

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

5216 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006
CAMH.ORG | #atCAMH

Press Release

News

CAMH Announces New Perspectives Capital Campaign—the Institution’s First in Twenty Years.



New Perspectives Capital Campaign rendering of Contemporary Arts Museum Houston from corner of Montrose Boulevard and Bissonnet Street looking northwest.

#NewPerspectivesCampaign
#atCAMH
@camhouston

Media Contact

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HOUSTON, TEXAS (July 29, 2019)—When a group of seven Houstonians founded Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) in 1948, the groundwork was established for an institution that was ahead of its time—not just in Texas, but in the entire country. Since the very beginning, CAMH’s perspective has been that of an industry leader that inspires and informs both cultural and social change while often offering a first look at the art and artists of tomorrow’s history books—all while providing free admission for everyone. As one of the oldest, major non-collecting contemporary art museums in the United States, the history of CAMH is one of trailblazing, fearlessness, and resilient passion. As the institution reaches its 70th birthday, these founding principles remain at the heart of the organization. It is with this pioneering spirit that CAMH launches a \$3.1 million campaign—its first capital campaign in 20 years—to support a series of critical facility improvements that will make the Museum more accessible, innovative, and impactful within an already inspiring community of peer cultural destinations.

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Rendering | New Perspectives Capital Campaign



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As CAMH attendance has grown tremendously over the past four years, it has become clear that additional space for programming is critical to the continued growth of the Museum. The planned facility improvements include reconfiguring the Eleanor and Frank Freed Garden to expand its capacity as a public gathering space and a venue for programming. CAMH will improve visibility and safety through enhanced signage, landscaping, and the addition of long-needed exterior lighting. Accessibility will dramatically improve with increased parking spaces and critical repairs to the Museum loading dock.

Once completed, these projects will significantly expand the community's access to CAMH's industry-leading exhibitions and programs, further enhancing the visitor experience, and improving connectivity with peer institutions and with the Museum District as a whole. By contributing to this capital campaign, you are showing your belief and confidence in the importance of what CAMH does for the future of contemporary arts in Houston.

"I am honored by the outpouring of support for this exciting project at CAMH," said CAMH Board of Trustee Chair Dillon A. Kyle. "It is compelling to bring such critical improvements to the Museum following the 70th anniversary of its inception, and equally important is the way in which these changes will make CAMH more accessible and welcoming as a hub of creative and cultural discovery within the community."

Campaign Goals

- **Goal One | Expanding Public Gathering Space**
Reconfiguring the Eleanor and Frank Freed Garden for increased potential utilization as a public gathering space and expanded programming such as concerts, film screenings, and public art installations. Other crucial improvements include landscaping and hardscaping that have suffered from foundational shifts.
- **Goal Two | Adding Visibility**
Updating the Museum's external lighting to increase visibility, encourage evening visitation, and be consistent with the lighting of neighboring institutions. CAMH shares operational hours with many other institutions in the surrounding Museum District to allow the public to maximize a single visit to the region. Without proper lighting, CAMH often appears closed when actually open during evening hours.
- **Goal Three | Stabilizing Key Infrastructure**
Stabilizing and renovating the Museum loading dock is a critical intervention to ensure maximum utilization, the safety of CAMH staff and art, as well as the continued use of offices that reside below the loading dock. This project involves core sampling, engineer analysis, and reinforcement.
- **Goal Four | Clarifying Signage**
Updating CAMH's permanent exterior signage to increase clarity and visibility while providing visitors with the most updated information.
- **Goal Five | Supporting the Mission**
After 22 years working in the same administrative footprint, CAMH's relocation to renovated offices in a nearby, off-site location provides greater functionality and square footage. CAMH will establish newly-configured office spaces that support the Museum's intellectual, creative, and operational capacity. Demolition

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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, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10AM-7PM, Thursday 10AM-9PM, Saturday 10AM-6PM, and Sunday Noon-6PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit camh.org or call 713.284.8250.

of the current administrative offices provides space for a much-needed parking area which will increase accessibility for CAMH visitors.

Steering Committee

As CAMH moves forward with the New Perspectives Capital Campaign, it does so with a strong leadership team led by former Board Chair Jereann Chaney and current Chair Dillon A. Kyle. Additionally, the Steering Committee includes Blakely Griggs, Sissy Kempner, and Howard Robinson. The committee has been strategically collaborating with a team of project and design specialists to scope the campaign plan and ensure all modifications align closely with the Museum's mission.

Contributors

The New Perspectives Capital Campaign is made possible by our committed donors. We honor those individuals and foundations dedicated to the Museum mission of presenting extraordinary, thought-provoking arts programming and exhibitions to educate and inspire audiences nationally and internationally. A current list of campaign donors can be found at camh.org/campaign.

Progress

As of July 15, 2019, CAMH has secured 74% of the campaign's \$3.1 million goal, including 100% participation of Museum Board of Trustees. February 2019 marked the completion of *Phase I* of the capital campaign, enabling the Museum's administrative staff's move from the unsalvageable house that served as CAMH's offices for 22 years to new offices located one block north. In this new location, two adjacent floors were transformed into an attractive, comfortable, and functional space that better supports CAMH's intellectual, creative, and operational capacity.

Phase II is set to begin in the coming months and encompasses essential repairs to the Museum's garden and infrastructure. The public is welcome to follow the ongoing progress at camh.org/campaign.

During construction, which is estimated to be completed by summer 2020, the Museum will remain open and fully operational. In addition to exhibitions and regularly scheduled programming, CAMH will continue to offer tours to school and community groups as always. A celebration at CAMH will be announced as *Phase II* nears completion, with details provided at a date in the near future.

The Museum and Steering Committee are asking for the support of the Houston community to complete the campaign. Gifts of any size from \$50 to \$500 to \$50,000 will bring the Museum closer to its final fundraising goal. For more information on how to contribute to the New Perspectives Capital Campaign, contact Mandy Porter, Major Gifts Manager at mporter@camh.org or 713.284.8263 or learn more about the plan at camh.org/campaign.