A vibrant photograph of a community event. In the foreground, a woman in a black hoodie and a white headband with a yellow flower is dancing, her arms raised and holding a long, flowing blue and green ribbon. To her right, another person is blurred in motion, also holding a ribbon. In the background, other participants are visible, some wearing headbands. A tall wooden pole stands in the center, wrapped in a colorful braid of red, blue, and green ribbons, topped with a circular wooden frame. The scene is set outdoors against a clear blue sky, with a modern wooden building visible on the left.

The Deborah and Kenneth Novack Creative Citizens Series 2024–2025 Annual Report

Creative Citizens in Action (CCA@CCA) is a college-wide initiative that promotes creative activism and democratic engagement through public programs, exhibitions, and curriculum connections.

Founded in 2018, the initiative grew out of CCA's collaboration with alumnus Hank Willis Thomas and the artist collective [For Freedoms](#) and has continued to reflect the shared desire of CCA students, faculty, and staff for more connected programming related to art, activism, social and environmental justice, and current events.

Launched in 2020, the centerpiece of CCA@CCA is the Deborah and Kenneth Novack Creative Citizens Series, which is funded by an endowment gift to support an annual series of public programs focused on creative activism that spans the disciplines of art, design, architecture, and writing. Past series themes include [Belonging](#), [Fluid Mutualism](#), and [the Materiality of Resistance](#).

CCA@CCA is overseen by the Exhibitions & Public Programming department in partnership with Student Affairs, Marketing & Communications, Libraries, Academic Affairs, faculty, students, and partners across the college. Please contact exhibitions@cca.edu with any questions.



CCA@CCA Student Fellow Elisabeth Cobb Hughes shows off her hand-sewn banner announcing the 2024–2025 CCA@CCA theme, *Where do we go from here?*, October 2024.

Contents

Impact 4

Executive Summary 5

Theme 7

CCA@CCA Fellowships..... 8

Spotlighted Programming..... 11

 National Voter Registration Day/Constitution Day 11

TAKE ACTION 11

 Election Day Activations..... 12

 CCA@CCA Symposium: Where do we go from here? 13

 Roots and Liberation, A May Day Happening 16

Faculty Grants 18

Curriculum Toolkits and Online Resources 19

Voting Coalition..... 21

Budget Overview..... 24

Appendix 25

 Fall 2024 Deborah and Kenneth Novack Creative Citizens Series 25

 Spring 2025 Deborah and Kenneth Novack Creative Citizens Series 26

 CCA@CCA Archive 27

 News Coverage 27

Impact

2024–2025 Metrics

12 Faculty Micro Grants, providing ~\$7,950 in support, with 46% of recipients self-identifying as BIPOC

19 Artists and practitioners supported via speaker fees

46 “Creative Citizens Courses” tagged in Workday, helping students identify courses that build skills in creative activism and civic engagement

187 Students participated in courses that received funding from CCA@CCA

773 Students and other residents of precinct 7002 voted at CCA’s polling location or by mail, exceeding district and SF voter turnout averages

3,400 People attended 21 exhibitions and events

11,818 Unique visits to the CCA@CCA website and CCA@CCA-affiliated webpages on CCA’s intranet

38,152 People reached via 100 Instagram stories and posts

Executive Summary

Where do we go from here?

The 2024–2025 CCA@CCA theme asked, "Where do we go from here?" During a time of high conflict in the world around us, how can we come together for discussion, reflection, and growth? How can the CCA Community enact positive change?

Record-Breaking Engagement

The 2024–2025 program achieved unprecedented levels of community participation, with 3,400 people attending 21 exhibitions and events—nearly double the previous year's attendance. This growth was driven primarily by successful voting activations and the *TAKE ACTION* exhibition, which opened in October at the new Deborah and Kenneth Novack Gallery on CCA's expanded campus. Digital engagement saw equally impressive growth, reaching 38,152 people via social media and generating 11,818 unique website visits, representing a 105% year-over-year increase that more than doubled our online engagement.

Signature Programs

Several standout initiatives exemplified the program's impact and reach. The *TAKE ACTION* exhibition became the most highly attended gallery exhibition at CCA in recent memory, drawing nearly 1,000 visitors and showcasing work by CCA faculty and alumni working as creative citizens in their communities. The CCA@CCA Symposium in March provided a comprehensive program of panels, workshops, and student installations that exemplified interdisciplinary dialogue and community resilience. Election Week Activations transformed the entire campus into a hub of civic participation through voter registration drives, artistic installations, and community dialogue sessions that engaged students, faculty, and staff.

Award Winning Voting Work

Voting work was central to this year's fall program in the lead-up to the U.S. Presidential Election, and I am most proud of the effective and collaborative work led by the CCA Voting Coalition. In addition to enhancing data collection and analysis throughout voter registration, education, and turnout efforts, our democratic engagement efforts resulted in 773 people voting at CCA's polling location or by mail, achieving an exceptional 88.95% turnout rate that exceeded both district and citywide averages. Our voting work garnered significant recognition through multiple national and state awards. CCA was designated as a "Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting" by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge and earned "Voter Friendly Campus" designation through December 2026. The California Secretary of State Students Vote Project awarded CCA the "Best Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan" distinction. And CCA@CCA Student Fellow Elisabeth Cobb Hughes received individual recognition by being named to the 2025 ALL IN Student Voting Honor Roll, highlighting the program's success in developing student leadership.

Looking Forward

The 2024-2025 CCA@CCA program successfully fulfilled its mission to promote creative activism while demonstrating exceptional outcomes through robust engagement, national recognition, and measurable impact on student civic participation. Through community feedback sessions, we gathered insights for future iterations, and we will continue to ensure that our programming remains responsive to evolving community needs as we continue to map where we go from here, together, as a creative community.

Jaime Austin,

Director of Exhibitions and Public Programming



Current and former members of the CCA Voting Coalition, from left to right: Noki Seekao (Senior Director, Campus Life), Jaime Austin (Director, Exhibitions and Public Programs), Daniel Ransom (Librarian, Instructional Services), Connie Jeung-Mills (Former Project Manager, Marketing & Communications), Stephaine Villanova (Assistant Director for Student Engagement, Activities, & Leadership, Student Affairs), Adriana Lopez Lobovits (Chief of Staff & Equity Partner, President's Office), and Bryndis Hafthorsdottir (Gallery Manager, Exhibitions and Public Programs), September 2024

Theme

The 2024–2025 CCA@CCA theme borrowed the question *Where do we go from here?* from [For Freedoms'](#) new book. For Freedoms is an ongoing partner organization that centers art as a catalyst for civic engagement, discourse, and direct action. Founded in 2016 by CCA alumnus Hank Willis Thomas with Eric Gottesman, Michelle Woo, and Wyatt Gallery, For Freedoms works closely with a variety of artists, organizations, and institutions to expand what participation in a democracy looks like and reshape conversations about politics. Published in the lead-up to the 2024 presidential election, the book [For Freedoms: Where Do We Go From Here?](#) marks one of the largest public creative collaborations in American history: a series of over 550 artist billboards created between 2016 and 2023.

The title of For Freedom's book, in turn, references the 1967 book by Martin Luther King, Jr., [Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?](#), an analysis of American race relations and the civil rights movement.

Drawing inspiration from these two texts, what becomes evident is the need for art practice centered in hope, providing both motivation and a pathway for meaningful change. Leading up to the United States Presidential Election on November 5th, 2024, CCA@CCA supported institutional and course projects offering critical resources for civic involvement. Events focused on voter education and turnout—organized by the CCA Voting Coalition and faculty grant recipients—helped ensure the highest attendance yet at CCA's polling location in Blattner Hall.

In spring 2025, CCA@CCA turned inward, highlighting local artists and practitioners providing a roadmap to creative activism, and encouraging students to use their creative practices to support peers through challenging times.



Scenes from Deborah and Kenneth Novack
Creative Citizens Series programming, August
2024–May 2025

CCA@CCA Fellowships

Faculty Coordinator

The CCA@CCA Faculty Coordinator collaborates with the Exhibitions and Public Programming Department to organize the Deborah and Kenneth Novack Creative Citizens Series.

2024–2025 CCA@CCA Faculty Coordinator Pia Zaragoza (Adjunct I, Graduate Interaction Design Program) invited Honey Mahogany (Director of the San Francisco Office of Transgender Initiatives) and special guests Afrika America (Drag Out The Vote Ambassador) and Marcel Pardo Ariza (Adjunct II, Photography Program) to kick off the Fall 2024 Deborah and Kenneth Novack Creative Citizens Series with a drag performance and panel discussion on the intersection of politics and art. Students were heavily involved in the planning and execution of this event: Kaeli Mcleod (Illustration 2025) designed the poster and decor for the event, Lilah Sperman (Illustration 2028) spoke to her peers about the importance of voting, and DJ Misty (aka Christine Ortiz, Photography 2026) entertained guests with sets.

Pia followed Drag & Democracy with an intimate post-election roundtable featuring Sister T’aint A Virgin and Sister Zsa Zsa Glamour of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence—a charitable activist group promoting social justice and human rights since 1979. The sisters shared their journeys into the organization and highlighted ways they’ve supported the well-being of marginalized local communities. Students were encouraged to collectively envision future civic engagement strategies rooted in creativity, compassion, empathy, and justice.

In spring 2025, Pia hosted a second roundtable with Manny Yekutieli, executive director of the Civic Joy Fund, a branch of the San Francisco-based Civic Space Foundation that invests in public projects designed to bring joy to the streets. Manny offered insights into straddling the politics and arts and entertainment sectors, creative funding strategies, and the value of bold ideas and persistent action. The conversation sparked lively discussion among students about forging artistic



2023 CCA@CCA Faculty Coordinator, Pia Zaragoza



Drag & Democracy poster designed by Kaeli Mcleod (Illustration 2025)

collaborations with community partners and finding impactful ways to create change—even in the face of daunting challenges.

On May 2, Pia set up tables in the Gensler Family Courtyard beside the entrance to CCA's main building to offer an end-of-year treat. Community members received slices of cake in exchange for writing down answers to the question posed by the 2024–2025 theme, "Where do we go from here?" Seventy faculty, staff, and students participated, submitting a vast range of responses. Many expressed a need for more opportunities to build community and develop ways to support the most vulnerable among us. Such responses include: "I feel isolated from the city—I hope CCA can be more connected with SF," "More resources for POC and queer students," "Community building, mutual aid, collaborative effort, helping hands," and "Support International Students." This "food for thought" will be used to help shape 2025–2026 CCA@CCA programming.

Pia Zaragoza is a creative technologist, researcher, and educator exploring the current use cases and future possibilities of emerging technologies. She has held strategic roles at Fortune 500 companies working on inclusive design and accessibility research. Constantly tinkering and experimenting, her work is at the intersection of computer science, engineering, and the social sciences. Her past fellowships include Cinereach, IDEO, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

Student Fellow

During the 2024 election cycle, CCA@CCA Student Fellow Elisabeth Cobb Hughes focused her efforts on advancing student voting and civic engagement at CCA. Motivated by a commitment to increasing peer participation, she spearheaded a number of creative initiatives designed to promote voter turnout on campus.

One of her signature projects included the design and creation of a large, hand-sewn tablecloth emblazoned with the word "VOTE" in vibrant, eye-catching colors. This piece served as a highly visible centerpiece at multiple campus events, including a voter registration drive held prominently in the Nave. Its presence contributed to heightened visibility and engagement, resulting in a notable increase in student voter registrations.



CCA@CCA Faculty Coordinator Pia Zaragoza's end-of-year Cake and Conversation event, May 2025



CCA@CCA Student Fellow Elisabeth Cobb Hughes speaks at the CCA@CCA Symposium, March 2025

Elisabeth further expanded her outreach through a collaborative workshop in which students created custom t-shirts featuring messages like "VOTE" and "VOICE." Participants used colorful fabric cutouts and appliqué techniques to express their civic enthusiasm. The event not only fostered creativity but also built a strong sense of community among students who shared a passion for social change.

Continuing her engagement through the spring semester, Elisabeth launched a socially conscious mending project titled "Mend," hosted at the Novack Gallery from February 5 through March 14, 2025. Each Friday, she mended worn clothing brought in by students, staff, and faculty, offering her services for free in exchange for written reflections on how individuals might mend aspects of climate, government, community, relationships, or the self. This interactive installation encouraged dialogue around care, repair, and civic responsibility. The project also included a linocut workshop and culminated in a presentation at the CCA@CCA Symposium on March 6.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Elisabeth was named to the 2025 ALL IN Student Voting Honor Roll by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. This national recognition honors college students who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to nonpartisan voter registration, education, and turnout efforts. Elisabeth is one of 232 students recognized across the country for mobilizing their peers and helping to shape a more inclusive and representative democracy.

Elisabeth Cobb Hughes (MFA Industrial Design 2025) received her bachelor's degree in History from Brigham Young University in 2021. There, she studied how communities and individuals influence major systems during periods of change. Now, Elisabeth seeks to support grassroots political action through her interdisciplinary art and design practice. She is excited by collective creative power and its ability to affect change.



CCA@CCA Student Fellow Elisabeth Cobb Hughes' "VOTE" table cloth in use at various voter engagement events, fall 2024



Students participate in CCA@CCA Student Fellow Elisabeth Cobb Hughes' linocut workshop, March 2025

Spotlighted Programming

Fall 2024

National Voter Registration Day/Constitution Day

In 2024, National Voter Registration Day and Constitution Day coincided on Tuesday, September 17. To commemorate these civic holidays, CCA@CCA hosted a vibrant, high-profile event in the Nave, near the college's main entrance. Faculty members Michael Wertz (Chair and Associate Professor, Illustration Program) and Chris Treggiari (Senior Adjunct, First Year Core Studio Program) guided over 150 students through the process of screen printing voting t-shirts and posters. Daniel Ransom of the CCA Libraries curated a mobile "Art and Politics" library, while a pop-up mayoral desk designed by the [Oakland Lowdown](#) invited students to imagine and draft their first acts in office. The CCA Voting Coalition anchored the event with a bustling voter information table, debuting Elisabeth Cobb Hughes' "VOTE" tablecloth and assisting more than 25 students with voter registration, absentee ballot applications, and navigation of bureaucratic challenges. The event drew strong participation from faculty, staff, and students, with particularly high engagement from first-year students—a historically underrepresented group in voter turnout at CCA. The success of the event underscored the impact of cross-departmental collaboration, showcasing how creative partnerships across the college can foster civic engagement and build a more informed, participatory campus culture.

TAKE ACTION: A CCA@CCA Exhibition at the Novack Gallery

TAKE ACTION was a group exhibition highlighting work by CCA faculty and alumni working as creative citizens in their communities. **Timed to coincide with the U.S. Presidential Election, the inaugural exhibition in the new Deborah and Kenneth Novack Gallery celebrated six years of CCA's Creative Citizens in Action initiative.** Featured artists included Arlene Correa Valencia, Chris Johnson and Hank Willis Thomas, Maia Kobabe, Michele Pred, Michael Wertz, Neeraj Bhatia / THE OPEN WORKSHOP, Sarah Bird, and Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik.



Visitors to the Novack Gallery at the opening of **TAKE ACTION**, October 2024

Borrowing its title from the original *TAKE ACTION* exhibition held in CCA's former Hubbell Street Galleries in 2018, this second iteration reintroduced the popular TAKE ACTION Card Wall, inviting visitors to browse and take home prompts for real-world civic action. Contributions from participating artists included actions such as "Volunteer for or donate to Fabulosa Books' Books Not Bans program" and "Learn about the Save the Redwoods League and, if you're a CA voter, consider voting yes on Proposition 4."

On view from October 19 to November 16, 2024, *TAKE ACTION* was a cornerstone of CCA's Expanded Campus Opening Celebrations. The opening reception drew hundreds of students, faculty, alumni, staff, and local community members. Over the course of the exhibition, nearly 1,000 visitors enjoyed the show, making it the most highly attended gallery exhibition at CCA in recent memory.

Election Week Activations

Election Week 2024 at CCA brought together students, faculty, and staff in a dynamic blend of art, activism, and civic participation. As the nation prepared to vote, the CCA community transformed campus spaces into hubs of dialogue, creativity, and political engagement.

In the lead-up to Election Day, from October 29 to November 6, students in First Year 2D ML studios, led by Carol Elkovich (Director, Multilingual Studio Teaching and Learning), hosted *SPEAK UP! SPEAK OUT!*, an exhibition in the Hooper Atrium. Students used zines and collages to visually express deeply personal and timely issues, including anonymously submitted collages responding to the current political climate.

Blattner Hall served as the official polling location for San Francisco precinct 7002 on November 5, 2024, for the second year in a row. An impressive 773 voters—88.95% of registered students and other residents in the precinct—cast their ballots at CCA's polling place or by mail, surpassing both district and citywide voter turnout averages.

On Election Day, students gathered for Oh Shit!, a live screen-printing session and toilet paper giveaway hosted by Jasmine Zhang (Adjunct I Professor, First Year Core Studio Program) in the Hooper Atrium. This ongoing project invites participants—regardless of citizenship status—to draft ballot propositions and reflect on the political process through a humorous yet



TAKE ACTION Card Wall, October 2024



Blattner Hall Polling Location, November 5, 2024



CCA Voting Coalition core team member Steph Villanova and a student worker table outside Makers Cafe, November 5, 2024

poignant medium. Meanwhile, the Student Affairs team set up a helpful table outside Makers Cafe, offering nonpartisan voting information, ballot resources, and guidance to the polling place, along with treats and cheerful signage to build excitement.

Later that evening, CCA students were invited to Makers Cafe to watch the results of the 2024 Presidential Election. Students enrolled in American Politics, taught by Maxwell Leung (Associate Professor, Critical Studies Program) presented their final projects, which analyzed and predicted who the seven battleground states would choose for the next President of the United States. The watch party aimed to provide an engaging space for the campus community and offer an opportunity to consider the implications of the election results for the country's future.

Across campus in the Nave, students in Studio 2: Concept, taught by Isabel Samaras (Senior Adjunct, Illustration Program), unveiled a poster series highlighting the power and importance of voting. Each poster spoke to different aspects of civic engagement—from historical struggles for voting rights to present-day calls to action—inviting the community reflection. Nearby, Kim Anno (Professor, Painting and Drawing Program) and her students presented a monumental newspaper installation amplifying voices often excluded from national discourse. Through interviews and testimonials, they shared diverse perspectives on the 2024 election from environmental advocates, Indigenous leaders, LGBTQ artists, students, and educators.

CCA's Election Week events created space for students to safely engage with the Election through posters, printmaking, exhibitions, and political analysis, and bring the campus alive with energy and purpose.

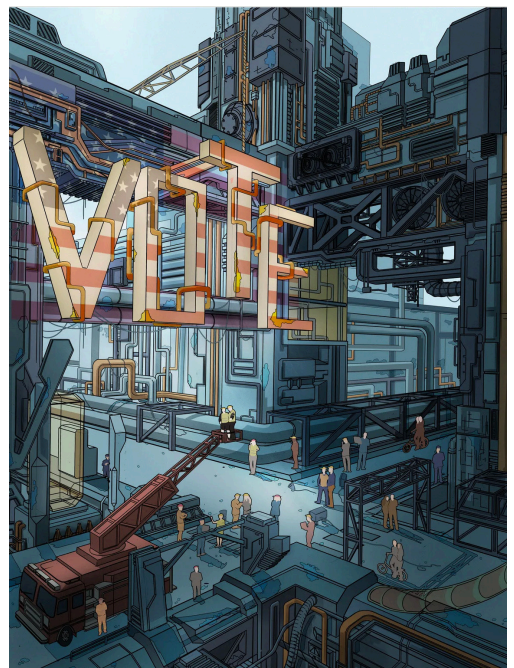
CCA@CCA Symposium: Where do we go from here?

On March 6, CCA hosted the 2025 CCA@CCA Symposium, a series of panels, interactive workshops, and student-led projects centered around the year's theme. The event brought together faculty, students, and community members to explore the power of art as a tool for inquiry, activism, and collective care.

The evening opened with a panel moderated by CCA faculty, featuring Aaron Gach, Melinda Luisa de Jesús, Janette Kim,



Students watch the Election results roll in at Makers Cafe, November 5, 2024



Posters designed by August Sidebotham and Peter Mao as a part of Isabel Samaras' Studio 2 Concept course, November 2024

and Sara Dean. Each panelist reflected on their work in relation to the symposium's theme. The conversation was followed by three parallel, hands-on workshops:

- poetry as revolution and resistance: a hay(na)ku workshop, presented by Melinda Luisa de Jesús, Associate Professor, Critical Ethnic Studies Program
- Learn the Ropes of Magical Activism, presented by Aaron Gach, Senior Adjunct, Graduate Fine Arts Program
- Bartertown, presented by Janette Kim, Associate Professor, Architecture Program

Before the main symposium, students from Melinda Luisa de Jesús' GIRL CULTURE course invited the CCA community to discuss girl power and the unique challenges girls face globally. Reclaiming the idea of the little girls' tea party, the event showcased student art and research about global girl cultures. Students offered tea, mocktails, snacks, original board games, and stimulating conversation to foster learning about girls' studies and resistance.

The symposium also included an exhibition of large-scale installations by CCA students across disciplines, including Abby Lawrence (Dual Degree: MA Visual and Critical Studies, MFA Fine Arts), Abed Darwazeh (BFA Interaction Design), Angela Zamora (BFA Animation), Chibuzor Darl-Uzu (MFA Design), Zedekiah Gonsalves Schild (Dual Degree: MA Visual and Critical Studies, MFA Fine Arts), and Yunfei Hua (MA Visual and Critical Studies), Grace Cao (BFA Graphic Design), and Xinling Wang (Alumna of MFA Design).

Notably, Chibuzor Darl-Uzu's *(Re)Assembly Room* was praised for its interactive and inclusive design. Student reporter Gabrielle Kedziora (Writing and Literature 2026) described the piece as a "neutral living space" inviting reflection on sustainability, aesthetics, and rebuilding trust. Visitors were prompted to consider questions such as "How do we rebuild?" and "What do we salvage?" **Darl-Uzu's project was later selected for a \$10,000 [Impact Award](#) from CCA's Center for Art and Public Life.**

Students in Isabel Samaras' Illustration: Concepts course created illustrated posters offering stress relief strategies and messages of support. These works, collectively titled "Weathering the Storm," were displayed in the Nave, and



Interim Provost TT Takemoto introduces the panelists at the CCA@CCA Symposium, March 2025



Students from Melinda Luisa de Jesús' GIRL CULTURE course interact with passersby, March 2025

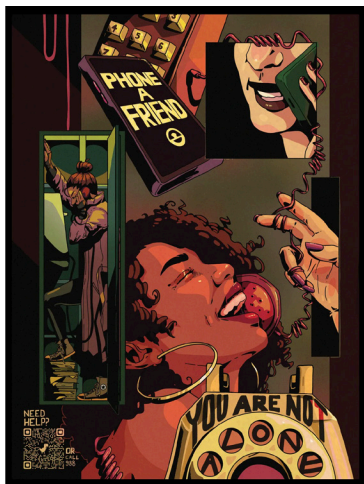


Installation view of *(Re)Assembly Room* by Chibuzor Darl-Uzu at the CCA@CCA Symposium, March 2025

emphasized self-care through activities like crafting, gaming, and connecting with peers.

Inside Look: *Weathering the Storm*

"Knowing that the work was going to be printed professionally and exhibited during an important event at the school really helped [my students] focus, apply themselves, and produce genuinely fun, eye-catching, and moving work... I think they nailed the assignment and then went above and beyond, creating powerful images that really resonated with people." –Isabel Samaras, Adjunct II Professor, Illustration Program



"I chose to make a poster about reaching out socially when the world around you is scary and overwhelming. Self isolation is something a lot of people struggle with, and it's important to know that you aren't alone and that there are people there to help. I chose the telephone as the main image motif, representing connection." –Genevieve Zaidain (Illustration 2026)

"*Relax, Breathe, Enjoy* is all about slowing down and giving yourself a moment to just be. Life moves fast, and it's easy to get caught up in everything we have to do, but sometimes, the best thing we can do is take a deep breath and let go. I wanted this piece to feel light, peaceful, and a little nostalgic, like those carefree summer days when nothing else matters. It's a reminder that rest isn't a luxury; it's something we all deserve." –Linda He (Illustration 2026)



"I am often someone who gets lost in my own imagination. For better or for worse, it makes me imagine all the possibilities constantly and it can be overwhelming. This can lead to me being close-minded and avoidant. I made this poster to remind me, and others like myself, of the joys of risk taking. It is also a twist on 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff.'" –Enrique Beltran (Illustration 2026)

Alongside these installations were a community partnership presentation by students in Home Economics and Urban Cultures, taught by Julia Grinkrug (Adjunct II, Architecture Program); *Mend*, a community sewing project by Elisabeth Cobb Hughes; and *Tools for Building Resiliency*, an interactive installation organized by Sara Dean (Associate Professor, Graduate Design Program).

In her review for [Rewind Review Respond](#), Gabrielle Kedziora concluded: “The symposium equipped visitors with inspiring new ways of problem solving. When we are faced with a trying political climate or advocating for our own needs, art and connection can lessen the stress. Conversing with each other and learning from one another can guide us in the direction we need to go.”

The 2025 CCA@CCA Symposium exemplified the college’s commitment to interdisciplinary dialogue, socially engaged practice, and community resilience.

Roots and Liberation: A May Day Happening

On Thursday, May 1, students from Collective Practices and Resistance, taught by Valencia James (Adjunct I, Critical Ethnic Studies Program) presented an interactive showcase on the upper courtyard of the Simpson Family Makers Building. Designed as a series of creative interventions, the event invited the CCA community to reflect on the current political moment and reimagine pathways toward a more equitable future.

The event featured a range of culturally grounded, participatory stations, including a table where attendees could learn about native plants and make yarrow seed bombs, a table that served fattoush and Haitian lemonade and educated attendees about these foods' origins and importance, a table where visitors could participate in a Chinese grief ritual while learning calligraphy and origami, and a table that encouraged students to candidly share ideas, feelings, or moments that stuck with them.

At 45-minute intervals, James led participants in a traditional Panafrican maypole dance, incorporating teachings from Barbadian Landship Rituals, which blend performance, resistance, and community celebration. The event began with a powerful libation ceremony in the Yoruba tradition, led by Shylah Pacheco Hamilton (Chair, Critical Ethnic Studies Program).



Community members gather for the CCA@CCA symposium, March 2025



Sara Dean presents her work at the CCA@CCA Symposium, March 2025



Valencia James and Shylah Hamilton kick off the Roots and Liberation May Day Happening, May 2025



Students plait a maypole, May 2025

Through movement, shared meals, and hands-on creative engagement, the showcase embodied the course's themes of cultural resilience, solidarity, and the transformative potential of art in public space.

Inside Look: *Roots and Liberation*

"I believe that hands-on practical application of coursework is the best teacher. The CCA@CCA Faculty grant made it possible to put on an event where students were challenged to put their ideas and responses to this political moment into action and at the same time, experience the impact of their creative interventions." –Valencia James, Adjunct I Professor, Critical Ethnic Studies Program



Faculty Grants

The goal of the CCA@CCA Faculty Grant Program program is to support the implementation of small-scale, immediate public-facing events or activations that aim to improve the learning experience of students and offer critical resources for civic involvement. All faculty actively teaching at CCA were eligible to submit proposals relating to the annual theme.

Fall 2024

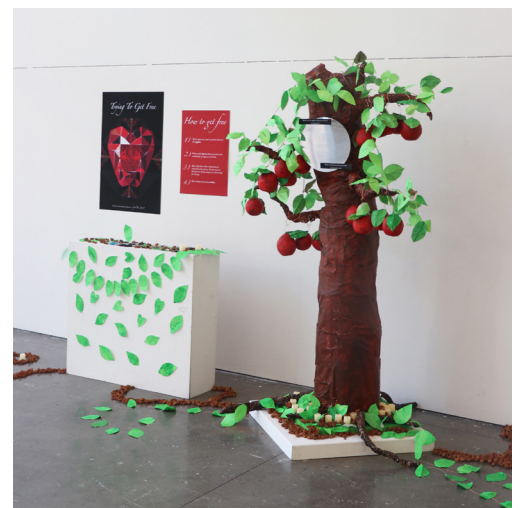
- Kim Anno, Professor, Painting and Drawing and Critical Ethnic Studies (ETHST-2000-6: Citizen Artists/Designers/Journalists)
- Carol Elkovich, Associate Professor, First Year Core Studio (FYCST-1045-1: 2D Multilingual Studio)
- James Graham, Assistant Professor, Architecture (ARCHT-4220: Architectural Theory) and Irene Cheng, Chair, Graduate Architecture (MARCH-6220: Architectural Theory)
- Maxwell Leung, Associate Professor, Critical Studies (SSHIS-2000-1: American Politics)
- Natalie Pellolio, Visiting Faculty, History of Art and Visual Culture (HAAVC-3000-1: Art and the Machine)
- Isabel Samaras, Adjunct II, Illustration (ILLUS-3040-1: Studio 2: Concept)
- Chris Treggiari, Senior Adjunct, First Year Core Studio (FYCST 1120-2: 4D Studio)

Spring 2025

- Jasmin Darznik, Chair, Graduate Writing and Graduate Visual and Critical Studies (WRITE-6020-1 / GELCT-6700-1: Writing Seminar: The Art of Witness)
- Melinda Luisa de Jesus, Associate Professor, Critical Ethnic Studies (SSHIS-2000-4: Girl Culture)
- Shylah Hamilton, Chair and Associate Professor, Critical Ethnic Studies (ETHSM-2000-9: Tryin to get free: Foundations and Futures of Intersectionality)
- Valencia James, Adjunct I Professor, Critical Ethnic Studies (ETHSM-2000-7: Collective Practices and Resistance)
- Isabel Samaras, Adjunct II, Illustration (ILLUS-3040-1: Studio 2: Concept)

"This [grant-funded] project allowed students—many of whom identify as BIPOC, queer, and first-generation—to center their lived experiences in a collective creative practice. It fostered a sense of purpose, belonging, and political engagement. Several students expressed that this was one of the most meaningful projects they had worked on during their time at CCA."

—Shylah Hamilton, Chair and Associate Professor, Critical Ethnic Studies Program



Trying to Get Free, an installation by Shylah Hamilton's students installed in the Nave, April 2025

Curriculum Toolkits and Online Resources

Teaching Modules

The CCA@CCA team created two teaching modules to accompany the fall 2024 and spring 2025 Creative Citizens Series, providing teachers and students with valuable tools and ideas that can be implemented in the classroom.

The [Fall 2024 teaching module](#) was created to support CCA class visits to *TAKE ACTION: A CCA@CCA Exhibition*. It offers resources and prompts that encourage reflection on how art can drive social change and collective action. The module includes background and discussion questions on *Question Bridge: Black Males*, a transmedia project by Chris Johnson (Professor Emeritus, Photography Program) and Hank Willis Thomas (MFA Photography and MA Visual Criticism, 2004) that explores complex issues within the African American male community through dialogue across geographic, generational, and social divides. It also features prompts from the exhibition's TAKE ACTION Card Wall to inspire deeper engagement.

The [Spring 2025 teaching module](#) was developed by CCA@CCA Faculty Coordinator Pia Zaragoza and highlights collaborative programs involving artists, nonprofits, and community groups that model what it means to work with—not for—communities to create meaningful, lasting change. The module also includes resources CCA faculty can use to connect students with local communities and support their development as engaged, creative citizens.

Website

In Spring 2024, CCA@CCA launched a redesigned public-facing website that highlights archival materials from key programs and special projects, while promoting opportunities for future engagement. Throughout the 2024–2025 academic year, the site continued to evolve, with expanded pages dedicated to thematic work and voting initiatives, as well as the addition of

Proposition 34

One of the trickier propositions on this year's ballot:

Proposition 34 sounds like a healthcare proposition, but at its core, it's actually a revenue initiative, targeted against a single organization: the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

Let's break it down.

The stated goal of Proposition 34 is to require healthcare providers to use extra revenue to pay for direct care for low-income and at-risk patients. This seems like a good thing!

But because of how this proposition is written, it would potentially only apply to a single healthcare provider: the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

Because at its core, Proposition 34 is actually about rent control.

HISTORY

In 1992, Congress passed a piece of federal legislation called 340b which requires pharmaceutical drug manufacturers to provide discounts to providers who serve low-income and at-risk patients.

If those patients have insurance, the healthcare provider can bill insurance for the full (not discounted) price of the drug. Providers can also sell discounted drugs to patients who are not low income at full price.

This creates revenue.

The idea was that healthcare providers would use that extra revenue to provide free or subsidized healthcare services to their patients. But Congress didn't legally require them to use this revenue in this way.

Prop 34 was allegedly designed to address this loophole by requiring that providers spend 98% of this net revenue on direct patient care for low-income patients.

However.

Proposition 34 would not apply to all healthcare providers. Specifically, it applies to healthcare providers who:

- Have spent at least \$100 million over a decade on purposes that do not qualify as direct patient care.
- Own (or have previously owned) one or more apartment buildings; and
- These apartment buildings must have been collectively cited for at least 500 health and safety violations.

If this seems oddly specific...that's because it is!

With these stipulations, **Prop 34 would likely only apply to one provider:** the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

How would this impact them?

The AHF has an annual budget of about 2.5 billion dollars. Most of their revenue is generated by their network of 62 pharmacies, which use the 340b program to make money and fund the AHF.

So how is Prop 34 actually about rent control?

Supporters of Prop 34 don't like that the AHF donates substantial funds to political causes, specifically measures that would expand rent control (including this year's Prop 32). Prop 34 would essentially defund the AHF, preventing them from donating to pro-rent control causes - but also preventing them from providing essential healthcare and housing to 10,000 Californians living with HIV and AIDS and tens of thousands more patients who rely on them for STD screenings.

Who supports it:

- California Apartment Association
- California Republican Party
- AHS Association
- Assemblymember Evan Low
- Inland Area Taxpayers Association
- California Chamber of Commerce
- Southern California News Group

Who opposes it:

- AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- Consumer Watchdog
- San Francisco Chronicle
- Mercury News/San Bay Times
- San Diego Union-Tribune
- Los Angeles Times

Proposition 35

According to the Los Angeles Times, Proposition 35 is "the most impenetrable measure on the Nov. 5 ballot."

Proposition 35 would make an existing tax on health insurance providers permanent. This tax helps fund Medi-Cal, a program that provides healthcare to Californians with low-income or disabilities. Currently, the tax is temporary and set to end in 2026. If passed, Prop 35 would ensure that the state continues collecting the tax indefinitely (subject to periodic approvals).

Excerpt from the 2024 Ballot Proposition Voter Guide, October 2024.

a new section recognizing past faculty grantees. A standout feature was the 2024 California Ballot Proposition Voter Guide, created by students in Art and the Machine, taught by Natalie Pellolio (Visiting Faculty, History of Art and Visual Culture Program). Written, illustrated, and designed by CCA students, the guide presented each proposition in accessible, everyday language to help voters better understand the issues and make informed choices. Thanks in large part to the popularity of this guide, the CCA@CCA website saw over 1,400 visits between July 2024 and May 2025, with 56% occurring in October and November. Overall, the site recorded a 96% year-over-year increase in unique visitors.

Inside Look: 2024 Ballot Proposition Voter Guide

"We heard from many CCA community members and family members/friends that the voter guide was an essential resource for them in this election, which was great to hear. But I think the biggest success was our learning experience as a class. Many of my students said they had never voted or, if they had voted before, they didn't vote for propositions because they found them too difficult to understand. But after we worked together as a class to research each proposition and their funding sources, they found that they could actually understand them. They also reported feeling optimistic that change can be made at the state/local level, which they had not all realized before this project."

—Natalie Pellolio, Visiting Faculty, History of Art and Visual Culture Program



Voting Coalition

In 2024, the CCA Voting Coalition expanded its campus-wide democratic engagement efforts, collaborating with leadership and departments across the college to maximize impact and visibility.

Key Partnerships and Institutional Support

Key developments during the 2024 election season included endorsement from CCA's president, David C. Howse, who signed the ALL IN Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation, supported the 2024 Voting Action Plan, and appeared in a [promotional video](#) created in collaboration with CCA's Marketing and Communications department. The video was distributed online and via social media, and amassed nearly 4,500 views.

This demonstration of institutional commitment helped rally support for the Voting Coalition's efforts from departments across the college. Beginning with National Voter Registration Day / Constitution Day, the Coalition hosted major college-wide events that took full advantage of CCA's newly expanded campus, which opened in August 2024 and includes 82,305 square feet of space for teaching, making, and exhibiting art. Collaborations with Student Life, the Learning Resource Center (LRC), the Libraries, Educational Technology Services (ETS), and International Student Services ensured that these events were well supported and voter registration opportunities were highly visible in both academic and social environments.

For example, the Voting Coalition partnered with the LRC to train 10-15 student coaches in voter registration. The Coalition also partnered with ETS to incorporate voting information into CCA's Portal Intranet landing page so that every student would have easy access to voting information. ETS also changed the homepage on every campus computer's browser to the Voting Coalition's website from August through November 2024, significantly boosting web traffic.

Given that many CCA students vote in their home states, the Coalition partnered with the Student Records Office to collect data on student residency and provide tailored resources. Through tabling, a new voter kiosk in the Simpson Library, and a



Students participate in poster and t-shirt screenprinting activations on National Voter Registration Day / Constitution Day, September 2024

helpdesk (vote@cca.edu), the Coalition provided personalized voter registration and absentee ballot support.

To ensure that campus-wide communications were inclusive of students ineligible to vote in the U.S., the CCA Voting Coalition partnered with the International Student Services office to create a Portal Intranet page dedicated to International Student Voting. This page included a calendar of upcoming national elections and links to specific resources. It was also used to debunk myths about noncitizen voting.

Data-Driven Programming

The CCA Voting Coalition enhanced its data collection and analysis in 2024. Prior to the 2024 Election Season, the Voting Coalition conducted a student survey during a tabling session with the goal of gaining a deeper understanding of our student community’s interest in civic engagement and voting plans. Within a group of 96 students, 23 different social, political, and civic engagement issues were identified that students cared deeply about. The following social issues rose to the top for the majority of our students: Sustainability/Climate Change, Health Care/Public Health, and LGBTQIA+ Rights. The results of this survey directly informed CCA@CCA programming decisions.

Furthermore, a collaboration with the Masters in Design Strategy (MDes) Program empowered graduate students to conduct [research on student voting behaviors](#), providing valuable insights that shaped outreach strategies. Topics identified by students for research via polls and student interviews included:

- Reasons why non-voters may not vote
- Zones of influence related to voting
- Behaviors and trends related to news and voting information consumption
- Issues youth voters most care about

Data from these polls and interviews were synthesized into a presentation that was shared among the Voting Coalition and various stakeholders throughout the college.

These data collection efforts translated into more successful voter registration campaigns. In spring 2022, the CCA Voting Coalition partnered with ALL IN To Vote to create a CCA-branded voter registration portal that tracks voter registration data. While the portal has been live since the end of April 2022,

Voter Resources by Country

If your country does not appear in the list below, please email the Voting Coalition at exhibitions@cca.edu. For support or additional information on international voting, please contact Jill Tallo at js@cca.edu.

Canada

Canadian citizens who live abroad may apply to be on the International Register of Electors, which will allow them to vote by mail-in special ballot in federal general elections, by-elections, and referendums.

- [Registration and Voting Processes for Canadians Who Live Abroad](#)
- [Apply to be on the International Register of Electors](#)
- [Apply to vote by mail](#)
- [Consulate General of Canada in San Francisco](#)

India

Citizens of India, who are absent from the country owing to employment, education, etc., and have not acquired citizenship of any other country, are known as Overseas Voters and are eligible to be registered as voters at the address mentioned in their Indian passport.

- [How do I vote? A guide for overseas Indian electors](#)
- [NRI Voter Enrollment Process](#)
- [Indian Voters FAQ \(from 2014\)](#)
- [Consulate General of India in San Francisco](#)

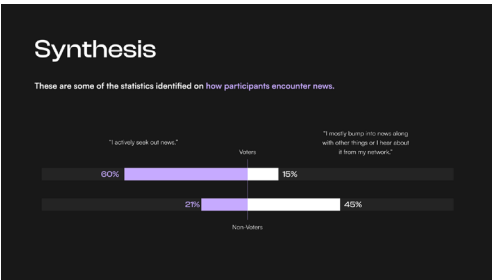
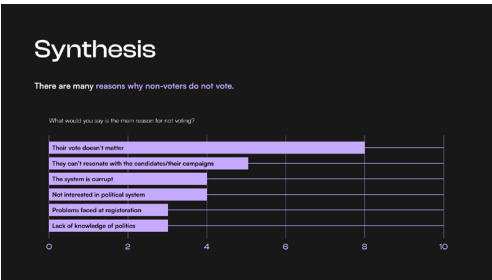
Mexico

To vote in Mexican national and subnational elections from abroad, Mexican citizens must apply for a new voter card and register as an overseas voter.

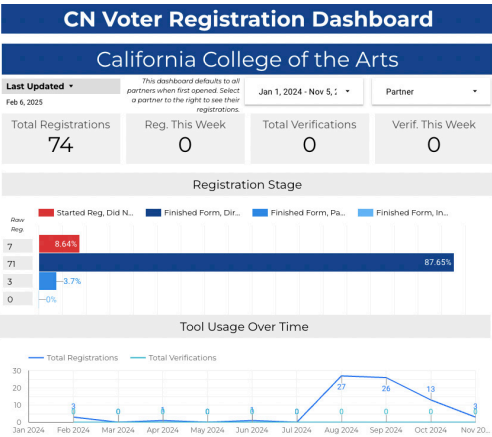
- [Overseas Voter Registration Portal](#)
- [How to apply for a new voter card](#)
- [New York Times' guide to voting in the Mexican Election from abroad \(2024\)](#)
- [Consulate General of Mexico in San Francisco](#)

South Korea

Excerpt from a Portal Intranet page dedicated to International Student Voting, fall 2024



Two slides from the MDes students’ presentation synthesizing data from the polls and interviews they conducted in 2024



A screenshot of the ALL IN Voter Registration Portal Dashboard, which shows engagement with the portal between January 1 and November 5, 2024

the Voting Coalition did not commit to exclusively using this portal for voter registration until 2024, when ALL IN added tools to check registration and request absentee ballots to the portal. The portal recorded 22 voter registrations in 2022–2023 and 18 in 2023–2024—then saw a dramatic jump to 74 registrations in 2024 alone.

Awards and Recognition

Since 2020, CCA has participated in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, developing and implementing data-driven action plans to improve civic learning, political engagement, and voter participation. In fall, ALL IN awarded CCA's 2024 Action Plan with a "Highly Established Action Plan" seal. Based on [CCA's 2024 Voting Report](#), which detailed the CCA Voting Coalition's efforts to implement the 2024 Action Plan, ALL IN later named CCA to its "Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting" list for a second time.

Each election season, the Campus Vote Project and NASPA evaluate higher education institutions on their ability to complete a multi-step process, which includes engaging a coalition of campus stakeholders in developing a nonpartisan plan to engage student voters, facilitating voter education and engagement efforts on campus, and writing a final analysis of their efforts reflecting on what worked and what to change going forward. CCA is one of 272 institutions nationwide that the Campus Vote Project and NASPA designated a Voter Friendly Campus in 2024. CCA has been designated a Voter Friendly Campus since 2021; this latest designation lasts through December 2026.

In addition to working with the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge and Voter Friendly Campus to increase civic engagement on campus, CCA participates in the California Secretary of State Students Vote Project's annual California University and College Ballot Bowl competition. The Ballot Bowl is a friendly competition where higher education campuses compete to register the most students to vote and showcase civic engagement efforts. CCA won the "Best Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan" award in the AICCU category of the California Secretary of State Students Vote Project's 2024 California University and College Ballot Bowl competition. Our [Civic and Voter Empowerment Action Plan \(CVEAP\)](#) earned a perfect score of 234 out of 234 points.



Four national and state-level voting awards received by the CCA Voting Coalition for its work during the 2024 election season

Budget Overview

The program demonstrated continued fiscal responsibility with total expenditures of \$40,223 from the endowment spend-down funds, complemented by \$2,528 in additional departmental contributions. Expenditures were \$3,215 higher this year due to two factors: the November 2024 U.S. Presidential Election meant increased voting work, and we were able to code the CCA@CCA Student Fellow to the endowment gift code, which helped us to continue paying students for their work despite departmental budget cuts.

Spend-down Funds From The Deborah and Kenneth Novack Creative Citizens Series Endowment

Fall 2024 (FY 25)

\$ 3,250	Faculty Coordinator
\$ 3,012	Student Fellow
\$ 6,956	Speaker Fees
\$ 2,922	Program Series Production (Includes Voting Work)
\$ 5,156	TAKE ACTION Exhibition Production
<u>\$ 3,942</u>	Faculty Grants
\$ 25,238	TOTAL

Spring 2025 (FY 25)

\$ 3,250	Faculty Coordinator
\$ 2,249	Student Fellow
\$ 1,500	Speaker Fees
\$ 1,662	Program Series Production (Includes Symposium)
\$ 2,325	Student Grants
<u>\$ 3,999</u>	Faculty Grants
\$ 14,985	TOTAL

\$ 40,223 **FY25 TOTAL SPENT**

Exhibitions Contribution

In addition to staff hours and installation materials, the Exhibition Departmental Budget contributed the following funds:

\$ 1,782	Work Study TAKE ACTION Gallery Staff
<u>\$ 746</u>	Work Study Graphic Designers and Photographers
\$ 2,528	TOTAL

Appendix

Fall 2024 Deborah and Kenneth Novack Creative Citizens Series



SEP 17
VOTEVOTEVOTECCA
PLAYSPACE Gallery and Nave (Main Building) |
145 Hooper Street, San Francisco, CA, 94107
Tue, Sep 17 2024, 10AM - 1PM



SEP 25
THEORY ACTS
Virtual Event
Wed, Sep 25 2024, 3:30PM - 5PM



OCT 17
Prop Talk: Navigating the Key Issues on California's Ballot
Nave | 145 Hooper Street, San Francisco, California, 94107
Thu, Oct 17 2024, 2PM - 3:30PM



OCT 19 - NOV 15
TAKE ACTION: A CCA@CCA Exhibition
Deborah and Kenneth Novack Gallery | 145 Hooper Street, San Francisco, CA, 94107
Sat, Oct 19 2024, 5PM - Fri, Nov 15 2024, 4PM



OCT 19
VOTEVOTEVOTECCA
Nave | 145 Hooper Street, San Francisco, CA, 94107
Sat, Oct 19 2024, 5PM - 8PM



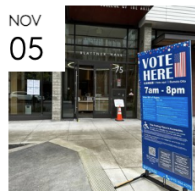
OCT 23
Drag & Democracy
Nave Presentation Space | 145 Hooper Street, San Francisco, CA, 94107
Wed, Oct 23 2024, 7PM - 8:30PM



OCT 29 - NOV 06
Speak UP! Speak OUT! First Year Students and the Art of Change
Hooper Atrium | 184 Hooper Street, San Francisco, California, 94107
Tue, Oct 29 2024, 12PM - Wed, Nov 06 2024, 6PM



NOV 05
CCA Election Day Activations
San Francisco, California, 94107
Tue, Nov 5 2024, 7AM - 8PM



NOV 05
CCA Polling Location: Blattner Hall
Blattner Hall | 75 Arkansas Street, San Francisco, California, 94107
Tue, Nov 5 2024, 7AM - 8PM



NOV 20
Where do we go from here? Roundtable Discussion with The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
CCA Campus Gallery | 1480 17th Street, San Francisco, CA, 94122
Wed, Nov 20 2024, 11AM - 12PM



Spring 2025 Deborah and Kenneth Novack Creative Citizens Series



Where do we go from here? A Roundtable Discussion with Manny Yekutieli

Novack Gallery | 145 Hooper St, San Francisco, CA, 94107

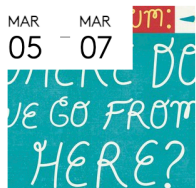
Wed, Jan 29 2025, 11AM - 12PM



Mending Sit-In

Novack Gallery | 145 Hooper St, San Francisco, CA, 94107

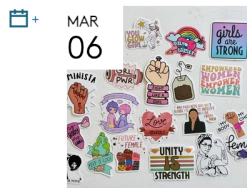
Wed, Feb 5 2025, 11AM - Fri, Mar 14 2025, 4PM



CCA@CCA Exhibition: Where do we go from here?

Nave | 145 Hooper St, San Francisco, CA, 94107

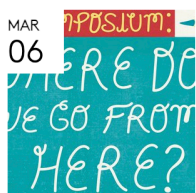
Wed, Mar 5 2025, 8AM - Fri, Mar 07 2025, 3PM



Grab This! 2025 Girl Culture Tea Party

Nave | 145 Hooper St, San Francisco, CA, 94107

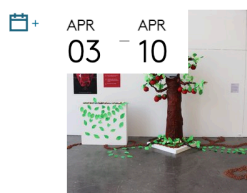
Thu, Mar 6 2025, 3PM - 4:30PM



CCA@CCA Symposium: Where do we go from here?

Nave Presentation Space | 145 Hooper St, San Francisco, CA, 94107

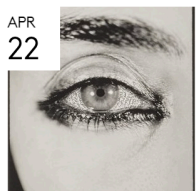
Thu, Mar 6 2025, 5PM - 8PM



Trying to Get Free

Nave (Production Stage Wall) | 145 Hooper Street, San Francisco, CA, 94107

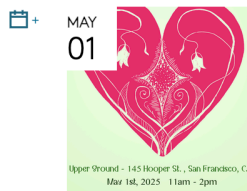
Thu, Apr 3 2025, 11AM - Thu, Apr 10 2025, 11AM



We Are Witness: A Gallery Showcase at the Intersection of Storytelling & Social Justice

145 Hooper Street, San Francisco, CA, 94107

Tue, Apr 22 2025, 5PM - 7PM



Roots and Liberation. A May Day Happening.

Upper Ground | 145 Hooper St, San Francisco, CA, 94107

Thu, May 1 2025, 11AM - 2PM



Cake & Conversation

Gensler Family Courtyard | 145 Hooper St., San Francisco, CA, 94107

Fri, May 2 2025, 11AM - 12PM

CCA@CCA Archive

Fall 2024

- [TAKE ACTION: A CCA@CCA Exhibition](#) | Organized by the Exhibitions & Public Programming Department
- [VOTEVOTEVOTECCA](#) | Organized by Michael Wertz, Chris Treggiari, and Jaime Austin
- [THEORY ACTS](#) | Organized by Irene Cheng and James Graham
- [Prop Talk: Navigating the Key Issues on California's Ballot](#) | Organized by Natalie Pellolio
- [Drag & Democracy](#) | Organized by Pia Zaragoza
- [Where do we go from here? Roundtable Discussion with The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence](#) | Organized by Pia Zaragoza
- [activism, applique, + embroidery workshop](#) | Organized by Elisabeth Cobb Hughes
- CCA Election Day Activations
 - [CCA Polling Location](#) | Organized by the CCA Voting Coalition
 - [Speak UP! Speak OUT! First Year Students and the Art of Change](#) | Organized by Carol Elkovich
 - [OH SHIT!](#) | Organized by Jasmine Zhang
 - [Election Day Pop Up](#) | Organized by the CCA Voting Coalition
 - [Election Watch Party](#) | Organized by Maxwell Leung
 - [Get out the vote!](#) | Organized by Isabel Samaras
 - [Conversations: 2024](#) | Organized by Kim Anno

Spring 2025

- [CCA@CCA Symposium: Where do we go from here?](#) | Organized by CCA@CCA
- [Grab This! 2025 Girl Culture Tea Party](#) | Organized by Melinda Luisa de Jesús
- [Mend](#) | Organized by Elisabeth Cobb Hughes
- [Weathering the Storm](#) | Organized by Isabel Samaras
- [Trying to Get Free](#) | Organized by Shylah Hamilton
- [We Are Witness: A Gallery Showcase at the Intersection of Storytelling & Social Justice](#) | Organized by Jasmin Darznik
- [Roots and Liberation: A May Day Happening](#) | Organized by Valencia James
- [Where do we go from here? A Roundtable Discussion with Manny Yekutieli](#) | Organized by Pia Zaragoza
- [Cake & Conversation](#) | Organized by Pia Zaragoza

News Coverage

- [CCA designated as a Voter Friendly Campus](#)
- [California College of the Arts wins the 2024 Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting](#)
- [Theory as Healing, Repair, and Practice](#) by Dawn Lorence
- [Where Do We Go From Here? Tracing Paths Through Art, Activism, and Conversation](#) by Gabrielle Kedziora