

COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS AT MIT

Constitution

ARTICLE I

NAME

This group shall be called “The Council for the Arts at MIT.” It is referred to in this document as “the Council.”

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The Council, its members, its Chair and its Executive Committee serve at the pleasure of the President of MIT.

The Council is established for the purpose of helping to foster the arts at MIT, including the visual and literary arts, dance, music, theater, cinema, and photography, but not excluding other art forms. Its function is to act as a catalyst for development of a broadly based, highly participatory program in the arts, firmly founded on teaching, practice, and research at the Institute, and to conduct arts-related fundraising activities on behalf of MIT. In keeping with this purpose, the Council’s ultimate goal is the enhancement of arts within the MIT community, and the greater facilitation of communication between MIT and the national and global arts communities. The Council seeks to support MIT in providing its students, faculty, and staff with a collective experience in the arts that will match and complement the depth and insight of their experience in science and engineering.

The Council, an organization made up of volunteers, acts as an advisory body to MIT. It is the role of the Council to advise the President of MIT and the MIT Corporation on the disbursement of Council-related funds as well other arts-related funds donated to MIT. As directed by the President of MIT, the Council coordinates its activities with and seeks advice from the Associate Provost responsible for the arts. The Director of the Council reports to the Executive Director of Arts Initiatives, and serves as both administrator of the funds and coordinator of Council programs; the Director reports back to the Council on arts-related disbursements.

As directed by the MIT Treasurer’s Office, the Council may monitor the status of, and recommend disbursements from, arts-related endowments, including but not limited to, the Wiesner and Sudler Student Art Awards, the Schnitzer Prize, the Eugene McDermott Award, the Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize, and the Wiesner Student Art Gallery.

ARTICLE III

SYMBOL

The symbol of the Council is a logotype in red and blue in the design below:

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members of the Council shall be appointed by the President of MIT for a term of up to three years. Members shall be eligible for reappointment, but no member shall serve for more than three consecutive terms unless recommended to the Executive Committee by the Membership Committee. Terms shall be timed to coincide with the MIT fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

Section 2. The number of members shall not exceed 100, except that the Executive Committee (see Article V, Section 1 c), by a two-thirds vote of its full membership, may authorize additional members with the approval of the President of MIT.

Section 3. Members of the Council who have made extraordinary contributions to the enhancement of the arts at MIT may, upon their retirement from the Council, be appointed to life membership by the President of MIT upon recommendation by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Ex Officio members of the Council will include the following administrative officers of MIT: President, Provost, Chancellor, Executive Vice President and Treasurer, Associate Provost responsible for the arts, Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, and the Executive Director of Arts Initiatives.

Section 5. An annual meeting of members of the Council shall be held on a date and place to be designated by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Special meetings of members may be held upon call by the Associate Provost responsible for the arts, by the Executive Committee, or upon written request of ten members.

Section 7. Recent alumni such as recipients of arts awards shall be eligible to be appointed Associate Council Members with a term and under conditions determined by the Executive Committee. Associate Members shall be invited to Annual Meetings and other special events and receive Council publications and publicity.

Section 8. Expectations of Members. Members of the Council are expected to act as advocates and ambassadors for the arts at MIT, and to engage in outreach, which includes identifying potential Council members and acting as mentors to members of the MIT community. Members are encouraged to participate in one or more CAMIT committees and are expected to make an annual donation in an amount determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 9. Honorary Members. To further its goals and include and expand its community with arts patrons and luminaries, CAMIT may establish lifetime honorary members to the Council. There will be two categories of honorary members: individuals who have made significant contributions to the arts at MIT, and recipients of the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT. McDermott Award recipients will be invited to become honorary members, and if they accept, will be appointed by the MIT President. Other honorary members will also be appointed by the MIT President, after being selected and nominated by the Membership and Nominating Committee and approved by the Executive Committee, and their number will be limited to 20. All honorary members will serve without financial obligation to CAMIT.

ARTICLE V COUNCIL STRUCTURE

Section 1. Chair and Executive Committee

- a. The chief executive officer of the Council shall be the Chair, appointed by the President of MIT, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Council. He/She will also serve as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Council. The Chair shall be appointed for a three-year term, renewable once.
- b. The Vice-Chair of the Council shall also be appointed by the President of MIT, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Council, for a three-year term, renewable once.
- c. The Executive Committee of the Council shall be composed as follows: Chair, immediately prior Chair, Vice-Chair, Chairs of the Standing Committees of the Council (see Article V, Section 8), Council Treasurer, the Associate Provost responsible for the arts, the Executive Director of Arts Initiatives, the Director of the Council, and whomever the Committee wishes to invite.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall determine the annual budget of the Council and the programs and projects to be funded. The Executive Committee will apportion the annual budget to these programs and projects.

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held at such times as the Committee shall determine. Meetings may also be held on call from the Associate Provost responsible for the arts, the Chair of the Council, or on written request by three or more members of the Executive Committee. Notice of such meetings shall be sent by mail or email to each member of the Executive Committee at his/her residence or place of business at least seven days prior to the meeting, or given personally or by telephone at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting.

Section 4. A majority of the Executive Committee then in office shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. A record of the meetings of the Council and of the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be kept. A Secretary *pro tempore* may be chosen by the Executive Committee.

Section 6: Members of the Executive Committee will also assume the role of a development committee and be involved in fundraising efforts for the Council's annual budget and special projects.

Section 7: Between meetings of the membership, the Executive Committee is empowered to make decisions on behalf of the membership, with the exception of changes to the constitution.

Section 8: The Council's work shall be undertaken through its Standing Committees, the chairs of which should consult regularly with MIT arts staff, and may consult with professional experts appointed by the respective committee Chairs, and whose designations are as follows:

a. ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE This committee will plan and organize the Council's Annual Meeting on the date designated by the Executive Committee.

b. COUNCIL ARTS SCHOLARS SELECTION COMMITTEE This committee will meet with applicants to the Council for the Arts at MIT Arts Scholars Program, interview the applicants, then meet as a committee to choose the year's Arts Scholars. The Council for the Arts at MIT Arts Scholars Program is designed to create a community of future leaders in the arts among the undergraduate and graduate student communities of MIT: students who are committed to work in one or more disciplines in the arts, who wish for more interaction with fellow student and faculty artists, and for more exposure to the rich arts resources of the Cambridge area and beyond. The program is structured around informal dinners accompanied by presentations or excursions. Presentations may be given by faculty members, Council members, artists-in-residence, fellow students or artists.

c. GRANTS COMMITTEE This committee will review requests for funding that may be submitted by individuals or groups at MIT in accordance with guidelines of the Grants Program. Upon evaluation of these requests, the committee will recommend funding.

d. MEMBERSHIP and NOMINATING COMMITTEE This committee will develop membership policies and criteria for appointments to the Council. The committee will approve new members, propose committee members in consultation with Associate Provost, Executive Director of Arts Initiatives and Council director, and present the names to the Executive Committee.

e. EUGENE MCDERMOTT AWARD IN THE ARTS AT MIT COMMITTEE The Committee comprises Council Members as well as MIT faculty and staff with expertise in the arts. The Committee selects the recipient of this endowed prize from nominations submitted by an advisory group of international arts leaders and nominations from the Committee itself. The Award is bestowed upon individuals whose artistic trajectory and body of work indicate that they will achieve the highest distinction and become leaders in their fields. Awardees must participate in a campus residency, working with students, faculty, and staff within appropriate departments and disciplines. The goal of the residency is to connect with DLCs (departments, laboratories and research centers) throughout the Institute in ways that will be mutually enlightening.

f. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE This committee made up of Council Members and outside experts as needed, will work with the Executive Director of Arts Initiatives and the Office of the Arts staff to promote communication about Council activities.

g. STUDENT ART AWARDS COMMITTEE This committee, made up of local Council Members, selects the winners of the Sudler Prize and the Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards. Nominations are accepted from MIT faculty, staff, and students. Self-nomination is not allowed. The Sudler Prize and Wiesner Awards are presented at the annual Institute Awards Convocation.

The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts is presented annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence in composition, performance or execution in the fields of music, theater, painting, sculpture, design, architecture or film. The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards are presented annually to MIT students or groups for outstanding achievement in and/or contributions to the arts at MIT.

h. THE SCHNITZER PRIZE Winners of the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize(s) in the Visual Arts are chosen by a jury made up of Council Members, MIT faculty, staff, and previous Schnitzer Prize recipients. The first, second, and third prize-winners exhibit their work annually in the Wiesner Student Art Gallery in the late spring; the exhibition must be timed to coincide with Commencement. Honorable mentions may be awarded at the jury's discretion. The first-prize winner receives his or her award at the Institute Awards Convocation.

i. AD HOC COMMITTEES Other committees may be established for specific purposes by the Executive Committee.

Section 9. Members of the Council who serve on other MIT arts-related Committees or Boards are designated as Representatives.

a. LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER REPRESENTATIVE One CAMIT member who sits on the List Visual Arts Center Advisory Board will represent the LVAC on the Council Executive Committee. This representative will be chosen by the same process as that used to select committee chairs, but in consultation with the director of the LVAC.

b. MIT MUSEUM REPRESENTATIVE One CAMIT member who sits on the MIT Museum Advisory Board will represent the Museum on the Council Executive Committee. This representative will be chosen by the same process as that used to select committee chairs, but in consultation with the director of the MIT Museum.

Section 10. The Chairs of the Standing Committees and Representatives shall be appointed by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee in consultation with the Associate Provost responsible for the arts. A Standing Committee Chair may serve for a three-year term, renewable once. This proviso may be waived by the Chair and Vice-Chair in consultation with the Associate Provost responsible for the arts.

a. Committees are required to have Vice-Chairs. Vice-Chairs are chosen by the respective Committee Chairs, but must be approved by the Executive Committee. Vice-Chairs do not automatically succeed the current Standing Committee Chair.

Section 11. The members of the Standing Committees shall be chosen by the respective Committee Chairs in consultation with the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI RESIGNATIONS

While all members of the Council for the Arts and its Executive Committee serve at the pleasure of the President of MIT, any member of the Council may resign at any time by submitting a written resignation to the President.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended by Council Members as follows.

a. The Constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the members of the Council by a majority of the membership; members are also able to vote by designating a proxy or through a teleconference connection to the Annual Meeting.

b. Changes to the Constitution may be voted upon by mail or email provided that the amendment(s) are sent to all members of the Council at least fifteen days in advance of the vote.

Section 2. This Constitution and any amendments thereto shall become effective on approval of the President of MIT.

ARTICLE VIII RATIFICATION

The Constitution of the Council for the Arts at MIT was ratified by unanimous vote at the Seventeenth Annual Meeting on October 20, 1989. At the Nineteenth Annual Meeting on November 15, 1991, Article V, Sections 1a, 1b, and 7 (Terms of Office), and Article V, Sections 6a and 6d (Standing Committees) were amended by unanimous vote of the assembled members. At the Thirtieth Annual Meeting on October 25, 2002, Article V, Section 8 (Standing Committees) was amended and Section 8a added by unanimous vote of the assembled members. At the Thirty-Second Annual Meeting on October 29, 2004, Article 2 (Purpose), Article V (Council Structure) Section 1c, Section 6a, 6d, and 6e, Section 7, and Section 8 were amended by unanimous vote of the assembled members. On November 14, 2013, by majority vote of the membership, the following sections were amended: Article IV, Section 1 and Section 4; Section 9, Honorary Members, was added.

11/14/2013