

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 10
10:50 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

AI and the Arts

Many campuses are seeing extraordinary resources directed toward Artificial Intelligence initiatives, and this condition will almost certainly continue for the foreseeable future. While the focus of support frequently is aimed at STEM areas, the Arts have an opportunity to engage with such initiatives or face the possibility of being left behind. We are in the very early stages of navigating what AI is, what it will become, and how we and our students will be affected; regardless of very legitimate concerns about creativity, humanity, copyright, plagiarism, ethics, and myriad other trepidations, it is in our interest as Arts leaders to help shape how AI will evolve in our disciplines. How can we harness AI as creative tool for our future? Beyond Chat GPT or DALL-E, the strategic integration of AI technologies in almost all areas of the Arts can facilitate collaborative research and will be essential to effectively training students for a Brave New World. Similar conversations are happening across the country, from a recent conference hosted by a2ru to an afternoon session of the Big Ten Alliance for the Arts. This session will present two short case studies before opening it up to a broader conversation.



PEG FAIMON Founding Dean, Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design, Indiana University

Peg Faimon received her BFA from Indiana University and her MFA from Yale University, earning the Norman Ives Memorial Award. She started teaching at Miami University in 1991, where she served as the Chair of the Department of Art and Professor of Graphic Design. At Miami, she also held positions as the Co-Director of the Armstrong Institute for Interactive Media Studies, Founding Director of the Miami Design Collaborative, and Lead Faculty of Graphic Design. She was named the Miami University School of Fine Arts Crossan Hayes Curry Distinguished Educator in 2000 and the Naus Family Faculty Scholar in 2008. In July of 2016, she moved to Indiana University Bloomington to become the Founding Dean of the newly formed School of Art, Architecture + Design, which was the merger of various art, design, and business disciplines. In 2019, the School was renamed the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design. Faimon has also maintained a design consultancy, Peg Faimon Design, and has received national and international recognition for her design work. She is currently serving as Vice President on the Executive Board of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design and is a board member of ICfAD and liaison to the Leadership Development Committee.



ARNE FLATEN Head, Rueff School of Design, Art, and Performance, Purdue University

Arne Flaten (Ph.D. Indiana University-Bloomington) is Professor of Italian Renaissance Art History and Head of the Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Design, Art, and Performance at Purdue University. Growing up in a diplomatic family he has lived and studied in various parts of the world, including Israel, Rwanda and Italy. Arne earned his B.A. in Art Studio and English Literature at St. Olaf College and was elected Phi Beta Kappa. Before Purdue, Arne served as the Director of the School of Art at Ball State University, Chair of Visual Arts and Associate Dean at Coastal Carolina University, and was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award from the South Carolina House of Representatives, and the Distinguished Leadership Award from the University. Professor Arne's research has been supported by the Fulbright Commission; the Getty Research Institute; the Kress Foundation; the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) at the National Gallery of Art; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Renaissance Society of America. In 2013 Arne was named the HTC Distinguished Scholar-Teacher at Coastal Carolina University, the University's highest honor, and in 2014 he was elected to the European Academy of Sciences and Arts—Salzburg. Arne is a site accreditation reviewer and workshop presenter for NASAD; served on the Services to Historians of Visual Arts and Culture Committee for CAA; is on the Leadership Development Committee for ICfAD, and is a member of the National Council of Arts Administrators, the Renaissance Society of America, and the Big Ten Academic Alliance for the Arts.

Careers in Higher Education Leadership: from President to Dean and from Dean to President

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Daniel Doz, President of Alberta University of the Arts and Nancy J. Uscher, Dean of the College of Fine Arts at University of Nevada, Las Vegas (and current President of ICfAD) will facilitate this two-way discussion about careers in higher education leadership, drawing upon their own experiences, and learning more about yours. Daniel's pathway was going from a Dean to President, and Nancy's trajectory was from President to Dean. Together, let's focus on various aspects of these roles, and the similarities and differences between them. Topics discussed will include relationship to internal stakeholders, to external stakeholders, the role of internal/external politics (lately and not only in the US that seems to be a growing matter to deal with), managing the growing complexity of these roles and the potential loss of "control" over them, given societal complexities and expectations of/pressure on higher education institutions. With our combined life/leadership experiences, we will reflect on how these roles have (in some ways drastically) changed. What is in store for the future? This, too, will be discussed.



DANIEL DOZ President, Alberta University of the Arts

Daniel Doz is starting his second 5-year term as President + CEO of the Alberta College of Art and Design. During his time the institution developed a critical framework titled "Inspiring Passionate Learning: ACAD's Strategic Plan for the Future" as well as conducted a major Academic restructuring that saw the creation of four dynamic schools in January 2013 as well as the development of the institution's first MFA in Craft Media (a first in Canada). His vision for the College's future identifies ACAD as an Educational Leader, ACAD as an Academic Leader and ACAD as a Community Builder. His innovative views on the essential role ACAD must play in our communities (both urban and rural) are helping position the Alberta College of Art and Design for success on a provincial and national scale. Born in Montreal and educated in France, Daniel has a wide range of academic experiences that spans several disciplines including art, cinema, photography, theatre, and architecture. He holds a Doctorate in Theatrical and Cinematographic Studies from the Université de Paris VIII, and is licensed as an architect by the French government. His scholarly, research and creative activities has been focused on themes in cinema, photography, and architecture. His research on film and design has led to presentations at numerous institutions in North America and Europe. Prior to ACAD, Daniel was Dean of the Faculty of Communication & Design at Ryerson University (2005 to 2010). And prior he was Head of the Division of Architecture and Art at Norwich University in Vermont (2001 to 2005).



NANCY J. USCHER Dean, College of Fine Arts, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Nancy is Dean of the College of Fine Arts and presidential professor of music. She oversees seven departments and schools, eight curated gallery spaces, including the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art; six theatre venues, and the UNLV Performing Arts Center.

Prior to joining UNLV in 2016, Nancy was president of Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle for five years. Before that, she was provost for seven years and for six months co-acting president of the California Institute of the Arts, where she also was on the music faculty. Nancy previously spent 12 years at the University of New Mexico as professor of music, and, at various times, associate provost, department chair and center director. She also taught in the women studies program.

A concert violist, Nancy earned her bachelor's degree in music at the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY, her master's degree in music at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and her Ph.D. from New York University. She also holds a certificate of advanced study and A.R.C.M. from the Royal College of Music in London and also studied at The Juilliard School in New York City.

Curricular Strategies at the Intersection of Arts Education and Generative AI

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As the music industry increasingly embraces Generative AI technologies for composition, idea generation, media production, and performance, there is a growing need for educators to develop pedagogies that effectively support students in harnessing the creative potential of these tools. This roundtable seeks to examine the diverse ways in which Generative AI is being utilized in creation and explore strategies for integrating these technologies into arts education curricula. We aim to identify best practices, challenges, and opportunities for empowering students to engage critically and creatively with Generative AI while nurturing their artistic expression and technological fluency. This roundtable will address pedagogical approaches that equip students with the skills, knowledge, and ethical awareness necessary to navigate and shape the future of the arts in the age of large language models.



MARY SIMONI Dean, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Mary Simoni is a composer, pianist, author, educator, consultant, and administrator. She serves as the Acting Provost at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Professor Emerita, Performing Arts Technology at the University of Michigan. Her music and multimedia works have been performed in Asia, Europe, and throughout the United States and have been recorded by Centaur Records, the Leonardo Music Journal published by the MIT Press, and the International Computer Music Association. She is the recipient of the Prize in Composition by the ArtNET Virtual Museum and named a semi-finalist for the American Prize in Composition-Chamber Music. Her music is frequently recognized by Vox Novus. She has authored several books, "Algorithmic Composition: A Guide to Composing Music with Nyquist" co-authored with Roger Dannenberg and published by the University of Michigan; and "Analytical Methods of Electroacoustic Music" published by Routledge. She is a Medal Laureate of the Computer World Honors Award for her research in digital Music Information Retrieval. Her work as a pianist and Steinway Artist specializes in the use of interactive electronics. Her compositions include the design of performance systems that extend the sonic capabilities of traditional acoustic instruments. She has consulted for the Canadian Innovation Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Peace Foundation, and numerous universities and arts agencies throughout the world. The Knight Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs have funded her research.



KELLAND THOMAS Dean, School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Stevens Institute of Technology

Since joining Stevens in 2016, Kelland Thomas has doubled undergraduate enrollment in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, grown the faculty ranks, increased funded research awards and expenditures, and added new research and teaching spaces to the school's footprint. Prior to Stevens he was at the University of Arizona for 19 years where he served at various times as founding associate director of the UA School of Information; interim director of the School of Information: Science, Technology, and Arts; director of the Creative Coding Lab; director of the Camerata Careers in Music program; and professor of Music. As a saxophonist he has performed with Sylvan Street, PRISM Saxophone Quartet, and many notable jazz artists, and his recording of Luciano Berio's *Sequenza IXb* was included in the Mode boxed set "Complete Sequenzas and Works for Solo Instruments", which *New York Times* critic Anne Midgette declared one of the 10 Best Releases of 2006. As an AI researcher he was a Principal Investigator on DARPA's Communicating with Computers program for his project MUSical Improvising Collaborative Agent (MUSICA), which received international press from *Tech Insider*, *Mic.com*, and the *Guardian UK*, among others.

Insights from the 2022 Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) Survey

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SNAAP was successfully relaunched in 2022 with numerous changes to its design, methodology, and administration, including a revised questionnaire that gave new attention to alumni’s “sense of belonging” at their educational institution; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their lives and careers; and paying for postsecondary arts education. Join members of SNAAP’s national board of directors to discuss generalizable insights and key findings from the 2022 survey data, providing timely insight into the current conditions impacting creative workers. These insights will serve as a springboard for discussion among roundtable attendees as to how institutional leaders can enhance the worth and inclusivity of a postsecondary arts and design education. Input from attendees will also be welcomed on interests and priorities for future SNAAP research.



DOUGLAS DEMPSTER

Douglas Dempster previously served as dean of the College of Fine Arts at The University of Texas at Austin and is currently a professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance in the Performance as Public Practice area. Doug is a philosopher by training and profession with research and teaching specialties in philosophical aesthetics, musical theory, cultural policy studies and the philosophy of language. He is published eclectically and esoterically in all these areas. He currently holds the Marie and Joseph D. Jamail Senior Regents Professorship and the Effie Marie Cain Regents Chair in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Integrating Creative Practice, Research and Studio Teaching in Creative Arts Environments

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Drawing from our experiences in Australia and South Africa, in this roundtable we will explore the intertwined themes of recent developments in creative practice research and the unique challenges faced by creative arts faculties within research-focused institutions. We will discuss how creative and artistic practices contribute to knowledge-making and how Australia and South Africa have successfully integrated creative practice research, including the creative PhD, into their national research ecosystems. This part of the session, led by Craig, will highlight both the achievements and the ongoing challenges in a competitive higher education sector.

Simultaneously, we will delve into the specific issues of balancing rigorous studio teaching with the institutional imperative for research productivity in predominantly STEM-focused academic environments. Federico will share a strategy from his home institution that fosters a sustainable research culture through the principles of the 3 Ps: maintaining a steady cycle of research with one project in the pipeline, one in preparation, and one in production. This approach, supported by collegial networks and communities of practice, integrates research into studio and classroom practices, enhancing both academic and creative outputs.

Participants will gain practical insights to foster environments where creative arts faculty can thrive as both educators and researchers. We welcome discussion, questions, and examples from other contexts and institutions on navigating the integration of creative practice as research and enabling research productivity in creative arts environments.



CRAIG BATTY University of South Australia + The Australian Council of Deans and Directors of Creative Arts (DDCA)

Craig Batty is Executive Dean of UniSA Creative at the University of South Australia. He is the author, co-author and editor of 15 books, including *Script Development: Critical Approaches, Creative Practices, International Perspectives (2021)*, *The Doctoral Experience: Student Stories from the Creative Arts and Humanities (2019)*, *Writing for the Screen: Creative and Critical Approaches (2nd ed.) (2019)* and *Screen Production Research: Creative Practice as a Mode of Enquiry (2018)*. He has also published over 80 book chapters and journals articles on the topics of screenwriting practice, screenwriting theory, creative practice research and doctoral supervision. Craig is also President of the Australian Council of Deans and Directors of Creative Arts (DDCA), which serves as the national peak body for creative arts higher education and research in Australia.



FEDERICO FRESCHI Executive Dean, Faculty of Art, Design & Architecture, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Federico Freschi was appointed Executive Dean of the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture at the University of Johannesburg in October 2023. He was previously Professor and Head of College of Te Maru Pūmanawa | Creative Practice & Enterprise at the Otago Polytechnic | Te Pūkenga in Dunedin, New Zealand. A widely published art historian, Federico has served as a Vice-President on the board of Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art (CIHA) and as President of SAVAH (South African Visual Arts Historians). He serves on the advisory committee of Forum Kunst und Markt (Technische Universität Berlin), is a member of the Cultures, Histories, and Identities in Visual Studies Research Network (University of Otago) and, while in New Zealand, was the lead editor of *Junctures: The Journal for Thematic Dialogue* (Otago Polytechnic | Te Pūkenga). Recent publications include the co-edited volumes *Troubling Images: Visual Culture & the Politics of Afrikaner Nationalism* (Wits University Press, 2020) and *The Politics of Design: Privilege and Prejudice in Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and South Africa* (Otago Polytechnic Press, 2022). In addition to his academic and administrative commitments, Federico is an accomplished classical baritone who has an ongoing creative practice as a concert soloist and opera singer.

"Put me in, coach!" Building Team Through Leadership Coaching

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Leadership development is a skill that administrators need to continually nurture, not only in themselves but among faculty, chairs, and directors. The *Harvard Business Review* cited (2021) that organizations integrating leadership coaching saw improvements retention, teamwork, relationships, and job satisfaction. This roundtable will share a model for individual/group coach as a technique for improving team dynamics and promoting succession planning.



MELISSA BERKE Associate Dean, College of Communication, Fine Arts, and Media, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Melissa Berke serves as Associate Dean for the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In this position she oversees academic affairs including faculty reappointment, promotion and tenure, curricular matters, and assists with college operations. Prior to her role in administration, Melissa served as the first female and first chair of color in the UNO music department where she also taught undergraduate and graduate courses in music education. Her specialization in early childhood/elementary music made her a sought-after clinician at many national and regional conferences. Melissa received both her Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music Education degrees from Drake University, and her PhD from The University of Arizona.



ABBIE SYREK Assistant Dean for the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Abbie Syrek is the Assistant Dean for the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In this role, she oversees student success, which includes recruitment, retention, degree audits, advising, and college event planning. Prior to this position, she served as Senior Lecturer in the School of Communication where she taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Communication Studies. She also supervised Graduate Teaching Assistants and served as Course Coordinator for oral competency curricula. Abbie was also the Director of Forensics for 17 years, during which time she won several regional and national awards for coaching and teaching excellence. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and her Master of Arts in Communication from Kansas State University.

The Quest for Organizational Fluency: Collaborative Exploration of Management Integration in Academia

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Navigating the switch from academia to administration can often feel like charting unknown territory. The proposed discussion topic, “The Quest for Organizational Fluency: Collaborative Exploration of Management Integration in Academia,” seeks to foster a communal dialogue on this very transition. The Roundtable discussion will collectively explore the merits of infusing academic administration with robust management theories and practices that have proven successful in academic and non-academic settings. The discussion will open the floor to all attendees, inviting them to share their perspectives and experiences on the compatibility and potential benefits of this cross-pollination. Together, we will assess how the thoughtful adoption of some of the non-academic organizations’ practices could address existing management gaps within academia, fostering innovation and guiding institutions towards a sustainable future that honors academic heritage. This abstract invites a participatory and exploratory discussion, encouraging attendees to envision the future of academic administration as a collaborative journey. It is an invitation to collectively consider if and how blending our academic principles with proven business strategies could cultivate a new path of academic leadership for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.



TEAYOUN KIM-KASSOR Chair, Otis College of Art and Design

TeaYoun is a multifaceted educator and artist whose global journey spans South Korea, Japan, and the United States. With over two decades of experience in higher education, she is recognized for her global leadership, adept cultural interpretation, and innovative approach to curriculum development. As the Department Chair and Professor of the Foundation Program at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles, TeaYoun has honed her skills in teaching pedagogy, management, and transnational education, with an emphasis on global perspectives. Her academic credentials are as diverse as her professional background, holding a Terminal Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Tennessee, a Master’s in Art Education from Saitama University as a Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship recipient, and a B.F.A. from Sungshin Women’s University in Seoul.

TeaYoun’s experience encompasses public and private educational settings, where she has engaged with various student and faculty groups. TeaYoun’s commitment to art and education embodies her dedication to fostering a dialogue between cultures and the pursuit of educational and artistic excellence. Parallel to her educational career, TeaYoun’s vibrant artistic expression has been featured in numerous prestigious exhibitions worldwide, showcased at the Korean Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, and further across S. Korea, Japan, Italy, the Czech Republic, Spain, Los Angeles, New York, Montana, Tennessee, and Georgia among others.

Transformative Renovations: Converting a Private Residence Into a Public Arts Space

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Campus expansion is not limited to new construction alone. Existing buildings, particularly residences, provide unique opportunities for growth. Often utilized for alumni centers or hosting spaces, purchased or donated buildings can also be transformed into exhibition spaces, art studios, and even performance venues. In this roundtable, Courtney Davis will introduce participants to the UVU Museum of Art, which launched in 2023 at Lakemount, a 39,000 square-foot mansion occupying an eight-acre estate donated to the university for a museum and arts learning space. This example of a renovated off-campus arts facility nestled within a residential community will provide a launching point for a discussion focusing on the unique opportunities and challenges of converting residential buildings into public art spaces. Davis invites you to share your experiences and insights, exploring such questions as:

- How can converted buildings contribute both to institutional identity as well as the vibrancy of the educational experience?
- How can institutions embrace the history and tradition of existing buildings to forge connections to the broader community?
- What additional layers of institutional planning and coordination are necessary to consider when converting private buildings into public spaces?



COURTNEY R. DAVIS Dean, School of the Arts, Executive Director, UVU Museum of Art at Utah Valley University (Orem, Utah)

Courtney Davis is an art historian, educator, administrator, and attorney. As dean, she seeks to promote excellence in the visual and performing arts through both academic programming as well as community engagement, focusing strongly on engaged learning and high impact educational practices. She recently helped to facilitate the launch of the UVU Museum of Art at Lakemount, and now serves as the museum's inaugural executive director. Prior to her current position, Courtney served as chair of the Department of Art & Design at UVU, where she taught arts management and art history courses in the art history program, which she co-developed.

Courtney holds a Juris Doctor from the J. Ruben Clark Law School as well as degrees in Art History & Curatorial Studies from Brigham Young University (Provo, Utah). She enjoys melding her dual passions of art history and the law in her research, which focuses largely on copyright in the visual arts. Prior to joining UVU, Courtney worked as an associate attorney at a Utah-based law firm.