Dear Friends,

For the past two decades, Fresh Arts has championed a thriving arts community in Houston by supporting those who create it. In the wake of the pandemic, Fresh Arts worked with artists to build not just skills, but COMMUNITY. They empowered artists through programming that broke down silos and connected creatives of all disciplines and stages across the Houston-area.

And now its our turn to support them. Please join us at the much anticipated return of Fresh Arts’ largest and wildest fundraiser— their annual Ball! As a Fresh Arts Board Member I am excited to announce the 2023 theme: The THUNDER BALL!

On Saturday, February 25, 2023, Silver Street Studios will transform into an electric party den filled with 450+ secret agents, hair band rockers, and glamorous villains-- are you ready?

So save the date for February 25th and join the Fresh Arts Board and event chairs Kimberly + James Bell, Kaleta Blaffer Johnson + John Domolky, Jennifer + Blake Perrin, and Karla Modesto + Sebastien “Mr. D” Boileau at one of the most notoriously lively events of the year.

In true Fresh Arts form, the annual Ball combines a one-of-a-kind immersive atmosphere, over-the-top outfits, creative cocktails (shaken, not stirred), delectable bites, and fantastic arts entertainment. Our favorite part is sharing amazing artistic talent through exciting performances and a stellar art auction – showcasing 50+ of Houston’s most dynamic emerging and established Houston artists. As a new Underwriter benefit, this year’s Ball will include a new VIP Red Carpet Experience that you won’t want to miss!

Houston’s biggest artistic party benefits Fresh Arts programs that strengthen our city’s arts community by championing the vibrant creatives who make it all possible. Your support of the THUNDER BALL funds career building for local artists and connects them to new audiences through free and accessible exhibitions, public art, and performances that benefit the entire Houston community.

Help keep Houston’s art scene vibrant! Become a THUNDER BALL underwriter by making a commitment at fresharts.org or scan the QR code.

Kindly respond by January 16, 2023, to be recognized on the printed invitation.

We hope you’ll join us for a strikingly good time!
Kindly submit your pledge by Monday, January 16th to be acknowledged on the printed event invitation. Questions? gala@fresharts.org

Fresh Arts is a 501c3 nonprofit. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.
Kindly complete and return the form below by Monday, January 16th to be acknowledged on the printed invitation.

Submit pledge online: https://bit.ly/thunder-ball-2023

**DONOR INFO**

Donor Name(s) for printed materials: _______________________________

Donor Name for donation receipt: ________________________________ (if different from above)

**CONTACT INFO**

Mailing Address: ________________________________________________

City, State, Zip Code: ___________________________________________

Email: __________________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________

**DONATION INFO**

Underwriting Level:

- $25k Presenting Sponsor (limited to one)
- $10k Arts Champion
- $5k Arts Advocate
- $2,500 Arts Supporter
- $1,200 Arts Ally
- $600 Arts Fan

I am unable to attend, but please accept my donation in the amount of: $____

**PAYMENT METHOD**

- Check# ________ enclosed (payable to Fresh Arts)
- Book my pledge & send me an invoice payable on the following date: ____________________________
- I authorize Fresh Arts to charge my credit card:

  Credit card type (circle one): Mastercard VISA AMEX Discover

  Cardholder Name: _______________________________________________

  Card Number: _____________________________

  Exp. Date: ____________  CCV: ____________  Billing Zip Code: ____________

  Signature: ________________________________

**Thank you for your support!**

Your pledge plays a critical role in the success of Fresh Arts’ mission to empower local artists.

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**MAIL TO:** P.O. Box 66494  Houston, TX 77266

**EMAIL TO:** accounting@fresharts.org
"Fresh Arts' fundraisers are just like Halloween – only better."

- Amber Elliott, Houston Chronicle, 2018
About Fresh Arts

OUR HISTORY + MISSION

Fresh Arts is a 501c3 nonprofit arts service organization based in Houston, Texas.

Fresh Arts was born from a 2012 merger of two prominent Houston arts service organizations: Spacetaker (est. 2002) and Fresh Arts Coalition (est. 2003). Spacetaker identified a need for artists to build sustainable careers and Fresh Arts Coalition used collaborative marketing to promote unique arts programs.

Today, powered by a small but passionate team of 5, the mission of Fresh Arts is to empower local artists with programs that build knowledge, amplify local resources, and connect communities.

OUR PROGRAMMING

Fresh Arts hosts accessible and inclusive programming that aims to connect artists and arts enthusiasts and strengthen the arts in Houston by supporting the artists who make it all possible. Our programs are designed to work with artists across all disciplines and provide a unique mix of professional development and community building that strengthens their careers and networks. By using our platform to amplify access to hyper-local resources we help artists and collectives do what they do best.

Our programs include fiscal sponsorship for artist-led projects, free resource and information sharing via our Artist Opportunity Board, Artist Resource Library, downloadable Toolkits, and Houston artist Podcast series, a weekly Art on Tap newsletter featuring off-the-beaten path events in Houston, an online Artist Registry hosting 1,000+ searchable artist profiles, career-building and mentorship support through workshops + info sessions, panel conversations, and 8-week Artist INC seminar; innovative project development through the Space Taking Artist Residency, and public art projects through our management of Arts District Houston, a state-designated cultural arts district.

OUR GOALS

* Foster an environment of collaboration, creativity, and professional growth
* Promote the economic value of artists
* Build an inclusive and supportive network for artists
* Increase community awareness of and participation in the arts

www.fresharts.org | team@fresharts.org | @fresharts.org
For the past 20 years, Fresh Arts has served over 60k visual, performing, and literary artists through a mix of programs including 200+ workshops and 500+ artist showcasing events. In 2017, Fresh Arts began a partnership with Mid-America Arts Alliance to facilitate a cutting edge regional seminar -- Artist INC -- which has since brought together over 120 artists in a variety of disciplines including painters, spoken word poets, fire dancers and more. In 2019, the organization launched the Fresh Arts Summit, Houston's only two-day multi-disciplinary artist conference. Past presenters include 3 poet laureates, nationally recognized musician Kam Franklin (The Suffers) & regional community leaders from Galveston Arts Center, Austin Music Foundation, & dozens more.

In 2011, Fresh Arts expanded its online resources to include a Houston-specific Artist Resource Library reaching 49k+ users annually. Our resource-sharing newsletters the Art on Tap and Artist Resource Newsletter continue to reach 10k subscribers monthly. In 2019 Fresh Arts relaunched its Artist Registry, a searchable online directory of 1,000 local artists, musicians, actors, dancers, arts organizers, and creative businesses working in the Greater Houston arts sector. Through this ongoing initiative, Fresh Arts aims to connect the diverse range of Houston artists with their community and help the community connect with the artists who make our city a more vibrant and creative place to live.

In response to the pandemic, Fresh Arts developed new digital resources including a local artist podcast series and a weekly virtual conversation series focused on topics like emergency funding, income stream adaptation, and equity in the arts, resulting in 100+ hours of digital content.

As a complement to our resource and knowledge-sharing programs, Fresh Arts’ Fiscal Sponsorship program helps local projects gain visibility, momentum, and resources for community-based art initiatives. Since 2013, Fresh Arts has supported 60+ projects and disbursed over $710k in funding through the program.

The Space-Taking Residency, launched in 2021 and based out of Winter Street Studios, provides physical space, resources, and mentorship for diverse and traditionally excluded or underrepresented multidisciplinary artists to experiment and grow their audiences.

In 2017, Fresh Arts took over management of Arts District Houston, a state-recognized cultural district that partners with local businesses and employs local artists from across the city to create public art-- adding more than a dozen murals to the Arts District since 2019.

In 2022 Fresh Arts worked with local artists to develop mural training curriculum and expanded its mural projects to East End Houston with a community-driven mural at Edison Middle School in Magnolia Park, one of Houston’s oldest hispanic neighborhoods. Fresh Arts hopes to continue this creative placemaking initiative in 2023 which aims to provide more public art opportunities for emerging muralists and create community-centered murals in partnership with public schools in Houston.