



FY 2018 SFAC One-Time Request for Augmentation

The Blaffer Art Museum requests a one-time increase of \$8,000 in base funding from the Student Fees Advisory Committee, to support a student-led programming initiative designed to encourage interaction, discussion, and collaboration between students of different disciplines.

The initiative will take the form of a series of biweekly gatherings held at Blaffer Art Museum and at locations around the UH campus. Meetings will alternate between two formats: student discussion and showcases of student research; and themed meetings focusing on brief presentations by faculty and community career professionals highlighting networking opportunities, and career development.

This programming initiative was spearheaded by a student-led group at Blaffer, BAMSA, and a student-led group formed in the wake of the new College of the Arts, COTA Connects, in an effort to infuse the Blaffer's successful Innovation Series with student driven programs which encourage deep interaction between disparate disciplines and focus on work and research beyond campus.

Blaffer has since 2011, established and solidified the museum and its programs within the broader academic context, recognizing the museum's unique potential to serve as an incubator for interdisciplinary dialogue and learning with contemporary art as a conduit to initiate and grow channels of communications between widely different academic disciplines. This initiative, which initially focused on developing faculty ties, is made more robust with the addition of active student groups deepening relationships with students across campus and directing program development.

This year's pilot series which forms the backdrop for this request, grew out of the successful interdisciplinary 'Brain on Art' programs and a student vision of what a college of the arts brings to students from every corner. The programming groups will work closely with UH Career Services, the UH Library, and various colleges. This will run in parallel with the Innovation Series, the Blaffer Art Museum's faculty interdisciplinary initiative.

College of the Arts (COTA) Connects is a student-led initiative that encourages interaction, discussion, and collaboration between individuals of different disciplines. The purpose of the organization is twofold: 1) to foster discussion through informal monthly meetings that highlight interdisciplinary collaboration, 2) create opportunities for students including but not limited to: have speakers that would inspire, inform, and generate discussion, partner with UH Career services to gear for art-centric career development, and generate projects that bring together individuals from different backgrounds to solve community and university questions. The governing board consists of five undergraduate

students whose affiliations range across colleges including: College of the Arts, Honors College, College of Architecture, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and Cullen College of Engineering.

COTA Connect's structured events tentatively include events such as: a speed-dating career development session, TEDx-structured sessions consisting of speakers and discussions, workshops.

Blaffer Art Museum Student Association (BAMSA) was founded in 2005. The student-led, volunteer BAMSA exists to benefit students by increasing opportunities for students to participate in and make vital contributions to the museum community. BAMSA fosters opportunities for student collaboration across the arts and beyond. The most far-reaching program and central program of the BAMSA is the semi-annual *Red Block Bash*, a campus-wide celebration of UH arts held in the Fine Arts Courtyard and the museum. Produced, executed and marketed by the students, this is hosted at Blaffer with other units participating to showcase their work in the visual and performing arts.

Regular participants include the UH Dance Ensemble, Glass Mountain literary journal, and the UH Photo/Digital Association. This fall the Bash will feature several collaborating student organizations that are new, launching a springboard to celebrate student's accomplishments in the arts on campus. Events will include a musical performance, dance performance, and several participatory art-making activities as well as a slide show featuring student artwork.

Funding for this pilot project will support thirteen meetings beginning in September, 2017 and ending in April, 2018.

Budget Description	Amount
Food for 13 meetings @ \$250	\$3,250
Posters	1,000
Yard Signs	1,000
Facebook ads	1,000
Speaker travel	1,000
Total	\$8,000