



FLEISHER ART MEMORIAL 2021 IMPACT REPORT

Fleisher's board and staff are grateful to the many children and adults who enriched our programs this year with creativity and enthusiasm. We wish to recognize Fleisher's talented faculty members, whose expertise and commitment make our classes and workshops so compelling. Fleisher's work simply would not be possible without the support of generous individuals, foundations, and corporate partners. We are pleased to share these highlights from 2021—**Fleisher's 123rd year**—and invite you to visit Fleisher.org to learn more.



"Thank you for the wonderful programs that Fleisher Art Memorial brings to our community! I am a local Philadelphia resident who has physical disabilities. During the pandemic, I have been rediscovering artistic and creative talents."
- Fleisher Student

1,600 adult students registered for virtual and onsite classes
1,000 virtual participants engaged in Fleisher from a Distance
145 virtual adult classes offered
293 in-person adult classes offered



Photography by Colibri Workshop

1,500 Day of the Dead attendees
150 community partners engaged
200 Latinx artists engaged
100 Southeast Asian artists engaged

"I really enjoyed the Day of The Dead Workshop and looked forward to our creative evenings together. I learned so much about the holiday, customs, and traditions. And we have incorporated some of these beautiful traditions into my own family now. I found it so interesting and really enjoyed the opportunity to learn and create in the small group."
- Day of the Dead Workshop Student

Last year, Fleisher stretched in new directions to remain connected to our neighborhood and the local artistic and cultural communities we serve. In December, Fleisher prioritized partnerships and amplifying the work of our community partners. For example, as part of the **Social Activism through Art** series, we presented the widely successful *Plauntie: Unsolicited Advice From a Jungle Asian Plant Auntie* with Catzie Vilayphonh, a local artist, activist, and founder of Laos in the House. We also participated in food drives with Juntos and The Church of the Crucifixion. In January, we launched **360 Cultural Lab**, a new project funded by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage supporting partnerships with Philadelphia's Venezuelan and Indonesian communities to promote the vibrancy of these cultures in the city. And finally, we demonstrated Fleisher's commitment to ongoing artistic community collaborations, partnering with La Calaca Flaca to present our ninth annual **Día de los Muertos** celebration, bringing people back to Fleisher for in-person gathering, reflection, and solidarity.



FLEISHER ART MEMORIAL 2021 IMPACT REPORT

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Fleisher swiftly pivoted in 2020 to bring virtual courses to our community of learners. 2021 was no different. Fleisher continued to present virtual offerings to accommodate those not yet ready to return in person. Doing so not only kept our classes accessible, but also expanded our reach to global audiences and allowed us to reconnect with Fleisher community members no longer in the Philadelphia area.

Meanwhile, Fleisher continued to strengthen its learning community. In the spring, we hosted Imani Roach to lead a free class, *Photography in the Black Diaspora*, and Joel Dankoff joined us to teach *History of U.S. Architecture through Philadelphia Buildings*, another tuition-free spring course. Our **Creative Aging Program** returned with a free workshop, *Cuentos en la Tradición Retablo*, where renowned artist Kukuli Velarde taught students how to create stories through the traditional Peruvian art of *retablo* (devotional painting). This fall, we've increased in-person classroom capacity to 70% and continue to implement rigorous safety protocols onsite in collaboration with the Recovery Taskforce Committee.

Staying connected with Fleisher's youngest community members has remained a priority with a focus on flexibility. After a year and a half of virtual classes, Fleisher's long-standing **Saturday Young Artists Program** enjoyed a successful return to in-person programming in September, with around **200 families** joining us for low-cost, high-quality weekly art classes.



Teen Lounge continued with virtual community-building and hosted in-person, socially-distanced programming where possible, such as a wheatpasting workshop in Fleisher's parking lot. This fall, Teen Lounge kicked off with hybrid programming, featuring two virtual workshop days and one onsite day each week. Our teens have remained connected and engaged as a result of the community built through Teen Lounge, providing a vital resource as they continue to navigate the challenges of an ongoing pandemic.

"In a pandemic it's so hard to find socialization with new people. Here we get to connect with people in our community, and we really need to have that outlet for socialization and interests. I came to Teen Lounge almost every day during the summer because it was something I depended on for connection with other young artists and other teenagers." - Teen Lounge Student