

FY2025 Blaffer Art Museum, One Time Request, Student Program Enhancement

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 application of real-world creativity. In FY25, the Blaffer will continue to prioritize student engagement and success by weaving students into unique museum operations and programming. The FY24 One-Time allocation furthers our ability to activate the College of the Arts Vision Element #2, to develop the next generation of artists, leaders and professionals. This year, the Blaffer respectfully requests \$37,000 to sustain this increased commitment to students, and to support the following:

Expense	Amount
Blaffer Art & Design: Production & Promotion	\$5,000
Graduate Instructional Assistant (Exhibitions & Visitor Services)	\$7,000
Visitor Services personnel (P-T staff)	\$8,000
Assistant Curator of Education (P-T Staff)	\$13,000
Internship Support (Undergrad, Education Dept)	\$3,000
Increased Resource Cost (Printing & Installation costs)	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$37,000

These funds will support:

- Blaffer Art and Design (B.A.D.), a successful and innovative program that benefits students who create, display, and sell their original designs at the Blaffer (\$4500). The program creates an ongoing partnership with UH Graphic Design and Industrial Design faculty and students and is positioned as a permanent part of the Museum program. Now in full operation, B.A.D. is presented in a prominent, custom-made display in the Museum lobby, selling student-designed objects to the Museum audience. SFAC Support is especially critical to the program going forward, as B.A.D. is no longer eligible for seed-funding from C.I.T.E. All funds made from sales go back into the program, but SFAC is still an essential support.
- The Instructional Assistant for the Exhibitions and Visitor Services department will learn first-hand about museum operations. The position will provide experience in coordinating logistical details of complex museum exhibitions while also working in close collaboration with museum staff and artists. The position may also coordinate day-to-day visitor relations, and work on archival projects. Offered for the first time this fall, the position benefits a student interested in developing a career in museums and an artistic practice (\$7000).
- The Blaffer relies on UH students for our Visitor Services staff, who play a crucial role in both customer service and security. Students learn how to interact with museum visitors and are also

given the opportunity to train as docents so they can offer informed interpretation to guests. These students are often work-study, but when this funding is delimited due to season, SFAC funding would allow us to retain important continuity

- The Blaffer will re-introduce the Assistant Curator of Education position as a part-time staff member with a particular focus on UH student relations. This position would coordinate collaborations with departments such as UH Residential Life and Admissions, and would also manage, expand and publicize programs like First Fridays, Convergence Research, and the student orientations which are designed for students. This position would work with student groups that propose to collaborate with the Blaffer, such as the College of Engineering and Fashion Design Students (FITS). We also wish to work with Residence Life to offer regular art-making activities in residential halls, and follow-up field trips and guided tours at the Blaffer.
- Additional funding will support two paid summer or semester-long Internships for the Education and Curatorial Departments. Provided for the first time in FY24, these SFAC funded internships will continue to provide undergraduate students the opportunity to gain academic credit and be compensated for their work (\$3000). Interns learn about the museum field while gaining experience and knowledge of professional practices, learning from museum staff to research and help develop public and educational programs and assist in outreach initiatives.
- The additional requested amount will cover increasing costs for essential expenses such as installation materials, student catalog printing, wall vinyl, and promotions. The funds will also contribute to the costs of video documentation of student programs (\$1500).