

YALE UNION is led by a desire to support emerging and under-acknowledged artists, propose new modes of production, and stimulate the ongoing public discourse around art. 800 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97214 [www.yaleunion.org](http://www.yaleunion.org)

(503) 236-7996 [yu@yaleunion.org](mailto:yu@yaleunion.org)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 14, 2020  
Portland, OR

### **How We Will Adjust Our 2020 Budget, Mission, and Program**

#### **Direct Support of Artists Now**

Yale Union's mission is to support artists, propose new modes of production, and stimulate the ongoing public discourse around art. The current crisis demands as well as offers us the opportunity to focus on the first aspect of this mission: supporting artists.

Like most cultural institutions during the current pandemic, Yale Union is facing the dramatic contraction of its budget for the remainder of 2020. As occupiers of the Yale Union Laundry building that sits on colonized land, we acknowledge that it has been our unearned privilege to use it and instrumentalize it for the short-term rentals that fund our artistic program. Income from these rentals of our building (e.g., weddings, photo shoots, events) is vital to the realization of our mission, and this year, we anticipate an 80% reduction in short-term rental income.

We have paid and will continue to pay the full amounts committed to our 2020 ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE and to the organizers of the SECOND ANNUAL YALE UNION POWWOW (which has been postponed indefinitely). And we have converted budgets for music performances into commissions to help support musicians in the production of new work.

#### **Exhibitions**

We had planned to execute three large-scale exhibitions this year. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have shifted our budget to give direct financial support to the artists with whom we had planned exhibitions. As funds for artist travel, accommodation, art transport, and installation are not necessary for the foreseeable future, we will pay artist and curator fees directly now, increase them wherever possible, and do this without expectation of program outcomes. Please stay tuned for a forthcoming announcement on the updated program guest-curated by HOME SCHOOL.

#### **Events & Publications**

Artist talks, screenings, and readings since March have been migrated to a livestream platform. While we readily recognize that this livestream format is not ideal, if artists we work with desire to

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address the public through online platforms, we will host events in this way for the remainder of the year. We will maintain hope for a quick and universally available COVID-19 vaccine, but as safety and inclusivity are our priorities we need to face the reality of not convening the public for the remainder of 2020.

Our print publication schedule remains on track, and we will produce the publications that we had scheduled for 2020 as planned.

### **No Lay-offs, No Furloughs**

We believe that it is the responsibility of a cultural institution to adjust to circumstances in a way that supports the individuals who rely most on the well-being of the institution itself. In our case, these individuals are the artists with whom we planned to produce art in 2020, as well as our staff. We will maintain our dedicated employees with no lay-offs or furloughs through the rest of the year.

### **Meanwhile**

Last month, with the support of the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office–Oregon Heritage, Prosper Portland, the Oregon Cultural Trust, and the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, we completed the two-year RESTORATION OF THE WINDOWS in our exhibition hall. Unfortunately, we cannot invite you to experience them. We look forward to a time in the near future when we can convene again.

We continue to rely on the invaluable support of our individual donors and volunteers. Thank you.