



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Desert X Art Club Student Exhibition Returns

Opening Reception
Thursday May 8, 2025
5 – 7pm
Melissa Morgan Fine Art, Palm Desert, CA

Exhibition On View
May 9 – 21, 2025

Desert X Art Club marks Desert X's role as major arts educational resource in the Coachella Valley through its robust education and public programming initiatives



Students from Palm Desert High School visit Ronald Rael's Desert X 2025 installation *Adobe Oasis*, photo by Max Finneran, courtesy of Desert X

Palm Springs, Calif. — Kicking off the closing weekend of the fifth edition of Desert X, the **Desert X Art Club 2025 Student Exhibition** will open on May 8-21, 2025 at Melissa Morgan Fine Art in Palm Desert.

Free and open to all, the Desert X Art Club Student Exhibition is a public presentation of artworks created by students in the 2024/2025 after school Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) in Desert Sands Unified School District, as well as in the classroom and out in the field in all three Coachella Valley school districts. It will showcase a vibrant range of singular and collaborative visions in a variety of media, including painting, drawing, sculpture, site-specific installation, video and photography.



Desert X Art Club student from Desert Ridge Academy captures his photo of Ronald Rael's Desert X 2025 installation *Adobe Oasis*, photo by Max Finneran, courtesy of Desert X

Designed for K-12 students, the Desert X Art Club uses visual, mixed-media, and digital arts to cultivate the creativity of Coachella Valley youth, engaging students in hands-on studio art and video projects as they investigate and respond to art in the built landscape and in the natural environment. This year, Desert X Educators have engaged students with key concepts and themes behind Desert X, including site-specificity, environmental art, public space, socio-political dialogue, and cultural identity. By taking field trips to see Desert X 2025, engaging with local artists through studio visits, and getting behind-the-scenes visits to partner organizations including the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival and Palm Springs Art Museum, students gained new insight and inspiration from their local creative community and the global art world at large.

"Education has been at the heart of Desert X since our very first exhibition in 2017," said Desert X Executive Director Jenny Gil. "Through programs like the Desert X Art Club, we've been able to empower young people across the Coachella Valley to see themselves as artists, storytellers, and changemakers. This year - our third student exhibition - is a powerful testament to what happens when creativity, community, and curiosity come together. By engaging students in the field and in dialogue with Desert X artists, we're not only introducing them to the world of

contemporary art—we're giving them a voice within it. We are proud to celebrate the incredible vision and talent of these young artists, whose work reflects the landscapes they live in and the future they will shape."

Participating schools include Amistad High School, Carrillo Ranch Elementary, Cathedral City High School, Cielo Vista Charter, Coachella Valley High School, Desert Hot Springs High School, Desert Mirage High School, Desert Ridge Academy, Gerald Ford Elementary, Indio Middle School, James Workman Middle School, John Glenn Middle School, La Quinta High School, Palm Springs High School, and Palm Desert High School.

On Saturday May 10 at 12:30p.m. at Palm Springs Art Museum Annenberg Theater, a screening titled "A celebration of Coachella Valley student videos produced through our digital storytelling education programs" will feature original short documentary videos made by high school students in Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD), Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD) and Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD), and middle schoolers from the Desert X Art Club. Students will also receive certificates.

The fifth edition of Desert X runs through May 11, 2025.



Left to right: DATA Academy students from Cathedral City High School film a documentary with artist Jose Dávila about his Desert X 2025 installation *The act of being together*; Students from Desert Mirage High School film a documentary with artist Cannupa Hanska Luger about his Desert X 2025 installation *G.H.O.S.T. Ride*. Photos by Max Finneran, courtesy of Desert X



Studio Art students at Desert Hot Springs High School and teacher Michael Hill join artist Alison Saar to install their original artwork produced as a part of Saar's Desert X 2025 installation *Soul Service Station*, photo by Max Finneran, courtesy of Desert X

Desert X Art Club exhibition

Melissa Morgan Fine Art, 73660 El Paseo, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Opening Reception: Thursday May 8, 2025, 5 – 7pm

The exhibition is open to the public May 9–21, 2025 seven days a week from 10am-5pm on weekdays, 12-5pm on weekends | Free Admission

Desert X Education and Public Programs also include:

Desert X Education Video

This 3-minute video demonstrates Desert X Education's impact since 2017:

<https://vimeo.com/781307193/3a60c54257>

Student Journalism Program

Aspiring student journalists from Desert Hot Springs High School and Palm Springs High School joined the Desert X exhibition preview. Students filmed documentaries for their school news broadcasts, interviewed artists at the exhibition, and worked alongside journalists from around the world. This program launched in partnership with schools in the Palm Springs Unified School District.

Digital Storytelling In-Classroom Program

Over six months, Desert X Education works with specialized CTE academies at Desert Mirage High School in Thermal, Cathedral City High School, Desert Hot Springs High School, and Palm Springs High School. With the goal of creating documentary short films, students visit the exhibition and interview artists, audiences, and the teams responsible for realizing the projects. Desert X also conducted a masterclass at Cathedral City High School in digital photography with **Lance Gerber**, the photographer who documents every Desert X exhibition. Final videos and photographs will be shown as part of the **Desert X Art Club exhibition**.

School Tours

Bus tours for school-age youth, classrooms and groups have been offered on select days. This year, Desert X has hosted 25 bus tours for approximately 1,500 K-12 students from across the Coachella Valley in partnership with PSUSD, DSUSD, CVUSD, Riverside County Office of Education - Migrant Education, Desert Hot Springs Parks and Rec, and Palm Springs Parks and Rec. Upcoming tour dates on request.

Visit desertx.org for details of upcoming programs.

Support for Desert X Education

Desert X education programs are made possible with the support of Jordan Schnitzer and the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, Desert Sands Unified School District, California Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Blick Art Supplies, Palm Springs Art Museum, and Sunnylands Center & Gardens, as well as teachers and friends in education and community partners.

EXPERIENCE DESERT X

Exhibition Dates

March 8–May 11, 2025

The **Desert X 2025 map** can be found online at desertx.org and via the [Desert X 2025 app](#).

Opening Hours and Locations

Exhibition opening hours are generally from sunrise to sunset, however, hours and access to installations may vary. Visitors are encouraged to check details for each artist's work at desertx.org. **Free Admission**

Desert X Hub at Thompson Palm Springs

414 N. Palm Canyon Dr.

Fri. 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Sat. & Sun. 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Stop by to pick up your Desert X 2025 guide, map of artist installations and visitor information.

Leave No Trace

Desert X encourages visitors to follow official *Leave No Trace* guidelines. Plan ahead and prepare, walk on designated paths, dispose of waste properly, leave what you find, respect wildlife, don't smoke, and be considerate of other visitors.

Desert X Docents

Desert X docents are at most sites every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Desert X Merchandise

Windmill City Super # 1. 463 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs

Stop by to browse and buy Desert X merchandise Designed by Carlton DeWoody and made with Windmill City Printing. Purchase online and visit super-number-one.com for store hours.

For further information and to plan your visit, go to desertx.org

Desert X is funded by its board of directors and an international group of individual donors, foundations, and sponsors.

Sponsored by 1800® Tequila, the world's most awarded tequila, and a historic Mexican brand that prioritizes taste through its superior liquid quality and its decades-long collaborations with some of the world's most culturally relevant artists.

Additional support from Jordan Schnitzer and the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, Amazon, and Design Within Reach.

Media Partners: Artnet, ArtReview, C Magazine, Canvas Magazine, Cultured Magazine, *frieze* Magazine, Here Media, KGAY Palm Springs, GayDesertGuide and 103.1 MeTV FM, LocaliQ, part of The Desert Sun and Desert Magazine, Palm Springs Life Magazine, Terremoto, and Visit Greater Palm Springs.

Acknowledgement of Native Land

We acknowledge the Cahuilla People as the original stewards of the land on which Desert X takes place. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work with the indigenous people in this place. We pay our respect to the Cahuilla People, past, present and emerging, who have been here since time immemorial.

Desert X

Desert X is produced by The Desert Biennial, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, conceived to produce recurring international contemporary art exhibitions that activate desert locations through site-specific installations by acclaimed international artists. Its guiding principles include presenting public exhibitions of art that respond meaningfully to the conditions of desert locations, the environment and the indigenous communities; promoting cultural exchange and education programs that foster dialogue and understanding among cultures and communities about shared artistic, historical, and societal issues; and providing an accessible platform for artists from around the world to address ecological, cultural, spiritual and other existential themes. Founded on the principles of the Land Art movement of the late '60s and early '70s, when artists sought to create work outside of the confines of institutional walls, Desert X has, since its inception in 2017, explored new configurations of site-responsive work by artists from

around the world creating a new paradigm for the presentation and experience of art that is both unrivaled and accessible to all.

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