

Proposal to Create a School of the Arts

College of Arts & Humanities

Draft for Circulation • February 11, 2020

OVERVIEW

REFERENDUM QUESTION

Shall the College of Arts & Humanities recommend to the President and Provost that the University establish a School of the Arts, to be housed administratively in the College and led by a Director, for the purpose of promoting the Arts at CSU Dominguez Hills through improved instruction, collaboration, marketing, and community engagement?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **School of the Arts** will be an inclusive administrative unit within the College of Arts & Humanities serving to coordinate the efforts of art programs within the College. The **Mission** will be to provide students with a first-in-class experience, based on that **Rationale** that the Arts are a vital component of the regional economy and the Culture of Dominguez Hills. The School of the Arts will have an **inclusive scope** encompassing all arts programs in the College and serving as a hub to unify activities around marketing, oversight of staff, student recruitment and success, fundraising, equipment and capital purchases, and oversight of dedicated art spaces. **The Arts Council**, comprised of faculty and staff representatives, will work closely with the **Director** to promote artistic excellence.

As such, the **School of the Arts** will support the Arts at DH by:

- Coordinating resources and activities
- Advancing student success through academic excellence
- Promoting increased fundraising and external support
- Increasing visibility and community awareness
- Unifying branding and marketing efforts

AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hal Weary, *Music (Committee Chair)*

Doris Ressler, *Dance*

Carin Jacobs, *Theatre*

John Vanderhoef, *Communications*

Mary Lacanlale, *Asian Pacific Studies*

Kathleen Janert, *Music*

Aandrea Stang, *Art & Design (Gallery)*

Robert Jones, *Philosophy*

Glenn Bach, *DMA & Student Success Center*

Shaunté Caraballo, *Theatre/Speech*

Tim Caron, *Associate Dean*

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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I. MISSION – What is the mission of the School of the Arts?

The mission of the School of the Arts at CSUDH is to provide its exceptionally diverse student population innovative instruction within the Arts by focusing on artistic excellence, community engagement, entrepreneurship, innovation, and social justice through multidisciplinary collaboration across the university. As a vital educational, artistic, and cultural incubator for the South Bay and beyond, The School of the Arts at CSU Dominguez Hills plays an essential role in the cultural and creative development of its students and communities.

II. RATIONALE – Why is a School of the Arts necessary?

- A School of the Arts will put CSUDH students at the forefront of a robust creative economy and equitably represent our students' unique voices while promoting social justice through the arts.
- The creation of a School of the Arts will positively impact the success of the talented CSUDH students in the performing and visual arts by preparing them to be at the forefront of an increasingly culturally diverse and inclusive arts and entertainment industry. Our students strive for prestige, artistic excellence, and a first-in-class experience that will be furthered by cultivating and celebrating a climate of the Arts through focused School of the Arts branding on our campus.
- A School of the Arts will benefit CSUDH students by providing a stronger infrastructure supporting multiple departments, increased community engagement, opportunities for students to connect with industry professionals, and facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration across courses, projects, and performances.
- In addition to its positive impact on students, creating a School of the Arts within the College of Arts and Humanities will send a collective message to the campus about the need for funding, resources, and space. It will also consolidate requests for resources and assist in acquiring additional revenue to meet the needs of the Arts at CSUDH by providing students, faculty, and departments with a distinct and recognizable identity.

III. SCOPE—What academic programs fall under the administrative scope of the School of the Arts?

The School of the Arts is designed to be inclusive, not exclusive. As such, the School of the Arts serves as a hub to advance the arts at Dominguez Hills. The intent is for the School of the Arts to be both a clearinghouse for existing activities and a center for advancing an artistic vision built on collaborative initiatives. This encompasses the following academic programs, specialized spaces, and centers, broadly construed:

Studio and Fine Arts

Design (Graphic, UIX, and similar)

Dance

Theatre

Time-based Media (i.e., Film, Television, and Gaming)

Music

Art History (including Museum Studies and Gallery Practices)

Audio Engineering

IV. RESOURCES—What does the School of the Arts oversee and coordinate?

Resources and processes that *fall* within the scope of the School of the Arts include:

- Art-related external boards and advisory committees
- Common branding through shared publicity and calendars
- Coordinated fundraising efforts, including advancing both individual and collaborative submissions
- Collaborative initiatives across the College
- Student recruitment efforts
- Student-centered extracurricular activities, such as travel, festivals, and competitions
- Shared student advising, internship placements, and career placement activities
- Funding and coordination for capital purchases
- Oversight and coordination of specialized & dedicated spaces, including classrooms, labs, and studios (i.e., safety and maintenance procedures)
- Oversight of staff dedicated to the above
- Representation on the Campus Art Committee

Resources and process that *do not fall* within the purview of the School of the Arts include those functions that belong solely to departments or to the Dean's Office, such as:

- Faculty searches, hiring, and RTP
- Curriculum
- Reassigned time for creative activities and scholarship
- Office assignments, travel, department OEE, oversight of department ASC staff

V. THE DIRECTOR – What are the roles, requirements, and responsibilities of the Director?

The School of the Arts is led administratively by the Director (an MPP at a rank equivalent to Associate Dean). The Director reports to the Dean of A&H. While the Dean remains ultimately responsible for the operation of the School of the Arts, it is understood that the Dean will delegate some of this authority to the Director. Primary duties of the Director include:

- Working effectively with various constituencies across campus, including other divisions and colleges, by demonstrating outstanding interpersonal communications skills
- Promoting a commitment to excellence among the various art disciplines within the School, while fostering cross-disciplinary endeavors
- Demonstrating a commitment to shared governance through engaging arts faculty in strategic planning and decision-making
- Coordinating the incorporation of advanced technology and capital purchases
- Promoting and marketing the School regionally and nationally
- Providing financial oversight of the School, including its physical resources, and recommend strategies to expand those resources to meet the mission of the School
- Facilitating and advancing external support through donations, donor cultivation and stewardship, and grants and contracts, including creating external advisory boards
- Serving as primary liaison for art-related accreditation (e.g., NASM, NAST, etc)

Note that the Director cannot unilaterally create policy nor is the position conceived to direct the internal operations of individual departments and programs.

VI. THE ARTS COUNCIL – How is shared governance preserved and advanced?

The Arts Council serves as the collaborative decision-making body for the School of the Arts.

- The Arts Council is composed of one faculty representative from each of the units & programs identified; members are expected to liaison with their home departments and programs.
- The Arts Council is reconstituted at the beginning of each academic year.
- Representatives on The Arts Council are not necessarily chairs, but rather are typically T/TT faculty associated with academic programs and arts units. This does not preclude lecturer participation on The Arts Council.
- The Arts Council will seek to have at least one staff representative and to accommodate participation by students who are interested from multiple academic programs.
- The Arts Council works closely with the Director to establish annual goals and objectives, address practical problems, and advance the interests of the School of the Arts.
- While the Arts Council cannot establish policy per se, it may propose policies to the A&H Chairs Council for consideration.