Office of the President and the Chancellor

The annual reports that appear in this section are submitted by the heads of administrative departments and operations which report directly to the Office of the President and the Chancellor. The Council for the Arts at M.I.T. reports to the President through Professor Roy Lamson, Special Assistant to the President for the Arts. The Director of Information Processing Services reports directly to the Chancellor. The Institute Information Services and the M.I.T. Press report to Constantine B. Simonides, Vice President in the Office of the President and the Chancellor. The Director of the Plasma Fusion Center reports to the President.

Council for the Arts

The year 1976-77, the Council's fourth full operating year, was one of continuing development for the arts at M.I.T. A staff of five -- Professor Roy Lamson, Special Assistant to the President for the Arts; Peter Spackman, Executive Director; Susan Knight, Associate Director; Annette Anderson, Assistant Director; and Rebecca Burke, Secretary -- worked with Council members, faculty, and students to expand the range of artistic activities at the Institute, and with members of M.I.T.'s Resource Development staff to help realize arts related goals in the Institute's Leadership Campaign.

The Program and Information Committee, chaired by Dr. Leo Beranek, made 13 grants totaling $22,852 to a wide variety of programs in the arts at M.I.T. Grant recipients included the M.I.T. Symphony Orchestra for additional support of their recording project with Vox Records; the M.I.T. Shakespeare Ensemble for assistance in funding their East Coast tour in January; the Committee on the Visual Arts for funding the Peter Campus exhibit, Mask Projections; and the Dance Workshop for support of its yearly activities. Additional grants supported the Music Section's 1976-77 concert series; provided assistance for a set of performances of Paul Earls' chamber operas, Grimm Duo; provided for the purchase of a collection of renaissance and baroque musical instruments for M.I.T.'s Early Music Ensemble; provided matching support for a film-essay of sculptor Larry Bell's experiences at the Institute; and assisted in supporting the Hayden Gallery exhibition "Women in Architecture."

The Museum and Acquisitions Committee, under the chairmanship of Ida Rubin, continued to work closely with M.I.T.'s Committee on the Visual Arts. Of particular note during the year was the loan to M.I.T. of "The Iceberg and Its Shadow" by California sculptor Larry Bell. Vera List, a member of the Museum and Acquisitions Committee, arranged for the extended loan of this monumental work, which is part of the Albert and Vera List Family Collection. "The Iceberg" was shown in its entirety (56 plates of coated glass) in Hayden Gallery during January and February. Eight of the plates have been rearranged to form a smaller version of "The Iceberg," and the work remains on view in the lobby of the Sloan Building.

In September, a major work by the internationally celebrated British sculptor Henry Moore was installed in the Killian Court. The sculpture, entitled "Three Piece Reclining Figure,"
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Draped, "is a gift of the Eugene McDermott family of Dallas, Texas, for whom the Council’s Eugene McDermott Award for contributions to the arts at M.I.T. is named.

The Planning and Facilities Committee met during the year to review the Arts Environments Study and to make recommendations to the Council’s Executive Committee and to the President for its use. The Committee prepared a formal statement outlining a major plan of action for implementing portions of the Arts Environments Study, which was presented to the entire Council body at the annual meeting as a task to be undertaken within the context of M.I.T.’s ongoing Leadership Campaign.

The Financial Development Committee worked throughout the year to develop fund raising plans for the arts that are consistent with the plans and operations of M.I.T.’s Leadership Campaign. Within the framework of the larger campaign, the Committee set up a network of fund raising units in major cities throughout the United States to begin seeking both new gifts -- those gifts not normally attracted to M.I.T. -- and large gifts in the "Leadership Gift" category or above. At the end of fiscal year 1977, results began to accrue as the Council experienced a giving level nearly twice that of the previous year in terms of both dollars and number of donors.

Seven new members were nominated by the Membership Committee and were appointed to the Council for the Arts by President Jerome B. Wiesner for three-year terms. They are James A. Champy, Class of 1963, of Boston; Virginia Duncan of San Francisco; Ernest A. Grunsfeld III, Class of 1952, of Chicago; John O. Merrill, Jr., Class of 1949, of San Francisco; Agnes Saalfield of Boston; Cynthia Tobias, Class of 1972, of Boston; and William Turnbull, Jr., of San Francisco. Total Council membership at the end of the year was 78.

In addition to work done through the standing committees, the Council for the Arts continued publication of the monthly calendar of arts events at M.I.T. (circulation 1,000); jointly sponsored a tour of the East Coast by the M.I.T. Shakespeare Ensemble; and sponsored cultural events for M.I.T. alumni at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

During the January Independent Activities Period, the M.I.T. Shakespeare Ensemble toured the East Coast, performing The Taming of the Shrew for alumni groups in Hartford, northern New Jersey, Princeton, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, DC. The tour was cosponsored by the Council for the Arts and the Alumni Association with assistance from the Educational Council and alumni clubs in each community. In addition to the full-length performances for alumni clubs, four scene-shows were presented in local high schools for nearly 1,000 students who participated later in informal discussions with Ensemble members about student life and education at M.I.T. The Ensemble was received enthusiastically throughout the entire tour by both alumni and high-school teachers and students. As summed up by one high-school principal: "The experience [of the performance] has done much to bring Shakespeare alive for so many of our students, as well as to reveal a cultural and humanistic side of M.I.T. which, for many of us, has been in the shadow of its scientific excellence."

Cultural events sponsored by the Council for the Arts for alumni in Chicago and Los Angeles centered around the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration's official exhibition, "The World of Franklin and Jefferson." Designed by the Office of Charles and Ray Eames, the exhibition toured Europe and America for two years during the time of the United States Bicentennial celebrations. While on exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago in July and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in December, the Council arranged for private showings of the exhibition for M.I.T. alumni in each city. The two gala evenings, which attracted more than 300 alumni in Chicago and over 400 alumni in Los Angeles, included a speaking program in which President Wiesner and Mr. Eames discussed aspects of "Government and the Mind." Both events, well-received by local alumni, have helped to establish a model for cultural events which the Council hopes to repeat in future years in other cities.
A particular highlight of the Council's year was the fifth annual meeting, held on Friday, November 19. The annual business meeting was opened by Chairman Luis Ferré who announced to the group of 55 Council members the Executive Committee's formal recommendation that the Council for the Arts take a strong and active part in M.I.T.'s current Leadership Campaign to help realize the various arts related goals. Dr. Wiesner and Professor Walter Rosenblith spoke on the general needs of the arts in the areas of endowment and program funding, and Dr. Beranek and Professor Donlyn Lyndon presented an analysis of specific arts facilities needs, as outlined in the Arts Environments Study. The Council members discussed the Institute's needs and how the Council most effectively could join the efforts of the Leadership Campaign. Questions concerning the Campaign were answered by Nelson Lees, Director of Resource Planning, and Donald Severance, Director of the Volunteer Leadership Appeal. The business meeting concluded with a formal resolution that the Council for the Arts begin to work with the Leadership Campaign to further the objectives of arts at M.I.T. in the areas of endowment, programming, and facilities.

At lunch in the Sala de Puerto Rico in the Stratton Student Center, the Council met with faculty and students in the arts at M.I.T. and with Leadership Campaign District Officers. After lunch, the Council members heard a panel discussion presented by Harold Hanham, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science, William L. Porter, Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, and several of their colleagues concerning current programs in the arts and projected needs. Following the panel discussion, the Council gathered for the dedication of the Louis Skidmore Room for the Rotch Library's Visual Collection.

The Council's annual dinner at the President's House was the occasion for announcing the third Eugene McDermott Award, which carries with it a cash award of $1,000 and is presented by the Council annually "for major contributions to the arts as a means of human fulfillment." Council member Ida Rubin, chairman of the McDermott Award Committee, reported that the Committee had recommended unanimously and the Executive Committee approved that the 1976 recipient be Paul Tishman, Class of 1924, first Chairman of the Council for the Arts. Mr. Tishman received the Award in September while Mrs. Margaret McDermott was at M.I.T., however the Council, at this time, acknowledged once again his great contributions to the development of the arts at M.I.T. After dinner, the annual meeting concluded with remarks by David Rockefeller, Jr. who spoke on the topic of the arts and education.

The past year was a very full one for the Council staff and members, as well as for the many students and faculty engaged in the arts, a year in which we came a little bit closer to the ultimate goal of both enhancing the M.I.T. community as a whole, and helping to provide students with experiences in the arts that will complement the depth and insight of their experiences in science and engineering.

PETER SPACKMAN

Information Processing Services (I.P.S.)

In June 1977 the Information Processing Services completed its first year of operation as an integral unit, reorganized under functional lines, which encompass those responsibilities formerly shared by three departments, the Information Processing Center, the Office of Administrative Information Systems, and the Programming Development Office. There can be no doubt that this reorganization has resulted in better communication and closer