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HCCC AWARDED WINDGATE FOUNDATION LEGACY ENDOWMENT Fund Will Support HCCC's Artist Residency and Curatorial Fellowship Programs

(HOUSTON, TX) November 22, 2021 — Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is pleased to announce the establishment of a \$3.5 million legacy endowment fund by the Windgate Foundation in support of the Center's Artist Residency and Curatorial Fellowship Programs. This gift marks the first operational endowment fund for HCCC and directly supports two highly visible programs in support of practicing artists and emerging curators. The gift was made by the Windgate Foundation through Arkansas Community Foundation to establish the advised fund on behalf of HCCC and its programs.

The Artist Residency and Curatorial Fellowship Programs are two of Houston Center for Contemporary Craft's most unique initiatives. The residency program supports the careers of practicing artists, while simultaneously educating the public about the artistic practices of a rotating selection of talented makers. The program affords visitors the chance to meet artists from all disciplines, welcomes them into a studio environment, and allows them to see what goes into the creation of remarkable pieces of art. Likewise, the curatorial fellowship develops and champions the next generation of curatorial talent in craft. The three-year appointment provides each fellow with the invaluable experience of working with artists, institutional partners, and the public in learning the professional skills of a curator, while developing their own, unique curatorial voice and perspective.

HCCC Executive Director Perry Price commented, "We are thrilled and incredibly honored to receive this legacy endowment fund, established by the Windgate Foundation with Arkansas Community Foundation. This generous gift is transformational for Houston Center for Contemporary Craft and ensures that these exceptional programs will continue to serve artists, curators, and the public well into the future."

About the Artist Residency Program

For 20 years, the Center's Artist Residency Program has offered time and space for craft artists to focus on their creative work and interact with the public. The program supports emerging, mid-career, and established artists working in all craft media. Each year, artists apply from throughout the U.S. and beyond, and eight-to-ten artists are selected for a three-to-twelve-month residency. The juried selection is based on quality of creative work, ability to interact with the public, career direction, and program diversity.

Residents are required to have their studios open for at least two days each week, giving visitors the unique opportunity to walk in, ask questions, and watch them work. This deeper level of interaction between artists and visitors allows the public to learn about a range of craft processes and techniques, and helps artists to gain exposure, make connections within the Houston community, and educate people of all ages about craft. A

major goal of the program is to provide visitors with an opportunity to explore contemporary craft through engagement with working artists. Artist benefits of the residency include 24/7 access to studio space, cultural and professional development opportunities, a monthly stipend that includes a small housing/materials allowance, the opportunity to give an artist talk and exhibit work, and much more.

About the Curatorial Fellowship Program

The Center's Curatorial Fellowship Program trains and supports the next generation of curators in the field of contemporary craft. Fellows join HCCC for a three-year term, working alongside the curator in the development, organization, and implementation of the organization's exhibitions program, as well as partnering with staff across departments, in support of education and artist residency initiatives. Former fellows have taken leading curatorial positions in the field, including those at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Corning Museum of Glass; the Center for Craft (formerly the Center for Craft, Creativity, and Design); and Lawndale Art Center, as well as HCCC.

Thanks to Our Funders

HCCC wishes to thank additional contributors to the Artist Residency and Curatorial Fellowship Programs, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the John & Robyn Horn Foundation, the Susan Vaughan Foundation, and The Gordon A. Cain Foundation, for their generous support.

About Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is a nonprofit visual arts center dedicated to advancing education about the process, product, and history of craft. HCCC continues to serve as a treasured resource in the Houston arts community and the region by showcasing emerging and acclaimed artists in exhibitions, introducing visitors of all ages to contemporary craft through hands-on and virtual programming, and supporting the development of working artists through its artist residency program.

HCCC is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission is free. Masks and social distancing are required inside the museum. Before visiting, the public should review the visitor guidelines at www.crafthouston.org. HCCC is located in the Museum District at 4848 Main Street, three blocks south of the Wheeler Ave. MetroRail station. Free parking is available directly behind the facility, off Rosedale and Travis Street.

HCCC is supported by individual donors and members and funded in part by The Brown Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kinder Foundation; the Morgan Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and the Wortham Foundation. HCCC is a member of the Houston Museum District and the Midtown Arts District. For more information, call 713-529-4848 or visit www.crafthouston.org. Find HCCC on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @CraftHouston.

About Arkansas Community Foundation

Arkansas Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization with over a half billion dollars in assets, fosters smart giving to improve communities. The Community Foundation offers tools to help Arkansans protect, grow, and direct their charitable dollars as they learn more about community needs. By making grants and sharing knowledge, the Foundation supports existing charitable programs that work for Arkansas and partners to create initiatives that address unmet needs. Since 1976, the Community Foundation has provided more than \$314 million in grants and partnered with thousands of Arkansans to help them improve their neighborhoods, towns, and the entire state. Contributions to Arkansas Community Foundation, its funds, and any of its 29 affiliates are fully tax deductible.

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