

Associate Provost

The 2007–2008 academic year saw several important developments and changes in the MIT arts community.

The Creative Arts Council (CAC), chaired by associate provost and Ford International professor of history Philip S. Khoury, in collaboration with director of arts initiatives and advisor to the associate provost Lori Gross, attracted some of the newest members of MIT's senior leadership to address CAC in an effort to strengthen CAC's connections to that leadership. Lori also led the effort to produce a white paper on the history, current state, and future directions and needs of the arts in consultation with CAC members. That paper is near completion and will be finalized for delivery to CAC and ultimately to the president and provost by the end of calendar year 2008. CAC welcomed to its ranks in fall 2007, Mark Jarzombek, the associate dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, and Beth Raffeld, senior director of philanthropic partnerships in the Office of Resource Development.

The Catalyst Collaborative at MIT (CC@MIT), a collaboration between MIT and the Underground Railway Theater (URT), enjoyed a two-year funding increase owing to contributions from the Council for the Arts and the deans of Engineering; Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences; and Science at MIT. This new funding was intended to keep the collaboration active and vibrant as the URT prepared to move into its permanent home in the new Central Square Theater in July 2008. CC@MIT continued to commission new works and prepare full productions for the Cambridge Science Festival and the Central Square Theater. It announced that the first play to be produced for the new theater would be *QED*, about Richard Feynman, the late Nobel prize-winning physicist and MIT alumnus. CC@MIT is today's most significant MIT undertaking at the intersection of art, science, and technology.

The associate provost participated in advisory board meetings of the MIT Museum and List Visual Arts Center at MIT and in New York City and served on the executive and grants committees of the Council for the Arts. He delivered a major address on the state and future of the arts at MIT at the Council's 35th annual meeting in October 2007. He continues to serve as the MIT representative on the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

As of summer 2007, Lynn Heinemann, senior editorial assistant in the Office of the Arts, reported to the director of arts initiatives, and served on the Communications Committee of the CAC, chaired by the director. In May 2008, the Office of the Associate Provost recruited Pardis Parsa, formerly of the Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems, to help staff both the director and the associate provost and his administrative assistant, Ellen Salvi. Not long after, the associate provost announced, with regret, that Lori Gross would leave MIT at the end of the academic year to become Harvard's new associate provost for the arts and culture. In one short year, Lori managed to bring leadership and give direction to two crucial committees of the CAC, the communications committee and the development committee, and to nearly complete the arts white paper. The associate provost announced a search for her replacement.

The associate provost is also engaged in other major MIT activities: the development of MIT's global strategy for the coming decade. He co-chairs, with the vice president for research and associate provost Claude Canizares, the International Advisory Committee, which the provost charged in the summer of 2007 with the task of developing a global strategy for MIT. The associate provost also set up strategic working groups on India and China and is now developing one for the Middle East. He and members of the India Strategy Working Group traveled to India in August 2007 to plan for president Susan Hockfield's highly successful visit to India in November 2007. During that visit she announced several new long-term collaborative initiatives between MIT and India in health sciences and technology and in international innovation. The associate provost and some of his colleagues on the China Strategy Working Group will visit China in July 2008 in preparation for President Hockfield's proposed visit to China in June 2009.

Philip S. Khoury
Associate Provost

More information about the associate provost can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/office/provost/>.