



For Immediate Release:

FOTOFENCE 2011

With Over 20 Years of Success,
a Houston-based Writing and
Photography Program Celebrates
the Creativity of Houston Students

May 1 - 14, 2011

FotoFest, 1113 Vine Street, Houston, Texas 77002

Opening Reception Sunday, May 1, 2011, 2-4pm



Student Jayson Dorsey participates in LTP as part of a bilingual program at Wharton K-8 Dual Language Academy, Houston

HOUSTON, TEXAS, APRIL 21, 2011 - FotoFest's **Literacy Through Photography (LTP)** school-based education program invites the public to join in celebrating the creativity and academic success of Houston area students at the opening of **FotoFence 2011, the annual year-end student exhibition on Sunday, May 1 from 2-4pm.**

The FotoFest gallery, located in the historic Downtown Warehouse District of Houston, provides a backdrop for **over 900 Houston-area students** to display their writing and photography, including traditional photographs, web-based photo blogs and digital collages. The students' work will cover the expansive two-story gallery space at FotoFest for two full weeks. The entire community is invited to come out and listen to readings by selected student writers, enjoy refreshments provided by El Tiempo Cantina, take family photos in the green screen photo booth and, most importantly, reflect on the student art works that explore and present the very real struggles, joys, growing pains and accomplishments of students from Houston schools.

This school year **over 2500 students from 32 Houston-area schools** are participating in FotoFest's LTP program. LTP works with classroom teachers to provide them with training in visual literacy that helps students make visual connections in core curriculum, including English, history, geography and science. The visual literacy training for teachers reinforces the traditional curriculum and provides students with a new language that helps them communicate their life experiences and dreams for the future.

*No matter what life holds for you, together we will always be
Just remember, life is the art of drawing without an eraser
You may make a mistake*

*To the world you are one
But little sister I will never forsake
The one I cherish like my very own daughter.*

From the poem *My Sister* by Lucia Torres, 17, Freshman, Spring Branch Academy of Choice

FotoFence is the year-end celebration of student work from FotoFest's LTP in-school education program, helping young people achieve better communication and writing skills using photography. Since its beginning in 1990, over 25,000 Houston-area students have used LTP in HISD and surrounding school districts. LTP lessons are correlated to state and national curriculum mandates for students in third to twelfth grades.

I love LTP because my students find it to be intrinsically satisfying. In regards to language acquisition, I haven't yet had to prompt my kids to write – once their photos start popping out of my printer, they are eager to find ways to write about themselves.

- Mary "Ana" Alegria, ESL Teacher, Kempner High School, FBISD

In 2011, FotoFest's partners include schools, arts, and civic organizations such as the **Houston Grand Opera Company (HGOco)**, **Writers in the Schools (WITS)**, **Young Audiences of Houston (YAH)**, **Project Row Houses (PRH)**, **the Cooperative for After-School Enrichment (CASE)**, **the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE)** and **Preservation LINK, Inc. in Dallas**.

LTP SPONSORS 2010-2011

The William Stamps Farish Fund, The Vale-Asche Foundation, The ARETE Foundation, The Powell Foundation, Crawford Family Donor-Advised Fund of the Foundation for Southeast Texas, Houston Young Lawyers Foundation, The Samuels Foundation of the Jewish Community of Houston, CANONUSA, HexaGroup, Inc., iland Internet Solutions, Smart MultiMedia Inc., FotoFest Board of Directors and Daphne Wood Gawthorp

FotoFun 2011 Sponsors: BG Americas & Global LNG, H-E-B, JP Morgan Chase, Intermarine LLC, IBERIABANK, Equivalent Data, iOffice Inc., Amegy Bank, Copy.com and Individual Contributors to FotoFun 2011

Food for the FotoFence 2011 opening event provided by Lorenzo's El Tiempo Cantina

2010-2011 LITERACY THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

The Chiquapin School, Highlands
Davis High School, Houston
Dulles Middle School, Sugar Land
East Early College High School, Houston
Frazier Elementary, Pasadena
Galena Park Elementary, Galena Park
Grady Middle School, Houston
Helms Elementary, Houston
Jan Schiff Elementary School, Missouri City
Kempner High School, Sugar Land
Lee High School, Baytown
Mark Twain Elementary, Houston (HGOco)
Miller Intermediate, Pasadena
Missouri City Middle School, Missouri City
Pine Shadows Elementary, Spring Branch
Pro-Vision School, Houston

Roosevelt Elementary, Houston
Sam Rayburn High School, Pasadena
School of the Woods Montessori, Houston
Settlers Way Elementary, Sugar Land
Sharpstown Middle School, Houston
Spring Branch Academy of Choice, Spring Branch
Spring Branch Elementary, Spring Branch
Spring Forest Middle School, Spring Branch
Spring Oaks Middle School, Spring Branch
Spring Woods High School, Spring Branch
Sugar Land Middle School, Sugar Land
T.H. Rogers School, Houston
Tulsa Community College, Oklahoma
Westwood Elementary, Spring Branch
Wharton Elementary, Houston
Woodview Elementary, Spring Branch

LITERACY THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

Literacy Through Photography is the classroom-based educational component of FotoFest International. LTP is a multi-lesson curriculum program combining visual literacy and writing designed to strengthen the learning process and creative thinking in students, grades 3-12. The LTP program has grown since its founding as a pilot project in 1990, to the full-scale photography and writing literacy program of today that serves over 2,500 students in over 100 classroom at public, inner-city schools throughout the Houston-area. The school year culminates with the annual FotoFence exhibition of the students' work at FotoFest's Downtown gallery. The year-end projects range from wall mounted posters, collages of photography and writing to three-dimensional installations, and video presentations.

Literacy Through Photography (LTP) provides students with opportunities to express themselves through both narrative (writing) and visual modes, strengthening their cognitive, communicative and visual literacy skills. Teachers are provided with carefully designed lesson plans that offer innovative visual literacy and writing techniques, basic photography skills, and effective teaching strategies that transform the classroom into a stimulating environment to give students the confidence to express themselves through writing, and believe what they write. Their photography is based on their own family and community experience, and it is used to extend and reinforce what they are asked to write in relation to the images. Students are innately motivated to become effective writers and photographers when they tell their own stories about themselves, their families, their communities, and their dreams. LTP Teachers are trained to incorporate visual imagery and writing into core classroom teaching. Each lesson is linked directly to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) objectives for English Language Arts, and meets the standards set forth in national curriculum mandates of No Child Left Behind and the National Council of Teachers of English Standards for the English Language Arts.

FOTOFEST INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1983 by photographers Frederick Baldwin and Wendy Watriss, FotoFest is a year-round, international non-profit organization promoting the photographic arts and education. FotoFest started the first and longest-running international citywide festival of photography in the U.S. The Biennial festivals and FotoFest's year-long programming are known for their presentation of important talent, contemporary and historical, from around the world. In selecting its exhibitions and related art programs, FotoFest has a strong commitment to aesthetic quality and important social ideas. FotoFest has curated and commissioned exhibitions of photo-based art from Latin America, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Its Biennial portfolio review, the Meeting Place, is considered one of the best in the world. In addition to its year-round art programming, FotoFest's school-based education program, Literacy Through Photography, uses photography to stimulate visual literacy, writing and analytical thinking.



From Downtown

North on San Jacinto, past Buffalo Bayou. Turn left on Wood Street. Travel half block to Vine Street. Turn right. Proceed under freeway; building is across access road.

I-10 From Galleria Area and Katy

Take the McKee/Hardy Street exit. Turn left at the stop sign, onto Hardy. Go over the freeway and turn left again, traveling west on feeder road. Turn right at Vine Street - building faces access road and is just before Main Street.

US 59 From West University

Take US 59 North towards Downtown. After Minute Maid Park, exit I-10 West towards San Antonio. take the first exit, San Jacinto/Main Street; from the access road, turn right at Vine Street - building faces access road and is just before Main Street.