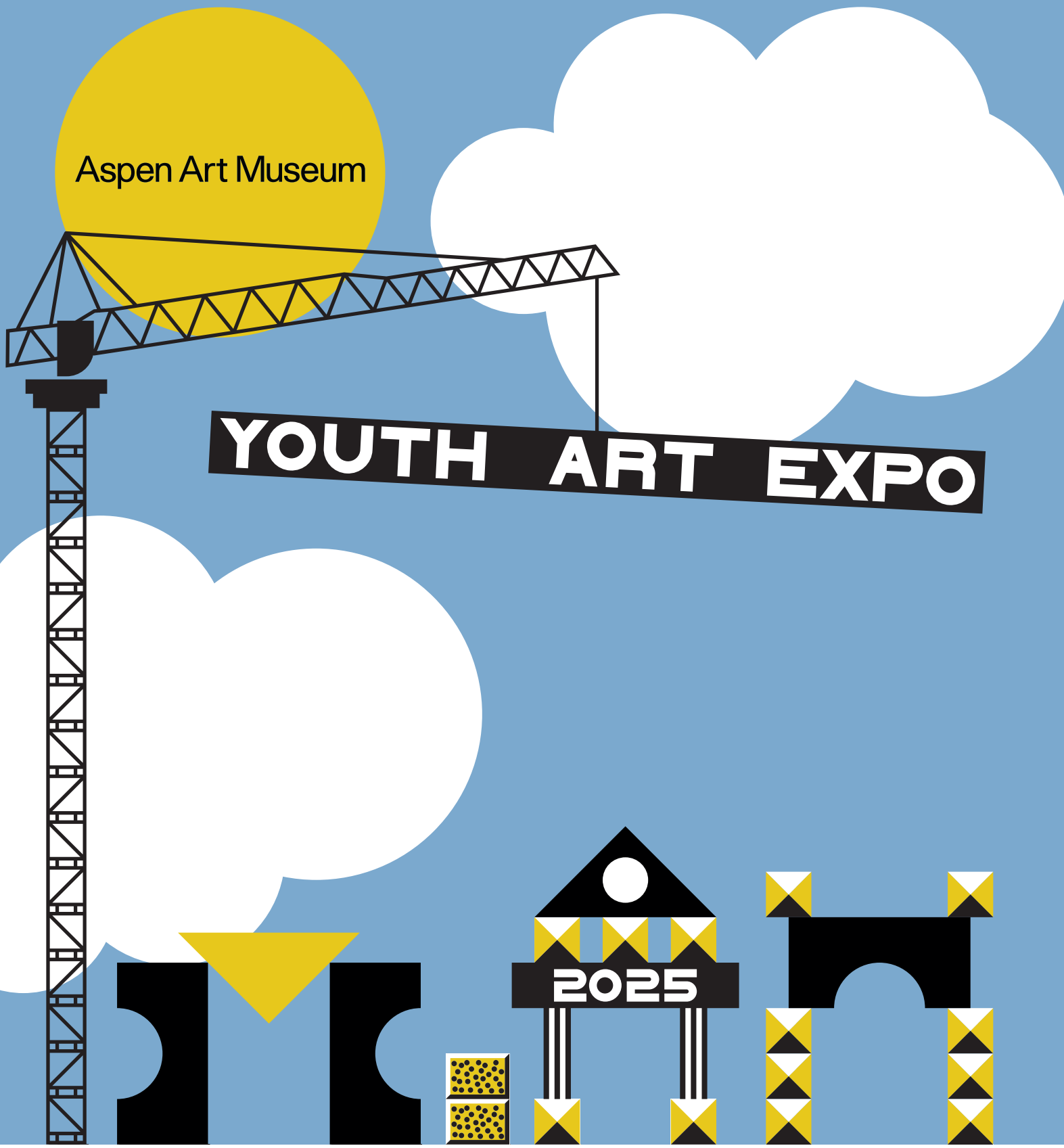
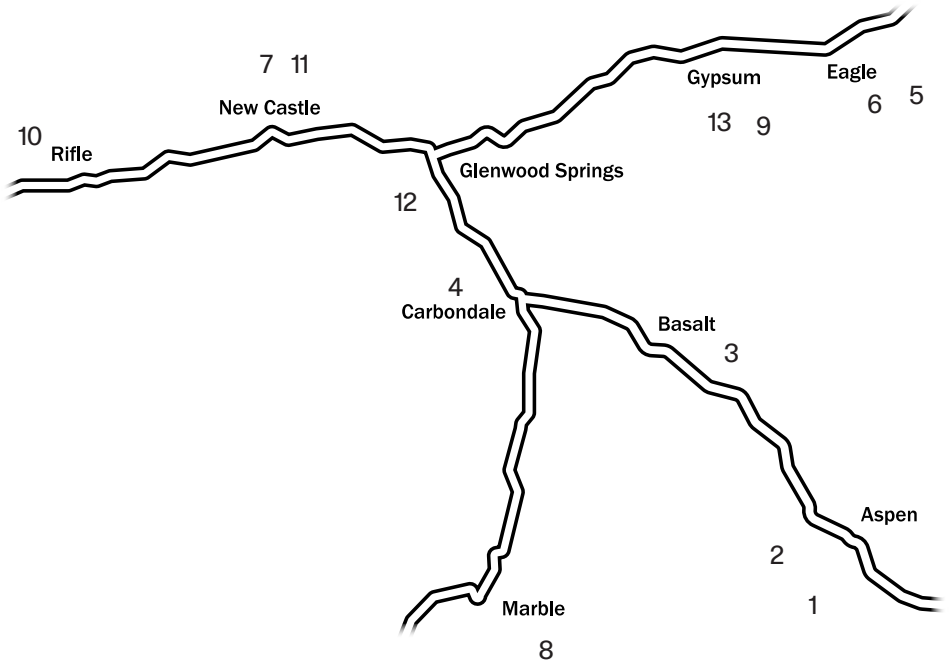
Aspen Art Museum



ARCHITECTURE AND IMAGINATION

April 12—May 11, 2025

Welcome to the Youth Art Expo 2025: *Architecture & Imagination!* This two-floor exhibition includes works made by over 1,700 students from the extended Roaring Fork Valley. Projects are roughly organized throughout the galleries based on lesson plans designed by artists **Madelon Vriesendorp** and **Charlie Koolhaas**, and architect and educator **Maya Bird-Murphy**, along with the Museum Education team.



Participating Schools

1. Aspen Country Day School
2. Aspen Middle School
3. Basalt Elementary School
4. Carbondale Community School
5. Eagle Valley Elementary IB World School
6. Eagle Valley Middle School
7. Kathryn Senor Elementary School
8. Marble Charter School
9. Red Hill Elementary School
10. Rifle High School
11. Riverside Middle School
12. Sopris Elementary School
13. Stone Creek Charter School

\+ Various contributions from students educated at home

Level 2

The upper-level gallery is envisioned as a vibrant grid of city blocks, with businesses, homes, parks, community centers, fantastical landscapes, and towers to peer inside and explore. Each display table engages a particular prompt about our built environment. Highlights include miniature treehouses by third graders, architectural building block sets by second graders, pet houses by sixth graders, and more. Students considered bigger questions while developing their projects: What happens in this imaginary landscape? Who lives in this gable box house? What does community mean?

Artist **Giles Round** designed a cozy book room that takes inspiration from the smaller projects presented throughout the larger gallery. In this nook, visitors are meant to feel like they have entered into one of the many projects on display.

Level 1

The ground-floor gallery presents an entirely different world where dream lands environments and magical objects come to life. Viewers can peek into a row of urban apartment interiors lined against a sunny blue sky. On another wall, window frames act as portals into strange and imagined landscapes. "The Galazeum of Paradise" (a museum gallery gazebo) installation led by **Maya Bird-Murphy** and constructed by middle schoolers stands next to a "dream tower" envisioned by **Madelon Vriesendorp** and **Charlie Koolhaas** and designed by second graders.

Level 1 – *TRIAL AND ERROR*

Adjacent to the larger gallery, is a secret "third space" (a social space outside of one's school or home) designed by the Museum's **Dynamic Arts** program cohort in collaboration with artist and educator **Maya Bird-Murphy**. This space, titled *TRIAL AND ERROR*, engages ideas around community and interconnectedness. The group proposes the installation as a metaphor for the challenges young people face in accessing spaces for creativity, play, and respite.

The Youth Art Expo Educational Model is designed to be shared with other institutions, bringing curriculum resources to teachers and art experiences to students. The projects focus on the design potential of recycled, found, and everyday materials, while fostering individual modes of expression.

Self-Guided Activites

Circle the **pets / animals / creatures** you can find. Can you **name** them?

Circle the **items** you can see. Can you **name** them?

Circle the **environments** you can find. Can you **name** them?

What is your favorite piece of **furniture**? **Draw** it below:

Which **project** would you like to take home? **Write** or **draw** it below:

Bonus: can you find the ***secret fort***? For a hint, ask a guide!

Youth Art Expo 2025: *Architecture & Imagination* is produced by Teresa Booth Brown, Director of Education, and Sabrina Piersol, Assistant Director of Education.

Very special thanks to Michael Raab, Project Manager, Education, and Kathy Marquez, Community Programs Manager.

With additional support from Sarah Broughton, Mike Folwell, Alex Fonseca, Amy Gurrentz, Kevin Haynie, Simone Krug, Nicola Lees, Anna Martin, Daniel Merritt, Mike Montesillo, Roper Moreno, Christine Egaña Navin, Jeff Orsulak, Rachel Schechtman, and Konner Syed.

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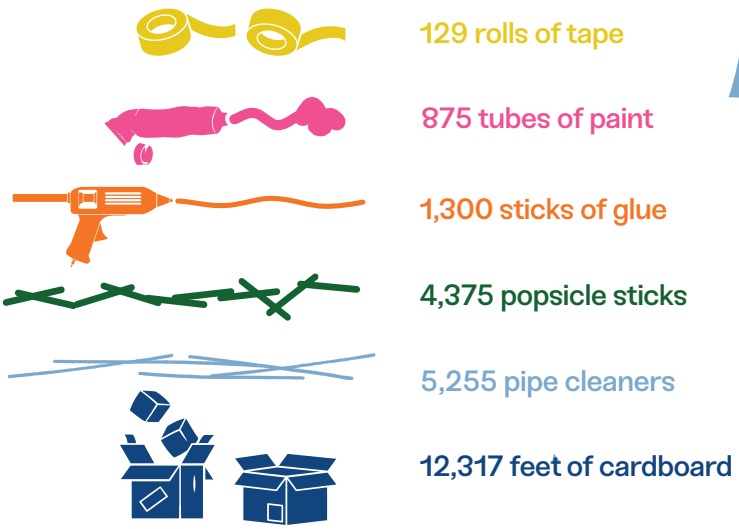
Support for Education Workshops is provided by the Melva Bucksbaum and Mary and Patrick Scanlan Education Workshop Fund.

Youth Art Expo 2025 Project Materials Used



- 129 rolls of tape
- 875 tubes of paint
- 1,300 sticks of glue
- 4,375 popsicle sticks
- 5,255 pipe cleaners
- 12,317 feet of cardboard

Aspen Art Museum
637 East Hyman Avenue
Aspen, Colorado 81611
aspenartmuseum.org
(970) 925-8050

Tuesday–Sunday, 10 AM–6 PM
Closed Mondays
Admission to the AAM is free courtesy of Amy and John Phelan.

Download the Bloomberg Connects app to view our digital exhibition guides.