

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 with Associate Provost for International Activities Richard Lester 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. The associate provost chairs the Creative Arts Council and the advisory board of the Catalyst Collaborative at 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 the List Visual Arts Center and the MIT Museum. He also serves on the International Advisory Committee. He serves with the provost and dean of Engineering on the Collaboration Governance Board of the MIT-Singapore University of Technology and Design Collaboration. He chairs the Compton Lectures Advisory Committee to the President and the Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar at MIT, which will begin its 33rd year in fall 2018.

The Arts

Accomplishments

The MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology completed another year of outstanding programming, awarding nearly \$300 thousand for a total of 19 projects. CAST's second book, *Active Matter*, edited by Skylar Tibbits, was published by The MIT Press in fall 2017. *MIT Sounding*, now in its fourth season, has established MIT as a hub of musical innovation and showcased MIT's leadership in composing, performing new music, and introducing guest artists to the Boston musical scene, even in the absence of a dedicated concert hall on campus. Since its inception, the series has presented 12 world and five area premieres. This year's program included a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of violist and Institute Professor Marcus Thompson's career, whose debut occurred on the day of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. Since its establishment six years ago, CAST has been a catalyst for integrating the arts across the Institute, providing more than two million dollars in funding and production support for more than 140 projects. No other unit serves all the academic and extra-academic arts on campus.

The Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT was presented by the Council for the Arts at MIT to performer Audra McDonald, who visited campus to work with MIT vocal students and hold a public program with Oskar Eustis, artistic director of the Public Theater in New York City. The gala in her honor in April, chaired by John S. '61 and Cynthia L. Reed, was the largest and most successful to date. We were saddened that Margaret McDermott, founder of the award and the greatest champion of the arts at MIT, was unable to attend and passed away shortly after the event. Since 1974, the McDermott Award has brought artists and architects of the highest caliber to campus and has raised the profile of the arts at MIT nationally and internationally; it will remain a wonderful tribute to her generosity and love of the arts.

The List Visual Arts Center organized nine exhibitions and published three catalogs. *Before Projection: Video Sculpture 1974–1995* was an important group exhibition, which was presented as part of a regional set of exhibitions and educational programs related to themes of *Art in the Age of the Internet, 1989 to Today*, an exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, which initiated the partnerships. MIT's outstanding public art collection, which the List oversees, continues to grow, with the installation of a work by Nick Mauss in the Landau Chemical Engineering Building (Building 66) as the latest acquisition.

The MIT Museum achieved record attendance of 169,045 visitors, an increase of 14.5% over FY2017. More than 100,000 people attended 250 events during the 12th annual Cambridge Science Festival throughout the greater Boston area from April 13 to 22, 2018. The Museum presented two exhibitions on the photography of György Kepes, in honor of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies and two other important and well received exhibitions, *Big Bang Data* and *The Beautiful Brain: The Drawings of Santiago Ramón y Cajal*. A tradition of successful collaborations with CAST continued, namely, three over the course of the academic year: the North American premiere of visiting artist Karim Ben Khelifa's *The Enemy*; visiting artist Tomás Saraceno's *Aerocene* test flights on Killian Court during the Cambridge Science Festival; and the new cross-disciplinary course, 9.S52/9.S916 Vision in Art and Neuroscience, offered by the Department of Brain and Cognitive Science in the Museum Studio.

Finances and Funding

Fundraising for the new MIT Museum in Kendall Square kicked off boldly with the closure of a lead gift of \$30 million from an anonymous donor. A second gift for the new project, \$215 thousand to support collections and customer relationship planning, came from a foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. Another key donation was made by museum advisory board member Dan Grunberg, who created a \$1 million endowment fund for the Idea Hub maker space. The Museum Store surpassed \$1 million in revenue for the first time in its history and, in addition, the museum raised \$927 thousand through the Patrons Program, the annual fund, and gifts for specific exhibitions and programs.

Michael M. '49 and Sonja Koerner established a \$1 million endowment for a distinguished visiting artist appointment in CAST, and Paul A. '68 and Joan Gluck pledged \$150 thousand in unrestricted support for the center.

Sponsors to the McDermott Award gala made donations to the arts for the occasion totaling \$327,500, which allowed the Council for the Arts to distribute gifts directly to five arts units: the Program in Art, Culture and Technology in the School of Architecture and Planning; CAST; the List Visual Arts Center; the MIT Museum; and Music and Theater Arts in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. In addition to the Council's support of the arts through annual contributions of at least \$5 thousand per member, CAMIT received two bequests this year that allowed it to make extraordinary gifts. The Executive Committee voted to contribute \$100 thousand to support performances in the new theater building (Building W97), which was inaugurated in November 2017, and coincided with CAMIT's annual meeting. With this generous gift, Professor Jay Scheib will launch a new series, *MIT Performing*, in AY2019. In addition, the

Executive Committee agreed to match the associate provost's allocation of \$50 thousand from Ronald A. Kurtz '54 to establish an International Exhibition and Performance Fund for MIT faculty and to contribute to a fund for faculty to develop new cross-disciplinary classes; each of these new grants will be awarded by the CAST Selection Committee.

The List Visual Arts Center raised \$650 thousand in gifts, a \$100 thousand increase from last year.

Future Goals

We are focused on two overarching goals that must be accomplished by 2020: planning and funding for the MIT Museum's move to Kendall Square; and sustaining CAST, following the end of the renewal grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. In addition, we need to recruit the next generation of philanthropists for the arts at MIT by strategically positioning the Council for the Arts at MIT to attract new members from a broader and younger pool of alumni and friends of MIT. The arts, in both the academic and extra-academic sectors that support them and the Institute at large, have never been stronger, and there is enormous potential to create a lasting foundation for them to flourish in future.

Philip S. Khoury
Associate Provost