

Associate Provost

Associate provost Philip S. Khoury 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 and the Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) report, the List Visual Arts Center (LVAC), and the MIT Museum. The associate provost is a member of the executive committee of CAST, a joint initiative with the deans of the School of Architecture and Planning and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. He 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 (CAMIT) and the advisory boards of LVAC and the MIT Museum. The associate provost 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 oversees the MIT-Singapore University of Technology and Design (MIT-SUTD) Collaboration.

The Arts

Current Goals

The associate provost's office supports the endeavors of programs and initiatives to maximize their potential to enhance the arts at MIT and, by extension, MIT's visibility and presence in the world.

CAST is preparing to launch two public-facing series in the coming academic year. In September 2014, the first biennial international symposium, *Seeing/Sounding/Sensing*, will focus on a dialogue between the arts and cognitive sciences. The symposium will feature artists Tauba Auerbach, Alvin Lucier, and Tomás Saraceno, along with neuroscientists and humanities scholars from a range of disciplines. On this occasion, CAST also will launch a new annual music concert series, *MIT Sounding*. The first season will begin with Alvin Lucier and will conclude with Terry Riley—two pioneers of experimental electronic music who in very different ways paved the way for electronica, post-minimalism, sampling, speech as music, and many other contemporary forms.

LVAC is preparing to present a May 2015 exhibition of the work of Joan Jonas, professor emerita in the Program in Art, Culture and Technology (ACT), at the US Pavilion of the 56th Venice Biennale, the oldest and most distinguished international art exhibition in the world. The selection of a faculty member as the exhibition's US representative and of LVAC as the commissioner and presenting institution is a double honor for MIT and a major opportunity to advance the reputation of both LVAC and MIT in the international art world.

The MIT Museum has recently learned that the Institute intends to move forward with a plan that will relocate the museum to Kendall Square. This move is a key component of plans for the new, eastern gateway to the campus and improvements in Kendall Square, developed in collaboration with the city of Cambridge.

Accomplishments

The 2014 celebratory dinner and award ceremony for the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT, presented biennially, was the most successful to date. The prize continues to gain stature and bring visibility to the arts at MIT, fulfilling the aspirations Margaret McDermott expressed upon augmenting the endowment in recent years. At the age of 102, she traveled from Dallas with her daughter Mary Cook to attend the public lecture and gala in honor of 2014 awardee Olafur Eliasson. The event attracted 32 sponsors and achieved a 100% increase in funds raised for the arts since the inaugural gala in 2010.

The selection of LVAC by a US State Department committee as the commissioner and presenter of the US pavilion at the 2015 Venice Biennale was the signal achievement by LVAC in the past academic year. In addition, LVAC organized six exhibitions, published three catalogues, launched a new web site, and is developing percent-for-art projects for five MIT buildings.

The MIT Museum was re-accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in October 2013 and continues to increase its audience, attracting a record number of 123,750 visitors in the previous year. The repurposing of the Compton Gallery (10-150), where the MIT Museum studio is now located, has significantly advanced the museum's ability to engage MIT students in developing and showcasing student projects. An alliance with the Edgerton Center, in support of a new student club Engineering Design Group for Exhibitions, and funds from CAST and CAMIT allowed the museum to hold its first exhibition of student work, *Inventions: 2014 MIT Student Showcase*. The Cambridge Science Festival continues to grow, and attracted more than 50,000 visitors for its eighth annual festival. The related Science on the Street initiative, which disseminates popular science programs year-round and throughout the state, reached 70,866 participants at 34 events. Finally, the Science Festival Alliance, a national network of science festivals coordinated by the MIT Museum, now includes almost four dozen independently organized festivals in the US and Canada.

CC@MIT, established in 2004 between 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. CC@MIT collaborates with both URT and the other resident company, the Nora Theater, at the Central Square Theater (CST). This year, at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, CST produced readings and panel discussions about the competing interests shaping the future of the planet prior to a full production of *Sila* under the CC@MIT banner.

Administrative Initiatives

The Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru), of which MIT is a founding member, conducts research, compiles case studies, and develops strategic alliances to promote the integration of the arts into the nation's research universities. The organization held its first national student hackathon at Stanford University in January 2014. With support from the Council for the Arts, the director of arts initiatives and manager of student programs selected three arts scholars to attend and present their own projects at the closing plenary session of the two-day event.

Finances and Funding

CAST achieved two early successes in its effort to supplement and sustain start-up funds awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through AY2016. An endowment of \$450,000 from Fay Chandler—the Fay Chandler Creativity Seed Fund—will enable CAST to continue to sponsor faculty research and to create new cross-disciplinary subjects at the intersection of art, science, and technology. Ronald A. Kurtz '54 provided \$60,000 in expendable funds to develop a new studio focused upon the convergence of the arts and material sciences in honor of Merton Flemings, professor of materials processing and Toyota Professor Emeritus.

CAMIT established a priority several years ago to increase annual donations from members to half a million dollars annually, and this year received \$506,680—a significant milestone.

The 2014 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT gala raised \$187,000 from 32 sponsors, a 50% increase over 2012 proceeds and a 100% increase over the inaugural gala held in 2010.

LVAC has brought in \$765,000 of a projected \$1.4M budget for the 2015 Venice Biennale.

The MIT Museum raised \$533,695, including \$203,875 in the second year of the Patrons Program.

Future Plans

The overarching goals for the arts are to sustain CAST beyond 2016, to advance LVAC programs, and to raise capital for the MIT Museum's move to Kendall Square within the context of MIT's capital campaign.

Personnel

The new position of Arts Development Officer in the office of the provost, filled by Erin Genereux in August 2013, has focused more attention on fundraising and closer coordination of efforts with both central resource development and development officers in the schools at the Institute. Her stewardship of the Eugene McDermott Award and the Fay Chandler gift, along with coordination of fundraising for LVAC's participation in the Venice Biennale have been particularly noteworthy.

International

Accomplishments and Finances/Funding

The International Advisory Committee (IAC), 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 the IAC's 2009 report, *Guiding Strategies for International Activities*, especially in light of *MITx* and its global potential.

The MIT-SUTD Collaboration reports to the associate provost, who chairs the steering committee and serves with the provost and dean of engineering on its joint governance council. The collaboration, which professor John Brisson (Mechanical Engineering) directs, builds on more than a decade of MIT education and research activities in Singapore. It 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 faculty recruitment. The International Design Center, which constitutes the research arm of the collaboration, continues to gain momentum. Discussions have begun within MIT about how best to conduct SUTD renewal/extension negotiations with the Singapore government.

The effort to design and build a climate observatory in Rwanda, which will be the first of its kind in equatorial Africa, gained momentum with the visit of Rwanda's President Paul Kagame to MIT this past spring. The associate provost, 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.

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.
- Develop a plan for the establishment of an MIT office in China to help with MIT's expansion of activities in that country.
- Continue to assist in efforts to strengthen MIT's relationship with SUTD, the Kuwait Center, and the MIT Portugal Program.
- Develop MIT's collaboration with Saudi Aramco.
- Continue to monitor through the International Advisory Committee (IAC) all major international research and education programs, and especially those in Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Russia, and China.
- Continue the support of efforts to revise the Global MIT website.

Philip S. Khoury
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