

Dancers performed
at the Lunar New
Year Festival.



ENGAGING

Inside and outside the museum, we came together through music, dance, art making, theater, film and, of course, food. From free neighborhood block parties that drew hundreds to art-making workshops designed for a handful, PEM programs invited people to play, laugh, celebrate and learn.

As it does every year, the Lunar New Year Festival brought large crowds to the Atrium. The Pride Party, Continuum Gala and PEM Pals gave people a reason to dance with abandon. Artists taught painting classes in the Ropes Mansion Garden and educators led tree treks around the museum campus.

For the 2019–2020 school year, nearly 1,200 students and 55 teachers from 11 schools came to visit for the multiple-visit program called Creative Collaborations. A partnership with Mass STEM Hub brought nearly 125 middle schoolers to PEM for a Pull Toy Showcase that blended engineering and design principles.

The pandemic provided an opportunity to explore how to work with program partners in new ways. A collaboration with Salem public school art teachers, for instance, led to the development of bilingual gallery-based activities for students at home.

Expect more multisensory experiences that inspire wonder and learning, draw in new audiences and bring out the best of our shared humanity.



PEM PROGRAMS REACH NEW AUDIENCES



New England Gospel Ensemble performed during opening weekend for *Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle*.

PEM exhibitions offered exciting opportunities to expand upon themes that were explored in the galleries, including a dynamic schedule of programs created for *Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle*. For the public opening, which fell over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, the museum offered free admission for three days. Community leaders stood in front of Lawrence's powerful works to facilitate listening sessions, a gospel chorus performed in the Atrium and Raw Art Works invited people to contribute to its traveling art work, *A Seat at the Table*.

February school vacation week brought an equally compelling mix of events, including a freestyle hip-hop performance with local artist collective Wreck Shop Movement, art making with Wee The People and an interactive performance by tap dance sensation Syncopated Ladies in East India Marine Hall.

Outside the museum's walls, PEM collaborated with the Salem-based artist groups Intramersive Media and Creative Collective to bring the multisensory theater experience *Smoke & Mirrors* to the Cotting-Smith Assembly House.

1. The annual summer Block Party drew large crowds. **2.** DJ Ana Matronic cranked the dance music for the 2019 Pride Party and returned for the virtual 2020 celebration. **3.** A student talked with Abby Record, a member of PEM's Board of Advisors and volunteer judge, during the Pull Toy Showcase.



Visitors worked with artist Wes Sam-Bruce to create a collaborative installation inspired by spiderwebs during a week of programs that fostered environmental awareness.

More than 300 people participated over the sold-out, five-week, 10-performance run. Carly Dwyer Naik, Intramersive founder, called PEM's support a boon to their creative process. "We knew PEM was exploring ways to interact with and interpret the historic houses and knowing how creative and imaginative the other engagements had been, we thought this might be the right time and right show."

A series of sewing circles held last fall brought the community together for a unique program led by Karen Kramer, Curator of Native American and Oceanic Art and Culture. PEM has commissioned Marie Watt, a contemporary Seneca artist, to create a large-scale textile installation for the upcoming American/Native American gallery. To complete the piece,

she invited people to come together — no experience required — to create the unique embroidered components of the quilt-based installation. "Stitching side by side, conversations unfolded among neighbors, strangers, friends, coworkers and family to create a lens for not just understanding — but really feeling — connectedness to one another," said Kramer.

To make the museum more accessible, PEM has partnered with the Massachusetts Cultural Council and EBT Card to Culture to welcome families participating in the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The initiative gives free admission to families who may be otherwise unable to visit.

1. PEM partnered with Intramersive Media and Creative Collective to present the theater experience *Smoke & Mirrors*. **2.** Over four days in November of 2019, PEM hosted five sewing circles with Seneca artist Marie Watt in conjunction with her commissioned work from PEM. **3.** In August of 2019, Grammy-winner Gaby Moreno performed to a sold-out crowd in the Cotting-Smith Assembly House for the GenPEM Historic House Concert.



Best PEM memories

“Seeing the smile
of discovery.”

