

MOCA Teen Program

Application for 2025–26

DOWNLOAD THIS APPLICATION BEFORE FILLING IT OUT

Thank you for your interest in the MOCA Teen Program! The program comprises high school students—juniors and seniors—who are paid to learn about contemporary art and the museum by collaborating on projects, working with artists, and meeting with museum professionals. A MOCA Teen might work with one or more local artists, as well as planning and executing an in-person Teen Night event, online components for Virtual Teen Night, and management of a social media account. This group of arts-interested students will meet at MOCA on Thursday nights and some weekends to work together and support each other on a journey of self-discovery. Please note that contemporary art can involve viewers in exploring imagery and concepts that may elicit confusion and/or discomfort. We view this as an opportunity to learn, and we take care to ensure that discussions about difficult topics are constructive and growth-oriented.

Every step in the program is an opportunity for self-reflection and personal expansion. Therefore, this application is designed to not only get information from you but to help you gain experience in applying for other job opportunities as well as colleges or universities in the future.

We typically receive over 100 applicants every year. The selection process takes many factors into account in creating each year's cohort. First, we read every application, reviewing the essays before looking at the rest of your answers. We then compile a pool of applications that are expressive, indicate passion and/or enthusiasm, show creative thinking skills, and have a strong interest in the arts. If an applicant has applied to the program before, their previous application essays will also be considered. Next, we select a smaller group of applicants for group and/or individual interviews. After these interviews, we select a balanced group of individuals who can fully commit to the year-long program. We aim to create a group that is diverse in its access to the arts, geographical location, and school. We mostly accept incoming seniors but also admit a few juniors each year.

Complete and return the next two pages of this application by midnight on Sunday, June 1, 2025, to jespinosa@moca.org. We are only accepting online applications. You will receive a confirmation email that your application has been received. If you do not receive a confirmation email by Wednesday the week after you submitted your application, email jespinosa@moca.org.

Please note that this is a paid museum staff position, and selected participants will be required to show their legal right to work and a work permit when the program begins in September. If you have any questions, you may contact Jorge at jespinosa@moca.org or Michelle at mantonisse@moca.org. You can also find out more about MOCA and this program at moca.org/education/teens, or mocateens.org, or on Instagram via [@mocateens](https://www.instagram.com/mocateens).



Part 1: Résumé

Contact Information

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE(S) _____

EMAIL(S) _____

Education

HIGHSCHOOL _____

EXPECTED YEAR OF GRADUATION _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SCHOOL PHONE _____

SCHOOL CONTACT (SOMEONE WE CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH FOR EARLY DISMISSAL, ETC) _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MOCA TEEN PROGRAM? _____

HAVE YOU APPLIED TO THE MOCA TEEN PROGRAM BEFORE? YES NO

Experience

Do you have any previous work experience, any other experience (art classes, extracurricular activities, etc), or skills that would be relevant to this program? List them below.



Part 1: **Résumé (cont.)**

Challenges

Do you have any difficulty accessing the arts or lack of support for your arts interest? If so, describe them here.

Part 2: **Essay**

Answer the following questions in 250 words or less.
Please type or print your answers.

1. Select an artwork that has influenced the way you view the world and the way you view yourself.
Discuss the work and its effect on you.

Part 2: **Essay (cont.)**

2. The ability to collaborate, keep an open mind, and communicate are all important skills to use in this program; tell us about a conversation you had that changed your perspective.

