The Council for the Arts concluded its final year of independent operation in steadfast commitment to the principles by which it was founded in 1971: "to foster the arts at MIT ... to act as a catalyst for development of a broadly based, highly participatory program in the arts."

The selection of an Associate Provost for the Arts culminates a series of appointments and organizational reforms that signal the essential role of the arts within the comprehensive educational experience of MIT students. Council members will continue to participate actively as a support and advisory body to the Associate Provost and the new Office of the Arts. This office will administer those programs maintained by the Council, design and implement new initiatives, and coordinate information and publicity about creative arts activities on and off campus.

In addition to executing the programs and activities detailed below, Council staff was engaged for much of the year in preparing and facilitating this transition.

Grants Program

The Grants Committee, chaired by Bradford M. Endicott '49, received and evaluated 52 applications from students, student groups, staff and faculty, requesting a total of $97,820. Funding was recommended for 39 projects (75 percent of those submitted), with awards totalling $60,778 (62 percent of amount requested). Council staff reviewed 12 applications for Officer's Grants, awarding $2,266 for the 11 approved projects. A detailed report of Grants Program activity this year is available.

One noteworthy grant was awarded to Mark Harvey, Lecturer in Music, in support of a concert series, "Jazz Expansions: An East-West Interchange", featuring emerging jazz composers and ensembles from Boston, New York and Los Angeles. To supplement the Council grant, this project was selected to be the first recipient of an award from the Roy Lamson Memorial Fund for Music. This fund was established in 1986 in honor and tribute to the late Professor Roy Lamson, dear friend and counselor to the Council, and Special Assistant for the Arts to Presidents Jerome Wiesner and Paul Gray. Administered by the Grants Program, the fund supports ambitious music projects at MIT, particularly those in harmony with Professor Lamson's own enthusiasms.

Publications

Two issues of the Council's calendar/newsletter, The Arts at MIT, were produced and distributed to a mailing list of 9,000 alumni, faculty, staff, student groups, and other individuals. The bulletin was discontinued in January, after 15 years of publication, due to budget considerations and the anticipated coordination of arts publicity with the MIT News Office.

The "Arts Hotline", a weekly pre-recorded telephone announcement of all arts events at MIT, was maintained for its fifth year.
Endowed Prizes and Awards

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards were presented to Matthew McCarty '89 (Course XVI) for his achievements in theater, and to Robert Newman '89 (Course VIII) for distinction in photography. The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts was awarded to Kenneth Goodson '89 (Course II) for excellence in music performance.

William M. Siebert, Ford Professor of Engineering, served as the Chairman of the Student Art Awards Selection Committee for the second year. He was joined on the committee by Arthur Kaledin, Professor of History, Arthur Steinberg, Professor of Anthropology/Archaeology, and Katy Kline, Curator and Acting Director of the List Visual Arts Center.

Independent Activities Period

During IAP '89, the Council sponsored an expanded version of its popular program, "ART: A User's Guide", a series of field trips to Boston-area arts performances and exhibitions. A full subscription of 45 students (with a sizable waiting list) attended five events: a performance of Russian folk dance and music by the acclaimed Moiseyev Dance Company; a Boston Philharmonic concert of work by Mahler and Richard Strauss; a production of Athol Fugard's A Lesson from Aloes by the New Repertory Theater; and special tours of the Asian Art collection at the Museum of Fine Arts and the current exhibitions at the List Visual Arts Center.

An important feature of the program is to arrange an informal, yet insightful, discussion between student participants and arts professionals. Lowell Lindgren, Professor of Music, offered illuminating remarks on the concert program; Dana Friis-Hansen, Assistant Curator at the List Center, elucidated the Contemporary artworks on display; and students exchanged questions with cast members following the Fugard play.

William L. Abramowitz Memorial Concert

The William L. Abramowitz Memorial Concert endowment provides funds to present a major performing arts event at MIT every 12-18 months. This year, the Music and Theater Arts Section agreed to organize and produce the concert. On April 28, Tony Award-winning actress and Council member Zoe Caldwell Whitehead performed "Come A-Waltzing with Me", a one-woman evening of music and dramatic readings. The concert was greeted by a capacity audience in Kresge Auditorium, as it was well-promoted through extensive coverage in the Boston media.

Boston Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) Membership Program

The MFA's University Membership Program offers free admission and discount benefits to all MIT students; ten membership cards are also provided for the daily use of MIT staff members. Participation in the program this year was made possible by special contributions from Bradford M. Endicott '49 and Bernard G. Palitz '47. Council members have funded MIT's enrollment in the program since 1980.
Institute of Contemporary Art Membership

For the second year, MIT students may obtain free admission to all exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) in Boston. This institutional membership, administered by the Council staff, has been provided through the generous contribution of Dr. Ellen Poss, member of the ICA's board of trustees.

Development Activities

Contributions from Council members and donors provided funding for all operating expenses and program activities this year. Thirty-eight Council members offered contributions averaging $3,763 each, and 22 non-member donors bestowed an average of $2,213 each.

A decrease in staff positions resulted in a significant reduction of projected expenses for the year. Total revenue from contributions exceeded expenditures, enabling the Council to decline a contribution from general Institute funds that had been authorized by Provost Deutch in December 1987.

Membership

At the conclusion of the year, Council membership stands at 76. Two Council members passed away during the year: Elsa Sonnabend, former Associate Director, on February 17, and Robert Semple '32 on November 4. Five members, Mary Ann Beinecke, Kenneth Germeshausen '31, Nanette Laitman, Solomon Manber '48, and Alwin Nikolais, resigned from the Council. Of the 51 members whose terms expired this year, 48 were invited to renew their commitment.

No individuals were nominated to join the Council this year.

At an Executive Committee meeting in June, it was resolved that ex officio membership status will be extended to certain senior Institute officials beginning next year: President, Provost, Associate Provost for the Arts, Dean of the School of Architecture, and Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science.

Personnel

Helvi M. McClelland, Executive Director of the Council since September 1985, resigned her position on December 13 to relocate to Rochester, New York. Anne H. Britton served as Senior Staff Assistant from February - May.

MARK PALMGREN