“I’ve never done anything like that before!”

VISITOR COMMENT AFTER EXPLORING TAPE DES MOINES BY ARTIST COLLECTIVE NUMEN/FOR USE, PART OF THE BLOCKBUSTER 2017 DRAWING IN SPACE EXHIBITION.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR AND THE PRESIDENT

Cutting-edge, interactive exhibitions. Expanded Art Access partnerships. Major acquisitions of artwork by important national and international artists. New scholarship surrounding works in the collection. Dynamic special events. Increased efforts toward being a welcoming institution for all. Enhanced building and grounds. Our staff, board of trustees, community partners, members, donors, and volunteers made all of this possible.

The year 2017 was extraordinary in numerous ways for the Art Center. We had tremendous attendance fueled by thought-provoking exhibitions, rewarding education events, Art Access programs, studio classes, public collaborations, and member group activities. In addition, we saw record-breaking fundraising, including an unforgettable gala in an airport hangar, and noteworthy art acquisitions. 2017 was also the first year of our current three-year strategic plan, focusing on four commitments: enhancing our exhibitions and collections, improving audience engagement, securing our financial future, and building awareness, which includes planning for our upcoming 75th anniversary campaign.

Huge crowds enthusiastically embraced the exhibition Drawing in Space, while projects such as I, too, am America invited personal introspection. We traveled exhibitions to the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; and Akron Art Museum. The Art Center accessioned 166 works of art in 2017, including objects in all media by artists from diverse areas of the globe such as China, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Vietnam, and, not surprisingly, Iowa. Art conservation projects included major sculptures in the Pappajohn Sculpture Park by Mark di Suvero, Olafur Eliasson, and Keith Haring. Our Art Access program grew in 2017 to include 28 partners and 39 programs. Museum Education focused on families with children and community collaborations, including a partnership with Findley Elementary School students to create a major drawing on the Richard Meier building in conjunction with Drawing in Space, as well as two collaborations with Ballet Des Moines in response to Drawing in Space and Ruptures. In addition, we partnered with The Links, Inc. to begin an internship with African-American college students.

Our capital projects concentrated on renovations of the front parking lot and new parking lot lighting to enhance the visitor experience and safety at night. We also completed the Levitt Auditorium renovations, which included new carpet, new lighting, and new technology and we also created two new coat closets off the lobby. In addition, new components were added to the Meier building restrooms to make them more accessible.

All of these achievements lay the groundwork for a successful future, including our 75th anniversary celebration in 2023. We would not be the museum and school we are today without the support and participation of our board of trustees, our members, our community of donors, our dedicated volunteer docents, and our extraordinary staff.

Jeff Fleming
DIRECTOR

Jim Wallace
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2017–2018

High school students from Central Academy create a tape installation inspired by Numen / For Use’s Tape Des Moines, 2017.
Throughout 2017 the Art Center organized and presented major exhibitions responding to contemporary approaches to art making, as well as more intimate projects focusing on the work of an individual artist or on themes drawn from the permanent collections. Projects like *Drawing in Space* saw extraordinary attendance and public participation, while *I, too, am America* touched on the diversity that embodies American society today. All 2017 exhibitions were organized by the Des Moines Art Center.

**Wild Life**
January 13 – April 16, 2017
John Brady Print Gallery

**Giacometti**
January 20 – April 23, 2017
Blank One Gallery

**Alchemy: Transformations in Gold**
February 11 – May 5, 2017
Anna K. Meredith Gallery

**Single Channel 7:**
*Journeys into Peripheral Worlds, Ethan Murrow*
February 23 – April 30, 2017
Pamela Bass-Bookey and Harry Bookey
Video Gallery

**Planetarium**
April 21 – August 13, 2017
John Brady Print Gallery

**Studies | Drafts | Sketches**
April 28 – August 30, 2017
Blank One Gallery

**Single Channel 7: Journeys into Peripheral Worlds, Michael Najjar**
May 4 – July 16, 2017
Pamela Bass-Bookey and Harry Bookey
Video Gallery

**Ruptures**
June 3 – September 3, 2017
Anna K. Meredith Gallery

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1 Installation of work by Zarina (American, born India, 1937) in *Alchemy: Transformations in Gold*. Courtesy of Luhring Augustine / Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines

2 From *Ruptures* exhibition
Beth Lipman (American, born 1971)
*InEarth*, 2017
Glass, wood, metal, paint, enamel, and adhesive
112 × 98 × 112 inches
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines
Single Channel 7: Journeys Into Peripheral Worlds, Wangechi Mutu
July 20 – October 15, 2017
Pamela Bass-Bookey and Harry Bookey Video Gallery

I, too, am America
August 18 – November 26, 2017
John Brady Print Gallery

Iowa Artists 2017: Yun Shin
August 25 – December 3, 2017
Blank One Gallery

The Toni and Tim Urban International Artist-in-Residence 2017: Monika Grzymala
September 20 – November 10, 2017
Tifereth Israel Synagogue

Drawing in Space
September 29, 2017 – January 21, 2018
Anna K. Meredith Gallery
I. M. Pei Galleries
Richard Meier Atrium

Single Channel 7: Journeys into Peripheral Worlds, Alex Pragar
October 19 – January 7, 2018
Pamela Bass-Bookey and Harry Bookey Video Gallery

Fink/Winogrand
December 1, 2017 – March 25, 2018
John Brady Print Gallery

The Irrational and the Marvelous
December 8, 2017 – March 25, 2018
Blank One Gallery

ABOVE:
Luis Alfonso Jimenez (American, 1940–2006)
Tan Lejos de Dios; Tan Cercas de los Estados Unidos (So Far from God; So Close to the United States), 2001
Lithograph (litho pencils, crayons, rubbing ink)
25 × 50 1/4 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Kay Reynolds Stroud Art Fund, 2007.6
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines

OPPOSITE:
Heeseop Yoon (Korean)
Still Life Chandelier, 2017
Masking tape and polyester film
Courtesy of the artist
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines
The Art Center accessioned 166 works of art in 2017. Purchases included major paintings, sculptures, and cutting-edge video installations, as well as prints and drawings by contemporary masters. Gifts came from a variety of sources, including funded acquisition endowments, the Des Moines Art Center Print Club, and generous donors.

**Elie Nadelman** (American, 1882 – 1946)
*Standing Female Nude* (also called Gertrude Stein), c. 1907, cast 1926
Bronze
Overall: 28 1/2 x 9 x 7 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Melva Bucksbaum, 2017.1

**Glenn Brown** (British, born 1966)
*Swing Time*, 2016
India ink and acrylic on panel
Overall: 44 7/8 × 35 13/16 × 1 3/16 inches
Purchased with funds from the Coffin Fine Arts Trust; Nathan Emory Coffin Collection of the Des Moines Art Center, 2017.3
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines

**Rachel Sussman** (American, born 1975)
*Sidewalk Kintsukuroi (Des Moines Art Center)*, 2017
Resin, gold dust, and metallic dust
Overall: 31 feet, 10 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from ASK Architecture, 2017.4

**Cornelia Parker** (British, born 1956)
*My Soul Afire / Just When I Need Him Most*, 1997/2005
Hymnals retrieved from a church struck by lightning in Lytle, Texas and from the Baptist Church of Green Ridge, Kentucky that was set ablaze by arson
Overall (a): 3/4 × 8 1/4 × 5 inches
Overall (b): 1 × 8 × 5 1/4 inches
Overall (c): 3/4 × 8 × 5 5/8 inches
Overall (d): 3/4 × 8 × 5 5/8 inches
Des Moines Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., 2017.5.a .d

**Catherine Opie** (American, born 1961)
*Ron Athey and Daryl Carlton*, 2000
C print
Frame: 30 1/2 × 25 1/2 × 1 1/2 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Jim and Ellen Hubbell, 2017.13

**Yue Minjun** (Chinese, born 1962)
*The Grassland Series, Woodcut 2*, 2008
Lithograph on paper
Frame: 39 1/4 × 51 × 2 inches
Sheet: 35 × 47 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Jim and Ellen Hubbell, 2017.17
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines
In addition, major gifts of photography came from Philip A. Bernstein and Luisa Recalcati, Mark Greenberg, and Steven Schwartz. We are grateful to all of our donors for partnering with the Art Center to continue to grow the strength of our collections.

Jorge Méndez Blake (Mexican, born 1974)
_Sin título (Acto V, Escena II),_ 2016
Bronze / Overall (The Queen Falls): 14 15/16 x 109 7/16 inches
Overall (The King Des): 13 x 93 5/16 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Pamela Bass-Bookey and Harry Bockey, 2017.20.a.ee

The Propeller Group (founded in Vietnam in 2006)
_AK 47 vs. M16, 2015_
Fragments of AK 47 and M16 bullets, ballistics gel, custom vitrine, and digital video
Overall (sculpture): 7 1/8 x 16 7/8 x 7 1/4 inches
Overall (custom vitrine): 54 x 24 1/2 x 14 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from Pam and Harry Bockey, the Pamela Bass-Bookey and Harry Bockey Moving Image and Time Based Art Fund, and the Kyle J. and Sharon Krause Family Art Acquisition Fund, 2017.21.a.f

Steven Young Lee (American, born 1975)
_Maebyeong Vase with Mushroom Vne, 2015_
Porcelain, copper inlay, glaze
Overall: 15 x 12 x 10 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Kyle J. and Sharon Krause Family Art Acquisition Fund, 2017.22

Peter Doig (Scottish, active in Trinidad, born 1959)
_Canoe-Island, 2000_
Silkscreen on paper
Frame: 33 5/8 x 44 1/8 inches
Sheet: 28 7/8 x 39 1/4 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Peg Buckley Acquisition Fund, 2017.23

Grayson Perry (British, born 1960)
_Animal Spirit (blue), 2016_
Color etching on paper
Sheet: 25 1/4 x 30 3/4 inches
Image: 23 1/2 x 29 1/2 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Partial gift of the Des Moines Art Center Print Club in memory of Peg Buckley, and purchased with funds from the Keith Shaver Trust for Acquisitions, 2017.24
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines

Clarence Morgan (American, born 1960)
_Ordinary Wonders, 2017_
Three color lithograph and screen print on paper
Sheet: 15 1/2 x 15 inches
Image: 12 x 12 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of the Des Moines Art Center Print Club, 2017.34

Wangechi Mutu (Kenyan, active United States, born 1972)
_Water Woman, 2017_
Bronze
Overall: 36 x 65 x 70 inches / 400 pounds
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., 2017.25
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines

Henri Cartier Bresson (French, 1908 – 2004)
_Elderly woman at market, c. 1960_
Vintage ferrotyped gelatin silver print
Image: 10 x 6 5/8 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Mark Greenberg, 2017.36

Maya Ying Lin (American, born 1959)
_Honey Moon, 1997_
Beeswax
Overall: 9 3/4 x 9 3/4 x 3 inches
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Maureen Mondora in honor of Colleen Vojvodich, 2017.160
TOURS

73 volunteer docents led 19,276 visitors on 575 guided tours of the museum and Pappajohn Sculpture Park in 2017.

Of those visitors, 14,084 took part in guided tours of the museum, and 5,192 attended guided tours of the Pappajohn Sculpture Park offered between April 1 – October 31.

More than 5,700 fourth-grade students from Des Moines, Indianola, Prairie City-Monroe, Saydel, Southeast Polk, Urbandale, Waukee, and West Des Moines Public School Districts were among the thousands who took part in guided tours. The Art Center covers the transportation expenses for these schools districts as part of the funded tours program.

All tours are offered free of charge. In addition to requested tours, the Art Center offers drop-in tour experiences every Saturday, Baby and Me tours the third Wednesday of each month, and drop-in tours as a feature of various special events. The tours program serves additional audiences through audio tours and facilitates self-guided group visits at both the museum and Pappajohn Sculpture Park.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

DOCENTS

Art Center docents facilitate meaningful experiences for visitors in dialogue with art, architecture, and each other to promote visual literacy through creative, critical, and empathetic thinking. The following dedicated individuals gave their time, demonstrated their engagement, and shared their excitement about the Art Center in 2017.

Sherry Bergerson
Marty Boesenber
Buffalo Bonker
Susan Brown
Susan Burgess
Sally Case
Len Cockman
Jean Combs
Amenda Tate Corso
Martha Damon
Susy Damon
Patricia Davis
Nena Denman
Jacci Dewdney
Mary Doidge
Bette Donovan
Cecilia Ehrecke
Sally Davis Ellwein
Jan Evans
Mia Farrell
Chris Fischer
Jane Flager
Carol Frank
Don Gage
Eileen Gloor
Allan Goldberg
Marty Gross
Deb Hansen
Chris Hartoft
Christine Hines
Jane Hinson
Susan Holderness
Teresa Holton
Mary Holtze
Jane Ibsen
Mary Josten
Paul Kasal

Roxie Key
Sandra Koll
Ann Koopal
Diane Krell
Angela Lampe
Alison Lang
Gillian Madigan
Sue Markow
Madelyn Mayberry
Nancee McDowell
Stanley Miller
Dianne Miliobar
Robin Mohrfield
Betty Mond
Sarahleigh Monroe
Diane Myers
Roy Nilsen
Nancy Norman
Jon Oakland
Sue Ortale
Muriel Pemble
Bette Penniman
Becky Pepper
Sandy Percy
Rosemary Rahm
Dianne Richardson
Jane Rider
Lavonne Rus-Ogilvie
Susan Seidenfeld
Sharon Simmons
Michele Slawson
Sharyl Smith
Linda Solar
Dawn Taylor
Sandy Thompson
Kay Ward
LECTURES

946 people attended seven lectures. The keynote lecture of the year was presented by Dr. Johnetta Betsch Cole, a prominent academic and consultant on issues of diversity and inclusion, and the recently retired director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art. Dr. Cole’s lecture, “My Love of Art: A Lifelong Journey,” was the 28th Fingerman Lecture.

Three artists featured in the exhibition *Alchemy: Transformations in Gold*, Luis Gispert, Charles Lindsey, and Rachel Sussman, gave illustrated talks about their work.

In March, the Art Center welcomed Hrag Vartanian, editor-in-chief and co-founder of the online magazine *Hyperallergic*; and Sharon Louden, artist, advocate, and editor of the book, “The Artist as Cultural Producer,” for a conversation with Director Jeff Fleming on the topic of living and sustaining a creative life.

In the fall, audiences were treated to a preview lecture about the Whitney Museum of Art’s major retrospective *Grant Wood: American Gothic and Other Fables* by Whitney Curator Barbara Haskell. The Art Center’s jointly owned painting with the Minneapolis Institute of Art, *The Birthplace of Herbert Hoover*, 1931, and the recently acquired preparatory drawing, *Sketch No. 3* of the same title, were key loans to the Whitney’s show.

Monika Grzymala, an artist featured in *Drawing in Space*, served as the Toni and Tim Urban International Artist-in-Residence in 2017. In addition to giving a moving lecture about her artistic evolution, the residency included an exhibition of Grzymala’s large handmade paper reliefs at Tifereth Israel Synagogue in Des Moines.

The final event of the year featured an interview led by Director of Education Jill Featherstone and Director Jeff Fleming in the café where guests learned about the many facets of running the Art Center.

GALLERY DIALOGUES

481 people participated in 20 gallery dialogues and experiences throughout the year. Art Center curatorial staff Laura Burkhalter, Alison Ferris, Jared Ledesma, and Director Jeff Fleming engaged visitors in their respective exhibitions. Chief Preparator of Installations Jay Ewart also spoke on several occasions with Ferris about the fascinating technical demands of *Drawing in Space*.

Scholars working at Iowa State University, Jelena Bogdanović and Dušan Danilović, lent their expertise to two of our exhibition conversations. Bogdanović, an art historian, discussed the use of gold in art and architectural history at an event with Burkhalter regarding *Alchemy: Transformations in Gold*. Danilović, a physicist, spoke about the science of space in a gallery talk, also with Burkhalter, looking at the artwork in the exhibition *Planetarium*.

Artist Caryn Kepford sketched from a live model in the museum to demonstrate the value of preparatory drawings in tandem with Burkhalter’s talk about the exhibition *Studies / Drafts / Sketches*.

FILMS

484 people attended five film screenings that featured artists or influential art personalities that are reflected in the Art Center’s exhibitions and collections. Each film was followed by commentary by invited speakers or Art Center staff.

YOGA

550 people practiced yoga at the Art Center with instructor Ben Spellman. More than 180 of the participants stayed for interactive gallery experiences after class.
EXHIBITION
SPECIAL PROJECTS

“Conceptualizing Time”
Seminar with Rachel Sussman

Eighteen young artists and college students participated in an informal foray into transdisciplinary thinking around the concept of deep time with artist Rachel Sussman, whose work Sidewalk Kintsukuroi (Des Moines Art Center) was featured in Alchemy: Transformations in Gold. The three-part seminar titled “Conceptualizing Time” used Sussman’s interest in creating “ephemeral artworks about eternity,” and challenged students to reframe the concepts of different types of time such as: personal, geologic, deep, cosmic, infinite, and infinitesimal. Collectively, the group developed its own taxonomy of time.

Ruptures Ballet Collaboration

Ballet Des Moines and the Art Center presented a moving collaboration of dance and visual art in concert with the exhibition Ruptures. Four vignettes were choreographed by Ballet Des Moines Artistic Director Serkan Usta, which responded to artworks in the exhibition, with original music composed by Lindsay Keast. The works in the exhibition were rife with emotion and physicality, qualities also fundamental to dance. The dancers performed in intimate proximity to the artwork, revealing the objects in powerful new ways. Eighty members of the public attended two performances followed by wine and hors d’oeuvres receptions in the courtyard of the Art Center, where guests also had the opportunity to hear from and talk with Ruptures curator Alison Ferris, Usta, and the dancers. Additionally, more than 90 students watched rehearsals in the exhibition and practiced their life drawing skills with the dancers posing as models.

The ballet vignettes were recorded and displayed in an adjacent space to the exhibition and shared on social media. Since they were first posted in July, the four videos have been viewed more than 10,100 times. The recordings may be viewed on the Des Moines Art Center’s YouTube Channel by searching Ruptures.

“Collections, Materials, Placement, and Meaning” Workshop with Lauren Fensterstock

In August, artist Lauren Fensterstock, whose sculpture The Order of Things was featured in the exhibition Ruptures, led two workshops titled “Collections, Materials, Placement, and Meaning.” Nine Art Center faculty and staff populated the morning session and five teen students comprised the afternoon class. Participants spent time discussing the nuances of different kinds of organizational systems and collections such as wonder cabinets, natural history collections, surrealist collage, and modern art assemblages.
**Drawing in Space Videos**

Knowing the installations of giant artworks made from tape would be irresistible to watch, the Art Center recorded the processes to make them accessible to onsite and virtual visitors alike. The local company Applied Art & Technology produced four videos that sensitively captured the personalities and motivations of the artists, demonstrated their varied uses of the sticky material, and beautifully conveyed the physical and emotional impacts of the installations. These videos were not only used to great advantage in the galleries; they also had enormous popularity online, receiving more than 20,000 views, totaling more than 9,600 minutes.

**Mile-a-Minute Rainbow Ivy: Collaboration with Findley Elementary School, Dave Eppley, and the Art Center**

In October, approximately 120 third- and fifth-grade students at Findley Elementary in Des Moines composed hundreds of “bouquets” using various sizes and colors of vinyl hexagons prepared by artist Dave Eppley. Eppley, whose vinyl installation, *Set One, Set Two*, was featured in the lobby of the Art Center as one of four artworks in the exhibition *Drawing in Space*, designed the collaborative project. As the students embarked on the design, they engaged in a 30-minute Skype call with Eppley in his Brooklyn, New York studio. Not only did they learn about Eppley’s process and the idea for the project, they also asked him about his biggest challenges and successes, and how he became an artist.

After the bouquets were created, they were installed on vinyl vines that crawled up the north wall of the Art Center. The grand opening of the collaborative artwork, which the students titled *Mile-a-Minute Rainbow Ivy*, was held on November 5 with a bona fide art reception complete with kid-fancy appetizers and lemonade. 250 Findley Elementary students, family, friends, teachers, and administrators attended. The installation was on view for all Grand Avenue passersby to see through mid-December.
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

225 children on the autism spectrum and their families were served through Art Spectrums. This program provides an opportunity for participants to exercise creativity and build self-esteem through sensory experiences that aid in the development of cognition, communication, and motor skills. Participants visited and discussed a work of art in the museum for inspiration, and made artwork in the studio.

FAMILY LEARNING

655 second through fourth grade students from five rural school districts engaged in the museum’s Creativity Days program. Participants rotated through docent-led tours of the museum, moved their bodies in creative ways with a professional performing artist in Levitt Auditorium, and created 3-D sculptures inspired by Drawing in Space.

129 high school students toured Drawing in Space and made large-scale collaborative sculptural installations as part of the High School Days program. Students explored the elements of art and principles of design, primarily working in the medium of tape and cardboard in the studios.

14 Des Moines area teachers were welcomed for a professional development workshop in July. Participants enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the Art Center and screen printed t-shirts. They engaged in conversations with curators and educators about modern and contemporary art and learned new ways to use the museum in their teaching.

396 student works were displayed in the Student Art Exhibition at the Des Moines Arts Festival. This program highlights the artwork of children in kindergarten through 12th grade who attend schools in Central Iowa. In addition to the exhibition, students are recognized in a ceremony and their work is displayed at the Des Moines Central Library. The Art Center presents year-long household memberships to participating students and teachers.

689 children and families visited the Art Center during Staycation: Treasures in Your Town. Participants listened to child-friendly live music, read a story in the galleries, stayed for original caricature drawings, and created hands-on golden art projects inspired by Alchemy: Transformations in Gold.

703 children and families merged science and art at Planetarium: Space for Kids. Children and families viewed stars in a constellation dome, made space themed artwork, and discussed rockets with Kathryn Crowe, an aerospace engineer from NASA. This family event was inspired by Planetarium, an exhibition featuring space, stars, planets, and comets.

36 young children and families dropped in for Books + Blankets. This literacy program provides an opportunity to listen to stories and discuss various topics from artwork in Drawing in Space, Ruptures, and the permanent collections.

RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

Educational events served more than 1,300 additional people through numerous off-site speaking engagements delivered by docents and staff, as well as customized on-site experiences such as staff interviews, career talks, tours, and hands-on activities.
Studio class enrollment served 3,089 children and adults in the community through 454 classes, workshops, and daycamps.

3,089 youth and adults enrolled in 454 classes, with a combined attendance of 15,464.

131 children, teens, and adults from the community were enabled to take classes thanks to the Art Center’s vital scholarship funds. 216 children participated in scholarship classes at their schools. The scholarship program enriched the lives of students at more than 75 elementary, middle and high schools, and colleges in the Des Moines metropolitan area.

420 people attended Art Sampler, a free community event for families to participate in art activities, view demonstrations, meet instructors, and learn about educational offerings at the Art Center.

9 exhibitions featuring youth, adult, and faculty artwork made in Art Center classes were installed in the Adrienne and Charles Herbert Galleries throughout 2017; the accompanying receptions drew 1,202 people.

500 people attended West Des Moines Community Schools’ Impact of Art. This guest exhibition celebrates the visual arts accomplishments of students from all 14 schools and recognizes scholarship recipients from their district.

Throughout the year, the Art Center collaborated with Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines Community Playhouse, Des Moines DanzArts Studio, Des Moines Symphony Academy, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, and Science Center of Iowa.

3,370 youth and adults attended customized education classes at the Art Center and in the community, while 55 seventh-grade and 54 eighth-grade students from St. Augustin Catholic School visited the Art Center weekly to participate in art classes for school credit.

78 preschool students from three early education centers participated in museum-inspired art activities in their classroom. This program was developed to introduce the museum to young learners using art activities designed to aid in the development of fine and gross motor skills.

31 students participated in the Teen Art Academy and 24 students participated in the Clay Academy, merit-based scholarship programs designed for college-bound teens who excel in the visual arts. The program consists of a nine-month curriculum that introduces teen students to a variety of art media, promotes collaboration and dialogue, and assists with the development of college portfolios.

Local high school teams compete in a toss-off to break a tie for first place in the 2017 Clay Games.
Art Access programs use art education as a tool to help people in underserved communities acknowledge their unique identities and use artistic expression to overcome adversity.

Attendance of 4,491 in the Art Access program in 2017 demonstrated continued growth for this important Art Center endeavor. The program’s growth was marked by the development of seven new community partnerships and programs. Six tracks of programming provide a framework for the Art Center’s Access curricula.

ART AND LITERACY
The Art Center offered Art and Literacy programs that are designed to encourage reading and literacy to school-age children through the use of art and creativity. These programs engage participants in art activities related to age appropriate children’s books, core curriculum subjects, and critical thinking and reading skills.

Partners

Children and Family Urban Movement served 145 youth with attendance totaling 416
Martin Luther King Neighborhood Summer Camp served 35 youth with attendance totaling 128
Oakridge Neighborhood Services served 120 youth with attendance totaling 421
Pace Juvenile Center served 70 students with attendance totaling 261

ART ACCESS

This vital community endeavor continues to grow and engage a larger audience with new opportunities through the Art Center’s educational programs.

GENDER SPECIFIC
These programs provide art classes that encourage creativity and healing to youth struggling with gender and identity challenges. Students worked on art projects specifically designed to give participants the momentum to immerse themselves in the creative process, promote self-expression, build confidence, and create a safe space to discuss issues while working with other students facing the same life experiences.

Additionally, an LGBTQIA Teen Summit served eight youth with attendance totaling 24. This was a weekend workshop that became the catalyst for the Art Center’s art and activism workshops in 2018.

Partners

Children and Family Urban Movement: Backyard Boyz served 30 teens with attendance totaling 64
Children and Family Urban Movement: Whyld Girls served 15 teens with attendance totaling 85
Des Moines Public Schools’ Des Moines Alternative Girls Program served 20 students with attendance totaling 134
Pace Juvenile Center: Girl’s Group served 6 teens with attendance totaling 71
SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

189 students from all 11 Des Moines Public Middle Schools were served by the School Enrichment Program as participants in the Art Center’s After School Artist Program. This program is designed to engage students with art activities that provide a positive and safe “no-fail” environment. Students learn a variety of art techniques that encourage technical skill building and creativity. The classes provide students the opportunity to build confidence. Each school is offered a four to six week class that includes a visit to the museum. Attendance for this program totaled 510.

Partners

Des Moines Public School Gifted and Talented Elementary Program served 41 students
West Des Moines Community Schools after school art classes served 204 students with attendance totaling 628
West Des Moines Walnut Creek Campus served 23 students with attendance totaling 235

CONFIDENCE AND STRENGTH BUILDING

These programs provide people in adverse situations the opportunity to develop positive self-esteem through creativity. The classes and projects are individualized to the students’ needs to promote self-confidence, provide coping skills, and the opportunity to succeed. The students are encouraged to establish a positive relationship with the educator and their peers in a safe environment where they can explore self-expression through a variety of art media.

Partners

Achieving Maximum Potential served 74 youth and young adults
Boys and Girls Club of Des Moines served 59 middle school students with attendance totaling 169
FOCUS High School served 35 students with attendance totaling 128
Iowa Women’s Correctional Facility served 15 women with attendance totaling 174
Link Associates served 33 individuals with attendance totaling 199
Mainstream Living served 13 students with attendance totaling 49
Orchard Place: Residential Facility served 84 youth with attendance totaling 218
Veterans Affairs of Central Iowa served 48 adults with attendance totaling 133
Voices to be Heard served 8 youth with attendance totaling 64
Youth Emergency Services and Shelter served 156 youth

MENTOR

Mentor programs are designed to encourage a healthy relationship between youth and an adult role model. Experiences feature a guided tour of the museum and an art activity inspired by the collection.

Partners

Community Youth Concepts served 33 youth and mentors
Mentor Iowa served 80 youth and mentors
The Art Center engaged audiences in new and surprising ways in 2017, including holding its annual gala in an airport hangar.

**SUMMER ON THE HILL**

The Free Flicks series, shown on the front lawn of the Art Center in June, July, and August, attracted hundreds of movie fans. Iconic American cinema was showcased with the screenings of *Singin’ In The Rain*, *The Wizard Of Oz*, and *Casablanca*, which celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2017. These films brought back fond memories for some, and were revelatory experiences for others who had never had the opportunity to see these cinematic classics on a large screen in a group setting. The courtyard was packed with fans for the First Friday music series during the summer, which featured the musical stylings of a wide array of entertainers including The Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Los Saltinos, and Max Wellman.

**GALA CELEBRATION**

**ART TRAVELS: A GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF ART**

The Art Center imagined a party on a tarmac. That was the scene of the 2017 Gala, *ART TRAVELS: A GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF ART*. More than 300 guests attended this black-tie event in a 20,000 square-foot airplane hangar generously provided by Elliot Aviation Services located at the Des Moines International Airport. Chaired by Board of Trustees Vice-President Darren Jirsa, *ART TRAVELS* showcased the global reach and travel of works of art in the permanent collections and the artists whose works have traveled here for exhibition from the far corners of the globe. It also honored the increasing variety of international birthplaces represented by artists accepted into the Art Center collections. The gala’s special guest was Barbara Haskell, curator at *The Whitney Museum of American Art*, who was in the midst of preparing a major exhibition of works by Grant Wood, including two of the Art Center’s works by Wood. Gala patrons enjoyed a brunch with Ms. Haskell the day after the gala at the Art Center restaurant.

**DAY OF THE DEAD**

The Art Center hosted its 17th annual *Day of the Dead / Día de los Muertos* celebration in October. *Day of the Dead* is a traditional Latino celebration that honors the lives of members of the community who have passed away. The event is a festive day of music, dancing, food and drink, art activities, and remembrances for the entire family.

The 2017 celebration honored the influence of the many local Mexican bands that provided the community with traditional and modern sounds, playing an important role in the lives of many, from weddings to quinceañera celebrations, to family reunions. Musicians and bands honored were Primetivo Aguiniga, Perfidia Diaz, Jesse Fernandez, Paul Gomez, Latino Pride, John Luna, Mike Moreno, and Spanish Candy.

Mariachi Zapata provided music throughout the day. *Day of the Dead* art activities were offered in the studios. Complimentary hot chocolate and *Day of the Dead* bread were provided for the nearly 1,500 guests who attended the one-day event. An altar with mementos from the musicians’ lives was on display throughout the following week.

1,500 guests joined in the 17th annual *Day of the Dead / Día de los Muertos* celebration.
MUSEUM SHOP

The Museum Shop continued to engage the community in a variety of unexpected ways along with being a shopping destination in the Des Moines metro. Spring Fling, Holiday in July, and Members Double Discount sales brought continued success. The Museum Shop hosted its second annual Artist Spotlight, featuring local artist and author, Christine Hilbert. This event coincided with the publication of Hilbert’s stunning new book, Echo Of The Star.

Come Out and Play in November invited visitors and their children to actively engage with the shop’s entirely unexpected collection of toys in plenty of time to make their selections for the holidays.

The shop’s annual gift wrapping event in December was revamped into Gift Wrap SOS; outstanding Art Center volunteers and staff made the shop available for everyone’s gift wrapping needs. The second annual Holiday Artist Trunk Show brought new artists and visitors to the Art Center lobby to shop just in time for the holidays. The Museum Shop is proud to showcase local talent in many ways, and numerous local consignment artists are featured in the shop throughout the year.

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, the Art Center continued to engage new audiences on social media. The Art Center’s Facebook page continues to have the largest audience with more than 24,000 followers. Twitter offers the museum a unique way to engage with other arts and cultural organizations through international campaigns such as #AskACurator Day, #FreeMuseum Day, #MuseumSelfie Day, #MuseumWeek, and #SlowArtDay. Through the Art Center’s use of Instagram, the museum brings contemporary art, a glimpse at educational programming, and the joy of studio classes into the lives of more than 12,000 followers who may not be able to experience the Art Center in person on a regular basis.

The Art Center’s Facebook page continues to have the largest audience with more than 24,000 followers.

DRAWING IN SPACE

The Art Center saw an outpouring of enthusiasm on social media during the run of this exhibition, with more than 400 photos posted on Instagram using the hashtag, #DrawingInSpaceDSM, in addition to the hundreds shared without it. Visitors shared a wide range of photos, from works of art in the exhibition to embroidery to projects their children created at home inspired by the exhibition.

52 MUSEUMS PROJECT

In early 2017, the Art Center participated in the 52 Museums Project. Beginning in January 2016, 52 Museums began transferring ownership of a shared Instagram account to a different international museum every week. Throughout the week the Art Center participated, it shared 55 posts about a variety of topics ranging from the organization’s history and permanent collections to studio programs and upcoming exhibitions.

The Art Center’s content saw significantly higher engagement than some of the accounts of other featured organizations, with posts having more than 8,900 likes throughout the week.
From 2016 to 2017 the Art Center experienced an 11% increase overall in membership contributions.

3,297 members found themselves #ArtCentered in 2017.

Members participated in an array of member-only programs and events, including themed gallery talks, such as Pride @ the Art Center; Stop-and-Go tours of the Pappajohn Sculpture Park at night; exhibition related Family Gallery Explorations; Art for Lunch with Curator Laura Burkhalter and Assistant Curator Jared Ledesma; and brunch and tour of Drawing in Space with Director of Education Jill Featherstone.

Member groups and committees volunteered more than 800 hours of time to plan entirely unexpected programs; volunteer hours alone were dedicated to planning the eighth installment of the Des Moines Art Center Big Hair Ball.

ART NOIR

In 2017, Art Noir sponsored the Des Moines Art Center Big Hair Ball: Alchemy, inspired by the exhibition Alchemy: Transformations in Gold. This gilded night of luxury was an extravagant evening of fashion and entertainment, featuring a live runway show with some of Des Moines’ finest big hair creations from local salons, barbers, and stylists. The event was held in the I. M. Pei building, and was only the second time in Art Center history a party was held in this location.

Art Noir strives to make contemporary art approachable to the next generation of art lovers, hosting many unconventional and unexpected experiences throughout the year. The group celebrated International Women’s Month with a gallery talk highlighting...
women artists in tandem with a beer tasting; got dirty in the studios with Alchemy + Airplants and perennial favorite Holiday Studio; and partnered with Pecha Kucha Des Moines for a series of rapid-fire presentations in the classic Pecha Kucha 20x20 format.

PRINT CLUB
Print Club members delighted in a robust year of social and educational opportunities. The group celebrated its founding members in a Throwback Thursday with Print Club Pioneers, and later in the year took to the streets of downtown Des Moines to screen print manhole covers with member group Art Noir. Members also took day trips to Grinnell and Ames to view exhibitions and absorb gallery talks to further their knowledge of fine prints. They continued to give back to the Art Center through the 2017 annual gift print, Grayson Perry’s stunning etching, Animal Spirit, 2016, and the conservation of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec’s lithograph, Anna Held, 1898. Making the year all the more special, they met 2017 Commissioned Print Artist Clarence Morgan during the unveiling of his limited edition print titled Ordinary Wonders, created especially for Print Club.

SALON 4700
Salon 4700 members gained insider access to the Art Center with first looks and behind-the-scenes tours. In addition to experiencing the Art Center in entirely unexpected ways, members explored the Des Moines arts scene through immersive events, each designed to spark conversation by connecting members with contemporary art and artists. Salon 4700 began the season with an unforgettable private collection tour at the home of longtime Art Center patrons, followed by a rare glimpse inside the Art Center’s vault, and later joined Ruptures: exhibiting artists Lauren Fensterstock and Beth Lipman before the exhibition opened to discuss the nuances of onsite installations.

During the summer, members enjoyed a private showing at Yellow Door Gallery, and then in September boarded a trolley to visit Des Moines murals and speak with the artists who created them. They ended 2017 with the third installment of A Conversation with Creators, a progressive evening conversing with local artists and a breathtaking glass-blowing demonstration at the newly opened Mainframe Studios, in downtown Des Moines.
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DIRECTOR OF MEMBER EXPERIENCES
Leslie Onthanh
MEMBERSHIP AND DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

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Ellen O’Neil Harris
LEAD SALES ASSOCIATE
Mary Lou Grotewold
SALES ASSOCIATE
Lauren Nelson
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Rhonda Fingerman
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Christopher Haines
Marty Harter
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DOCK OPERATIONS MANAGER
Myron Anderson
Ralph Briggs
Andrew Bucb
Milton Bunce, Jr.

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CHIEF REGISTRAR
Megan Cohen
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR / CURATORIAL ASSISTANT
Sydney Royal-Welch
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Inta Garrett
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Sharyl Smith
VISITOR EXPERIENCE ASSISTANTS

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The Elliott Aviation hangar at the Des Moines International Airport provided the perfect venue for the 2017 Gala, ART TRAVELS: A GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF ART. Photo: Eric Salmon

ON THE COVER More than 5000 visitors had the unique experience of interacting with Numen/For Use's Tape Des Moines during the Drawing in Space exhibition. Photo: Dan Hodges