



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Images are available upon request.

### **A2AC Announces *The A2AC Gala: Thriving in Transition* at Venue 4M**

- Taking place September 14, 2023, featuring a cocktail happy hour, live and silent auction, and 4-course dinner
- Proceeds directly support the organization's art education and scholarship program

*The A2AC Gala: Thriving in Transition* will be on September 14, 2023, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. at Venue 4M in Ann Arbor, with proceeds directly supporting the organization's art education and scholarship program. The event features a cocktail happy hour with a DJ and an artist creating an original work to be auctioned off later during a seated dinner and live auction.

*"The A2AC Gala provides a significant portion of our annual operating budget, and its success is critical to our mission,"* said Jenn Queen, the A2AC executive director. *"The impact of the Gala on our programming is incredible: Between classes, camps, and workshops, we offer hundreds of educational opportunities annually and are also able to make access to them possible for more than 100 scholarship recipients."*

*"This year, we chose Thriving in Transition as the theme of the A2AC Gala because it is an authentic reflection of where we are as an organization,"* Queen added. *"While we are doing amazing work and punch well above our weight class, the A2AC has room to expand its programming, from exhibitions to education to camp. We have the experience, talent, and determination to be successful at each turn. For 114 years, the A2AC has been the heart of what our community needs and wants, and we are excited to continue our work long into the future through sustainable, thoughtful growth."*

During the cocktail happy hour, featuring custom creations from the Ann Arbor Distilling Company, attendees will have the chance to bid on a range of silent auction items, from practical to fanciful, including one-of-a-kind art and experiences. New for this year, the cocktail happy hour is available as a stand-alone opportunity to support the A2AC, with a ticket price of \$100.

The A2AC's dinner and live auction will offer a custom menu curated by Venue 4M's Chef, Thad Gillies, along with his selections for the accompanying wine pairing. Attendees will have the exciting experience of bidding against each other for items like an artist's studio evening with food, drinks, and discussion, a private event at The State Theater, incredible seats and suites for the University of Michigan and Detroit Tiger games, and rare wines. Tickets for the A2AC dinner are \$300 and include the cocktail happy hour.

The A2AC Gala is sponsored by Varnum Law, Hylant Insurance Group, the Ann Arbor Distilling Company, and Wagner Design Co. For more information or tickets, please visit [www.annarborartcenter.org/a2acgala](http://www.annarborartcenter.org/a2acgala).

### **About the A2AC**

For over a century, the nonprofit A2AC (Ann Arbor Art Center) has sparked creativity in people of all ages, backgrounds, and artistic abilities. Our mission is to be a contemporary forum for the visual arts through education, exploration, collaboration, and exhibition. We aim to engage minds, expand perspectives, and inspire growth in students of all ages, teachers, artists, and the community. We are empowered to carry out our mission through the support of individuals, corporations, and foundations who believe in the value of our work and in creativity's essential role in sustaining and elevating our everyday experience. In fulfilling our mission, the Art Center serves as a regional hub for the visual arts. It prioritizes the long-standing partnerships we cultivate as a keystone for Ann Arbor's healthy cultural and civic life ecosystem. Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

If you need additional accommodations, please contact Jenn Queen at [jqueen@annarborartcenter.org](mailto:jqueen@annarborartcenter.org).