1983-84, the twelfth year of operation for the Council for the Arts at MIT, was a period of accomplishment and of continued financial stability. A major achievement was the completion of a five-year planning document, which provides a framework for our programs until 1988.

During this past year, Council activities focused on two areas: increased programming in the arts, with an emphasis on the performing arts; and more publications and information about the arts at MIT.

**ARTS PROGRAMMING**

The Grants Committee made 47 grants totalling over $63,000 to individuals and organizations associated with the Institute. The Council staff assisted grantees to raise an additional $118,000 of matching support in cash and $113,000 of in-kind contributions (an increase of 300 percent and 150 percent, respectively, over last year). The number of proposals submitted to the Grants Committee also increased from 56 to 75, an increase of 42 percent over last year. There was a similar increase in requests for technical assistance: over 20 faculty and students came to the Council staff each week for advice about fund-raising and assistance with proposal writing.

Last year, the staff encouraged more applications to the grants program from MIT individuals and organizations in the performing arts and literature. The response was so impressive that the number of proposals received in these disciplines doubled, as did the number of awards. Of special note was the Writing Program's "Women, Writing, and Society," a lecture and reading series by international poets and writers attended by standing-room-only crowds. Paul Earls, Fellow at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies, received support for his multi-media opera Icarus. It was heralded by critics in The Boston Globe, The New York Times, and The New Yorker.

Funding from the grants program enabled the New Orchestra of Boston, in residence at MIT, to make its public debut at Kresge Auditorium. Six additional grants supported music activities; five supported programs in the dramatic arts; and four grants were awarded for dance projects.

To allow more Council members and grantees to become better acquainted, the staff and Grants Committee Chairman Bradford Endicott planned "A Day with the Artists" on May 3rd. Council members and guests who attended were treated to a full day of site visits and demonstrations by students and faculty. The success of this exchange resulted in a unanimous recommendation to make this an annual event -- a "live annual report" from the Grants Committee.

For the fourth consecutive year, Council efforts and support ensured continued participation in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts university membership program. MIT students are entitled to free admission and other Museum privileges. The Museum staff recorded over 11,000 visits by MIT students during the academic year. The Council staff, assisted by two MIT students, planned a special evening of performances and tours at the Museum in April. "The Event" was coordinated with nine other colleges and universities in the Boston area. The Chorallaries of MIT and the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble gave performances, and Tau Beta Pi installed its musical sidewalk (a project originally funded by the Grants Committee).

The Council received two endowments this year -- the Abramowitz Lecture/Concert Fund and the Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts. The Abramowitz Fund, formerly administered by the Department of Humanities, was established in 1961 by William L. Abramowitz '36 as a memorial to his father. It will enable the Council to present one major artistic event each year for the benefit of the Institute and local community. The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts was established last year by Louis Sudler, a Chicago arts patron and performer. This award is for a graduating senior who has demonstrated the highest standards of proficiency in music, theatre, painting, sculpture, design, architecture, or film. The Council now administers five endowed funds. MIT, in total, has eleven endowed student art awards -- significantly more than most other universities in the country.

This year, the majority of our awards were made for excellence and participation in the performing arts. The McDermott Award was presented to professor and playwright Albert R. Gurney, Jr. for his contribution to the arts. A generous addition of $5000 to the endowment of the McDermott Award, given by Mrs. Margaret McDermott, enabled Professor Gurney to establish a student award in the dramatic arts. The MIT Student Drama Writing Award of $500 will be made annually for the next three years for the best one-act play written by an MIT student.

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards, established by Council members in 1979, are given annually to individuals and organizations which have contributed significantly to the MIT community.
through the arts. This year the awards of $500 each were presented to Film/Video graduate student Barry Strongin for service in the creative arts, and to the MIT Symphony Orchestra and the MIT Concert Band for their contributions to the musical life at MIT.

The first recipients of the Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize were Robert Rosinsky, a candidate in the M.S. Visual Studies program, and Bernd Kracke, a Fellow at MIT’s Center for Advanced Visual Studies. The awards recognized their concern for human values as reflected in the relationship between art and the environment. The Louis Sudler Prize was presented to William Glickman '84 for his outstanding accomplishments in drama, particularly with the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble.

After numerous annual meetings devoted to the visual arts and media technology, the Council’s Twelfth Annual Meeting featured the performing arts. The MIT Brass Ensemble heralded the opening session; the MIT Chorallaries entertained members at a luncheon reception at McCormick Hall; and the Meeting closed with dance music by the Intermission Trio, led by Council Secretary Roy Lamson. The most memorable performance was by Tony Award-winning actress Zoe Caldwell. For the 66 members and 64 guests who were in attendance, Ms. Caldwell’s address was unforgettable. For those unable to attend, her words were recorded and distributed on tape.

At the luncheon address, President Paul Gray spoke on the role of the arts in undergraduate education at MIT. "I believe that significant contributions to science and technology will come more often from men and women who are broadly cultured than from those who are narrowly specialized. We must ensure that our students have the humanistic viewpoint to appreciate a wide range of values in order to become responsible decision-makers and creative problem solvers in the modern world." He then challenged the membership to use the coming years "to enhance and encourage student experience in the arts."

Because previous annual meetings have been so tightly scheduled with Council business, awards, and presentations, this year we arranged a special reception and dinner on the evening before. Held at the MIT Museum, this gathering gave members and special guests an opportunity to talk informally, reminisce, and become better acquainted. It also provided an appropriate setting to honor Paul Tishman and Yulla Lipchitz, whose photographs were on display.

VISIBILITY

The Council staff made a special effort this year to ensure that information about the arts at MIT was more visible and readily available to alumni, students, prospective students, and the MIT community. Many of our activities resulted from recommendations made in the Grants Program Evaluation and Report, completed in the spring of 1983. Of the 19 recommendations for action, 16 were fully addressed this year—a accomplishment that far exceeded our expectations. These included specially-designed displays and banners, public presentations by the staff, mailings, and articles for publication. The staff also organized an Open House at the Council office in September to introduce students, staff and faculty to our programs and services.

Publications continued to be an important method of providing information about the arts at MIT. For instance, we printed and distributed 7000 grant program guidelines. We also completed the preliminary draft of the publication entitled Arts at MIT Today. To be published this summer, it is designed to serve incoming freshmen, educational counselors, and high school guidance counselors. Twenty-three thousand copies of MIT Arts in the News, a sampler of press clippings about MIT artists and arts activities, were distributed in the September 14 issue of Tech Talk. They were also used extensively by the Educational Council and the Alumni Association. This sampler has proven to be an effective way of providing the MIT community with an overview of the many arts activities at the Institute. The staff also published six issues of the arts calendar and newsletter which is distributed to a mailing list of 6500.

At the invitation of the editor of Connections, the quarterly magazine of the National Association of Local Arts Agencies, we contributed three articles which dealt with the Council generally, the grants program, and the Arts and Media Technology facility. The first two articles appeared in March and June; the third will be published in September.

As part of our effort to inform more alumni about the arts programs at the Institute, we held two salons in Riverside, Connecticut, and Chicago, Illinois. Both featured the performing arts. In December, members of the MIT Shakespeare Ensemble performed to an audience of alumni, friends, and special guest Zoe Caldwell at the home of Council member Ida Rubin. Members of the music faculty, John Buttrick and Marcus Thompson, performed a concert for a similar audience at the Fortnightly Club in Chicago in May. Our host was Council member Tony Grunsfeld.

DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

For the second consecutive year, the Council was able to raise 100 percent of its budget from Council members and friends by the close of the fiscal year on June 30. Our efforts were greatly enhanced by the
charm and perseverance of Gregory Smith, chairman of the Grants Committee. Sixty-four Council members provided direct support to the Council's operations, with an average gift of $2500. This support was supplemented by 57 gifts from friends of the Council at an average of $689.

The staff engaged in a major development effort this year to identify prospective donors and to expand the Council's base of support. Our first direct-mail solicitation, to 72 members of MIT's Baton Society (an honorary musical society active from the 1940's through the 1960's), was conducted this winter. To date we have received gifts from 15 new donors for a response rate of 20 percent, well above the average rate for this type of mailing. The solicitation also identified potential Council members and added to our mailing list. Additional mailings to alumni with known arts interests are in the planning stages, as are increased efforts to approach foundations and corporations for special project support.

We have continued to encourage direct sponsorship of MIT arts activities by Council members. This year Solomon Manber again sponsored the MIT student membership program at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Ragnar Naess made another generous gift to his endowed scholarship fund in the Music Section for training in music performance. Kenneth Gershman has graciously underwritten the cost of our forthcoming brochure, The Arts at MIT Today.

Our staff also provides assistance to faculty members and students who are seeking funds from foundations, corporations, and government agencies for art projects. This year, the Rollins Foundation supported a graduate fellowship in electro-optical arts -- the first graduate fellowship in the Media Laboratory. We also helped faculty and graduate students pursue, successfully, fellowship and project support. Our members and staff raised a total of $49,000 this year for non-Council arts activities.

Five endowed funds are now under the supervision of the Council for the Arts, bringing our total endowment to $275,000. As mentioned earlier, we gained two new endowments this year, plus a substantial addition to the principal of the McDermott Award Fund. A bequest from the late Walter Campbell, former Council member, was added to the principal of the Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Arts Awards at the request of Mr. Campbell's son. This will enable the awards to be increased to $1,000 each.

Council members again contributed numerous works of art to the collections maintained by the Committee on the Visual Arts. Gifts to the MIT Permanent Collection included the following: a Jennifer Bartlett enamel painting contributed by Albert and Vera List; and Josef Albers' Interaction of Color, a portfolio of 80 screenprints, contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Silverstein. Albert and Vera List also contributed 20 works on paper, including woodcuts, screenprints, and lithographs, to the List Student Loan Program. Mr. and Mrs. Alan M. May contributed three collages by Jiri Kolar to the Catherine N. Stratton Student Loan Collection.

Through the efforts of Jerome B. Wiesner, Nicholas Negroponte, Vernon R. Alden and Leo Beranek, another $3 million in gifts and pledges was raised this year for the Arts and Media Technology facility. Of the $27 million needed for the total project cost, almost $24 million has been raised to date. Approximately $7 million of this has come from Council members and through the efforts of Council and staff members.

MEMBERSHIP
Eight new members began their terms in July 1983. All but Andrew Silver (64 SB, 67 SM) were mentioned in last year's annual report. Two new members accepted membership terms beginning in July 1984 -- Louis Sudler and Zoe Caldwell Whitehead. The Council now has 93 members. Twenty-eight of these members (30 percent) are affiliated with the Institute solely through the Council for the Arts. Over the past two years, we have identified new members who demonstrate scholarship, creativity, and distinguished service in the performing arts. We hope to do the same in the next two years for the media arts and the design arts. With a stronger membership constituency than ever before, the Council is in an excellent position to serve the Institute in its efforts to integrate, encourage, and support the arts within the MIT curriculum and the Institute community.

PERSONNEL
Following the resignation of Stacia Zabusky, Alison Shafer joined the staff as our grants administrator. Three interns assisted us with publication coordination -- Rachel Keyser, Nancy Faulkner, and Patricia Onorato. Barbara Baker, a local arts consultant, coordinated our direct-mail efforts.

DEBORAH A. HOOVER