

TBA21–Academy Launches a Collaborative Fund to Support Groundbreaking Research, Projects, and Partnerships

London, United Kingdom—September 25, 2019—TBA21–Academy today announced the launch of the Ocean Academy Fund, enabling the nonprofit to rally support for and participation in its groundbreaking initiatives that advance ocean advocacy, foster new research, and catalyze action. Established in 2011 in response to the urgency of issues facing the oceans, TBA21–Academy spearheads transdisciplinary, artist-led programs that draw together scientists, policy-makers, and leadership from the front line of the climate emergency to create new models for engaging and addressing urgent challenges affecting the world’s oceans. The Ocean Academy Fund is managed by Fondation Philanthopia, which enables 100% of contributions received to be deployed directly to program development and realization by the Academy.

“The need to confront climate change, sea-level rise, loss of biodiversity, and the slew of other issues destroying the oceans becomes ever more critical each day, as proven by major research initiatives like the Special Report by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released today. Since our launch eight years ago, TBA21–Academy has built a remarkable array of programs and demonstrated a proof-of-practice, generating new ways of seeing, thinking about, and responding to the formidable challenges to our oceans. With each research expedition, each commission, each investigative exhibition we reach and rally new allies and inspire new champions. The Ocean Academy Fund creates an effective platform for partnerships and the opportunity to incubate the kinds of provocative perspectives and radical creativity that will lead to solutions for the ocean, the greatest life-force on our blue planet,” said Markus Reymann, Director of TBA21–Academy.

The nomadic Academy, which operates globally, is the only arts-sciences organization to be granted Observer Status at the UN’s International Seabed Authority. Earlier this year, TBA21–Academy launched Ocean Space, an embassy for the oceans in Venice, Italy, and, later this month, it will be opening Ocean-Archive.org, an open-source digital repository for oceanic projects. Recent collaborators in Academy initiatives include:

- Academic partners, such as Max Planck Institute, NTNU Trondheim, University of the West Indies Mona, NTU Singapore, the University of the South Pacific, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and the Institute of Marine Sciences of Italy among others;
- Scientists and environmental groups, including noted marine biologists Sylvia Earle and the late Walter Munk and ecologist Jeremy Bradford Cook Jackson, as well as rising stars in the field like David Gruber;
- Policymakers, including Taholo Kami, Special Adviser for Pacific Partnerships and International Civil Society for the UN; Hawaiian State Senate Majority Leader J. Kalani English; President of the Republic of Palau Thomas Esang "Tommy" Remengesau, Jr.; and

- Artists and curators, such as Joan Jonas, Armin Linke, Claudia Comte, Inhabitants, Territorial Agency, Nabil Ahmed, John Akomfrah, SUPERFLEX, Chus Martínez, and Ute Meta Bauer.

To learn more, donate, collaborate, or participate in the Ocean Academy Fund and the activities of TBA21–Academy, contact Tristan Acutt, Executive Assistant to the Director, at tristan@tba21-academy.org.

ABOUT FONDATION PHILANTHROPIA

Two hundred years of civic engagement have taught Banque Lombard Odier & Co. that giving is an art as demanding as it is wonderful. It was in order to share this longstanding philanthropic tradition with its customers, and to allow them to benefit from the experience and expertise acquired over the years, that Lombard Odier developed a philanthropic consultancy service. The bank supports its customers by helping them not only develop philanthropic strategies which meet their aspirations, but also choose their donation methods with full peace of mind.

Created by Lombard Odier, [Fondation Philanthropia](#) is one of the fruits of this philanthropic consultancy service. It is recognized as a public-benefit foundation in Switzerland and is registered in the canton of Geneva. As an umbrella foundation, it houses funds that are similar to donor-advised funds. Since its creation in 2008, Fondation Philanthropia and its funds have contributed more than 60 million Swiss francs to over 100 organisations.

ABOUT TBA21–ACADEMY

[TBA21–Academy](#) leads artists, scientists, and thought-leaders on expeditions of collaborative discovery, fostering a deeper understanding of the ocean through the lens of art and engendering creative solutions to its most pressing issues. Founded in 2011, the itinerant Academy commissions transdisciplinary research that catalyzes engagement, stimulates new knowledge, and inspires artistic production. Its program is informed by a belief in the power of exchange between disciplines and in the ability of the arts as a vessel for communication, change, and action. TBA21–Academy is a nonprofit, non-collecting research organization, supported by individuals, foundations, universities, government agencies, and corporate philanthropies.

MEDIA CONTACTS

TBA21–Academy

media@tba21-academy.org

Resnicow and Associates

Catherine Coughlin / Racheal Campbell

ccoughlin@resnicow.com / rcampbell@resnicow.com

+1-212-671-5162 / 5157