

Office of Arts Development

The director of arts development in the Office of the Arts manages all development activities of the associate provost for the arts, maintains a portfolio of 108 arts prospects, and functions as liaison between the Office of the Arts and the offices of Leadership Giving, Foundation Relations and Academic Development Support, Corporate Relations, and the Treasurer.

Goals and Progress

The two principal goals of the Office of Arts Development are to seek support from individuals, corporations, foundations, and government sources for arts programs and activities at MIT and to coordinate arts development activities within the Institute. Arts initiatives in need of funding include the Laboratory for the Performing Arts; full and career-development professorships; directorships, curatorships, and education coordinators in the List Visual Arts Center and the MIT Museum; and additional endowment for the Artists-in-Residence Program, fine art conservation, the List Foundation Fellowship Program, the Advanced Music Performance Program, and world music. Recent additions to these priorities include the Catalyst Collaborative and the Student Art Association (SAA).

The highest priority of the Office of Arts Development remains the Laboratory for the Performing Arts. During FY2005, based on the assumption that nearly all activities slated to take place in the Laboratory will be curricular, the Office of the Arts gained an ally in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS). In order to identify new prospects and further cultivate known individuals, a “mini-campus visit” was staged in March 2004, during which prospective donors were offered an opportunity to experience the excellence of faculty and students in the Music and Theater Arts section. The event was sufficiently successful that another was scheduled for fall 2005. Gifts and pledge payments designated to the Laboratory for the Performing Arts amounted to over \$700,000 in FY2005.

Collaborations

The Office of Arts Development continues to maintain close ties with the Office of Leadership Giving and the Office of Foundation Relations and Academic Development Support, in addition to its ongoing collaborations with the Rosalind Denny Lewis Music Library, the Council for the Arts at MIT, the MIT Museum, the List Visual Arts Center, and other programs within the Office of the Arts, including the SAA. In addition, collaboration with SHASS on fund raising for the Laboratory for the Performing Arts increased significantly.

During FY2005, the Catalyst Collaborative at MIT—involving Alan Brody, associate provost for the arts at MIT; Jon Lipsky, stage director and former playwright-in-residence at the Museum of Science; Debra Wise, artistic director of the Underground Railway Theater (URT); and Alan Lightman, MIT physicist and writer—became a higher priority within the Office of Arts Development. The goal of the Catalyst Collaborative is to develop new and significant plays that incorporate science and technology, as well

as the scientists themselves, into their themes in order to make these subjects more accessible to the public and provide a better understanding of the increasingly scientific and technological environment in which we live. Strategic planning for fund raising, with the participation of the individuals listed above plus David Gordon in MIT's Office of Foundation Relations and Academic Development Support, managing director of the URT Catherine Carr Kelly, and the director of arts development, began in FY2004 and is ongoing.

Selected Accomplishments

The associate provost for the arts participated in 51 individual development meetings in FY2005, down from 64 in FY2004. The decrease was due in large part to the greater emphasis placed on high-level prospects for the Laboratory for the Performing Arts. The director of arts development and the associate provost for the arts also participated in five significant cultivation events, including the Council for the Arts annual meeting, the biennial meeting of the Music and Theater Arts Visiting Committee, the combined MIT Gamelan Galak Tika concert and Kitty Carlisle Hart reception in New York, the Council for the Arts excursion to Dallas, TX, and the Laboratory for the Performing Arts "mini-campus visit."

Following the death of David M. Epstein, conductor of the MIT Symphony Orchestra (MITSO) from 1965 to 1998, his widow Anne Epstein has donated to the Rosalind Denny Lewis Music Library over 1,000 scores and books along with hundreds of reel-to-reel tape recordings of MITSO performances conducted by her late husband. These materials were in serious need of reformatting, cataloging, and binding. A collaborative effort between the MIT Libraries, recording secretary Bonny Kellermann (a former member of MITSO), and the Office of Arts Development raised \$54,553, the total necessary to complete this project.

After a record total of \$3,577,749 given to the arts at MIT in FY2004, FY2005's total of \$3,084,322 appears to indicate somewhat diminished success until one takes into account that \$1 million of the FY2004 sum was given by Margaret McDermott to enhance the Eugene McDermott Award. Subtracting that one-time gift, the amount raised in FY2005 represents an increase of \$506,573, or 20 percent, over FY2004.

Glenn Billingsley
Director