

Blaffer Art Museum  
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**Blaffer Art Museum Hosts *Bearing Witness*, a Fundraiser for Ukraine**

June 18 event to feature remarks by Ukrainian Consul General;  
silent auction of works by 50 Houston artists

HOUSTON, TX | MAY 25, 2022 ---

The Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston is proud to host *Bearing Witness: Houston Artists Respond*, A Fundraiser for Ukraine, on Saturday, June 18, 2022, from 3:00pm–6:00pm. The event will feature remarks by Ukrainian Consul General Vitallii Tarasiuk at 4:00pm and a silent auction of artworks donated by a group of 50 Houston artists led by Keliy Anderson-Staley, Violette Bule, Sharon Engelstein, Dana Frankfort, Joseph Havel, Rachel Hecker, Terrell James, Aaron Parazette, Josh Pazda, Emily Peacock, and Patrick Renner. Tickets are \$50, available for purchase upon arrival. Space is limited. All proceeds will benefit the Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston (UACCH), an all-volunteer, 501(c) 3, non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to promoting Ukrainian culture and fellowship in and around Houston since 1975.

**Funds to support Ukrainian towns and villages**

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, UACCH, like other grassroots, Ukrainian, diasporic organizations, has worked tirelessly to coordinate and direct relief efforts from Houstonians to specific needs on the ground in Ukraine. UACCH is directing funds to humanitarian, medical, educational and cultural preservation needs, with a focus on smaller villages and towns in Ukraine. "We direct funds to groups on the ground in Ukraine that we one-hundred-percent know and trust," said UACCH President Michael Balahutrak.

"We are proud to support this trailblazing group of Houston artists and their noble efforts to raise both awareness and funds for such a worthy, urgent and dire, cause," commented Steven Matijcio, who is the Jane Dale Owen Director and Chief Curator of the Blaffer Art Museum. He adds, "Art and artists can play a crucial role in gathering support and visibility to the most pressing political issues today as we fight for democracy and human decency."

### **An opportunity to take concrete action as a community**

*Bearing Witness* is being organized by Ukrainian-American Houston artist Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak, PrintMatters president Andis Applewhite, G5 Collective co-founder Douglas Welsh, G5 Collective artist Sarah Fisher and arts advocate Mary Jane Victor. “The Houston arts community has watched the unfolding Ukrainian crisis with a sense of horror and helplessness. Raising funds for aid and assistance is a concrete way we can bear witness together as a community,” said Bodnar-Balahutrak, whose body of work has focused primarily on Ukraine’s struggle for freedom.

All donations to the UACCH are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. UACCH does not provide any goods or services for any gifts or donations.

For more information on *Bearing Witness*, email [bearingwitness2022@gmail.com](mailto:bearingwitness2022@gmail.com).

### **About Blaffer Art Museum**

Founded in 1973, the Blaffer Art Museum endeavors to further the understanding of contemporary art through exhibitions, publications, and public programs. As the gateway between the University of Houston’s Central campus and the City of Houston, Blaffer Art Museum is a catalyst for creative innovation, experimentation, and scholarship. Its exhibitions and programs are free and open to the public, create community through dialogue and participation, and inspire an appreciation for the visual arts as a vital force in shaping contemporary culture.

Major funding is provided by Leslie & Brad Bucher, the Stolbun Family Foundation, and the John P. McGovern Foundation. Generous support is provided by Ingrid Arneberg, Andrew & Robin Schirrmeister, and Blaffer Art Museum Advisory Board members. The following donors sustain Blaffer Art Museum in perpetuity by giving through endowments: Cecil Amelia Blaffer von Furstenberg Endowment for Exhibitions and Programs, Jane Dale Owen Endowment in the Blaffer Art Museum, Jo and Jim Furr Exhibition Endowment in the Blaffer Art Museum, Sarah C. Morian Endowment, and the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation Blaffer Gallery Endowment. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. The Blaffer Art Museum is funded in part by the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance.

## **Visitor Information**

120 Fine Arts Building  
University of Houston  
Houston, TX 77204

Museum Hours:  
Tues-Fri, 10-5pm  
Sat-Sun, 12-5pm

Admission is always free.

## **About Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts**

The University of Houston's Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts is a premier institution for education, scholarship, and innovation in the arts, where every day we are cultivating the next generation of creative professionals and unlocking the potential of the arts to impact society and change the world. Our students are forging new frontiers and advancing the arts through academic excellence, innovative programming, and—together with our world renown faculty—ascending to the highest level of contemporary professional practice. Houston is a first choice for the arts. Houston is a city of culture and diversity, a quintessential arts destination, and a gateway to the international arts community. Steeped in the richness of diverse cultures, Houston and its engaging community network provide a citywide laboratory for research, education, and practice in the performing and visual arts.