

October 1st, 2022

Dear friend of Houston Center for Photography,

HCP is a small but mighty organization, and we have devoted our time and resources this past year to improving our most impactful programming, which had seen a downturn as many similar organizations have during the pandemic. All our efforts are centered on our mission: HCP has not relented in its goal to increase society's understanding and appreciation of photography and its evolving role in contemporary society and culture. HCP is also a community organization, and it is the support of our community—our board of directors, dedicated staff, committed members, and especially donors like you—that allows us to continue to educate and advance professionally photographers of all stripes and ages in the greater Houston area.

Under our new Access and Community Education Associate, Anne Houang, our ACE programs are thriving. They have not only returned to pre-pandemic levels of engagement but exceeded them. By the end of May, we provided workshops to nearly 1,900 people of all ages. The need for accessible youth and adult photography programs in Houston is clear. Looking forward, our desire is to better serve the teens who come to HCP in droves during the summer. Our *Collaborations* after-school program has recently taken on alumni as teaching assistants, igniting the next generation of photographic educators. However, due to our current budgetary limitations, Anne only works with us part-time, and our teaching assistants are paid a modest stipend. We would like to do much more as our eager community partners are waiting to work with us. Your thoughtful contribution to HCP's Annual Fund is an investment in Anne's continued success and in the continued success of our ACE programming.

As many of you have noticed, we have also relaunched our Learning Center via our new <u>edu.hcponline.org</u> sub-site, which offers a much more streamlined user experience. More importantly, we performed a complete reassessment of our curriculum. We have subsequently seen tremendous success with our summer youth programs and are excited to begin our first re-imagined adult learning courses. Our goal is to continue developing our curriculum, providing classes that can better fulfill the needs of both established and aspiring photographers in our community.

We hope that you will consider making a tax-deductible gift to our Annual Fund today to ensure that we can support the growth of our ACE programs and our Learning Center. As always, your contribution also helps us host internationally renowned photographers from around the world such as Edi Hirose, and compelling and timely work from local Houston photographers such as Jake Eshelman. Will you help us exceed our Annual Fund goal of \$90,000 and guarantee HCP's growth in the coming year?

Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you soon at the gallery!

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