

Council for the Arts

The council's fundraising figures were on the rebound from last year and we raised sufficient funds to cover our expenditures with a modest surplus. The funding, programs, and allocations of the Council for the Arts at MIT (CAMIT), especially the grants program, are crucial to the continuation of MIT arts programming as budgets are cut across the board (for what we hope is the last time, at least for the immediate future) in all areas of the Institute.

April 2010 was one of our busiest months on record with a spectacular McDermott Award event followed immediately by the exciting council excursion to Chicago, which was the most well attended of any trip to date with a total of 54 guests.

This year also marked longtime staff member Magda Fernandez's resignation from her post as assistant to the director. Having left us in mid-July, she is already sorely missed.

In other staffing changes, as of February 2010, the director of the Council for the Arts reports directly to Leila Kinney, the director of Arts Initiatives.

Council Standing and Prize Committees

Annual Meeting Committee (Ann Allen, Chair)

The 37th annual meeting took place on Thursday and Friday, October 29 and 30, 2009. The meeting was attended by 45 council members, along with approximately 60 guests and MIT faculty and staff.

In attendance were Ann Allen, Karen Arenson '70, Leo Beranek, Ellen Berman, Anne Blomstrom, Bruce Blomstrom '59, Claude Brenner '47, Marilyn Breslow, Rhea Graffman Cohen, Brit d'Arbeloff '61, Anna Lo Davol, Eran Egozy '95, Deborah Fitzgerald, Paul Gluck '68, Rosanne Goldstein, Sherwin Greenblatt '62, Ernest Grunfeld '52, Barbara Hughey '89, Marjory Jacobson, June Judson, Karen Kaufman, John Kern '50, Philip Khoury, Marian Marill, Lore Harp McGovern, Colleen Messing, Juan Meyer '68, Andrea Nasher, Philip Palmedo '61, Jane Pappalardo, Susan Poduska, Darryl Pomicter '68, Martin Rosen '62, Sara-Ann Sanders, Toby Sanders '90, Adele Santos, Andrew Silver '64, Mike Speciner '68, Kay Stratton, Glenn Strehle '58, Al Weis '48, Pepi Weis, Peter Wender '71, and Toni Wyman.

The annual meeting dinner was held at the Elephant Walk restaurant, at which professor Donald Sadoway was the speaker. He was extremely engaging and entertaining and spoke on the topic "Towards an Integrated Analytical Education: Arts and Engineering."

Other highlights of the meeting were visits on Thursday afternoon to a variety of music and theater arts classes and a reading (by council members) of a number of short plays written by Patrick Wang '98.

Friday morning's business meeting was greatly enlivened by a brief performance by the Radius Ensemble, featuring council member Eran Egozy '95. Lunch was held at the

Faculty Club, and Cynthia Breazeal of the Media Lab’s Center for Future Storytelling was the speaker.

Development Committee (Anne Street ’69, Chair)

In FY2010, CAMIT raised \$368,192 from 69 of its members and \$11,385 from 29 nonmembers, for a grand total of \$379,577. The FY2010 budget was \$388,000. Actual expenditures totaled \$369,040; an additional \$30,000 from the CAMIT surplus fund was allocated to the List Visual Arts Center (LVAC) to support conservation of the permanent collection. These special allocations will continue until 2013.

Grants Committee (Martin N. Rosen ’62, Chair)

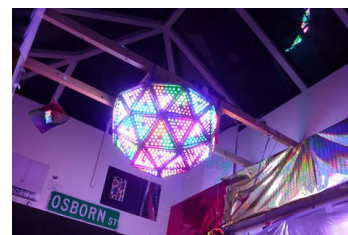
The CAMIT Grants Committee awarded 50 grants totaling \$90,661 and 46 director’s grants totaling \$9,775 to such projects as “Deltoidal Hexecontahedron,” created by David Greenberg ’11; the MIT Live Music Connection, an organization that promotes and supports live performances on campus by bands such as Guitar Knives and Supa Dupa; and Matthew Mazzotta’s “Spark Park” project, which uses animal waste to power lights and a tea stand at a Cambridge park.

The Grants Committee is open to all CAMIT members who wish to serve. All CAMIT members are invited to each of the three annual meetings. By doing this, we make sure that every individual has the opportunity to serve on the council’s most active committee.

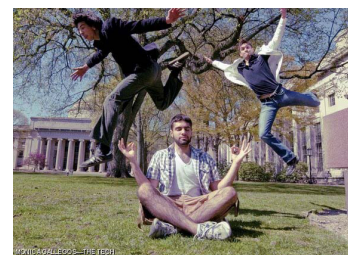
The grants online application page continues to be improved; in the future, CAMIT members will be able to discuss grant proposals with each other prior to the committee meeting. There are also discussions occurring about the shift of the director’s grant category away from being solely the responsibility of the director. Rather, a virtual grants committee will make decisions on this grant category remotely.

Membership Committee (Marilyn Breslow, Chair)

Bernard Palitz stepped down as chair last year after many years of invaluable service to the council; Marilyn Breslow has been chair since that time. Membership currently stands at 98, including six ex officio members. Since last year’s report, Julian Iragorri ’90 (nominated by Karen Arenson ’70) and Wendy Kistler (nominated by Brit d’Arbeloff ’61) have joined the council.



“Deltoidal Hexecontahedron,” created by David Greenberg ’11. (Photo by David Greenberg)



Guitar Knives. (Photo by Monica Gallegos)



Supa Dupa.



Matthew Mazzotta’s “Spark Park” project. (Image by Matthew Mazzotta)

Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts Committee (Peter Wender '71, Chair)

2010 was a banner year for the McDermott Award, with the choice of winner (Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel), format of presentation, and residency programming coming together as a perfect storm of positive energy, publicity, and exciting and relevant engagement for all. Thanks to the director of Arts Initiatives, the program was an enormous success. Having Dudamel on campus mere months after taking the helm of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and at the apex of "Dudamania," was a wonderful opportunity for the arts at MIT to be highlighted to numerous constituencies on campus as well as locally and nationally.

The gala McDermott Award dinner was the spectacular closing event, with representative leaders from every important Boston-area music organization in attendance, in addition to members of the council, the upper administration of MIT, MIT music faculty, and some of MIT's most generous benefactors. Topping the guest list was Margaret McDermott herself, who, at 98 years of age, shows no indication of slowing down. This gala surpassed any previous dinners, and will now be a standard to which future events will be compared.

Student Art Awards Committee (Claude Brenner '47, Chair)

This year, for the first time, CAMIT presented trophies as part of the prize package for arts awards. At the Institute Awards Convocation on May 4, 2010, provost Rafael Reif presented the Louis Sudler Prize to graduating senior Daniel Perez for his work in theater. In his time at MIT, Dan served as a lighting, sound, and set designer and supported student and faculty productions. Three Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Awards were presented this year to Balaji Mani '10 for his musical talents, David Greenberg '11 for his amazing electronic sculptures, and graduate student Jess Wheelock for her witty and whimsical work as a performance artist.



At the McDermott Award gala dinner on April 17, 2010, McDermott Award recipient Gustavo Dudamel chats with Margaret McDermott as MIT president Susan Hockfield looks on. (Photo by L. Barry Hetherington)



Daniel Perez '10 receives the Louis Sudler Prize from provost Rafael Reif. (Photo by Justin Knight)



Balaji Mani '10 receives a 2010 Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Award from provost Rafael Reif. (Photo by Justin Knight)



David Greenberg '11 receives a 2010 Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Award from provost Rafael Reif. (Photo by Justin Knight)



The new trophy presented as part of the prize package for the CAMIT student arts awards. (Photo by Justin Knight)

**Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts Committee
(Peter Athens '52, Chair)**

This year's Schnitzer Prize jury, which met on April 6, 2010, consisted of Peter Athens, Sam Magee, Wendy Kistler, Colleen Messing, Magda Fernandez, and Susan Cohen. First-prize winner was Richard The, a graduate student in the Media Lab. Second place went to Jaekyung Jung, a graduate student in the Program in Art, Culture and Technology; Sam Kronick '10 was the third-prize winner.



Provost Rafael Reif presents the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts to graduate student Richard The. (Photo by Justin Knight).



Appeel, by Richard The, is a virus spreading through interacting individuals. It demonstrates the basic principles of interactivity largely reliant on people's behavior. A surface is covered by a large number of colored stickers, positioned in a grid. People can remove stickers, leaving white spots in the layout, thereby individually and collectively changing the wall's appearance. These stickers then take on a life of their own as they spread, extending beyond the installation itself, infiltrating private space, and merging the boundaries of public and private space. (Photo by Magda Fernandez)



A six-screen video piece by graduate student Jaekyung Jung in which he listens to comedy programs in six different languages. (Photo by Magda Fernandez)



Sam Kronick's intervention/installation, The Microdot, took the form of a temporary autonomous "micro-nation" bounded by a circular artificial lawn and contained within a tent and traffic cones. In addition, Sam installed two inflatable plastic columns in the "ironic" style. (Photo by Magda Fernandez)

Special Programs

Gyorgy Kepes Fellowship Prize

The 2010 recipient of the Kepes Prize was Joan Jonas, pioneering performance artist and MIT faculty member. The award was presented in the new Media Lab on April 15 (at the official launch of the Program in Art, Culture and Technology—a merger of the Visual Arts Program and the Center for Advanced Visual Studies) by Juliet Kepes Stone, following a performance by Joan in the "Cube." In addition to the \$2,500 check, Joan was presented with an etched-glass bowl created by Peter Houk at the MIT Glass Lab.

Catherine Stratton Medal in the Arts

CAMIT awarded the third Catherine Stratton Medal in the Arts to Bernard G. Palitz '47, in recognition of his long membership on the council and his lengthy service as chair of the Membership Committee. The medal was presented by Deborah Fitzgerald, dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, on June 2 at the Harmonie Club in New York City.

Chicago Excursion

The council's excursion to Chicago took place from April 20 to 24, 2010. Attending were Ann Allen and Bill Macurdy, Karen and Greg Arenson, Peter Athens and Maxa Berid, Irving and Irene Barr, Ellen Berman, Mary Jane Bezark, Anne and Bruce Blomstrom, Bill and Jean Booziotis, Claude Brenner and Anne Lowell, Phil Clay, Rhea Graffman Cohen, Susan Cohen, Margaret Anne Cullum, Brit d'Arbeloff, Jane Farver, Barbara Feldman, Deborah Fitzgerald, Rosanne Goldstein, Chuck and Donna Hieken, John and Anne Kern, Philip Khoury, Leila Kinney, Wendy Kistler, Michael and Sonja Koerner, Christine and Pierre Lamond, Lore McGovern, Colleen Messing and her daughter Lauren, Jeff



*CAMIT members reflected in Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate in Millennium Park, Chicago.
(Photo by Brit d'Arbeloff)*

Newton, Jane Pappalardo, Sara-Ann and Bob Sanders, Adele Santos, Terry and Rick Stone, Glenn and Kathie Strehle, Al and Pepi Weis, Peter Wender, and Marty and Danielle Zimmerman.

With the help of our hosts, Chicago-area council members, we enjoyed a whirlwind excursion that included visits to private art collections, a trip to Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House, tours of the Art Institute and the Museum of Contemporary Art, a visit to the office of Adrian Smith and Gordon Gill (the architects of the tallest building in the world, in Dubai), a tour of Chicago's architecture, an outing to the symphony, and, best of all, visits to John and Anne Kern's and Marty and Danielle Zimmerman's homes. Another CAMIT member, Mary Jane Bezark, was our host for a luncheon at the Arts Club of Chicago.

Special Funding

The council commissioned a composition for MIT's 150th celebration in 2011. Five MIT composers will write a movement of a musical composition to be performed at the 150th convocation at the Boston Convention Center on April 10, 2011.

Also, CAMIT granted the Catalyst Collaborative at MIT (CC@MIT) \$5,000 to be used for marketing efforts. CC@MIT used the funds for radio advertisements.

Annual Allocations

The council continues to provide annual allocations of \$30,000 to both the MIT Museum and the List Visual Arts Center, to be expended at the discretion of the directors of those institutions. Also, the council has pledged to provide an additional \$30,000 per year until FY2013 to the List Center to support its conservation efforts related to the public

collection of sculpture. It is the hope of LVAC and CAMIT that a \$1 million endowment fund can be raised to support conservation in the future.

The council also provides an annual allocation of \$7,500 to the Artists Beyond the Desk Program, which organizes concerts, readings, performances, and a visual arts exhibition by staff members.

The council allocates \$20,000 to Student and Artist-in-Residence Programs, \$12,500 to Arts Communications, and \$20,000 to the Student Art Association. In FY2010, CAMIT allocated \$15,000 to the Center for Advanced Visual Studies (CAVS) for general operating support. Since CAVS merged with the Visual Arts Program this year, the allocation is awarded to the new Program in Art, Culture and Technology.

Ticket/Membership Programs

Since 1980, the council has underwritten MIT's enrollment in the University Membership Program offered by Boston's 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.

In FY2010, a new program was established with the American Repertory Theater (ART) in which the council subsidized 50% of the ART Student Pass purchase price for MIT students. This means that MIT students paid only \$30 for the six-ticket season package. The program was very successful, with over 150 students taking advantage. A similar program has been arranged for FY2011 with the Central Square Theater.

The Boston Institute of Contemporary Art membership was renewed, and all MIT students, staff, and faculty can gain free admission with their MIT IDs.

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

The council underwrites MIT's institutional membership at the Harvard Art Museums, allowing all MIT graduate and undergraduate students free admission. Although the building that houses the Fogg and Busch-Reisinger museums is closed for renovations until 2013, the Arthur M. Sackler Museum remains open and has been reinstalled with some of the finest works representing the collections of all three museums.

The free-ticket program with the Boston Symphony Orchestra (underwritten by the council) continued this year. MIT students can obtain, with their student ID, free admittance to an average of 24 concerts per year. The council also provided 20 free tickets for MIT students to three of the four concerts of the Boston Chamber Music Society's season. Similar arrangements provide 25 tickets to four of the Boston Modern

Orchestra Project's concerts at Jordan Hall, along with 15 tickets to three of its Club Café concerts.

The successful Student Performing Arts Excursions Series continued. A total of \$13,897 was spent on tickets to numerous performances including *Fences* at the Huntington Theater, directed by 1996 McDermott Award winner Kenny Leon; a performance by MIT Martin Luther King Jr. visiting scholar and jazz musician Donal Fox at the Regattabar; the Alloy Orchestra's live accompaniment to the silent film *Man with a Movie Camera* at the Somerville Theater; and MIT alumna Gioia DeCari's play *Truth Values* at the Central Square Theater.

Susan Cohen
Director

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