

CAMH Receives Catalytic Donation Towards Free Admission For All



Contemporary Arts Museum Houston exterior view, 2021. Photo by Leonid Furmansky.

HOUSTON, TX (October 10, 2022)—Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) announces today that it has received a generous gift from Houstonians Mara and Erick Calderon that directly supports free admission for all, in addition to providing a strategic investment in the future of the Museum. This catalytic contribution will propel CAMH towards future planning, new initiatives, and growth.

Mara and Erick Calderon and their young family live near the Museum, and were inspired to give back to the creative community of Houston through this donation. Mara is a licensed architect and community advocate who works at the intersection of digital arts, architecture, and community. Erick is the founder of Art Blocks, the first and foremost platform for artists to create generative art on the blockchain. Erick is widely known as “Snowfro” in the NFT art sphere and has dedicated himself to creating new opportunities for artists developing generative art.

“We grew up in Houston and CAMH is a neighborhood museum for us,” said Mara and Erick Calderon. “CAMH is where we realized the endless possibilities of contemporary art. It’s more than just a museum, and we are honored that this gift will allow the doors of the Museum to be free and open to all and support the expansion of CAMH’s vision that means so much to us and other Houstonians.”

#atCAMH
#TrustArtists

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Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

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CAMH.ORG | #atCAMH

Press Release



Guided student tour of Steven Evans: *If I can't dance, it's not my revolution!* at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 2019. Photo by Kristin Massa.

CAMH Mission

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston presents extraordinary, thought-provoking arts programming and exhibitions to educate and inspire audiences nationally and internationally.

General Information

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, in the heart of Houston's Museum District.

Hours

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| Wed | 11AM–6PM |
| Thu | 11AM–9PM |
| Fri | 11AM–6PM |
| Sat | 11AM–6PM |
| Sun | 11AM–6PM |

Admission is always free. For more information, visit CAMH.ORG, follow @camhouston, or call 713.284.8250.

“To receive this support towards our Free For All ethos as we approach our 75th anniversary is deeply rewarding,” says Howard Robinson, CAMH’s Board Chair. “CAMH has a great history of breaking boundaries while remaining open to everyone. On behalf of our board, I share our deep gratitude for Mara and Erick’s generosity and vision, along with Jessica Phifer who connected the passion of the Calderon family with CAMH’s purpose.”

“Mara and Erick’s gift is incredibly meaningful to CAMH, especially coming from a Houston-based creative family,” says Executive Director Hesse McGraw. “CAMH’s guiding ethos is to trust artists and directly engage audiences where they are. To have an artist see and support this speaks volumes about the work we’re doing. As we look to further expand beyond the walls of the Museum, we hope this gift inspires confidence in others for the future of the organization. There’s never been a better time to support CAMH.”

In addition to Mara and Erick’s generous monetary donation, Erick also donated a work of his, *Chromie Squiggle #9323*, to the 2022 Gala and Art Auction. Additionally, Erick recently minted 300 of his iconic *Chromie Squiggles* as part of an exhibition with Venus over Manhattan. The buyers of the works were encouraged to support CAMH, which raised over \$90,000 for the Museum.

CAMH’s recent initiatives have included resiliency planning, new offices, and updates to the Museum’s celebrated Gunnar Birkerts building, ringing in its 50th anniversary. This campaign included the complete renovation of CAMH’s front plaza, featuring new signage, exterior lighting, and space for outdoor activations and programs. In addition to facility improvements, CAMH has grown support for artists and community through initiatives such as CAMHLAB, a residency program for local artists that amplifies the creative process and Teacher Advisory Group (TAG) for HISD art teachers.

About Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

Established in 1948, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is one of the oldest non-collecting contemporary art museums in the country, and is internationally known for presenting pivotal and landmark work by artists recognized as the most important of the 20th and 21st centuries. CAMH’s mandate is to be present, to connect artists and audiences through the urgent issues of our time, and to adventurously promote the catalytic possibilities of contemporary art. CAMH’s programming in and beyond the Museum is presented free to the public and advocates for artists’ essential role and impact in society.