

Associate Provost

Associate Provost and Ford International Professor of History Philip S. Khoury oversees the Institute's extra-academic arts programs and institutions and works closely with Vice President Claude Canizares on international strategic programs and initiatives. The arts programs include the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST), the List Visual Arts Center, and the MIT Museum. Khoury is a member of the Executive Committee of CAST, a joint initiative with the dean of the School of Architecture and Planning and the dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Associate Provost Khoury chairs the Creative Arts Council and the Advisory Board of the Catalyst Collaborative at MIT (CC@MIT). He is an ex officio member of the Executive Committee of the Council for the Arts at MIT and the advisory boards of the List Visual Arts Center and the MIT Museum. He also chairs the Advisory Board of the Kuwait Center for Natural Resources and the Environment at MIT and co-chairs the International Advisory Committee (IAC). He and Professor Canizares oversee the MIT-Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) Collaboration. Professor Khoury chairs the Compton Lectures Advisory Committee to the President and the Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar at MIT, which started its 30th year in the fall of 2015.

The Arts

Current Goals

Each of the arts units in the provost's office made a substantial leap forward in academic year 2015, and our primary goal is to build upon the momentum created by these achievements, in order to propel future growth and to attract long-term support.

Accomplishments

CAST, the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology, received a second \$1.5M grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which will provide support through 2020. In its third academic year of operation, the Center supported 21 programs overall (compared to 17 in the first two years combined) and launched two significant public-facing initiatives: "Seeing / Sounding / Sensing", the first international symposium in what will become a biennial event, and an annual performance series, MIT Sounding. The symposium was designed to deepen the dialogue between the arts and cognitive neurosciences, and subsequent ones will engage other areas of extensive expertise and ongoing research at MIT, such as materials science. The performance series has put a public face on the innovative music exploration that has been going on at MIT for years, where adventurous new music is composed, commissioned, and performed on a daily basis. In the context of the established music scene in Boston, MIT Sounding fills an important gap in the cultural landscape.

The List Visual Arts Center presented the work of Joan Jonas, professor emerita in the MIT Program in Art, Culture and Technology (ACT) and a pioneer of performance art, at the US Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale, the oldest and most distinguished international art exhibition in the world. To celebrate this double honor for MIT (the selection of a faculty member as the US representative and the List as the commissioner

and presenting institution), the President of MIT and past Corporation Chair John Reed and Cindy Reed hosted a group of more than 60 MIT and art world donors during the opening week in Venice in May 2015. The reviews of Joan Jonas's exhibition in major media outlets were extensive and glowing. The List has an outstanding record at the Venice Biennale, since it is the third time that MIT's contemporary art gallery has been selected as commissioner for the US pavilion.

The MIT Museum has been moving forward on plans to relocate to Kendall Square as a main component of the new eastern gateway to the campus and major improvements to the area are in development in coordination with the city of Cambridge. A \$2.5M endowment of the director's position by Mark Epstein '63 represents a new level of commitment to the future of the museum and should set a standard for all of our arts units to achieve.

Administrative Initiatives

New leadership was appointed for the Council for the Arts at MIT. Rick Stone '76 was appointed to a three-year term as chair, and Karen Arenson '70 will serve as vice-chair, effective July 1, 2015.

Finances and Funding

In addition to the \$1.5 million renewal from the Mellon Foundation for CAST, the Center received \$250,000 in a combination of expendable funds and a bequest from Terry '76 and Rick Stone '76 and \$85,000 in other expendable funds, for a total of \$1,835,000 (\$125,000 deferred as a bequest).

The List Visual Arts Center brought in \$1.6M in support of the 2015 Venice Biennale. In addition, they raised more than \$100,000 from various sources, including the Advisory Committee, foundations, and several generous individuals.

The MIT Museum achieved a milestone in endowing the director's position, donated by Mark Epstein '63, in addition to \$735,000 from the Patrons Program. An additional \$34,052 was raised from individuals, and the Friends group and technology and design companies contributed \$20,000 for The MIT Museum Studio.

Future Goals

The overarching goals for the arts are to sustain the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) beyond 2020, to advance the programs of the List Visual Arts Center, building upon the momentum and international recognition generated by the Venice Biennale, and to raise funds for the MIT Museum's move to Kendall Square.

Personnel

Changes in the staff of Arts Initiatives, including CAST and the Office of the Arts, as well as the List Visual Arts Center and the MIT Museum, are reported in later sections.

Philip S. Khoury
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