

FY2024 Student Service Fee Base Augmentation Request, Blaffer Art Museum, Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

Our base level of support has been \$21,500 since 2017, and since then, Blaffer Art Museum has significantly expanded and extended our commitment to student-centered programs. To sustain this trajectory and add further student-driven activity, the Blaffer Art Museum respectfully requests a Base Increase to \$37,000.

In FY2024, the Blaffer will make an increased commitment to achieve both UH Goals and DSA strategies. As a hub between UH and the City of Houston, the Blaffer is both an incubator and intersection between students and cultural professionals – providing opportunities for mentorship, collaboration, and the practice of real-world creativity in support of UH’s Goal 1, Student Success. At the same time, all museum programs focused upon students— exhibitions, BAMSA, B.A.D., internships, etc. — directly address the Division of Student Affairs goal to develop leadership skills, personal growth, and “Expand diverse experiences on exploration and education while identifying and meeting the needs of our student population through supportive, inclusive, environments.”

GOAL 1). Develop opportunities for student exhibitions, engagement, and learning. This initiative will be accomplished through the following:

- a. Realize two spring student exhibitions, the ***UH School of Art Annual MFA Thesis Exhibition*** and the ***UH School of Art Annual School of Art Student Exhibition***.
- b. Sponsor and mentor the **Blaffer Art Museum Student Association (BAMSA)** and its programs.
- c. Incorporate **Blaffer Art & Design (B.A.D.) 2.0.** as a permanent museum program. (Please see Q3 in the Questionnaire for an ongoing progress report).
- d. Prioritize **student-focused programs** such as **Convergence Research**, a creative, cross-disciplinary laboratory and the more integrated evolution of **Studio Sessions**.
- e. Steward **Internships** for both undergraduate and graduate students with academic and professional knowledge and skills.
- f. Provide professional experience to student **docents**, **art installers**, and **gallery attendants**.
- g. **Begin a sustainable school and community outreach program; offered in person to HISD schools, community groups as well as UH units.** The Blaffer extended its commitment to local school communities by joining two area arts education advocacy and support groups, Arts Connect and Houston Arts Partners (HAP). The Blaffer helped organize an annual conference for HAP and participated in events for both Arts Connect and Houston Independent School District. A highlight was working with UH units Public Art UHS and Community Arts Academy to host a series of six cross-disciplinary arts and museum tours for HISD Summer Arts Intensive students.
- h. **Present Public and educational programs designed the university community** For each upcoming exhibition the museum will position visiting artists and scholars as resources for students, and will orchestrate student-driven public programs, class visits, and workshops. Students, faculty, and community members gain access to leading practitioners in the fields of

art, art history, and other disciplines that actively contribute to the contemporary cultural landscape. **Increased Student Resources for Accessibility through Video Creation, Documentation, and Livestreaming.** Since its inception in August 2020, the Blaffer YouTube channel has served as both an archive for past performances and lectures as well as a resource for new content. The Blaffer has produced artist interviews, virtual museum tours, and exhibition-related art making activities. Additionally, the Blaffer’s website hosted new virtual resources such as My Virtual Blaffer and two exhibitions designed by BAMSA, and subscriptions to our social media channels have grown significantly. To maintain this momentum, additional resources are needed. For example, producing livestreamed artist talks for the MFA exhibition required planning, videographers with multiple cameras and other equipment, and post-production costs.

To best meet this Goal, the Blaffer requests an increase in Base funding, raising the level from \$21,500 to \$37,000.

Current Support	\$21,500
Blaffer Art and Design (B.A.D.)	\$4,000
Graduate Instructional Assistant (Exhibitions + Visitor Services)	\$7000
Internship support (undergrad, Education department)	\$3,000
Increased resources (parking, installation costs)	\$1,500
Total:	\$37000

The additional funds will support:

- Blaffer Art and Design (B.A.D.) is a successful and innovative program that benefits students, and the museum wishes to permanently add it to our program (\$4000).
- The Instructional Assistant for the Exhibitions and Visitor Services department will learn firsthand about museum operations. The position will gain experience to help coordinate logistical details involved in installing complex museum exhibitions and coordinating day-to-day visitor relations (\$7000)
- Additional funding will support two paid summer or semester-long Internships for the Education and Curatorial Departments. Currently, the Blaffer receives funding to offer support for Internships at the Graduate level only. This support will allow undergraduate students the opportunity to gain academic credit and be compensated for their projects (\$3000).
- Finally, the additional requested amount will cover increasing costs for essential expenses such as installation materials, student catalog printing, wall labels, promotions, and visitor parking, which the Blaffer offers to guests at free public programs. In addition, this amount will contribute to the costs of video documentation of student programs (\$1500).