So, gratitude played a major role in 2023. And as we moved through the year, we had more reasons to be thankful. Armando Manresa, the new Registrar & Curatorial Assistant, began to make impact right away. Madilyn Anderson was promoted to fulltime Collection Manager & Preparator, increasing progress toward goals related to documentation and accessibility to the collection. With the addition of Michelle Riggs Waller, those goals are beginning to come into focus as the team works toward knowing all we can about the works and artists in our collection and making that information available to our members, students and faculty, and the public.

AMoA's impact on the community with Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) continues to grow as Cindy Blair trains more LSU student teachers each year in this inquiry-based methodology centered on art viewing and impacting literacy, problem solving, the scaffolding of ideas, and more. We know how powerful VTS is in the classroom and are currently in discussion with one elementary school principal to identify which teachers to train first for the greatest impact on every student in that school.

A new addition to museum programming in 2023 was Courageous Conversations discussing topics brought up by the artists and works in current exhibitions and facilitated by Connie Cooper, Chief Civil Rights Compliance and Access Officer at LSUA. The intention is to bring diverse people together for healthy discussion.

Many other impactful programs are mentioned in this report as we review the year at-a-glance, but I ask you to spend a little time really looking at what the museum offers and come for a visit. As I review our strategic plan and document the different ways AMoA seeks to accomplish those goals, I am proud of the work we do. And yes, grateful - for the dedicated museum staff who always rise to the occasion, for the Board of Managers who keep us moving forward, for the LSUA and the LSUA Foundation, GAEDA, and all our supporters, grantors, and partners.

Development saw many successes beyond LOVE at the Museum in 2023. We received our first ever competitive NEA grant supporting the exhibition Environmental Impact II and yearlong thematic programming. This includes an additional sculpture which will soon be added to the AMoA grounds. Other grantors and sponsors supported yoga, exhibitions, general operations, and marketing, thanks to Olivia Helmer, AMoA's Director of Development and Community Relations, who had a development of her own! On November 21, 2023, she welcomed her baby daughter, Loretta, to the world!

Lastly, we wish Operations & Outreach Manager, Nancy Noles well as she moves on to other horizons. I am grateful for the time she has spent at the Alexandria Museum of Art and the impact she has made here. As AMoA reaches for that vision to be a dynamic institution that makes a positive impact on future generations in Central Louisiana, we will continue to focus on our mission to foster a healthy and culturally rich community by embracing change and using the power of art to educate, inspire and heal.

See you at the Museum!

Catherine McRory Pears
AMoA Executive Director & Curator
Introducing our new Museum Collections Archivist & Instructional Liaison – Michelle Riggs-Waller, MLIS, CA

Michelle Riggs-Waller joined the Alexandria Museum of Art as its Museum Collections Archivist in May. She brings with her the experience of her 20 years working as an information professional serving patrons of libraries and archives. AMoA represents to her an exciting new venue for preserving the culture of Central Louisiana.

Introducing our new Visitor Services Associate – Sandy Zakaluzny

Sandra Zakaluzny joined AMoA in July 2023, working part-time in Visitor Services. Originally, from Canada, Sandra has worked in both the United States and Canada. She brings a broad range of job experience working with the public from tourism, medical field, to retail. Her volunteer work has included American Red Cross, Garrett Lakes Arts Festival as well as civic clubs. Sandra enjoys meeting new people and learning more about the arts and history of Central Louisiana.
Our collection expanded with the acquisition and donation of 2 objects. The two works are by Lloyd Hawthorne and Mary Kearney Hull. While our permanent collection expanded by 2, our team has added 500 pieces from our permanent collection to our online database. Additionally, we added to our virtual educational content for collections and exhibitions thanks to our Educator, Cindy Blair, who conducted artist interviews and created educational videos about the work in our collections and exhibitions.


**Connected Visions** was the first exhibition in the collection gallery established on the 3rd floor of the museum. It offered a look at how fine art grew in Louisiana by tracking influences through art professors and Louisiana artists prominent in the museum collection. After 6 years, and another study of the collection, our curatorial team will install *Enduring Concepts: People, Place, Spirituality, & Emotion* opening in March of 2024. This new view into the Alexandria Museum of Art collection explores recurring themes prevalent within its scope of Modern and Contemporary Louisiana, Southern, & American Art. You can expect to see a wider display of works that will include works never displayed before now. This exhibition allows for the art to be changed periodically to remain fresh for our home audience.

**METAMORPHOSIS**

*Art From Recycled Materials*

Curated by Eric Hess, Sanctuary Arts School


2023 Highlights

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT II**

The past year saw AMoA host a wide variety of traveling exhibitions. The year began with the *Environmental Impact II* show. *Environmental Impact II*’s purpose was to recognize, document, and share the work of leading contemporary artists who chose to focus their work on global as well as local environmental issues. The exhibition included 75 paintings, photographs, prints, installations, and sculptures from various artists around the globe.

*Environmental Impact, Produced by David J. Wagner, L.L.C., David J. Wagner, Ph.D., Curator/Tour Director.*

**36th September Competition**

*AMoA’s Annual Juried Art Competition*

AMoA hosted our 36th September Competition and our 3rd annual Farm to Forest Plein Air Festival which gave artists, both local and nationwide, a chance to showcase their talents. The curatorial team partnered up with Eric Hess and Sanctuary Glass Studio to exhibit a new show titled *Metamorphosis.* The exhibit featured art made entirely of recycled material by artists both here in Louisiana and around the country.

**The Global Language of Headwear**

CULTURAL IDENTITY, RITES OF PASSAGE, AND SPIRITUALITY

The final exhibition of 2023 was *The Global Language of Headwear* which was curated by Stacey Miller, featured 84 hats from around the globe. Stacey Miller visited the exhibit and gave a lecture about her experiences collecting her hats and her travels around the world.

*The Global Language of Headwear: Cultural Identity, Rites of Passage, and Spirituality was jointly organized by Stacey W. Miller and International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.*
Education & Outreach

The Muse

This year our educational programming was focused on both creative and environmental sustainability. At the 2023 Muse Brainstorming, where Muse members generate and vote on ideas for programming, they chose to do puppetry, various styles of painting and figure drawing workshops to hone their skills. To learn to be more environmentally conscious they created assemblage art headwear and mixed media works from trash. They also learned about and created art that discussed endangered species.

Adult Art Classes

In 2023, the museum continued to offer monthly Creative Launchpad classes which allow participants to explore a variety of mediums and began including Mindful Art Practice in the mix.

The Museum also offered Figure drawing workshops facilitated by Tony McDonald and Printmaking workshops by our own Madilyn Anderson. This spring will bring opportunities to learn more about printmaking as we open A Graphic Journey: Prints by Pablo Picasso in March.

Other Adult Workshops brought visiting artists to town and included Recycled Papermaking with Hannah Chalew, Upcycled Hat Making with Nancy Judd of Recycled Runway fame, and a workshop specifically for the welding students at CLTCC with sculptor Julie Glass. Some of those participating students competed in a recycled sculpture competition which will culminate with installations at their CLECO Manufacturing Center downtown and also on the Cottonport campus.
Creative Round Table

We also looked to our community of artists to offer support, and in August we started the Creative Round Table, a monthly discussion group open to all creatives and artists in our community. So far, 35 artists have participated and many come regularly. During these meetings artists share valuable advice and opportunities with each other. We offer artists information on career advice, grants and other opportunities we have access to as an institution.

Art for All

To be more inclusive, our Family Classes were rebranded and retooled as Art for All, intergenerational art workshops. With a focus on the environment, we created Upcycled Animals.

VTS

Finally, we helped Rapides Parish students build their critical thinking skills through our Visual Thinking Strategies programming. Cindy Blair coached 36 LSUA Student Teachers and 2 Rapides Parish Teachers in the Visual Thinking Strategies method. This research based method uses discussions about art to bolster critical thinking, writing, verbal, and reading skills. During this two year program, the teachers participate in one 6 hour training and three - 2 hour trainings each year. We are hoping to grow the program in the coming year to include more Rapides Parish teachers.

Summer Camps

In June, AMoA’s free outreach camp for kids in Lecompte, Culture Cruise, once again brought the group to a variety of locations in central Louisiana, both educational and fun! In July, Museum summer camp Gallery Grooves led by Manager of Education and Digital Engagement, Cindy Blair, offered two dimensional and sculptural works inspired by art on display in the gallery. Local Art Educator, Carolyn Scalfano, offered The Eyes of the World focused on art making that helped young minds expand their imaginations and further develop their problem-solving and communication skills.
Illuminated Processions
Each year, AMoA hosts three illuminated processions as a gift to our community. We create large scale illuminated mobile sculptures and host Community Luminary Workshops so that our community can come and create their own small illuminated creations for the processions. This year we created a giant Jack Skellington and made sure he was dressed for Winter Fête in his Santa outfit! As always the community showed up to help us create magic in the streets during Art Walk, Alex Winter Fête and River Fête. To keep with AMoA’s goal of sustainability, our Community Luminary Workshops created luminaries from upcycled plastic containers.

Performing Arts Series, Artist Talks, Renegade Tours
Each year, AMoA organizes programming aligned with the themes of the current exhibitions and collaborates with other organizations for additional events.

• Performing Arts Series: In January, to celebrate the No Man’s Land exhibition, Willie Stewart Family & Friends performed a range of music from old-time to outlaw country. Attendees enjoyed fantastic fiddle playing, clogging, and had the opportunity to dance. In September, the museum welcomed Alexandria native, Dylan Tran, an accomplished composer and songwriter, who performed a mix of original songs, Vietnamese folk songs, and other favorites. Tran also collaborated with members of the ASH and Bolton choirs to present original choral pieces based on poetry by Louisiana Poet Laureate Jack Bedell. The concert was initially planned for the City of Alexandria Amphitheater but was moved to the Coughlin Saunders Performing Art Center due to weather conditions. The museum was proud to offer this unique and uplifting performance by a native artist.

• Artist Talks: AMoA invites artists and experts to share their insights and experiences related to the exhibitions. These talks provide an opportunity for visitors to gain a deeper understanding of the artworks and their significance.

• Renegade Tours: As part of its commitment to engaging the community, AMoA offers unconventional tours led by community members. For the Environmental Impact II exhibition, Annie Collins, founder of Glass Act, provided her unique perspective on the works. During the September Competition, artists from River Oaks led the tour, offering attendees a multi-sensory experience involving music, movement, and hands-on art making. The last tour of the year, focused on The Global Language of Headwear, was led by Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and their elf who shared insights about the hats and headpieces on display from their travels around the world.

Partnerships and Special Events
Throughout the year, AMoA collaborates with various organizations to bring diverse cultural experiences to the community. Here are some examples:

• In February, the museum partnered with board member Ingrid Johnson, Esq. to present the Folding Chair Diversity Dinner for the second consecutive year. This event celebrates diversity and fosters meaningful conversations.

• In March, The Jewish Temple organized an annual concert featuring Erik Lawrence and his Jazz Trio. AMoA partnered with them to offer a Sound Sanctuary Workshop facilitated by Lawrence during the same weekend.

• Also in March, Eric Hess from the Sanctuary Arts School of Shreveport brought his mobile glass hot shop to the museum for demonstrations and creative opportunities as part of the Youth Art Month festivities.

• Later in the year, AMoA joined forces with the Arts Council to host the Anyone can Play the Uke program and a performance by Improvocations, the local improv group.

These partnerships and special events enhance the museum’s offerings and provide unique experiences for the community.

Healthy Living Programs
Mindfulness and Art
Our Veterans Mindfulness Group, once again co-taught by AMoA Educator, Cindy Blair, and VA Supervisory Recreational Therapist, Robin Joffrion-Sawyer, met monthly and did mindfulness based projects that also focused on using materials that were environmentally friendly. These sessions focus on how art activities can help increase focus and help participants deal with stress and intrusive thoughts and emotions. This activity is also offered several times a year as a rotation of art exploration during monthly Creative Launchpad classes.

Yoga in the Gallery
In 2023, AMoA welcomed Southern Air as the new sponsor of Yoga in the Gallery, taught by Learn with Laci. The museum is delighted to continue offering this free healthy living opportunity for community members to relax and unwind on Tuesday evenings.

Illuminated Processions
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Development Update

Exciting Fundraising Highlights at the Museum in 2023

In 2023, the museum had an eventful year in terms of fundraising and community engagement. Let's take a closer look at some of the highlights:

**LOVE at the Museum: A Generous Gift**

In February, we kicked off the year with a special event called *LOVE at the Museum*. This event celebrated the generous gift of Shira and Joseph Lipsey, III. They honored Joseph's parents, lifelong supporters of the museum, by renaming the first-floor gallery to *The Betty Fay Wellan Lipsey and Joseph Lipsey, Jr. Gallery*.

**Grants and Support**

The museum was privileged to receive grants from esteemed organizations and foundations including GAEDA, Louisiana Charities Trust, the RoyOMartin Foundation, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Arts Council of Central Louisiana, the Louisiana Division of the Arts, the Louisiana Office of Tourism, the Rotary Club of Alexandria, SouthArts, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). These grants played a vital role in supporting the museum’s initiatives.

**Environmental Sustainability Focus with NEA Grant**

The NEA grant allowed the museum to launch a year-long drive for environmental sustainability. It began with the museum’s spring exhibit, *Environmental Impact II*. With the support of NEA funds, the museum organized informative workshops featuring artists who work with recycled materials. These workshops aimed to increase awareness of the potential value in what we perceive as waste. Additionally, the museum collaborated with welding students at Central Louisiana Community College for a workshop and recycled metal sculpture competition. During the fall/winter season, the museum showcased an exhibit featuring Louisiana artists who create artwork using recycled materials in its auxiliary galleries. Furthermore, the museum issued a call for proposals for a new recycled materials sculpture to be installed on its grounds. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting project in the coming months! Overall, 2023 proved to be an incredible year for fundraising at the museum, thanks to the support of generous individuals, organizations, and grants.

**Farm to Forest Plein Air Festival**

The museum also organized the third edition of the *Farm to Forest Plein Air Festival*. This four-day event brought together 24 artists from seven different states. They captured the abundant natural beauty of Central Louisiana through their artwork.

**The Louisiana Dragon Boat Races**

For the 12th consecutive year, the museum hosted the thrilling *Louisiana Dragon Boat Races*. Twenty-two teams participated in friendly competition on Buhlow Lake in Pineville. Excitingly, CLECO claimed the first-place trophy for the first time. They will proudly host the traveling trophy until May 4, of 2024 when the 13th Louisiana Dragon Boat Races will take place.
The Alexandria Museum of Art acknowledges the following community and business partners, whose grants and gifts support programs and exhibitions. To join as a Business Partner or for more information, please contact Olivia Helmer at (318) 443-3458 or olivia@themuseum.org

In its efforts to bring innovative arts experiences to our community, AMoA continually strives to create a diverse menu of programs and offerings that highlight our exhibitions and inspire our visitors. All the events, workshops, and programs that you enjoy are made possible by a staff that is dedicated to a universal idea that every detail and everyone matters.
Sign up for our weekly emails!
Never miss a thing at AMoA.
Just visit themuseum.org, and enter your email.
It's that easy!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours / Location</th>
<th>Admission</th>
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| Tuesday - Friday 10am-5pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm | Adults - $5       |
| 933 Second Street,   
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301  
318.443.3458  
themuseum.org | K-12 Students / Seniors / Military - $4 |
|                   | Under 4 years old – FREE |
|                   | LSUU students – FREE |
|                   | Always FREE on 2nd Saturdays |
|                   | Call for group rates |

STAY CONNECTED