

Council for the Arts

The highlights of fiscal year 2005 were the Council for the Arts at MIT's (CAMIT) excursion to Dallas, TX, in January and the presentation of the newly enhanced Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts to architect Santiago Calatrava in March. The council also provided \$25,000 to the Inauguration Committee for the installation of J. Meejin Yoon's *White Noise/White Light* on Kresge Oval, where it was on view during the entire week of activities celebrating Dr. Hockfield's inauguration in May. Professor Yoon had received CAMIT funding the previous year to build the prototype of this work in preparation for the Summer Olympic Games in Athens.

Council Standing Committees

Annual Meeting (Patricia Chute, chair). The 32nd Annual Meeting took place on October 28 and 29, 2004. The first day began with a visit to the Rinaldi Tile theater arts facility and continued with a tour of the List Visual Arts Center exhibition, a performance by Rambax, and a tour of the Stata Center. After a break, dinner was held at the St. Botolph Club in Boston's Back Bay, during which the Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize was presented (see "Special Programs," below). The second day began with the business meeting at the MIT Museum, followed by a "trade show" featuring a number of recent CAMIT grant recipients, a tour of Brad Endicott's photography exhibition at the Wiesner Gallery in the Stratton Student Center, and, finally, lunch at the Student Center. Patricia Chute resigned from the council a few months after the meeting; a new chair is currently being sought.

Arts Scholars Committee (Brit d'Arbeloff, chair). The day-to-day operation of the Arts Scholars Program is overseen by the coordinator of student programs in the Office of the Arts Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs. A committee made up of council members and MIT faculty meets once a year to discuss the program and review applications to it.

Communications Committee (Pepi Weis, chair). The Venice special edition of the council newsletter, "Council Currents," was published during the summer of 2004 and received praise from all quarters. The Dallas edition is currently being prepared for printing.

Development Committee. The council is still seeking a new chair for the Development Committee. A sum of \$343,185 was raised from 68 council members (an average gift of \$5,046 per donor), and \$23,368 from nonmember donors. CAMIT also received bequests of \$100,000 from Luis Ferré '24 and \$40,769 from Leo Beckwith '35. The grand total for FY2005, including the bequests, was \$507,322.

Grants Program Committee (Martin N. Rosen '62, chair). A total of \$99,801 was awarded in FY2005 in the form of 44 grants and 46 Director's Grants (under \$500). Highlights include support for a brief residency in the Music and Theater Arts Section by singer Sherrill Milnes, support for tours by two student groups (Gamelan Galak Tika to Bali and the Rambax drumming troupe to Senegal), and the purchase of two new kilns for the Student Art Association.

Membership Committee (Bernard G. Palitz '47, chair). As of this writing (July 15, 2005), council membership stands at 107, with six ex officio members and 101 regular members.

The following new members have joined the council since our last Report to the President: Carolyn Ain, Carol Choi '98, Richard Nordloff '55, Federica Olivares, Jane Pappalardo, and Ed Roos '44. The following council members have resigned: John Paul Isaacson '69, Dorothy and Leroy Lavine, Robert Millard '73, Stuart Uram '54, and Reggie Van Lee '79. Since last year's report, council members Leo Beckwith '35 and Edward Cohen '50 passed away.

Special Events Committee. In January approximately 50 council members attended a wonderful excursion to Dallas (the location of the council's first excursion in April 1994). The trip was planned primarily by CAMIT members Bill Booziotis '60 and Margaret Anne Cullum, who, along with member Andrea Nasher and long-time MIT benefactor Margaret McDermott, acted as our hosts. The events began on the afternoon of Thursday, January 13, and concluded with lunch on Sunday, January 16. The attendees visited many splendid private collections housed in architectural masterpieces, including the homes of Mrs. McDermott, the Rachofskys, the Roses, the Hoffmans, Anne Bass, and Caren Prothro. Council members also visited the Nasher Sculpture Center, the Amon Carter Museum, the Kimbell Art Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Crow Collection, the Frank Lloyd Wright–designed Dallas Theater Center, and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, and attended a concert at the I. M. Pei–designed Meyerson Symphony Center.



Members of the Council for the Arts at MIT who made a January 2005 excursion to Dallas, pictured at the home of Margaret McDermott. Photo by Ed Roo '44.

Affiliated Committees

List Visual Arts Center Advisory Board (Jennifer Frutchy, chair). The List Visual Arts Center continues to provide the MIT community and the entire Boston area with the highest caliber contemporary art exhibitions. The List staff also oversees the Percent-for-Art Program, in which a percentage of the budget for any new building or renovation on campus is put towards the purchase or commission of a work of art.

MIT Museum Advisory Board (David Ellis, chair). Long-time committee chair Harvey Steinberg '54 stepped down this year. He is succeeded by David Ellis, former director of Boston's Museum of Science. The museum also welcomed a new director, John Durant, from the At-Bristol science center.

Special Programs

The Council for the Arts is still providing an annual allocation of \$7,500 to the Artists Behind the Desk Program (ABD), led by a group of MIT staff who organize concerts, readings, performances, and a visual arts exhibition by staff members. Barbara Hughey '89 serves as the council's representative at ABD meetings.

Since 1980, the council has underwritten MIT's enrollment in the University Membership Program offered by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. This program provides free admission and discount benefits to all MIT undergraduate and graduate students, as well as 10 day passes for use by MIT faculty and staff.

The council also sponsors a student membership program with the Photographic Resource Center (PRC) at Boston University. The PRC provides a range of programs, including exhibitions by national and international photographers and educational programs. MIT undergraduates and graduate students have unlimited free access to the PRC galleries and library and member discounts on admission to lectures, workshops, and other special events. They are also able to enter their work into the juried Members' Exhibition.

The free-ticket program with the Boston Symphony Orchestra continued this year. With their student ID, MIT students can obtain free admittance to some 24 concerts per year. Similar programs have been established with other Boston-area orchestras, such as the contemporary music ensembles Collage New Music and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project.

The successful Student Performing Arts Excursions Series continued, with students attending such events as the Nora Theater's production of *Antigone*; world music performances by Rokia Traore, Orchestra Baobab, and Ashley MacIsaac; a performance by the Bill T. Jones dance troupe; presentations of the American Repertory Theater's *The Provok'd Wife*, Boston Baroque's *Julius Caesar*, and Boston Ballet's *La Sylphide*; and a concert by jazz musician Kenny Werner.

The Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize was presented at the Annual Meeting dinner at the St. Botolph Club to Krzysztof Wodiczko, director of the Center for Advanced Visual Studies. The presentation was made by Professor Kepes's daughter, Juliet Stone.

The Eugene McDermott Award was presented to architect, engineer, and artist Santiago Calatrava at a special dinner event on March 10, 2005, at the Hotel@MIT in Cambridge. In FY2004, the award endowment received an additional \$1 million from Mrs. Eugene McDermott, making it possible for the committee to award a \$70,000 prize to an artist of the highest caliber. Coordinated with a residency, the award was preceded by a lecture by Mr. Calatrava on March 8 and several classroom visits and meetings with students. The council was thrilled and honored to have Margaret McDermott on campus for that week, as she had not been to MIT for at least a decade.



MIT President Susan Hockfield, benefactor Margaret McDermott, and architect/artist/engineer Santiago Calatrava at Council for the Arts at MIT gala to present the 2005 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts to Mr. Calatrava, March 10, 2005. Photo by Suzanne Camarata.

At the Institute Awards Convocation on May 10, associate provost for the arts Alan Brody presented the Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards to Maria Kamentska '05 for theater, Cecilia Ramos '05 for painting, and Payal Kadakia '05 for dance and arts administration. The Louis Sudler Prize was presented to Daniel Stein '05 for his accomplishments in music. Each award winner received \$1,250.

The first-prize winner of the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize, now overseen by CAMIT, was graduate student in Architecture Luis Rafael Berrios-Negron. Second prize went to graduate student Andrew Brooks, third to Cecilia Ramos '05, and an honorable mention was awarded to Barry Kudrowitz, a graduate student. Because Berrios-Negron's work was not ready to be exhibited in the spring, the Schnitzer exhibition featured the works of the second- and third-prize winners and the honorable mention. The first-prize winner will have a solo exhibition in September 2005.

The council also serves as the administrator of the Wiesner Student Art Gallery in the Stratton Student Center. New lighting fixtures were installed, and the gallery display cases were upgraded this year.

Susan R. Cohen
Director

More information about the Council for the Arts can be found online at <http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/office/council/index.html>.