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[mocatpopup.org](http://mocatpopup.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: -/-/24

“Adolescents serve as a repository for the conflicts of culture  
and as a bearer of its mythic projections.”

- S. C. Feinstein, Pioneer Adolescent Psychiatrist

**Washington, D.C.:** The Museum of Contemporary American Teenagers (MoCAT) and American University Library present *When the Weight of the World Won't Wait*, stories of teenagers and young adults throughout history who have shouldered society's burdens - from protecting our climate to fighting our wars.

Through art and discussion, *Weight of the World* asks audiences to consider what these burdens do to our young people and what these demands say about us.

The *Weight of the World* exhibit will run March 1, 2024 - April 19, 2024- in Bender Library at American University. On March 20, 2024 there will be [presentations and a conversation](#) featuring student creators and guest Mary Beth Tinker (known for her role in the Supreme Court's landmark case *Tinker v. Des Moines* and more than 50 years of free-speech advocacy) at the Kay Spiritual Life Center at American University. Student performances start at 4:00 pm followed by a presentation and conversation beginning at 5PM. Events on March 20th and the exhibit are free and open to the public to attend.

*Weight of the World* is the first in a series of events presented by MoCAT in partnership with American University, The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and the Kennedy Center to explore American teen culture (past and present) and its impact on history. Through images, movement, objects, sounds, words, dance, film, discussion and a range of other creative expressions, teen creators will engage in storytelling that shares their lives, joy and struggles while igniting conversation and calling for change.

The events culminate in *TotallyTeen Summer* (Summer of '25) featuring interactive demonstrations and performances at The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, a comprehensive art exhibit at the Katzen Art Center at American University, and music and film at the Kennedy Center

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More information can be found at MoCAT's website: [mocatpopup.org](http://mocatpopup.org)

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