / Meier video gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

2 Transparencies: Contemporary Art and A History of Glass
February 21 – May 22, 2013 / Anna K. Meredith Gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

Kathranne Knight: Iowa Artists 2013
April 19 – July 28, 2013 / Blank One Gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

3 Foss Projects: Iowa Artists 2013
April 26 – 28, 2013 / Museum Services Center, Maytag Courtyard, Levitt Auditorium
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

Midwest Pressed: Recent Works by Tim Dooley and Aaron Wilson: Iowa Artists 2013
August 2 – October 13, 2013 / Blank One Gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

1 Superflex (Danish artist collective, founded 1993). Flooded McDonald’s 2009
Film, 21 minutes. Courtesy of the artists

283278

3 “Love’s Labours Lost” Foss Projects. Courtesy of Matt Foss

4 Phyllida Barlow (British, born 1944)
untitled: sadblackmonument 2013. Polystyrene, paper, pu foam, cement, scrim, paint, pva, steel armatures
untitled: 11awnings 2013. Steel armature, polyurethane board, polyurethane foam, cement, scrim, fabric
untitled: screestage 2013. Steel armature, timber, plywood, scrim, cement, polyurethane foam, PVA, paint
Courtesy of the artist and Hauser & Wirth. Photography © Paul Crosby

6 RAN HWANG (Korean, born 1960). Garden of Water 2010
Beads, crystal, pins, video on Plexiglas. Overall: 90 9/16 x 118 1/8 inches Panel (6 panels total, each): 90 9/16 x 19 11/16 inches Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of the artist and Leila Heller Gallery, New York, 2013.5.a-g
single-channel 4: gravitas
Gilad Ratman (Tel Aviv/New York)
May 3 – July 7, 2013 / Meier Video Gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

L’estampe originale: Painters, Printers, Paris
May 17 – September 8, 2013 / Print Gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

Phyllida Barlow: scree
June 21 – September 22, 2013
Upper I. M. Pei Gallery and Anna K. Meredith Gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center
(image on page 3)

Single-channel 4: Gravitas
Adad Hannah (Canada)
July 12 – September 8, 2013 / Meier Video Gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

Wild Kingdom: Prints of Britain
September 13, 2013 – January 12, 2014 / Print Gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

Single-channel 4: Gravitas
Richard T. Walker (British, lives and works in San Francisco)
September 13 – January 5, 2014 / Meier Video Gallery
Organized by the Des Moines Art Center

Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui
October 24, 2013 – February 9, 2014
Anna K. Meredith Gallery / I. M. Pei Building
Richard Meier building
Organized by the Akron Art Museum
THE ART CENTER ACCESSIONED 90 WORKS OF ART INTO THE PERMANENT COLLECTIONS THROUGH GIFTS AND PURCHASES IN 2013. The international roster of artists represented in this list came from Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. The artworks included gifts from Keith Shaver, who gave the Art Center 21 prints by Modern masters; the Frederick Hammersley Foundation, which gave three prints; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, which gave 21 Polaroids; and other donors such as David Hurd, Anastasia Polydoran, and the Print Club. In addition, with funds provided by John and Mary Pappajohn, the Art Center commissioned Olafur Eliasson to create a new work for the Pappajohn Sculpture Park.

SELECTIONS FROM OUR NEW ACCESSIONS

1. LOUISE BOURGEOIS (French-American, 1911 – 2010)
   Spider 1997 (image on page 7)
   Bronze / 90 x 88 x 86 inches
   Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of John and Mary Pappajohn, 2013.1
   Photo Credit: Rich Sanders, Des Moines

2. GILAD RATMAN (Israeli, born 1975)
   The Days of the Family of the Bell 2012
   HD Video / Running Time: 4min. 57sec.
   Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., 2013.2

3. FRED WILSON (American, born 1945)
   Iago's Mirror 2009
   Murano glass / 80 x 48 3/4 x 10 1/2 inches
   Purchased with funds from the Coffin Fine Arts Trust; Nathan Emory Coffin Collection of the Des Moines Art Center, 2013.3
   Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines

4. TERESA MARGOLLES (Mexican, born 1963)
   Escombro (Debris) 2008
   18 karat gold and wood
   Overall: 55 1/8 x 8 5/8 x 8 5/8 inches
   Overall (gold element): 1 1/8 x 3/4 x 3/4 inches
   Overall (wood): 3 x 3/8 x 3/8 inches
   Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., 2013.4.a-c

5. RAN HWANG (Korean, born 1960)
   Garden of Water 2010
   Beads, crystal, pins, video on Plexiglas
   Overall: 90 9/16 x 118 1/8 inches
   Panel (6 panels total, each): 90 9/16 x 19 11/16 inches
   Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of the artist and Leila Heller Gallery, New York, 2013.5.a-g

6. MARK DION (American, born 1961)
   Sea Life 2013
   Book cart, books, prints
   79 x 74 1/2 x 37 inches
   Des Moines Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., 2013.6.1-342

7. DAMIEN HIRST (English, born 1965)
   Victory over Death 2008 (image on page 6)
   Photogravure etching with hand-coloring in gouache by the artist
   Sheet: 47 1/8 x 42 5/8 inches / Plate: 36 3/4 x 33 3/4 inches
   Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of the Des Moines Art Center Print Club, David Kruidener, Jr. Estate, and Elizabeth S. Kruidener 2002 Revocable Trust by exchange, 2013.7
   Courtesy of Paragon Press


DAMNOS CHAPMAN (English, born 1962)
   Etchasketchathon 2005
   Etching on paper / 22 1/2 x 20 3/4 inches
   Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the David Kruidener, Jr. Estate, and Elizabeth S. Kruidener 2002 Revocable Trust by exchange and partial gift of Charles Booth-Clibborn, 2013.30.1-31

JAKE CHAPMAN (English, born 1966)
1. **Romuald Hazoumè (Beninese, born 1962)**
   **Ton pied mon pied** 2011
   Mixed media / 10 5/8 x 13 3/8 x 11 7/16 inches
   Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Julian and Irma Brody African Art Collection by exchange, 2013.31
   Photo Credit: Rich Sanders, Des Moines

2. **Phyllida Barlow (British, born 1944)**
   **Untitled: balcony** 2012
   Steel, wire, netting, polyurethane foam, cement, scrim, paint, varnish / 70 7/8 x 94 1/2 x 126 inches
   Purchased with funds from the Coffin Fine Arts Trust; Nathan Emory Coffin Collection of the Des Moines Art Center, 2013.34

3. **Phyllida Barlow (British, born 1944)**
   **untitled: sadmonumentblack** 2013
   Polystyrene, paper, polyurethane foam, cement, scrim, paint, PVA, steel armature / 275 9/16 x 35 x 35 inches
   Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of the artist and Hauser & Wirth, 2013.38.a-c

4. **Peter Fischli (Swiss, born 1952) David Weiss (Swiss, 1946 – 2012)**
   **Forest** from the series “Suddenly this overview,” 2007
   Reinforced clay (unfired) / 7 1/2 x 14 x 8 1/2 inches
   Purchased with funds from the Coffin Fine Arts Trust; Nathan Emory Coffin Collection of the Des Moines Art Center, 2013.39
   Photo Credit: Rich Sanders, Des Moines

   **Neke Carson** 1972
   Polacolor Type 108
   Sheet: 4 1/4 x 3 3/8 inches. Image: 3 3/4 x 2 7/8 inches
   Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., 2013.40.1-.20

   **Savarin 2 (Line and Wash)** 1978
   Lithograph on paper printed from two aluminum plates
   Sheet: 25 7/8 x 19 7/8 inches. Image: 18 5/8 x 13 inches
   Des Moines Art Center; Paul and Anastasia Polydoran Collection, 2013.41

7. **OlaFur Eliasson (Danish, born 1967)**
   **panoramic awareness pavilion** 2013 (Image inside front cover)
   Glass, metal, light, 9 x 31 feet
   Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from John and Mary Pappajohn, 2013.42
   Photo Credit: Rich Sanders, Des Moines
22,228

People were served by the tour program: 14,961 touring the museum, 6,963 people touring the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park, and 304 served through off-site lectures about the Art Center.

Included among the thousands of people participating in guided tours were more than 7,500 fourth grade students from Des Moines, Indianola, Newton, Prairie City-Monroe, Saydel, S.E. Polk, Waukee, and West Des Moines Public School Districts.

21

Film programs were presented at the Art Center, with more than 2,800 people attending. Film festivals were the most popular events: Black Maria, Manhattan Short, and new in 2013—Oscar Shorts. The Oscar Shorts program is comprised of three genres of film: documentary, animation, and live-action, and the Art Center’s screening was the only opportunity for these lesser released films to be seen by fans of film in the Des Moines metro.

12

Varied lectures were presented at the Art Center, serving more than 1,600 people.

Acclaimed artist Vik Muniz delivered the 24th installment of the Fingerman Lecture; El Anatsui was the Dudie Ash Memorial lecturer in conjunction with his solo exhibition, Gravity and Grace, which art historian Susan Vogel also spoke about; artist Fred Wilson delivered a lecture in tandem with the exhibition Transparencies: Contemporary Art and A History of Glass, as did glass scholar William Warmus; Phyllida Barlow participated in a public interview with Senior Curator Gilbert Vicario on the occasion of her one-person exhibition, scree; and the Art Center’s own Amy Worthen presented the talk, “History of the Des Moines Art Center.”

13

Gallery talks were offered through the year serving 350 visitors. Gallery talks are a very popular format for learning in the museum because they are object-based—that is, they put the art front and center. Presented in an informal and relaxed manner, curators and guest speakers provide visitors with tools that help the interpretation process as well as give contextual information that sets a framework for understanding the artwork.

School tour students listen to veteran docent Madelyn Mayberry talk about artwork in Iowa Artists 2013 exhibition.

Guided tours led by specially trained volunteer docents engaged people of all ages in conversations about the permanent collections, special exhibitions, and architecture in 2013. The docents aim to engage visitors and empower them by teaching strategies to interpret works of art on their own. Five docents celebrated 10-year anniversaries and Rosemary Rahm a 30-year anniversary. The Art Center’s docents collectively donated over 4,300 hours of service in 2013, including touring and training.

Artist Fred Wilson was one of a variety of lecturers this year.

Vik Muniz delivered the 24th Fingerman Lecture to a full house. Photo: Eric Salmon
HIGH SCHOOL DAYS
The High School Days program was organized in conjunction with two exhibitions in 2013. Five area high schools and 45 students participated in the workshops exploring Transparencies: Contemporary Art and A History of Glass and nine high schools and 138 students visited Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui.

High School Days’ aim is to produce in-depth learning experiences as a vehicle to open young people’s minds and to learn about the world through the art of today. The interdisciplinary-based approach to High School Days bridges museum and studio education together in an experience which helps students make critical connections in the complex world of contemporary art. Students begin to discover what inspires and interests artists while finding new inspiration and validation for their own learning and curiosities. It fosters awareness of self and others while challenging pre-existing beliefs and attitudes. Most importantly, new materials, techniques, and opportunities are presented which may have otherwise gone undiscovered.

“My colleague and I have been bringing students to ‘High School Days’ at the Des Moines Art Center for many years. Our students love attending. It is a great way to be immersed in art by viewing and discussing contemporary artwork, exploring new media, and creating something to take home...all this, while having a fun experience. I like it because it reinforces content, skills and vocabulary; and the program allows the opportunity for students to view actual work verses seeing slides or video in the classroom. The sharing of energy and space with artwork is far more moving. Engaging and interacting with the work and then spending time creating related work, students develop a strong empathy and greater understanding for the artist, their work, and the creative process. Many of them have not viewed any original artwork much less contemporary art. They leave wanting to go back. I have recently read articles in The New York Times and The Huffington Post stating that visiting art museums creates students that are more open to new ideas, more accepting of diversity, and thinking globally... I agree wholly.”

MAGGIE HARLOW-VOGT, ART TEACHER NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL

4-H STUDENTS EXPERIENCE
PHYLLIDA BARLOW: SCREE
Students attending the annual 4-H Youth Conference in Ames traveled to Des Moines in the summer to take part in a tour and art project presented in conjunction with the exhibition Phyllida Barlow: scree.

The students toured the exhibition and the permanent collections and then created projects based on ideas explored in the exhibition.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM
Teen students from the Des Moines Public Schools Gifted and Talented Program participated in a two-part workshop exploring the cultural celebration Day of the Dead. The students were charged with creating an ofrenda—a traditional Mexican altar used to honor a deceased loved one. They studied the museum’s collection to learn how artists convey feeling and emotion and then applied that knowledge to their own tributes, which incorporated personal photos, mementos, and found objects, in hopes of attracting and welcoming the spirit of the loved one, as is customary in Mexico.

TEENS + PHYLLIDA BARLOW = MORP
Over a three-day period, seven high school students collaborated with artist Phyllida Barlow to create MORP (prom spelled backwards), a multi-media installation that grew from Barlow’s solo exhibition and personal interaction with the students. Participant Cianna Rothwell wrote the following, “Students focused on big ideas such as destruction vs. reconstruction, organization vs. chaos, and art vs. nature. The aim was to take common objects and morph them into something beautiful, something artistic. The appearance of some objects was changed and the purpose of other objects was shifted. Pushing the materials in new, unconventional ways was paramount to the workshop.”

MORP, a collaborative sculpture inspired by Phyllida Barlow.
MUSEUM EDUCATION EVENTS

In addition to a variety of museum education opportunities, visitors continue to experience the Pappajohn Sculpture Park in a number of ways: on tours like the school children above with Art Center docent Don Gage, on a leisurely stroll, or through free cell phone tours.

MINDFUL MUSEUM: THOUGHTFUL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ART, IDEAS, AND ISSUES HAD A SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL. Offering programs once per quarter, these gallery talks were developed with an art-initiated audience in mind. The aim of these programs is for participants to have explorative conversations with other art enthusiasts, continue a dynamic and evolving relationship with the permanent collections, and delve more deeply into special exhibitions. Veteran Docents Madelyn Mayberry and Jon Oakland led the programs, which focused on the history of the Art Center, building the collection, the Phyllida Barlow exhibition, and the El Anatsui exhibition.

THE ART CENTER PARTNERED WITH THE RAY SOCIETY, A LIFELONG LEARNING ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY DRAKE UNIVERSITY, ON A THREE-PART CLASS IN THE FALL. “A Taste of the Des Moines Art Center” included sessions with the museum’s frequent collaborator, music historian Michael Lasser, on the subject of childhood in the late 19th century, inspired by John Singer Sargent’s painting from 1881, Portraits de M.E.P. et de Mlle. L.P. (Portraits of Edouard and Marie-Louise Pailleron); a private screening of the El Anatsui documentary and guided tour by Associate Curator Laura Burkhalter and Director of Education Jill Featherstone; a tour by Director Jeff Fleming of his favorite artworks in the collection; and a behind-the-scenes look at shipping, handling, and installing works of fine art by Associate Registrar Mickey Koch and Chief Preparator, Installations, Jay Ewart. Featherstone also participated in a Ray Society class in partnership with The Des Moines Playhouse on the occasion of their staging of the Tony award-winning play “Red” about the Abstract Expressionist painter, Mark Rothko.

TECHNOLOGY

In August, the Art Center expanded its cell phone tour to include Symphony In Sculpture, a 30-minute work by Emmy Award-winning composer Steve Heitzeg, inspired by the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park. The work was commissioned by the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra and Music Director and Conductor Joseph Giunta, in recognition of the Symphony’s 75th anniversary season in 2012–2013. The work celebrates in sound nine sculptures in the Pappajohn Sculpture Park.

Nearly 2,000 unique callers listened to recorded content/music about the Pappajohn Sculpture Park and the Art Center’s permanent collections.

Instructional videos were added to the website with the aim of helping to prepare families, students, and teachers for Art Center visits.
The Des Moines Art Center’s community outreach program reached the lives of more than 200 at-risk youth and adults in 2013. Growth in the program included the development of four new community partnerships and programs. Art Education is used as a tool to help the participants acknowledge their unique identities and use artistic expression to overcome adversity and establish a sense of positive self worth. Attendance for outreach programming totaled 1,688.

DISTRICT WIDE PROGRAM: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF IOWA serves 15–20 youths who reside in Children and Families of Iowa group homes and attend the District Wide program through the Des Moines Public School District. The students spend two and half hours a week during the school year participating in studio classes at the Art Center. This program serves students in grades six through twelve who need intensive behavioral and academic support to help them reach graduation. The studio art curriculum is an interdisciplinary approach integrating studio art, academic subjects, and museum visits. The students receive school credit towards graduation. Attendance for this program was 406.

The Art Center provided art activities for pre-adolescent youths and teens throughout the year at YOUTH EMERGENCY SERVICES AND SHELTER. YESS provides emergency shelter, respite, and counseling for children aged birth through 17. Attendance for this program was 98.

THE AFTERSCHOOL ARTIST PROGRAM enriched the lives of 15 students from Merrill Middle School and 16 students from Brody Middle School. Each school attended an eight-week after school program designed to keep the youth engaged in constructive behavior and promote creativity. The curriculum is inspired by work in the museum. Attendance for this program was 147.

Students from Brody Middle School painted ceiling tiles for a cat scan room in Des Moines Orthopedic Surgeons’ office.

DES MOINES ALTERNATIVE: GIRLS PROGRAM meets the educational needs of girls in grades six through twelve who require intensive academic and behavioral instruction. Students visited the Art Center twice a month throughout the academic year. Each visit consisted of a trip to the museum and a corresponding studio project. Attendance for this program was 112.

Oakridge Neighborhood EDUcamp participants enjoy working with clay and building new skills.

During the summer, the Art Center provided literacy and art classes to 30 students in grades kindergarten through fourth, who were participants in OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES EDUcamp. Each art activity in which the students participated had a literacy component based on an age appropriate children’s book. Attendance for this program was 171.

Forty-five mentors and youth from MENTOR IOWA attended an afternoon of shared fun which included lunch, a museum visit, and related studio activity. Mentor Iowa is dedicated to providing trained, volunteer mentors to abused, neglected, and delinquent children who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court in Polk County. This organization provides guidance to children in need of assistance to enhance their self-esteem, stability, and give them a chance for a positive future.

Thirteen members of BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS visited the Art Center for an afternoon of exploring the planets, color, and art through the process of creating their own glass planet.

ACHIEVING MAXIMUM POTENTIAL is a youth-driven advocacy and leadership group for teens and young adults who have faced the challenges of out-of-home placement, whether foster care, group homes, shelters, or all three. The organization provides opportunities for service learning projects, advocacy, and educational/vocational assistance for the youth as they transition to adulthood. Monthly art activities were provided to aid the youth in building self-confidence and to learn the importance of creativity and self-expression. Throughout the year, the youth created work based on the theme, “I am who I am because of where I have been.” On November 16, the youth from AMP collaborated with local artist and instructor Rachel Buse on building a cardboard car fueled by memories for the Boxed-In Design contest at Reggie’s Sleep Out. The youth’s entry won “Best in Show.” Attendance for this program totalled 450.

Through the LUTHERAN SERVICES OF IOWA’S REFUGEE CONNECTION CENTER the Art Center touched the lives of 24 refugees from the Kingdom of Bhutan and Burma who were participants in their Elder Program. Two six-week classes focused on simple projects that introduced the elder students to art and language. The class demonstrated that art and visual language can overcome cultural and linguistic barriers. Attendance for this program totaled 102 and included two tours of the museum.

A participant in an Elder Program puts finishing touches on a painting.

VOICES TO BE HEARD is a support group for family, friends, and children of an incarcerated loved one. Art Center faculty provided monthly art activities for the children to promote education, creativity, and self-discovery. Attendance for this program was 144.
In addition to class attendance, 2,288 children and adults attended customized education classes at the Art Center and in the community.

Fifty-nine middle school students from St. Augustin Catholic School visited the Art Center weekly to participate in art classes for school credit. A group of first and second year medical students from Des Moines University attended a ten-week ‘Introductory Figure Drawing’ class. This course was designed for the medical students to develop observational skills and improve hand-eye coordination, an integral proficiency for future doctors. Monthly art activities at the Downtown School in Des Moines and a watercolor class for residents in Valley View Village’s assisted living facility were highlights among the customized classes.

Another important class involved Mercy Hospital’s Creative Journey’s Program which resulted in the Art Center reaching the lives of 13 cancer survivors. Each participant created a leather journal to document their story.

Throughout the year, the Art Center collaborated with the Blank Park Zoo, swapping instructors for each organization’s classes. Zoo students made unique, animal inspired art, and Art Center students were visited by some of the zoo’s favorite creatures.

Art Sampler is a free community event for families to participate in art activities and view demonstrations, meet instructors, and learn about classes. This event acknowledges Art Center scholarship recipients. Attendance totaled 205 for this event.

Eleven student (children and adult) exhibitions featuring artwork made in the Art Center’s classes were installed in the Adrienne and Charles Herbert Galleries throughout 2013 and the accompanying receptions attracted 775 people. Additionally, two guest exhibitions were displayed: West Des Moines Community Schools Impact of Art and Des Moines Public Schools Findley Elementary. Impact of Art celebrates the visual arts accomplishments of the students from all 14 West Des Moines Community Schools and recognizes scholarship recipients from their district. The entire student body of Findley Elementary toured the Pappajohn Sculpture Park and in their school’s classroom created art inspired by the sculptures, which were then proudly displayed at the Art Center. Receptions for these shows drew 771 members of the community.

Teen students mastering the art of glazing.

Young artist very intent on creating a masterpiece.
UNEXPECTED EVENTS included an Art Center Oscar® party in February, complete with valet parking, red carpet, and paparazzi. During the evening, guests were interviewed and photographed in their Hollywood attire—including a Jack Nicholson look-alike. The evening’s entertainment featured classic crooner Max Wellman singing George and Ira Gershwin and Cole Porter tunes, and a photo booth with Hollywood props. During the evening, guests enjoyed champagne and hors d’oeuvres in an Art Center lobby set in glittering black and gold décor.

In May, back by popular demand, the KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY inspired guests to don their finest haberdashery. Prizes were awarded for Most Creative Hat, Largest Hat, and Most Elegant Hat. Mint juleps and Southern inspired food were featured, along with The Southern Gentlemen band, which played well-known songs of the South, including “My Old Kentucky Home.” The race was viewed on the large theatrical screen in Levitt Auditorium, making it a day to remember.

SUMMER ON THE HILL continued in June, July, August, and September with Free Flicks on the first Thursday of the month held on the front lawn, and First Friday—the musical series—held in the courtyard. An eclectic mix of films was presented beginning with the family favorite, My Dog Skip. Classic film lovers reveled in The Philadelphia Story; romantics enjoyed Breakfast at Tiffany’s; and suspense fans were captivated by Alfred Hitchcock’s Vertigo. At First Fridays, jazz diva Tina Hasse Findlay, the funkadelic Faculty Lounge, the ever popular Soul Searchers, and Latin jazz great Gabriel Espinoza and Ashanti entertained guests in the courtyard.

1,456 PEOPLE ATTENDED EXHIBITION PREVIEW PARTIES in 2013, nearly 500 more than in 2012. Preview parties provide the perfect venue for party-goers to be among the first to view a new exhibition, meet the guest artists and participate in a tour of their work, enjoy refreshments, and socialize.

The ANNUAL GALA held in September featured an evening of international art, cuisine, and music. Most of the evening took place under a tent bathed in brilliant colors and colorful paper lanterns and parasols. Dinner under the tent highlighted a variety of global culinary offerings from Brazil, Iran, Israel, Korea, Morocco, and the U.K. During the evening, guests enjoyed a diverse selection of music and dance including an Indian sitar player, didgeridoo player, Chinese waist drum dancers, and Parranderos—a 12-piece band that offered a vast array of Latin rhythms and musical stylings from South America, the Caribbean, and New York City. An Après Soirée followed in the main lobby of the Art Center featuring Bollywood dancers, Russian doll makers, Arabic calligraphers, and Mehndi designers, as well as an assortment of street food from Venezuela and the Czech Republic. The Art Center was pleased to have as a distinguished guest during the evening—the former National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Jim Leach.

The annual holiday open house in December continued the international theme with “A Continental Holiday.” A European inspired event, it featured delicacies from the Art Center’s French Chef David. Local high school students studying foreign languages greeted guests in various languages; carolers sang in French while entertaining guests in the lobby and the galleries; professional mimes roamed throughout the museum surprising guests with their antics; and scenes from “The Nutcracker” performed by Ballet Des Moines entertained guests in Levitt Auditorium. Family art activities in the studios featured mini Eiffel Towers, and a balloon artist had children waiting in line to watch him craft whimsical works.

The Art Center hosted 39 COMMUNITY-RELATED AND PRIVATE RENTALS beneficial to the communities-at-large in 2013, including Art Educators of Iowa, American Heart Association, Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, Greater Des Moines Opera, Iowa Creativity Summit, and the Des Moines Arts Festival. Numerous wedding receptions and corporate events were held at the Art Center as well. Corporate clients included American Enterprise, Meredith Corporation, and Wells Fargo, among many others.

Gala guests celebrate a year of international artists and exhibitions with a selection of global culinary offerings and rockin’ salsa music with all proceeds supporting the Art Center’s FREE admission policy.

A visitor enjoys talking with artist El Anatsui during the Gravity and Grace exhibition preview party.
2013 WAS A RECORD YEAR FOR ART NOIR AS THE AFFILIATE GROUP Topped 400 MEMBERS.

The sixth installment of the BIG HAIR BALL brought more than 700 people through the doors of the Art Center and featured bigger hair and more entertainment than ever. Art Noir members enjoyed educational and social events throughout the year, including Op-Arty; Art Noir: In the Studio; and After Hours.

PRINT CLUB members participated in informative and engaging programming, including Fingerprints, which explored the intersection of forensics and art, and a screen printing workshop at Eight Seven Central in downtown Des Moines. They capped off 2013 with a holiday party overlooking the Pappajohn Sculpture Park from the top of 801 Grand. Members of Print Club continued to give back to the Art Center through the annual gift print, Damien Hirst’s Victory Over Death, and the conservation of several works on paper. Phyllida Barlow created the 2013 Commissioned Print.

Another member favorite, BOOK CLUB, had participants discussing Weiwei-isms, three books by author Richard Polisky, and the Art Center’s new permanent collections catalog.

MUSEUM SHOP
For the third consecutive year, the Museum Shop experienced record sales. The shop continued to sell a wide range of unique and unexpected merchandise including books, children’s toys, home décor, jewelry, accessories, catalogs, and merchandise related to the museum’s exhibitions and collections. Exhibitions such as El Anatsui’s Gravity and Grace offered opportunities to successfully coordinate merchandise with the exhibition. This included global art made from found and repurposed materials, books, DVDs, and notecards. The shop will continue extended hours of operation on Tuesdays and Fridays until 4:30 pm into 2014.
2013 WAS ANOTHER STELLAR YEAR FOR FUNDRAISING THANKS TO THE ART CENTER’S GENEROUS DONORS.

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AS OF DECEMBER 2013

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AMAZING BEHIND THE SCENES Phylida Barlow: scree

This year was a challenging year for the Art Center’s installation crew. The Phylida Barlow: scree exhibition demanded an unsurpassed degree of creativity on the part of Chief Preparator Installations Jay Ewart and his American crew of 16 and a British crew of five to address the moving of four cargo containers containing 24 tons (48,000 pounds) of sculpture components into the I. M. Pei building. Most of it was brought in through the back windows and lifted very carefully to the second level. Once the parts were safely in the space, the crew had to address the issue of installing the 11 awnings, each weighing 600–1,000 pounds, on the Pei concrete walls using a system of threaded insert holes that were designed into the walls by I. M. Pei, each of which holds 350 pounds. To create the massive untitled: screestage 2013, hundreds of paintings were unwrapped and integrated onto the top of a massive steel, timber, plywood, scrim, cement, polyurethane foam, and PVA structure. The entire process took four weeks. This spectacular exhibition is documented in a catalogue written by Senior Curator Gilbert Vicario and published by the Art Center.

See more information about the Phylida Barlow: scree exhibition on pages 3–4.