



## Member Profile: Meta Ann Ela

### What was the most surprising work you've seen at The Aldrich?

The most surprising work I have seen at the Museum was Chiffon Thomas's exhibition *The Cavernous*. Having viewed it a few times prior to Chiffon inhabiting the dome structure for a live performance piece, it was incredibly impactful when he was united with his artwork. The performance piece was daring and incredibly moving to experience as an observer.

Chiffon breathed new meaning into the dome shaped artwork once he inhabited it. He used light, shadow, and original sound vocals to take us on a journey that was part birth, re-birth, and struggle. Sublime and disturbing, there was no way to leave without feeling somehow cracked open, tested, questioned, and renewed.

### What is your best memory of The Aldrich?

My best memory of The Aldrich was circling the massive outdoor Frank Stella star sculptures in wonder and awe. My children and their friends were equally captivated by the giant presence that was and will remain uniquely Frank Stella. It seems poignant after just losing this creative giant, that Larry Aldrich's dream of creating a sculpture park is being renewed. They began their artistic journey together in the 1960's and their legacies are beautifully intertwined.

### Why do you choose to support The Aldrich?

We choose to support The Aldrich for many reasons. Their commitment to living artists, emerging artists, and artists that speak to family history in a way that was previously overlooked or silenced matters. Art will always be a vehicle to test and tell stories that change our lives. We support it and cannot imagine a world without the life changing abilities art offers.

Thank you to The Aldrich for your generous vision, commitment to inclusiveness and belief in open access to art. Ridgefield is fortunate to share in your mission.

