In the Museum

Celebrating Pride Month

We honored Pride month by spending all of June celebrating people’s freedom to be who they really are and to love who they love. We kicked off PRIDE festivities in our Derfner Theater with Drag Queen Story Hour. Every week, inspiring performers read fun and uplifting stories of individuality and authenticity. We also held our first “Stand Up! Your Voice Matters” stuffed animal election. The ballot was stuffed with great candidates: Uni Oakley the Unicorn, Cally Mari the Octopus, Shelly Temple the Turtle, and Narly Furtado the Narwahl. Participants listened to each of the candidates’ platforms before voting for the one that represented the issues that mattered most to them. Congratulations to Narly Furtado for sea-zing the victory!
Celebrating Local Voices to Promote Children’s Literacy

The Cayton welcomed local author and member Kaajal Agnani for a book reading and signing. Kaajal’s lyrical board book, *Good Evening, Good Evening*, teaches littles about the power of mindfulness after a long day. *Good Evening, Good Evening* stems from Kaajal’s desire to help children connect to the world around them so they can bloom into strong, bold, and compassionate human beings. The reading was the first in our new “Visiting Author Series,” which is designed to promote children’s literacy and cultural awareness from authentic voices in our local community.

Exploring, Discovering, and Creating at Camp Cayton

The end of the school year meant Camp Cayton was officially in session. We kicked Camp off on June 19 with nine weeks of themed programming for kids 4–8. Through art, guided lessons, and experimental play, campers adventured through themed odysseys like “Eager Environmentalists,” “Intergalactic Expedition,” and “Under the Sea.” The Cayton welcomed 80 campers, and thanks to support from our donors, we were able to provide six scholarships this summer, with a goal of reserving 10% of total enrollment for scholarship recipients across the year.

Some of Our Summer Campers’ Favorite moments

“Playing in the Courage Climber with my friend.”
—Serena

“Learning about famous artists like Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollack, and Yayoi Kusama.”
—Finn

“Drawing myself through a self-portrait in different colors.”
—Chloe
In the Community

Bolstering the Arts

Throughout the year, we proudly partner with local organizations and institutions across Los Angeles County to bring much-needed outlets for creative expression in public spaces.

This summer, we collaborated with the city of Santa Monica to offer creative arts programming during “Locals Night” on the Santa Monica Pier. We also joined 30 other local organizations to help Santa Monica with the Arts & Literacy Festival in Virginia Avenue Park to get children ready for kindergarten. We highlighted this year’s theme, “Bugs, Bugs, Bugs,” by asking participants to help us create an inspiring community collage using items found in nature.

The Cayton also joined Venice Family Clinic for their 43rd Annual Venice Art Walk & Auction and first gallery at Santa Monica Place. Guests had the opportunity to immerse themselves in works of art curated for all ages. Our inventive Play Guides facilitated an environmental art project where children used materials like sand, seashells, paper plates, and reusable markers to create their own ocean habitat.

Bringing the Power of Play into Neighborhoods

Through Cayton-on-the-Go, we assemble and distribute Cayton Creativity kits for children and families living in low-income neighborhoods. Each themed art project kit includes instructions and supplies, as well as access to online videos for collaborative art making. Thanks to local partnerships with organizations like Schools on Wheels, LIFT LA, and the Santa Monica Library, we were able to distribute 735 kits to families over the summer.
“Pay-As-You-Wish” Coming to a Close

It has been a year since the Cayton reopened its doors after a 17-month COVID closure. When we reopened, we made the bold decision to waive admission for all LA residents for one year in order to help our community heal after more than a year of isolation and disconnect.

This decision was driven by our greater efforts to make the museum more accessible to underserved communities as well as families significantly impacted by the pandemic.

Since our reopening, we have proudly welcomed more than 84,000 families from across LA County through the “Pay-As-You-Wish” program.

We are so grateful to our supporters for allowing us to provide such a meaningful public benefit to the LA community. With the year now behind us, starting Wednesday, November 2, we will return to charging admission for LA County residents. Admission will be $15 per visitor, which covers just a portion of our operating costs. We will also be introducing a new Cayton Community Pass that will continue to provide free admission to qualifying families in need.

It is only with your support that we can offer these critical programs to underserved members of our community.

Save the Date:
Discovery Awards, November 3

Join us on November 3rd at 6:30 PM, outdoors at the Skirball Cultural Center for our 22nd Annual Discovery Awards honoring Mary Kitchen & Jon Orszag, and Fernando & Nadina Szew.

Packages and tickets are on sale at caytonmuseum.org/da.

For questions or for more information, please contact da@caytonmuseum.org.
The Women’s Philanthropy Circle 1st Annual Bruncheon

The Women’s Philanthropy Circle (WPC) held its first “Backyard Bruncheon” in May at the private home of Chelsea and Kevin Washington to benefit the Cayton. The outdoor event welcomed 150 guests and raised more than $250K to support museum programming for children with disabilities and sensory sensitivities.

Thank you to Cayton member Sally Biederman for sharing her story and to the incredible women of our WPC for making this first year a success.

2022 WPC

Jen Garcia Allen
Jaymie Beckett
Victoria Danhakl
Alexa Dell
Sarah Dickerson
Katie Durko
Stephanie Eglin
Jessica Fogel Scott
Charlotte Gilbert
Katie Grosvenor
Halle Hammond
Sydney Holland
Laura Katzenberg Sudack
Mary Kitchen
Lauren Kleinman
Romy Leroy
Christine Lim
Lisa Ling
Pauline Malcolm-Thornton
Heidi Monkarsh
Alexandra Nechita
Jacqueline Nelson
Denise Perlstein Catherine Powers
Navi Rawat
Tracy Robbins
Stephanie Schaffer
Mia Schaikewitz
Isabella Tang
Gina Wade
Chelsea Washington
Jennifer Wexler
Rayni Williams
Haeran Zedeck