

2024 Annual Report



American Museum of Ceramic Art

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Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Members,

As we reflect on this milestone year, I am delighted to share AMOCA's remarkable achievements and growth. In 2024, we not only celebrated our 20th anniversary—a testament to two decades of championing ceramic arts—but we also reached a significant financial milestone by paying off our mortgage in full, strengthening our foundation for the future.

This year, visitorship to our vibrant exhibition programs increased while our studio welcomed more students and artists than ever before. Our galleries showcased historical treasures and cutting-edge contemporary works, while our hands-on classes continued to inspire creativity across all age groups.

AMOCA's community impact expanded through meaningful collaborations with artists and educators, engaging exhibition openings, thought-provoking tours, artist talks and panels, an impactful Teen Program in conjunction with the School of Arts and Enterprise, and our beloved MudMobile program, bringing ceramic arts directly to schools. We've also enriched our permanent collection with exceptional new acquisitions that will inspire future generations.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without our incredible support network. Our dedicated staff is the backbone of the organization, working tirelessly to develop and implement all of AMOCA's programs. Our volunteers generously contribute their time to welcome visitors, lead tours, assist with events, and organize our collections. Our Board of Directors provides essential guidance and support that shapes the direction of our institution.

Most importantly, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you—our members, donors, visitors, and advocates. Your contributions, whether financial support or simply sharing your enthusiasm for AMOCA with others, empower us to foster creativity and ensure ceramic art remains a vibrant, accessible part of our community here in Pomona. As you explore this report, I hope you share our pride in what we've accomplished together and our excitement for what lies ahead.

Sincerely,



**Beth Ann Gerstein
Executive Director**

EXHIBITIONS



Beth Lo, *Chinese American Cuisine*, 2022,
Museum purchase with funds provided by
MAW, honoring a group of friends

AMOCA's robust exhibition program showcases and promotes a variety of ceramic artists, techniques, and movements. The impact of our exhibitions is enhanced through online and in-person programming, including lectures, artist talks and interdisciplinary conversations, curator walkthroughs, and interpretive tours for visitors and community partners.

In 2024, AMOCA hosted 8 exhibitions, featuring work by 349 artists from around the world.

Architectural Pottery: Ceramics for a Modern Landscape explored the line of pottery created by the Architectural Pottery company to complement mid-twentieth-century architecture.

In 1949, Lagardo Tackett, a Los Angeles-based ceramic artist and professor, challenged his students to create forms that would fit the mid-century modern aesthetic. Max and Rita Lawrence attended an exhibition staged by the students and became intrigued with the concept. The Lawrences partnered with student designers John Follis and Rex Goode and founded the Architectural Pottery company in 1950. Within twenty years, the company grew into a vibrant manufactory with a design line of several hundred products.

The exhibition brought together work by ceramic artists and graphic and industrial designers Marilyn Kay Austin, Raul Angulo Coronel, David Cressey, Aurilla Doerner, Al Eggleston, John Follis, Leon Galleto, Rex Goode, Frank Krueger, Malcolm Leland, Paul McCobb, Jack Morris, Gordon Newell, and LaGardo Tackett. Curated by Jo Lauria, AMOCA's Adjunct Curator. *August 17, 2024 – March 2, 2025.*

Christina A. West's solo show ***Strut*** showcased new ceramic sculpture, photographs, and video that complicated tropes of masculinity common to representations of the male body. West's ceramic supports were modeled and glazed to suggest the visceral, and encouraged awkward, inventive positioning of the model's body. *September 7, 2024 – January 26, 2025.*

A Father's Kaddish told the story of how Steven Branfman used pottery to help him work through his grief after the death of his son, Jared Branfman. In 2005, Jared died of brain cancer at the age of 23. A week after his son's death, Steven, a potter and teacher, went into his studio and made a chawan, a Japanese-style tea bowl. Each day for one year, he made one chawan—they were the only pots he made. Steve's daily chawan was his own personal kaddish, a traditional Jewish prayer of mourning. *May 11 – August 18, 2024.*

Since 2016, AMOCA has partnered with the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery at Scripps College to produce exhibitions of works by the guest curators of the Scripps College Ceramic Annual. In 2024, Scripps College's Lincoln Visiting Professor of Ceramics, Jasmine Baetz, curated the *79th Annual: The idea of feeling brown*. At AMOCA, Baetz mounted **Blood in the fire, sugar in the milk**, which explored her Zoroastrian roots and her complicated relationship with belonging. *January 13 – April 21, 2024.*

The **Annual High School Ceramics Exhibition** is AMOCA's annual sampling of vibrant artwork from the next generation of ceramic talent in the United States. The 2024 juried exhibition received nearly 570 applications and showcased works by 101 students from 17 states. *Virtual, May 4 – August 31, 2024.*

Fahrenheit 2024 was the revival of our juried exhibition. Launched in 2018, *Fahrenheit 2018* received an overwhelming response and showcased over 80 artists, juried by Patti Warashina. The 2024 exhibition featured the talents of 100 artists from across the country and was juried by Kathy King, Director of the Ceramics Program at Harvard University. This exhibition showcased a diverse range of work and fostered recognition within the ceramics community. *January 20 – September 8, 2024.*

Reveal: Recent Acquisitions 2020-2023 showcased a remarkable variety of ceramics acquired by AMOCA for its permanent collection from 45 individual donors. Included were a diverse range of forms, styles, and techniques, highlighting various art movements. Over 100 artists were represented in the exhibition, including Robert Arneson, Rose Cabot, Jack Earl, Magdalena Suarez Frimkess, David Gilhooly, Karen Karnes, Harrison McIntosh, Richard Shaw, Patti Warashina, and Beatrice Wood. *October 28, 2023 – July 21, 2024.*

A semi-permanent exhibition, **A Traveler's Guide to Mettlach: Villeroy and Boch** showcases everyday life in 1800s Mettlach, Germany as depicted through Villeroy and Boch productionware. Presenting concepts of life, laughter, relationships, and the daily habits of German living, the exhibition celebrates the work of Villeroy and Boch's Mettlach factory artists. *September 9, 2023 – Ongoing.*

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

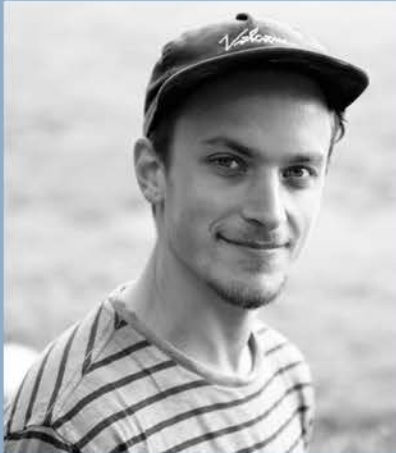
Established in 2012, the AMOCA Ceramics Studio hosts one of the few fellowship opportunities for ceramic artists on the West Coast. Each year, we support four fully funded residents from across the US with semi-private studio space, 24/7 access to studio facilities, ceramic supplies, a weekly stipend, and housing for long-term residents. AMOCA's Artist-in-Residence program is made possible thanks to the support of the Windgate Foundation, Laguna Clay and Glaze Company, and David and Julianne Armstrong.



Claudia Solórzano
May 2023 - March 2024



Paige O'Toole
August 2023 - July 2024



Luke Shalan
March - September 2024



Mary Cale Wilson
April - August 2024



Michelle Solorzano
August 2024 - July 2025



Reniel Del Rosario
September 2024 - August 2025



Stephanie Kim
October 2024 - March 2025



Michelle Solorzano posing with her and Stephanie Kim's sculptures ready for bisque firing



Mary Cale Wilson lying next to her tile rug sculpture

ACQUISITIONS



Howard Pierce, *Flamingo Vase*, 1934-1968, Museum purchase with funds provided by MAW, honoring a group of friends

With over 13,000 pieces, AMOCA's permanent collection is a growing representation of the impact of ceramics on the development of human cultures, from ancient times to the present.

Each year, we receive dozens of generous offers of artwork from artists, collectors, and donors who understand the value of our work to preserve and share ceramics with the public. In 2024, our team processed 24 donations totaling 313 objects, representing 102 artists added to the Permanent Collection, including two purchased works.

2024 Permanent Collection Artists:

Dan Anderson	Ben Carter	Magdalena Suarez	Sam Harvey
Nicole Aquillano	Doug Casebeer	Frimkess	Molly Hatch
Linda Arbuckle	Sam Chung	Stuart Gair	Otto Heino
Robert Arneson	A. Blair Clemo	Julia Galloway	Samantha Henneke
Posey Bacopoulos	Sunshine Cobb	John Gill	Doug Herren
Betty G. Bailey	Michael Corney	John Glick	Mark Hewitt
Clayton Bailey	David Crane	Ryan J. Greenheck	David Hicks
Mary Barringer	Nuala Creed	Gerit Grimm	David Hiltner
Peter Beasecker	Jill Crowley	Martha Grover	Ayumi Hore
Susan Beiner	Josh DeWeese	Helio Gutierrez	Jeff Irwin
Paul Bellardo	Baba Wagué Diakité	Julia Haft-Candell	Nicholas Joerling
Doug Blechner	Paul Donnelly	Shinsaku Hamada	Daniel Johnston
Clive Bowen	Sanam Emami	Tomoo Hamada	Jan Mckeachie Johnston
Jessica Brandl	John Fassbinder	May & Vieve Hamilton	Randy Johnston
Steven Branfman	Adam Field	Jane Hamlyn	Karen Karnes
Mark Burns	Freeman McFarlin	Kenyon Hansen	Walter Keeler
Rose Cabat	Brett Freund	Steve Hansen	Myungjin Kim

Yih-Wen Kuo
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 Steven Young Lee
 Forrest Lesch-Middelton
 Cindy Leung
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 Beth Lo
 Joseph Lonewolf
 Matt Long
 Linda Nguyen Lopez
 Renee LoPresti
 James Makins
 Tony Marsh
 Harrison McIntosh

Alleghany Meadows
 Grace Medicine Flower
 Matthew Metz
 Sequoia Miller
 Kristen Morgin
 Ted Neal
 Onda Yaki
 Ben Owen III
 Vernon Owens
 Neil Patterson
 Doug Peltzman
 Ian Pemberton
 Gustavo Pérez
 Mario Petrirena
 Mark Pharis
 Ron Philbeck
 Howard Pierce
 Nathan Prouty



Harrison McIntosh, *Platter*, 1981,
 Gift of Catherine McIntosh



Nuala Creed, *Babes in Arms*, 2008,
 Gift of the artist

Liz Quackenbush
 Reynaldo Quezada
 Robert Ramsey
 Steve Roberts
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 Weil of California
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 Yona Ceramics
 Ward Youry
 Sun Koo Yuh

CERAMICS STUDIO



Kathy King's sgraffito workshop

AMOCA's 12,000-square-foot studio has been a vital resource for ceramic artists since 2011. We offer an Artist-In-Residence program, studio rental spaces, firing services, and classes, workshops, and demonstrations taught by notable artists. Instruction in wheel-throwing, hand-building, and glaze and firing techniques offer artists 18 and up the opportunity to hone their craft and learn specialty skills.

In 2024, the studio rental program accommodated 61 Southern California artists who used over 62,000 lbs of clay throughout the year. We hosted 71 classes, workshops, and demos, providing 700+ local ceramicists with new and rewarding clay experiences.

Notable artist workshops and demonstrations included:

- Skill Building Workshop: Soda Firing with Ian Bassett
- Skill Building Workshop: Ceramic Furniture with Austin Coudriet
- Exploring Ceramic Surface Design with Adrienne Eliades
- Artist Workshop: Form and Finish with Dan Falby
- Skill Building Workshop: Sgraffito for the Narrative Surface with Kathy King
- Skill Building Workshop: Soda Firing with Nathan Stanfield
- Soda Firing with Mike Stumbras

STUDIO ARTISTS

AMOCA's Ceramic Studio hosts a lively community of local artists who rent private or semi-private studio spaces for their dedicated ceramics practice. Each artist receives 24/7 access to our facilities, with a communal glaze area, spray booths, slab rollers, and sand-blasting equipment.



Studio Artists and Staff

Mary Beierle
Tracy Blahut
William (Bill) Breer
Dana Burlingame
Ken Carmean
Ju Cheng
Taliny Chhung
Tim Decker
Max & Bonnie Emadi
Dana Flores
Kathy Fragoso
Jennyfer Godfrey
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Kat Hopkins
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Tony Kwon
Lenny Larson
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Aida Lugo
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Angela Moon
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Judith Mussatto
William Mussatto
Steve Nagler
Karla Neff
Janet Nelson
Kathi O'Donohue
Eric Penokie
Nahoko Ramirez

Noe Reyes
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Melissa Scrivner
Jennifer Simison
Suzanne Snyder
Nathan Stanfield
Matthew & Amy Taylor
Vanessa Tessone
Ross Thompson
Brett Tondreau
Lynn Warnesky-Baker
Wendy Wee
Jonas Wendelin
Maureen McProud Wheeler
Ryan Yamashiro
Rene Yin
Crystal Zavala

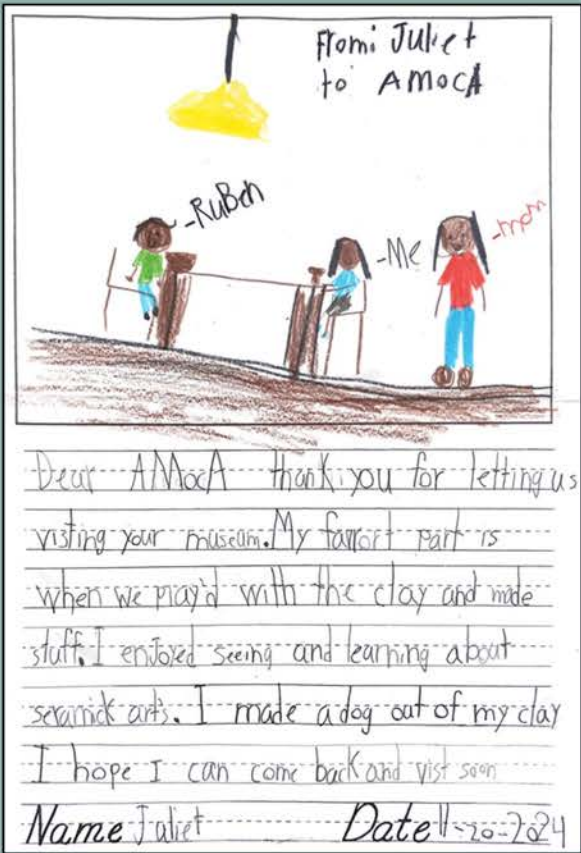
EDUCATION & OUTREACH



K-12 Field Trip students line up to enter the museum

At AMOCA, education is at the heart of everything we do. Programming throughout the Museum and Studio invites visitors to venture further into the art of ceramics, whether through hands-on activities or the insightful investigation into themes and symbolism of the artwork on display. Our Education & Outreach programs focus on providing enriching opportunities for our youngest visitors and their families to engage with clay.

- We hosted 44 **K-12 Field Trips** for 2,062 students who participated in docent-led tours of exhibitions, gallery activities, and hands-on art instruction with clay.
- Our **MudMobile** visited 23 school and community locations with 1,167 students served.
- **In-person tours** were provided for dozens of adults and special interest groups throughout the year.
- The **Teen Council and School of Arts and Enterprise partnership** provided instruction to 15 youth with their sights set on creative careers. Students met weekly during the school year for studio instruction, professional development activities, and art field trips.
- The **2024 Annual High School Ceramics Exhibition** included work by 53 students from 15 states, representing a vibrant sample of the next generation of ceramic talent in the United States.
- We hosted four **Family Fun** programs in July and August, which served over 50 people.
- We partnered with the **Pomona Public Library** to bring programming to the community with our MudMobile.



A student "Thank You" letter expressing gratitude after a K-12 Field Trip visit



Students enjoy a story time reading of *Hector the Collector* by Emily Beeny before touring *A Traveler's Guide to Mettlach*



Teen Council students enjoy an art activity during their studio visit with Pomona artist Gary Lett



Students engage with ceramic pieces from our Education Collection during a MudMobile visit

MILESTONE: 20TH ANNIVERSARY



AMOCA celebrated its 20th Anniversary in October of 2024 with a nod to our past and a toast to our future. 120+ friends, supporters, artists, and community members enjoyed a wonderful evening of ceramics, conversation, and camaraderie.

During the celebration, we honored our founders David and Julianne Armstrong for their passion, dedication, and vision. Not only did they build this wonderful Museum and Studio, but their work brought together like-minded artists, donors, and staff to aid in AMOCA's growth, securing their legacy into the next 20 years and beyond. We also premiered the short film, **David Armstrong: Founder of the American Museum of Ceramic Art**, hosted a raffle, and enjoyed dinner amongst artworks from the collection.

We're grateful to our event sponsors:

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Clockwise from top left: Founder David Armstrong; Board member Suzy Sasaki and her husband, studio artist John Sasaki, toasting the Armstrongs and AMOCA; Board President Alex Ehrlich offering opening remarks; Marguerite and Catherine McIntosh with former AMOCA Executive Director Christy Johnson

MILESTONE: MORTGAGE FREE



Screenshot from video created for our Mortgage Paydown Campaign

AMOCA's ability to serve our community is due in no small part to the extraordinary 51,000 square-foot building acquired in 2011 with a \$2.2 million mortgage. Over the past decade we steadily reduced the balance below \$1 million. In 2024, we saw a special opportunity to pay off the balance by launching a Mortgage Paydown Campaign.

We're grateful to the 44 remarkable donors who have helped direct more resources toward ceramic arts with their support of our Mortgage Paydown Campaign:

Jim and Ann Ach
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MILESTONE: LARGE SCULPTURE KILN

The Ceramics Studio was outfitted with a brand-new 120 cubic foot large sculpture kiln designed specifically for AMOCA by the Laguna Clay and Glaze Company. The kiln expands our firing options for Artists-in-Residence, studio renters, and community artists who rely on our firing services.

The kiln was made possible by a generous gift from studio artist Janell Lewis and her husband Randall.



The kiln in place, ready to be hooked up to gas and exhaust



The kiln arriving at AMOCA on a flatbed truck



AMOCA and Laguna Clay staff carefully maneuvering the kiln into the Studio

GROWING INTO OUR FUTURE



Rendering of the Kids Makerspace

This Capital Campaign is funding the necessary facility renovation that will upgrade, transform, and strengthen our ambitious education, community, and family programs.

With a goal of \$2.3M, the project reimagines AMOCA's existing spaces with a much-needed expansion of its Education Hall and the creation of a new Kids Makerspace, a Collection Study Room, a Curatorial Preparation Space, a Reading Lounge, and new, accessible bathrooms.

Thank you to the 78 donors who have helped us raise \$1,756,152.46 for the campaign through December 31, 2024.

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Rendering of the Ruth Reed Education Hall

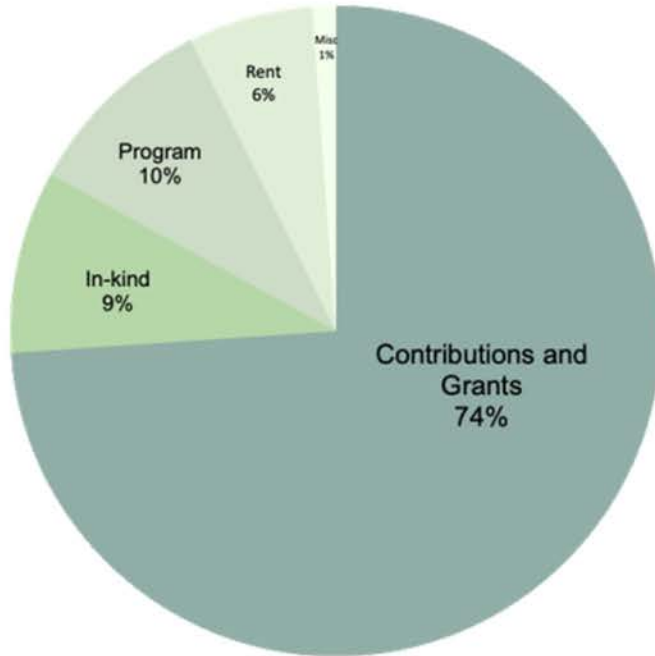
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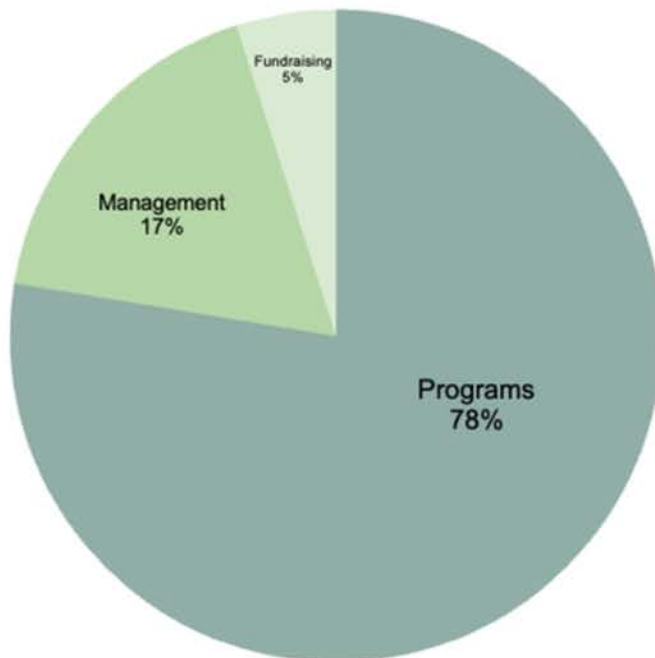
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Museum is independently audited every year, and for 2024 the auditors did not identify any material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or areas of noncompliance with laws and regulations.



INCOME

Contributions and Grants	\$1,645,131
In-kind Contributions	\$202,020
Program Income	\$213,921
Rental Income	\$138,373
Misc Income	\$25,822
Total Income	\$2,225,267



EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$1,142,424
Management Expenses	\$257,190
Fundraising Expenses	\$72,819
Total Expenses	\$1,472,433

[Link to 2024 Audited Financials](#)

[Link to 2024 990 - forthcoming](#)

2024 DONORS

Contributors to the American Museum of Ceramic Art ensure that the mission and goals of the Museum and Studio are met through their generous support.

\$100,000 - 299,999

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Gifts received
January 1 – December 31, 2024

We apologize for any omissions or errors.
Please contact us so we may update our records.



Clayton Bailey, *Mad Dr. Lamp*, 1976,
Gift of Robin Leibes

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Exhibition view of *Architectural Pottery*. Photo credit: Dan Chavkin

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AMOCA Staff at the opening of *Architectural Pottery*

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



Amanda Salov, Borrowed Light, 2022

Contact Information

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School group arriving for a field trip at AMOCA

Thank You!

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