



RETURNING TO OMCA

2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT

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Dear OMCA Community,

It has been invigorating to pause and reflect on all that was accomplished from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022—a period of time that feels both very recent and very far in the past. Looking back, I can see how much we were driven by a fundamental desire to reconnect—with our friends, colleagues, members, donors, and the incredible community of OMCA and the Bay Area. We donned our masks and came to the Museum to be part of something bigger; to find solidarity, inspiration, and connection, and OMCA's galleries and gardens were the ideal venue for this reconnection.

Some of the highlights of our year included the success of our special exhibitions, *Mothership: Voyage Into Afrofuturism* and *Edith Heath: A Life in Clay*. We also opened *OMCA Kids: Nature Playspace*, our first installation in the Museum that is specifically designed for young children ages 2–5. In this report, you can read about our work with schools and the new California native plantings in our garden. Part of our campus and garden transformation also includes our new outdoor stage that was unveiled with a series of concerts that met the moment. Our free Lunchtime Sessions provided a COVID-safe environment for gathering and inspiration.

At the beginning of this fiscal year, we had just opened our campus after an unprecedented 15-month closure. In retrospect, I can see this was both a monumental moment and also a mere turning of the page in the next chapter for the Oakland Museum of California. Today, OMCA is breaking new ground with exceptional exhibitions rooted in our community, with reimagined school programs that serve the social-emotional needs of local children, and with a growing number of new donors, members, and visitors.

When we come together at OMCA, our community is strengthened and inspired to create a more vibrant future. Thank you for joining us in this work.

Lori Fogarty



Director and CEO



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Welcome to the
Oakland Museum
of California—
OMCA for short.
We're glad
you're here.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS, CORE GALLERIES & ACQUISITIONS

OMCA welcomed back 82,726 visitors

REMEMBERING HUNG LIU

OMCA honored the life and legacy of beloved artist and Oakland resident, Hung Liu, who passed away on August 7, 2021, through a temporary special exhibition in the Gallery of California Art. OMCA has a long and treasured history with Liu, from early acquisitions of her work, to a featured survey of her works in the exhibition *Summoning Ghosts: The Art of Hung Liu*, to its partnership in commissioning the installation at the Oakland Airport, *Going Away, Coming Home*. Our current exhibition includes the works *Still Point* (1998) and *Heroine of Gu Yanxiu* (2012), as well as *Bindlestiff* (2015) and *Portrait of Dorothea Lange* (2017).



MOTHERSHIP: VOYAGE INTO AFROFUTURISM

As the Museum reopened its doors after months of shelter-in-place, in August 2021, *Mothership* offered a powerful reason to gather and celebrate Black imagination. The exhibition showcased the work of some of the central figures of this cultural phenomena and included contemporary artworks, a Dora Milaje costume from the film *Black Panther*, photography, and other historical objects.



OMCA KIDS: NATURE PLAYSPACE

Nature Playspace is the result of a multi-year research and planning process undertaken with local community partners. The development focused on creating playful learning experiences for children ages two to five. From nature-themed puzzles and building materials to exhibits featuring animals that make their homes in Oakland's backyards, streams, and hills, *Nature Playspace* gives families a fun, safe place to play and build community with other families.

“With the opening of OMCA Kids: Nature Playspace, OMCA has become even more **family-friendly**.

—510 Families



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EDITH HEATH: A LIFE IN CLAY

This exhibition told the story of Edith Heath, founder and designer of Heath Ceramics. Heath transformed the ceramics industry, creating dinnerware from California clay for “Sunday best” and everyday use. This was not a traditional ceramics or craft exhibition—it combined historic objects, photographs, documentary video, and personal memorabilia to showcase Heath’s legacy and story.

OAKLAND YOUTH ACCESS

In partnership with Oakland Unified School District teachers, the Marinovators, and the Performing Stars of Marin, OMCA organized a special viewing and youth takeover of *Mothership: Voyage Into Afrofuturism* for 300 local Black youth in February 2022. After witnessing its success, OMCA decided to make youth admission free for the remainder of the show.

429 youth
received free access
to *Mothership*

NEW ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS

Every year, OMCA acquires a small selection of art and objects. The Museum is intentional about ensuring these works are relevant to its mission and social impact goals, represent artists who embody a variety of identities and perspectives, and can be adequately cared for by staff on an ongoing basis.



Summer Afternoon, Taos, New Mexico (1931–1932)

Maynard Dixon

Gift of the Katten Family



Dugan Aguilar Collection and Archive

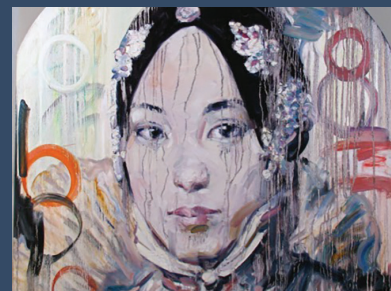
Gift of the family of Dugan Aguilar



A Rock in Disneyland, Cal (1962)

Diane Arbus

Gift of Jeffrey Fraenkel & Frish Brandt



Visage VI (2005)

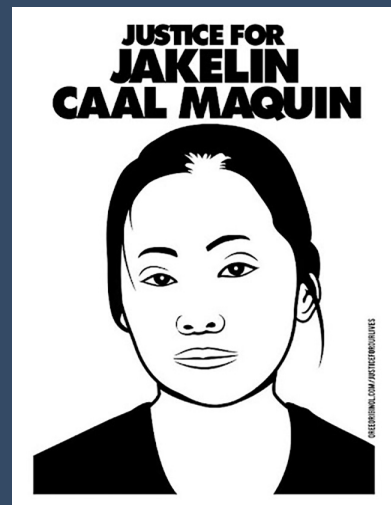
Hung Liu

Gift of Daryl and John Lillie



Calli Americas Poster Collection

Gift of the Terrazas Martin Family on behalf of Margaret Terrazas Santos



Justice for Our Lives Posters

Oree Originol

Gift of Oree Originol

AWARDS & HONORS

IMLS 2022 NATIONAL MEDAL AWARD RECIPIENT

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded OMCA its 2022 National Medal, the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries making significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. The Museum was nominated by Congresswoman Barbara Lee and became one of only three museum recipients this year. Lori Fogarty, Director & CEO, had the distinct honor of traveling to Washington, D.C. to receive the award alongside our partner in the local arts ecosystem, Carolyn Johnson of Oakland's Black Cultural Zone.



PHOTO: Shannon Finney

BANK OF AMERICA ART CONSERVATION GRANT RECIPIENT

OMCA was one of 19 institutions to receive Bank of America's 2022 Art Conservation Project award, an international competition providing funding for major art restoration projects. OMCA was in the ranks of major institutions across the globe, including the Notre Dame de Paris. OMCA will use the funding to conserve *Untitled Wall Hanging* (c. 1965–70) by Bay Area Filipino artist, Carlos Villa. The newly conserved artwork will be on view for the first time in Spring 2024.



BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES DIGITAL ACCELERATOR AWARD

Have you noticed that OMCA's website has a new look? OMCA was one of 46 global arts organizations to receive a grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies, which supported OMCA to completely overhaul its website with its new brand identity.



*The Digital Accelerator program will help arts organizations **sustain innovations and investments**—and **strengthen tech and management practices** that are key to their long-term success.*

—Patti Harris, CEO of Bloomberg Philanthropies

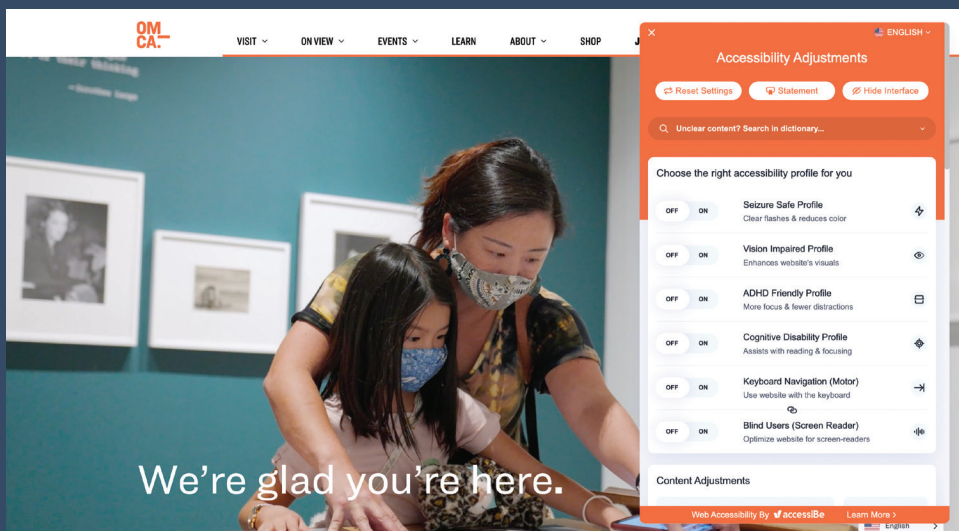
IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY

After the successful completion of the \$85M *All In!* Campaign, OMCA created new wheelchair and stroller accessible entrances from the lakeside corner of 12th Street as well as 10th Street.

The Museum updated its onsite signage to highlight the accessible paths, and also printed new activity guides for kids in three languages: English, Mandarin, and Spanish.



Hearing or vision impaired? OMCA's new website is complete with accessibility features for users with various hearing and visual abilities.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

LUNCHTIME SESSIONS

This afternoon program on select Thursdays and Saturdays was OMCA's way to reconnect with artists and visitors in a safe outdoor setting after a long hiatus from large gatherings. The series took place in OMCA's garden and used the newly-added stage to feature local musicians and performers.

4,653 attendees
33 performances

“It’s beautiful seeing people come together like this in such a **community-oriented** way. I think it’s lovely and wonderful! Good during the pandemic.

—Anonymous



EVENT PHOTOS: Leopoldo Macaya

21ST ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

OMCA's 21st annual Lunar New Year Celebration welcomed in the Year of the Tiger and included both virtual and in-person offerings celebrating traditions through storytelling, performances, activities, cooking demonstrations, and more. OMCA also held space for its Asian American and Pacific Islander communities to come together and uplift each other with both in-person and virtual healing circles, facilitated by partner organization, Lotus Awakens.

2,000 attendees



EVENT PHOTOS: Christine Cueto

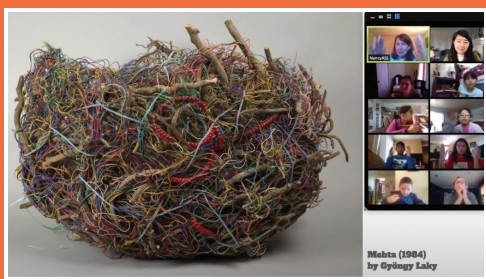
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FRIDAY NIGHTS AT OMCA RELAUNCHED

In June 2022, as California moved toward a new post-pandemic normal, OMCA and Off the Grid relaunched Friday Nights at OMCA, a weekly festival that dives into some of the themes that drive OMCA's mission, like community, belonging, and connection.



EDUCATION AT OMCA: VIRTUAL K-12 PROGRAMS



Served **28,133 students** across Northern California, with **57%** coming from schools with programs specifically designed for low-income students

*It was **accessible** for us to participate from the classroom during the pandemic, and we appreciate that it was **free so all our 2nd graders at school could attend.***

—Teacher

During the 2021–2022 school year, OMCA continued offering virtual education programs at no cost to teachers or schools, supporting students and teachers as they faced this challenging year. Programs both leveraged the collection and presented content teaching coping mechanisms for resiliency. The Museum offered four different virtual programs and two virtual performances, both live and pre-recorded. Education programs and performances expanded on themes such as the untold stories of the California Gold Rush, Black History, and art as activism.

感謝

GRATITUDE

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9,629 donors
contributed
\$6,456,586
in FY22



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Linda Wendel
Penelope Wong
David Yin



DID YOU KNOW?

OMCA recently planted over 2,000 new California native plants in its garden.

California native plants require significantly less water than other landscape plants, and don't require pesticides or fertilizers to thrive. They provide food and shelter for resident and migrating native birds, bees, butterflies and other insects.

The Oakland Museum Women's Board (OMWB) has been supporting the Oakland Museum of California since 1955 with its well-established major fundraiser and "not-to-be-missed" annual event known as The White Elephant Sale.

With nearly 1,000 volunteers contributing countless hours to sell millions of donated items, the OMWB has raised over \$29 million dollars in support of OMCA. Though the White Elephant Sale went online in 2021, the 63rd annual sale returned to its warehouse in Spring 2022 and raised over \$1.4 million to support OMCA's educational programs, exhibitions, marketing, and more. Thank you Women's Board members and volunteers!



OM CA.

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museumca.org

Sacramento sucker

FRONT COVER PHOTO:
Christine Cueto

BACK COVER PHOTO:
Hugo Ahlberg