



## RENOWNED GAGE ACADEMY OF ART ANNOUNCES OPENING OF DOWNTOWN LOCATION

*Seattle's 35-year-old nonprofit brings high-quality education for aspiring artists of all ages and skill levels to Seattle's downtown and South Lake Union neighborhoods*



*Caption: Women model for sketch art class (Credit: Gage Academy of Art)*

SEATTLE (August 13, 2024) – [Gage Academy of Art](#), a celebrated institute dedicated to arts education, has announced the September 2024 grand opening of its new location in South Lake Union. This move marks a significant milestone in the academy's 35-year history, promising a new era of creative growth and community engagement. The public grand opening event will take place on Saturday, September 7 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the new location.

For over three decades, Gage Academy of Art has been a cornerstone of Seattle's vibrant art scene. It provides high-quality education from the region's best instructors to aspiring visual

artists of all ages and skill levels, from technical foundations to classes in advanced concepts in drawing, painting, sculpting and printmaking.

The school moved to South Lake Union from its 20-year home at the St. Nicholas Building in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood. Only a few short steps from the iconic Amazon Spheres, the new 14,000-square foot space is on the ground level of Amazon's re:Invent building (2107 Westlake Avenue), boasting itself to a new creative space for long-standing Gage artists and new aspiring ones. Amazon supported Gage Academy of Arts move to their new space by providing over \$7.5 million in construction and rent assistance over the next ten years.

In this new urban campus, the school's leaders aim to serve a larger, more diverse body of students, with more public transportation options, greater ease of access to the Seattle community, ADA accessible and improved infrastructure for student enrichment. The move will additionally enhance Seattle's downtown core, opening opportunities for collaboration and integration of artmaking into daily life.

"We are thrilled to expand and grow Gage Academy through this impactful move," said Gage Board President Erik Haroldson. "We are grateful for Amazon's support in making this new location possible for Gage, and for their shared belief that high-quality art education is an essential part of a strong, flourishing community where arts can thrive in coexistence with other sectors such as tech, healthcare, higher education and social services. With a prime downtown location and increased accessibility, Gage hopes to welcome new creators to practice artistic expression and expand our family."

The new facility boasts state-of-the-art features that will enhance the learning experience for both students and faculty, such as flexible classrooms, art studios, multimedia rooms and communal student areas. As part of this move, new classes and activities at Gage will include the following:

- A range of ways to engage: one-time drop-in and multiweek classes, and a year-long atelier program for intensive study.
- Classes at times that suit downtown workers, such as for those looking to avoid rush hour
- Evening events, such as Drink & Draw, art history lectures and ArtLab, for adults to explore and play with various media
- Intergenerational and expanded youth programs, partnering with neighboring community-based organizations

“Our team is honored to support Gage Academy of Arts’ move and the impactful growth it will support of our local arts and culture community,” said Shannon Loew, vice president of global real estate and facilities at Amazon. “Adding Gage to our campus is part of our continued effort to bring together diverse retail and organizations to foster a thriving downtown where people can work, shop, eat, and now, create.”

The grand opening celebration will feature guided tours of the facility, live demonstrations by instructors and students, a special exhibit showcasing works by Gage Academy artists and hands-on opportunities for guests to explore their creative side. The all-ages event is free and open to the public, with art enthusiasts and community members invited to explore the new space and learn more about the academy's programs.

Since its founding in 1989, Gage Academy of Art has provided high-quality art education through a diverse range of programs, including workshops, classes and certificate programs. Gage Academy's move underscores its commitment to remaining at the forefront of art education while contributing to the cultural fabric of Seattle.

### **About Gage Academy of Art**

*Gage Academy of Art is an independent, nonprofit art school located in Seattle, WA. Founded in 1989 with the belief that artists are made not born, it offers a variety of programs in drawing, painting, digital media, printmaking, and sculpture for artists of all ages and skill levels, including workshops, classes and full-time certificate programs. The academy is committed to fostering artistic excellence and innovation through a supportive and inspiring learning environment. For more information, visit [gageacademy.org](http://gageacademy.org).*

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