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New Houston Arts Alliance Grant To Encourage Innovation and Strategic Partnerships

HOUSTON (August 3, 2015) – Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) announces a new granting program for arts organizations to explore new artistic and administrative approaches to their work. The Jamail Innovation Grant will invest in new initiatives that are game-changing and groundbreaking — with an emphasis on exploration, experimentation and invention. The grant will provide funding for arts organizations to expand artistic excellence and increase reach, impact and accessibility through strategic organizational partnerships between cultural groups or with organizations outside the cultural sector. Although grantees must be based in Houston, partnering entities may be anywhere in the U.S. or abroad.

The Jamail Innovation Grant will encourage arts organizations to do what artists and arts organizations do best: problem-solve. “Houston is a global center of innovation with tremendous successes in science, engineering and medicine. Just as corporate Houston must invest in research and development and assume risk to prosper, our arts and culture sector needs the opportunity to challenge itself, both organizationally and artistically,” said HAA President + CEO Jonathon Glus. “This grant is designed for organizations to reconsider ‘business as usual’ and test new ways to stretch artistry and reach new audiences. We are grateful to Randall Jamail for his vision and enthusiasm to fund this new initiative.”

Because funding for the nonprofit model for arts and culture does not routinely encourage risk-taking, this grant opportunity provides the rare occasion to stretch the imagination of an organization’s leadership and test the organization’s ability to strengthen its impact. Funded projects will address complex challenges by departing from traditional practices, yet still align with the mission and vision of the organization. Approaches will be new to the organization, but not necessarily new to the field.

To apply for the funding, organizations must be current recipients of General Operating Support, General Operating Support Expansion or Resident Incubator support, and must have cash revenues of \$50,000 or more. Grant awards for projects over one or two years will be up to \$25,000 annually (\$50,000 over two years), based on the size of the applying organization’s budget. Application workshops will be held on Thursday, August 20, 12 p.m. and 5 p.m., at 3201 Allen Parkway, Suite 125.

All potential applicants must initially submit a Letter of Inquiry by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 2015. Once invited to apply, organizations must submit full applications by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 2015.

For complete application guidelines, visit houstonartsalliance.com/grants/organizations/jamailinnovation/

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About Houston Arts Alliance

Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) is a nonprofit, public-private initiative that invests in Houston’s arts and cultural sector, advances Houston’s reputation as an arts and culture destination, and works to elevate the quality of life for all Houstonians through arts and culture. As the city’s designated local arts agency, HAA provides programs and services for the arts and cultural sector and awards approximately 225 grants annually to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and individual artists. The Alliance is the custodian of the city’s art collection; takes permanent and temporary art to Houston’s public spaces; presents free Folklife + Traditional Arts programming; nurtures up-and-

coming arts organizations through its capacity building programs; connects the business community with the arts; convenes the field as necessary, and provides the latest information and research on cultural policy, economic development and Houston's folklife.

HAA's primary partner is the City of Houston. Approximately 55% of HAA's budget comes from Hotel Occupancy Tax and 30% from the City of Houston's Percent for Art Program, which supports commissions of new civic art projects as well as conservation of existing artworks. The remaining 15% of HAA's budget comes from private fundraising (grants/contributions/other revenue) for programs and special projects. HAA is committed to raising funds for only those projects and initiatives that the Arts Alliance is uniquely positioned to provide the community.

For more information, visit houstonartsalliance.com. For events in the region, visit Artshound.com.