

Associate Provost

The [associate provost](#) oversees two areas: extra-academic arts programs and institutions and—with vice president Claude Canizares—international strategic programs and initiatives. Arts programs include Arts Initiatives (to which the Office of the Arts reports), the List Visual Arts Center, and the MIT Museum. The associate provost chairs the Creative Arts Council and the advisory board of the Catalyst Collaborative at MIT. He is a member of the executive committee of the Council for the Arts at MIT (CAMIT) 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. He oversees the MIT-SUTD (Singapore University of Technology and Design) collaboration and the MIT Portugal Program.

The Arts

Current Goals

The overarching goals for the arts are to sustain the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) beyond its four-year launch period and to advance the programs of the List Visual Arts Center and the MIT Museum within the context of MIT's upcoming capital campaign.

Accomplishments

In its inaugural year, MIT's Center for Art, Science & Technology fulfilled its initial goal of promoting closer collaboration among creative arts faculty, scientists, engineers, students, and visiting artists. CAST's overall mission is to demonstrate the value of artistic thinking and the professional practice of the arts to MIT's core values: fostering a culture of creativity and innovation; learning by doing; and dissemination of knowledge, research, and inventions that make a difference in the world. To date, CAST has sponsored three courses, one each in the schools of Science, Architecture and Planning, and Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS), along with a concert series, artists' residencies, and more than a dozen weekly lecture/demonstrations by visiting multimedia artists and other research or performance projects. More than a dozen proposals by faculty to sponsor research, new cross-disciplinary subjects, and a major international symposium planned for September 2014 will solidify CAST's role as a catalyst for cross-disciplinary research and connecting creative activities across the Institute.

Established in the office of the provost—and with support from the associate provost with responsibility for the arts, the deans of the School of Architecture and Planning and SHASS, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation—CAST has advanced MIT's leadership in integrating the arts into the curriculum and research of institutions of higher learning, a national initiative supported by the Mellon Foundation. MIT was one of 10 institutions examined in spring 2013 by Mellon Foundation researcher Bruce Mackh, who will publish the first comprehensive guide to best practices in the integration of arts practice

in US research universities in fall 2015. Preliminary findings reveal that MIT leads the cohort in the role given to arts subjects within the core curriculum, the number of students enrolled in arts subjects, and the prevalence of cross-disciplinary research in which the arts are a crucial component.

In spring 2013, the List Visual Art Center launched a new exhibition program in the Bakalar Gallery—List Projects—a series devoted to emerging or overlooked artists with a substantial body of work. Scheduled off cycle from exhibitions in the two main galleries, the new program allows the List center to remain open throughout the year instead of closing between major exhibitions and during the summer months. In addition, programming by a new outreach coordinator, supported by a substantial grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, has created more visibility for the center, both within the MIT community and throughout the Boston region. A new audio guide to MIT's outstanding public art collection, overseen by the List, includes an introduction by actor, film director, and photographer Leonard Nimoy and commentary by artists such as Dan Graham, Cai Guo-Qiang, Matthew Ritchie, Sarah Sze, and many others about their works on campus.

A major volume based on the exhibition mounted by the MIT Museum for the Institute's 150th anniversary, *Countless Connecting Threads: MIT's History Revealed Through Its Most Evocative Objects*, was published in April. The museum once again expanded its very successful Cambridge Science Festival with a statewide "Science on the Street" initiative, in addition to extending the national Science Festival Alliance to still more cities and institutions with the support of two major grants (see below). The museum consolidated its collection in an off-site storage facility and completed the extension review process and site visit required for reaccreditation by the American Alliance of Museums.

The Catalyst Collaborative at MIT, established in 2004 by MIT and the Underground Railway Theater (URT), brings together theater artists and MIT scientists to create and present plays that deepen public understanding of science and technology while providing emotional and artistic experiences not present in other dialogues about science. In 2012, the advisory committee approved a proposal to have the Nora Theater Company join URT in the Catalyst Collaborative. As envisioned, the merger doubled the number of plays about science presented at the Central Square Theater and, this season, included a very successful run of *Operation Epsilon*, written by professor of theater and former associate provost for the arts Alan Brody and produced by CAMIT member Ellen Berman.

Administrative Initiatives

With support from the associate provost and the deans of the School of Architecture and Planning and SHASS, MIT became one of 28 founding members of the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities, which conducts research, compiles case studies, and develops strategic alliances to promote the integration of the arts into the nation's research universities. The executive director of arts initiatives serves on the executive committee and presented at the alliance's first research symposium in spring 2013.

Finances and Funding

The Council for the Arts increased its annual contributions by nearly 10% in an ongoing effort to meet a goal of half a million dollars per year.

The National Endowment for the Arts awarded \$30,000 to the List Visual Arts Center for new outreach activities. In honor of its 40th anniversary, the Council for the Arts at MIT made a special gift of \$40,000 for purchases of work for the Student Loan Art Collection.

The Science Festival Alliance at the MIT Museum received a three-year award of \$1,027,712 from the National Science Foundation and a two-year grant of nearly \$400,000 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The MIT Museum established a patrons program to recognize donors who contribute \$10,000 or more annually. In its first year, it raised a total of \$232,000.

Future Plans

- Create a robust development plan for the arts, in collaboration with Resource Development
- Continue to raise the prominence of the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT and the fundraising potential of the gala to be held in March 2014
- Establish CAST's intellectual leadership in cross-disciplinary scholarship between science and the arts through the center's first symposium, "Seeing, Sounding, Sensing," to be held in September 2014
- Build the patrons and friends programs at the MIT Museum and the List Visual Arts Center into strong sources of support for these institutions

International Initiatives

Accomplishments and Finances/Funding

The International Advisory Committee, co-chaired by the associate provost and vice president Claude R. Canizares, continued to review proposals for new and existing international programs across the five schools. The committee continues to revise and update its 2009 report "Guiding Strategies for International Activities," especially in light of MITx and its global potential.

The MIT-SUTD collaboration came under the direction of professor John Brisson (Mechanical Engineering), who replaced professor Sanjay Sarma. He reports to the associate provost, who chairs the collaboration's steering committee and serves with the provost and dean of engineering on its joint governance council. The collaboration, which builds on more than a decade of MIT education and research activities in Singapore, is one of the largest and most complex university capacity-building endeavors in MIT's history. The MIT-SUTD collaboration has made excellent progress in the area of curriculum development and has also contributed to efforts to recruit the collaboration's first faculty members. The International Design Center, which constitutes the research arm of the collaboration, emerged slowly but now appears to be gaining momentum. The effort to help the government of Rwanda develop a climate

observatory, expected to be the largest in equatorial Africa, has been making reasonable progress in recent months. Associate provost and vice president for research Maria Zuber and professor Ronald Prinn (Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences) lead this effort, which emerged from a field trip they made to Rwanda in November 2009 at the request of the Rwandan government.

The associate provost, in cooperation with the Global Initiatives Office in Resource Development, established new faculty innovation (seed) funds for India and China in 2011 as part of the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives seed fund initiative; \$150,000 each for India and China was made available for research and educational seed initiatives (and that funding will be renewed for a third year).

The associate provost helped organize the effort to secure a \$35 million research grant (over five years) for the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory from the Qatar Computer Research Institute (supported by the Qatar Foundation). This new program was launched in July 2012. The associate provost went to Qatar to sign the agreement on October 21 with the president for research of the Qatar Foundation.

Future Goals

- Build on the work of the Greater China Faculty Working Group, which was reconstituted in 2011, to focus on the implementation of the China strategy report
- Accelerate the activities of the India Faculty Working Group and develop new resources for research and educational programs in and with India through the MIT India Trust and the MIT-India Innovation Fund
- Continue to assist in efforts to strengthen MIT's relationship with Singapore University of Technology and Design, the Kuwait Center, and the MIT Portugal Program
- Develop MIT's latest collaboration with Saudi Aramco
- Continue to monitor through the International Advisory Committee all major international research and education programs, especially those in Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Russia, and China
- Find a solution for regularly updating and strengthening the impact of the [Global MIT website](#), which is listed on the MIT homepage

OpenCourseWare

The associate provost transferred oversight of OpenCourseWare to the director of digital learning, professor Sanjay Sarma.

Philip S. Khoury
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