



Gallery Talk at 41st Annual School of Art MFA Thesis Exhibition, Blaffer Art Museum, 2019

- 1. Please provide a one-page executive summary of your questionnaire responses. This summary should include, in brief terms: your unit’s mission, how you accomplish your unit’s mission, and a justification of your unit’s student fee allocation in terms of benefits for students.** [1] [1] [SEP]

The Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston serves as a catalyst for exploration, experimentation, and research in contemporary art. Operating as a resource for the students, faculty, and staff of UH and beyond, the Blaffer’s exhibitions, publications, and public programs promote and nurture curiosity and creativity. As a non-collecting organization, the Blaffer operates as a hub – presenting exhibitions and performances to cultivate exchange amongst a diverse audience of both university and community members. The Museum’s exhibitions are free to all, and our nationally-recognized scholarship is collectively produced via panels, talks, tours, public programming and printed materials.

The museum accomplishes these goals and reaches the UH student community through a multitude of activities and events including:

- The presentation of nationally-recognized exhibitions and programs (in line with CAMH and the Menil), which consistently integrate student participation, activation and interpretation;

- Showcasing UH student art in the School of Art *Annual Student Exhibition* and *Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition*, both developed in collaboration with students and faculty;
- Producing lively, collaborative programming for students, by students, through a regular program of internships and the Blaffer Art Museum Student Association (BAMSA), which was est. in 2005
- New participatory, inter-disciplinary programs such as *Convergence Research*, *Studio Sessions*, and *Blaffer Art and Design (B.A.D.) 2.0* designed to generate (and support) student participation, learning, and art-making in a public arena;
- A highly successful academic (volunteer) internship program where students receive course credit and learn important professional skills from museum professionals;
- Special, one-on-one opportunities for UH students to engage with artists exhibiting at the Blaffer in artist-led class visits, workshops, and critiques;
- Offering free public lectures and presentations that bring world-renowned contemporary artists, scholars, and arts professionals to the campus and university classrooms;
- Docent-led tours of our exhibitions for UH classes and groups, often led by our advanced undergraduate and graduate students in art, art history, and arts education.

One of the most significant and longstanding services the museum provides to the UH student community is through the School of Art's *Annual Student Exhibition* and *Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition*. Each year the Blaffer hosts these expansive exhibitions (and accompanying events, including student artist talks) to gather students, friends, family, and our community in celebrating the next generation of rising stars from UH. Since the reputation of UH Fine Arts graduates is local, national and international in scope, these debuts have great popular appeal and often generate some of the Blaffer's largest audiences each year. Students work hand-in-hand with the Blaffer's staff to realize their projects and learn important presentation strategies, and the exhibition is accompanied by a printed catalog produced by the School of Art's Graphic Design program. These exhibitions are a shining testament to what UH students can imagine, and a number of works have been acquired and displayed in the university's Student Center.

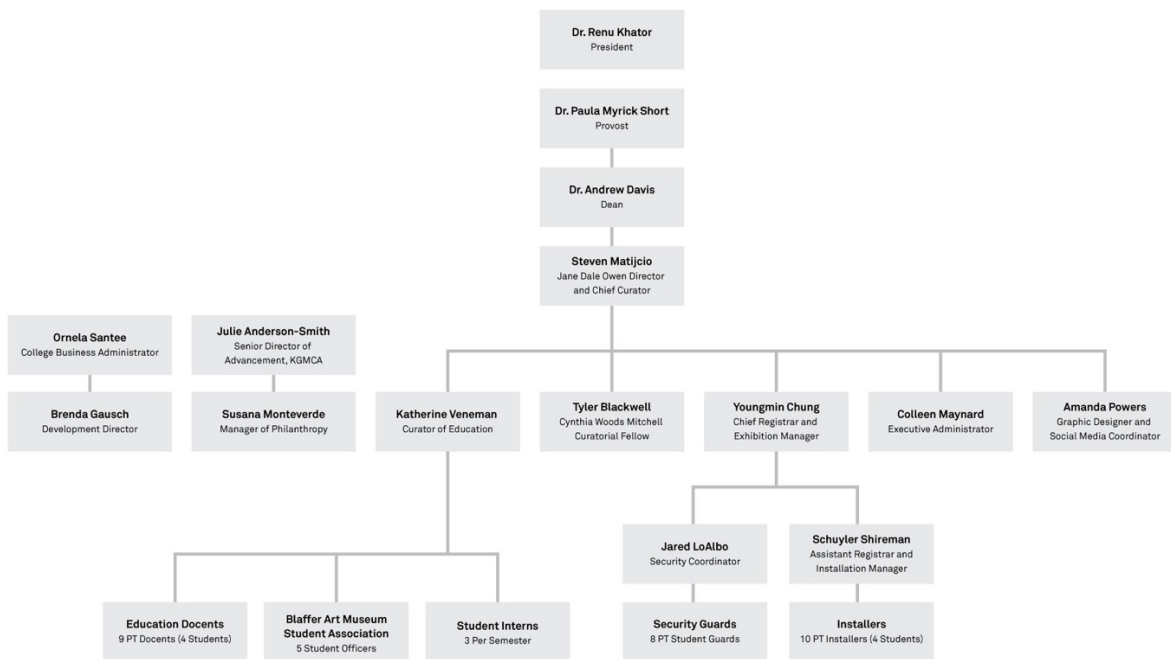
In addition to the student exhibitions, an important facet of the museum's service to the University student population is through the Blaffer Art Museum Student Association (BAMSA). Founded in 2005, this student-led organization creates career-building opportunities for students to participate in and make vital contributions to the arts and the museum. BAMSA brings together students interested in art to create an organizational structure, dialogue with arts professionals, cultivate art-making on campus, celebrate student artists, and collaborate with other campus-based departments and organizations. BAMSA's most visible success is the semi-annual Red Block Bash, a popular inter-disciplinary celebration designed for and by students that features music, performances and exhibitions. An estimated 200-300 students attend the

event, which includes participation by approximately 18 partnering student organizations. BAMSA also functions as an important advisory voice for the Blaffer when developing and promoting events, and as catalysts to promote art-making activities inside and outside the museum.

The Blaffer Art Museum respectfully requests \$21,500 in base support to fund the annual student exhibitions, the Blaffer Art Museum Student Association (BAMSA), and other associated student-related programming.

2. Organizational Chart

The Blaffer currently engages between 30-35 students per semester as docents, installation crew members, interns, BAMSA officers, and museum attendants. Student employees and volunteers provide invaluable assistance in connecting the Blaffer with the University community and gain employment and/or professional development experience at the museum.



- 3. List your unit's strategic initiatives and action steps identified for the 2020-2021 academic year and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services (DSAES) Strategic Initiatives and University of Houston Strategic Goals to which they relate (links below). Please comment on your success in achieving these strategic initiatives/action steps. If a strategic initiative/action step changed during the year, please note this and explain. Also, list any new strategic initiatives/action steps, the rationale for the addition, and comment on your success in achieving these items.**

The Blaffer prioritizes the important role it plays in the University's stated mission "to offer nationally competitive and internationally recognized opportunities for learning, discovery and engagement to a diverse population of students in a real-world setting." As a gateway between UH and the City of Houston, the Blaffer lives as both an incubator and hub between students and professionals – providing opportunities for mentorship, innovation and the development of real-world creativity. Funding from SFAC allows us to build these partnerships and advance the artistic skills in students so desired in a 21st century workplace. The School of Art's *Annual Student Exhibition* and *Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition*, BAMSA, and our commitment to student participation and programming, all develop elements of UH's strategic principles: Institutional Excellence, Student Success, Community Advancement, Local and National Recognition, and Community Resources. At the same time, programs focused upon students directly address the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services goal to champion exceptional opportunities and services to support all UH students.

We outline below how the Blaffer will utilize SFAC funds to support our goal of student success:

UH School of Art Annual Student Exhibition and Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition: In 2018-19, the Blaffer Art Museum presented two annual student exhibitions, providing a professional setting to celebrate students' artistic accomplishments and introduce the next generation of artists to the Houston community. Between the two shows, more than 100 School of Art students in Graphic Design, Interdisciplinary Practice and Emerging Forms, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture participated and thrived. In one of the largest classes to date, this year's *41st Annual Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition* featured the works of fifteen artists: Erin Carty, Angel Castelan, Jimmy Castillo, Jinyong Choi, Dylan Conner, Leticia Contreras, Sunni Forcier, Rafael Gamero, Madison Letge, Karen Martinez, Melissa Noble, Robert Redfearn, Amanda Schilling, Derek Witucki, and Haoxing Zhang. The visibility, energy, vitality, and consistently growing reputation of this exhibition across city and campus contributed to approximately 1000 guests who attended the exhibition. Moreover, MFA students developed leadership skills by learning professional standards and best practices of exhibiting their work in a museum setting. Students work extensively with museum staff while conceptualizing and realizing their thesis projects,

gaining experience that prepares them to work with galleries and museums in the future. The Blaffer also presented the *UH Annual Student Art Exhibition* featuring artworks by approximately 100 undergraduate and graduate student artists from the School of Art.



School of Art Annual Student Exhibition, Blaffer Art Museum, 2019



In addition, SFAC funds were used to promote the programs and hold public gallery talks by all 15 exhibiting MFA students. Extending its marketing reach, the Blaffer advertised these exhibitions in *Arts & Education*, an internationally renowned online art bulletin. Programmatically, *Gallery Talks* provide students with an opportunity to hone their critical thinking, communication, and presentation

skills by discussing their work and the university's program with the campus and Houston art communities. These talks are moderated by Blaffer Curator of Education Katherine Veneman, and consistently attract audiences in UH as well as the Houston art world.

SFAC funds also provide key support for the **Blaffer Art Museum Student Association (BAMSA)**, a student-led volunteer organization that congregates a student community at the museum and presents art and performance across the campus. Its mission is "to generate and establish resume-worthy events, opportunities, and experience through active engagement in the Blaffer Art Museum." Using the museum as a catalyst, BAMSA members generate awareness of, and excitement around exhibitions, events and educational outreach programming. In so doing, BAMSA creates, implements, and sustains new endeavors in collaboration with its members, peer organizations, faculty and staff. Participation in BAMSA also offers students the opportunity to learn professional skills such as program planning and budgeting, event logistics, coordination and evaluation.

BAMSA fosters opportunities for student collaboration across the arts and a variety of neighboring disciplines such as business and liberal arts. The most far-reaching program of 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, the Bash showcases student work in the visual and performing arts. The 2018-19 events featured a large number of partnering student organizations, including participants inside and beyond the arts such as the Glass Mountain literary journal, the Art and Architecture Library Student Organization, and Uncommon Colors. The event featured student performances by a range of musicians as well as art-making and participatory activities. Student surveys were distributed and analyzed by students at the Bauer College of Business, confirming that the event can draw participation across campus. BAMSA continues to expand its program, serving as a forum for peers interested in the arts to connect and expand their knowledge of the professional arts field. In the spring and fall BAMSA presented the *Biennial Student Art Show*, with the additional support of Texas Art Supplies – which loaned easels to the group, and has now increased their support by donating easels this fall. BAMSA has also increased its professional development with programs such as *BAMSA Speaks*, a flexibly formatted panel/roundtable/workshop.

In 2018-19, the Blaffer worked collaboratively with BAMSA and other UH students to pilot a program in preparation for the First Friday Tour Programs, to be funded by SFAC in the coming year (FY20). For



Exhibit of works from Abstract Art Workshops, Blaffer Art Museum, 2019

the month of February, the Blaffer dedicated one of its galleries to hold four **Abstract Art Workshops**, with prompts informed by the museum's exhibition, *Rebecca Morris: The Ache of Bright*. These workshops included painting and collage lessons exploring line, form and color, as well as guided tours of the Morris show. With an exhibition in the gallery space and a more streamlined activity for drop-in visitors, the program advanced the museum's objective to be an active laboratory for creative enterprise, welcoming and inclusive for students. The pilot has now grown into an ongoing series called **Studio Sessions**, reflecting the program's open-ended environment of participation and engagement.

Additionally, the Blaffer offers ongoing educational support via training to **museum docents, interns, and education assistants** as well as to **installation crew members** and **gallery attendants/security** staff. This fall marks the start of an active tour season, with nine docents (four of whom are advanced undergraduate and graduate students in art and art history) in the midst of leading 17 tours (to date). Guided tours are provided to groups of ten or more – from university classes to K-12 and community groups – with a new focus on attracting non-academic university student group participation this year.

The Blaffer continues to promote the marriage of practical and theoretical studies through academically rigorous internships at the undergraduate and graduate level. Mentored by museum staff in the education and curatorial departments, UH students complete individual and collaborative assignments related to museum exhibitions. Furthermore, many students studying in arts-related fields received professional training as members of the exhibition installation crew. These students also gain experience in marketing design and communications, and working in public programs. Students serve as gallery attendants/security as well, utilizing front line communication skills to interact with the public while maintaining important museum safety policies.

- 4. Please discuss the means that you are utilizing to evaluate both your success in achieving the aforementioned strategic initiatives and/or action steps and their importance as compared to others that you might pursue. Where data exists, discuss the number of persons served by each of your programs and any assessment measures and/or learning outcomes used to evaluate program success. Please provide the method for collecting these data. If available, please provide program benchmarking data from comparable institutions.**

The 2019 *Masters of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition* and the *Annual School of Art Exhibition* brought almost 2,250 guests to the museum in just 24 days, the highest volume of museum traffic this year. In addition, attendance at BAMSAs programs drew more than 600 students, which maintains the strength of former years. MFA gallery talks are a consistent draw for the public, and this year attracted nearly 100 visitors in total. Moreover, overall museum attendance is on the rise, with a nearly 57% increase from FY18 to FY19, and preliminary numbers for September 2019 on par with FY19.

Tracking attendance at our events, exhibitions, lectures, and guided tours is the most quantifiable means to measure the Blaffer's audience reach. Attendance is tallied by a twofold system. Visitors are registered upon entry into the museum through a sticker and/or clicker, and the data is collected in a simple hourly chart. This system is echoed during outdoor events, offsite lectures or large-scale visits/openings. By always being free of charge, and prioritizing friendly, down-to-earth interactions with our guests, the Blaffer cultivates return visits and ongoing patronage. Students often make repeat visits within a short period of time to coincide with student class assignments or public programming.

This data is gathered into a comprehensive master spreadsheet that delineates programming and daily overall attendance into categories such as tours, off-site events, and student organization events. These monthly spreadsheets are organized by fiscal year (and fiscal quarters). This makes it possible to review how many were in attendance for a category in any given week, month, quarter and/or year. The education staff regularly consults security and visitor relations staff to ensure accurate counts at public and education programs, since there is both a general and an education/public program calendar.

The Blaffer also distributes written surveys to solicit more detailed demographic information from guests. Quantitative measures are important to the success of SFAC-funded programs, and feedback provided by students is incorporated into future program planning. In advance of the student exhibitions, art students, faculty, and museum staff meet to discuss exhibition presentations and develop tactics that accommodate both student and museum goals. To evaluate BAMSAs activities, museum staff and BAMSAs officers work regularly with students from the Bauer College of Business to develop marketing plans and conduct focus groups to evaluate student interests. The variety of methods used to track attendance and student involvement has improved with the implementation of surveys and we are looking to expand on this process in

the upcoming fiscal year.

Accurate accounting, documentation, and analysis of visitor attendance at the Blaffer is similar to comparable state institutions such as the Blanton Museum at UT and the Art Museum at Texas Southern University. The major exception is the admission fee at the Blanton which involves a third-party ticketing system, while free admission at Blaffer allows unlimited guest visits (with the exception of private receptions or fundraising events, which are also counted internally and added to visitor data). In contrast to both the Blanton and TSU Museum's two-step registration and email check-in process, the Blaffer's streamlined entry and optional visitor surveys gathers a robust amount of demographic information (i.e. zip codes, visitor experience) in a timely, efficient manner.

- 5. Please discuss any budget or organizational changes experienced since your last SFAC request, their impact on your programs, and your reason for implementing them. SFAC recognizes that some programs did not receive the funds that they requested, that some programs were impacted by additional expenses after the conclusion of the budget cycle, and that some programs may be ahead of or behind their self-generated income projections.**

The Blaffer advances an innovative, internationally-recognized program while remaining a cornerstone component of the UH campus community. In FY19, SFAC-funded programs were accomplished on schedule, in budget, and within scope, including an increased number of programs for UH students.

Organizational changes are headlined by an exciting new direction in leadership, with the appointment of **Steven Matijcio, Jane Dale Owen Director and Chief Curator** in the spring of 2019. One of Matijcio's foremost priorities is to raise awareness of the Blaffer on campus, and to expand student involvement in upcoming exhibitions, performances and participatory projects. His curatorial program will promote art that is inter-disciplinary, socially conscious, and that which will engage diverse audiences at UH and across Houston. Taking a holistic approach to campus activity, Matijcio is spearheading a collaborative initiative called "Convergence Research," which promotes exchange with multiple units at the Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts, as well as neighboring disciplines like those involved with the "Brain on Art" program (i.e. engineering, medicine). Matijcio is also re-establishing the Blaffer Art & Design program (BAD), which commissions work from students in the Industrial Design and Graphic Design programs at UH, and plans to extend Blaffer exhibitions and public art projects across the UH campus. Prior to joining the University of Houston, Matijcio served as Curator at the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) in Cincinnati, and Curator of Contemporary Art at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He was the artistic director of the 2012 Narracje Festival in Gdansk, Poland and has participated in curatorial residencies in Korea, Germany, Canada and the United

States. He has lectured on theory and criticism at the University of Manitoba, and holds a Master of Arts in Curatorial Studies from Bard College as well as an Honors Bachelor of Arts in Arts Administration from the University of Toronto.

Important new positions and promotions have also been added to the Blaffer staff in recent months, dedicating important energy and resources to key fundraising, communications, and administrative priorities. In recent months, **Susana Monteverde** was appointed **Manager of Philanthropy** to the Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts, where she will serve as a generator of social and financial capital for both the Blaffer and the School of Art. Artist and designer **Amanda Powers** is the new **Design and Social Media Coordinator** for the Museum, and **Colleen Maynard** was promoted from Security & Visitor Services to the position of **Executive Administrator**.

In FY 21, Blaffer anticipates spending approximately \$15,000 on the two student exhibitions, \$4,000 for BAMSA programming, and \$2,500 on other student-related programming. **The Blaffer is also planning to expand its student-oriented programming on a long-term basis, and a request for a Base Augmentation of \$7,500 is included under separate cover.** The current budget covers fixed costs that are essential to the installation and promotion of the shows and programs, including painting, construction, furniture for the display of artwork, as well as publicity costs. Dedicated funds for student-centric programs are critical to the funding portfolio of the Blaffer, which spans a spectrum of grants, foundations, individual patrons, corporate support and endowments. With our keen focus on student participation and outreach, the potential for growth via student exhibitions is a fruitful opportunity for the museum to build a relationship with the campus as a place to meet, collaborate and be inspired. Student exhibitions are eagerly anticipated by the campus community and provide students a professional venue for their work. Working closely with the KGMCA, the Blaffer will continue to create a considered marketing plan that allows the museum to take a complete view of promoting its exhibitions and programs, (including the SFAC funded student exhibitions and BAMSA events), in both a dynamic and cost-efficient manner.

Adjunct training programs such as docent instruction, student internships, and participation on the exhibition installation crew continue to provide professional experience for many students in art-related fields of study. During FY21, students can look forward to working side-by-side with renowned artists such as Mariam Ghani and Stephanie Syjuco, who will both have solo major exhibitions at the Blaffer in 2020.

6. **If your unit concluded FY2019 with a Student Service Fee (SSF) Fund 3 addition to the SSF Reserve in excess of \$5,000, please describe the conditions which caused the addition and provide a line-item identification of the budgetary source(s) of the addition (i.e. lapsed salary, conference travel, etc.).** [SEP]

N/A

7. **Please list your 2019-2020 strategic initiatives and action steps in priority order and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services Strategic Initiatives and University of Houston Strategic Goals to which they relate. Larger units may wish to group responses by subprogram. Under each strategic initiative, please state the specific action steps (programs, activities, services, policies/procedures, etc.) that you intend to implement to accomplish your stated initiative.**

SFAC funding enables the Blaffer to sustain its essential role as part of the UH Arts Initiative, and address priorities of both UH Goals and Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services Strategies. We serve as a catalyst for creative innovation, experimentation, and scholarship in contemporary art. As the gateway between UH and the City of Houston, the Blaffer fosters engagement and exchange among artists, curators, scholars, and the museum's diverse audience of students, faculty, and community members. The Blaffer presents exhibitions and education programs that are free to the public, that create community through participation, and inspire an appreciation for contemporary art as a factor in shaping culture.

2019-2020 Initiatives:

1. **Develop nationally and international exhibition program and creating complementary learning opportunities for students and public**

(Aligning with UH Goals of National Competitiveness). The Blaffer will continue to develop innovative exhibitions of contemporary art that are global in reach, representation and ambition. Additionally, the museum plans to increase the impact of exhibitions on campus by expanding and enriching campus partnerships to develop cross-disciplinary programs. UH students will be woven into the architecture of these efforts, and activated as partners and participants in shows that consistently celebrate ethnic diversity and culture-sharing. This initiative will be accomplished through:

- a. Upcoming Exhibitions:

- i. **Paul Mpagi Sepuya** (October 20, 2019 – March 14, 2020) Sepuya is an African-American artist who makes photographs of friends, artists, collaborators, and

himself that challenge the history of photography and deconstruct traditional portraiture through layering, fragmentation, mirror imagery, and the perspective of the black, queer gaze. This exhibition is Sepuya's first major museum survey, spanning thirteen years of his practice and tracing connections across his life and practice.

- ii. **Jacqueline Nova: *Creación de la Tierra*** (October 20, 2019 – January 4, 2020)
Nova (1935-1975) was one of Latin America's most important, yet still under-recognized experimental musicians of the 20th century. The exhibition centers upon her rarely exhibited 1972 work *Creación de la Tierra* ("Creation of the Earth"), which was created by sonically altering a series of recordings of chants by the indigenous U'wa peoples of Northeastern Colombia. In this immersive sound installation Nova questions the political implications behind the intelligibility of speech, history, and technology.
- iii. **Gareth Long: *Kidnappers Foil*** (November 16, 2019 – March 14, 2020) *Kidnappers Foil* is a multi-channel cinematic installation that explores the social, cultural, and media histories of amateur American filmmaking through the lens of the itinerant Texan filmmaker Melton Barker. Between 1936 and 1976, the Dallas-born Barker traveled from town to town across the American South and Midwest, using a single script to produce hundreds of unique iterations of the same film. The Toronto-based artist Gareth Long presents a constellation of 12 of these films as an archive of vernacular artifacts.
- iv. **Mariam Ghani: *What We Left Unfinished*** (January 10 – March 14, 2020)
Ghani is an Afghan-American artist, archivist, social activist, writer, lecturer and filmmaker. In her most ambitious work to date, Ghani presents the incredible and mostly true story of five unfinished feature films from the Communist era in Afghanistan (1978-1991), when films were weapons, filmmakers became targets, and the dreams of constantly shifting political regimes merged with the stories told onscreen. Alongside the film, Ghani will present archival materials accumulated in its making, sister video portraits of Afghanistan, and a site-specific iteration of her ongoing archive project *Index of the Disappeared* (with collaborator Chitra Ganesh) in the Special Collections Department of MD Anderson Library.

v. **Stephanie Syjuco: *The Visible Invisible*** (June 6 – October 10, 2020) In the summer and early autumn of 2020, the Blaffer will present a solo exhibition and participatory workshop by Philippines-born, San Francisco-based artist Stephanie Syjuco. This project will span multiple sites on the UH campus (including the Student Center and Honors College), creating an expanded platform to enlist an ethnically diverse student population while also engaging the broader campus community. Syjuco’s work confronts the complicated ways in which models of citizenry, immigration, nationhood, and identity are dramatically evolving in the United States.

vi.

- b. **Public and educational programs** targeted to the university community. For each upcoming exhibition, the museum will position visiting artists and scholars as resources for students, and orchestrate 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. Free and informative public programs expand the horizon of intellectual engagement for students, and expose them to new ways of thinking, making, and navigating an increasingly broad ethnic diaspora around the world.
- c. **Increased Campus Partnerships.** The scope of both exhibition and public programs will be expanded to reach campus partners and increase student engagement. As a case in point, the Blaffer will partner with Special Collections at Anderson Library in January 2020 to co-present artist Mariam Ghani’s *Index of the Disappeared*. This project revolves around a site-specific installation, as well as artist-led, research-driven workshops that will gather materials specially drawn from the UH archive.

2. **Develop opportunities for student exhibitions and engagement with museum resources**

(Aligns with the UH Goal of Student Success, Community Advancement, and Local and National Recognition; the Division of Student Affairs’ initiatives to develop leadership qualities, critical thinking and communications skills while also expanding diverse experiences on exploration and education.) By creating deeper engagements and sustained partnerships within the university community the Blaffer will cement its role as a resource and gathering place for students.

This initiative will be accomplished through:

- a. Realizing two spring student exhibitions, the *42nd Annual School of Art MFA Thesis Exhibition* and the *Annual School of Art Student Exhibition*.
- b. Sponsorship and mentorship of the **Blaffer Art Museum Student Association (BAMSA)**, and its schedule of student events including the Fall and Spring Red Block Bash and Biannual Student Exhibition, as well as professional development programs.
- c. Implementing a new student-driven program, **Studio Sessions**, (funded with the title First Friday Tours), which involves eight free events held on the first Friday of each month in the fall and spring semesters. This program offers students guided tours, art-making workshops, food and conversation in a welcoming, creative environment.
- d. Re-establishing the **Blaffer Art & Design (BAD)** program. As a partnership with students and faculty in the Graphic Design (School of Art) and Industrial Design (Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture) programs at UH, students exercise their design and production skills to realize projects which are showcased and sold in the museum's lobby.
- e. **Convergence Research** is a new program encouraging students' employment of the museum as a creative, cross-disciplinary laboratory, accessible during Blaffer's new extended Thursday operating hours (open until 8 p.m.).
- f. **Internships** will offer both undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to improve their academic studies while developing professional development skills.

3. **Developing school and community partnerships**

(Aligned with DSAES plan to forge and strengthen partnerships to expand reach into the greater community). In addition to providing free guided tours to K-12 groups, the Blaffer strives to create partnerships with schools that regularly visit the museum. We also conduct outreach to new school groups, often in conjunction with a school visit to UH and a class assignment. Artworks created by participating K-12 students have been regularly featured in the museum's café space, drawing a wide array of audiences. As a testament to the success of this program, the Blaffer was awarded Community Partner of the Year by the High School for Performing and Visual Arts this past spring, in recognition of a five year partnership to engage students with museum exhibitions.

8. **Recognizing that the potential to generate additional Student Service Fee income for FY2019 base funding is extremely limited and recognizing that it is likely that some units will not be allocated the FY2020 base budget augmentations and/or one-time funds requested. Please provide a narrative of how your unit would accommodate a reduction of 5%**

in your total approved FY2020 base Student Service Fee budget and provide a line-item explanation of where budgetary cuts would be made.

If there were a 5% budget reduction to our base fee of \$21,500, the reduced amount of \$1,075 could—with difficulty—be absorbed in the installation costs of the two student exhibitions. This will be a challenge because all of the costs incurred with these exhibitions are fixed expenses including building and painting walls, constructing exhibition display furniture, and purchasing the miscellaneous hardware required to present the work. The Blaffer could downsize these shows by re-allocating the modestly sized Saleri Gallery (located on the Museum's 2nd Floor) as storage space for an upcoming exhibition. This accommodation would reduce installation costs, but also the amount of artwork on display.

9. What are the other possible sources of funding available to your unit and what efforts are being made to access them (e.g. grants, donations, etc.)? If you receive funds from other sources, please briefly describe the source, purpose, and duration of the funding and report the amounts received in the appropriate rows/columns on the SFAC Spreadsheet. ^[1]_[SEP]

The Blaffer is responsible for raising all of the funds required to produce exhibitions, education, programs, and publications. University support is limited to facility and partial salary & benefit support. As such, museum funding relies on outside resources such as grants from public agencies, private foundations, corporations and individual support to present our work. These funds are systematically pursued throughout the year through grant applications, direct mail campaigns, and with the support of our Advisory Board and colleagues in the KGMCA. However, these funds are often marked as restricted use for particular exhibitions and are unavailable for student exhibitions and programs; external funding from charitable foundations for exhibitions of student work is not available either. SFAC funding is the only resource devoted specifically to the UH student population programming and exhibitions. The Blaffer staff prioritizes the importance of the School of Art's student exhibitions and is committed to providing a professional level of service and expertise. There is a significant amount of time and effort spent to achieve the high standard of presentation expected. The museum is truly appreciative of the support from the Student Fees Advisory Committee, which is a vital resource in the presentation of these two exhibitions, BAMSA, and student-related activities.

10. Please describe any services that are similar to yours and/or any overlap between your unit and any other unit(s) providing services to students and the rationale for the overlap.

The Blaffer Art Museum is the only professional art museum on the main campus at the University of

Houston, and is open, with free admission, five days a week. In an effort to increase accessibility to campus, particularly campus residents and those students taking evening classes, the museum has recently instituted new extended Thursday hours (open until 8 pm). We present innovative exhibitions of contemporary art and educational programs that are relevant and intellectually stimulating to the university community. The museum works in a dedicated manner to provide high quality programs for the entire student body, ranging from holding student social events to working with professors incorporating museum exhibitions into their respective syllabi. The Blaffer regularly collaborates with other UH units to create or enhance programs for maximum impact on campus. Past academic collaborators have included: College of Engineering, School of Art, School of Theatre and Dance, The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts, as well as various departments in the College of Education, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the Honors College, the Hilton College, and the Bauer College of Business. Recent or current non-academic collaborators have included the UH Public Art Collection, Jenkins Art and Architecture Library, UH Libraries, Office of Human Relations Work/Life and POWER UP programs, Dean of Students, Student Center, and Student Program Board.

Energized by new leadership, in FY21 the Blaffer will take on an expanded role in the Katherine G. McGovern College of the Arts (KGMCA) and, by extension, in student life. With new programming directions, the Blaffer will work to align its exhibitions and interpretive programs with the units in the KGMCA and with diverse fields of learning. This year's program includes the 42nd year of the School of Art *Master of Fine Art Thesis Exhibition* as well as the *Annual Student Exhibition*. BAMSAs continues to grow in its role in the campus community, continually initiating new programs and enriching the arts on campus. New student initiatives have been emerging in the past year and will continue to develop and flourish. We are proud of our place as an educational resource for all UH students, connecting the student community to exhibitions at the vanguard of artistic innovation. The Blaffer is thrilled to act as a means for curriculum enhancement, to showcase student exhibitions and expertise, and to inspire a creativity vital in today's world.