Dear

I hope this note finds you well during these challenging times. Simona and I are fine and actively engaged in our philanthropic activities so that when there is a “there” there, we hope our efforts will strengthen the capacity of our organizations to continue their service and missions.

During the past five months, I have dedicated significant time and effort to the Louis Armstrong House Museum. Never before have I realized how vital it is that we honor Louis Armstrong’s legacy, and how appropriate his work is in today’s world. The Louis Armstrong House Museum is engaged in multiple projects that celebrate, promote and share Armstrong’s contributions as a musician, social justice advocate, and humanitarian.

I am writing today in the hope that you will join me in supporting the Louis Armstrong House Museum’s (LAHM) [Virtual Gala](https://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/gala/) on Thursday, September 17th. As Chair of the Board, I have also volunteered to Chair this Gala because I deeply believe in the work LAHM is doing and recognize how critical it is that we have the financial resources to sustain and build the organization. I turn to you and my other friends, colleagues and associates to play a key role in our Gala’s success and to make a generous contribution [“now.”](file:///Users/pedroespinoza/Desktop/Pedro/Fundraising/GALA/FY21%20/Reply%20Form.pdf)

“Now” is an exciting time at LAHM. Our new Director, Regina Bain brings to us the perspective of someone committed to African-American culture and eager to ensure the Louis Armstrong House Museum is an institution deeply rooted in arts, education and community; all things that Mr. Armstrong himself espoused and fulfilled during his lifetime. Despite the pandemic, construction has resumed on our new Louis Armstrong Center across the street from the Museum in Corona, and we anticipate opening to the public in spring 2021 with a host of new programs, tours, and a permanent exhibit curated by Jason Moran.  For more information about the Louis Armstrong House Museum, click on this [link](https://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/here-to-stay/) to our website; you’ll see how much we are doing!

You know I am engaged in many activities and organizations, just like you are too. Philanthropy and events like our Virtual Gala depend on our own generous support and reaching out to others too. I do so now because having your support at this time is so important to our efforts to sustain and grow the Louis Armstrong House Museum. I hope you will be as generous as you can.

Our Virtual Gala will be a rewarding experience for those who participate featuring renowned musicians contributing their efforts and also a special presentation about Louis and his role in social justice activities. In fact, our Gala falls on the same date (September 17th) that Louis stood up to President Eisenhower to advocate for the rights of Black students in Little Rock, Arkansas!

I thank you for your consideration and hope you will join us on September 17th.  Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jerry Chazen

Chair, Louis Armstrong House Museum Board of Directors