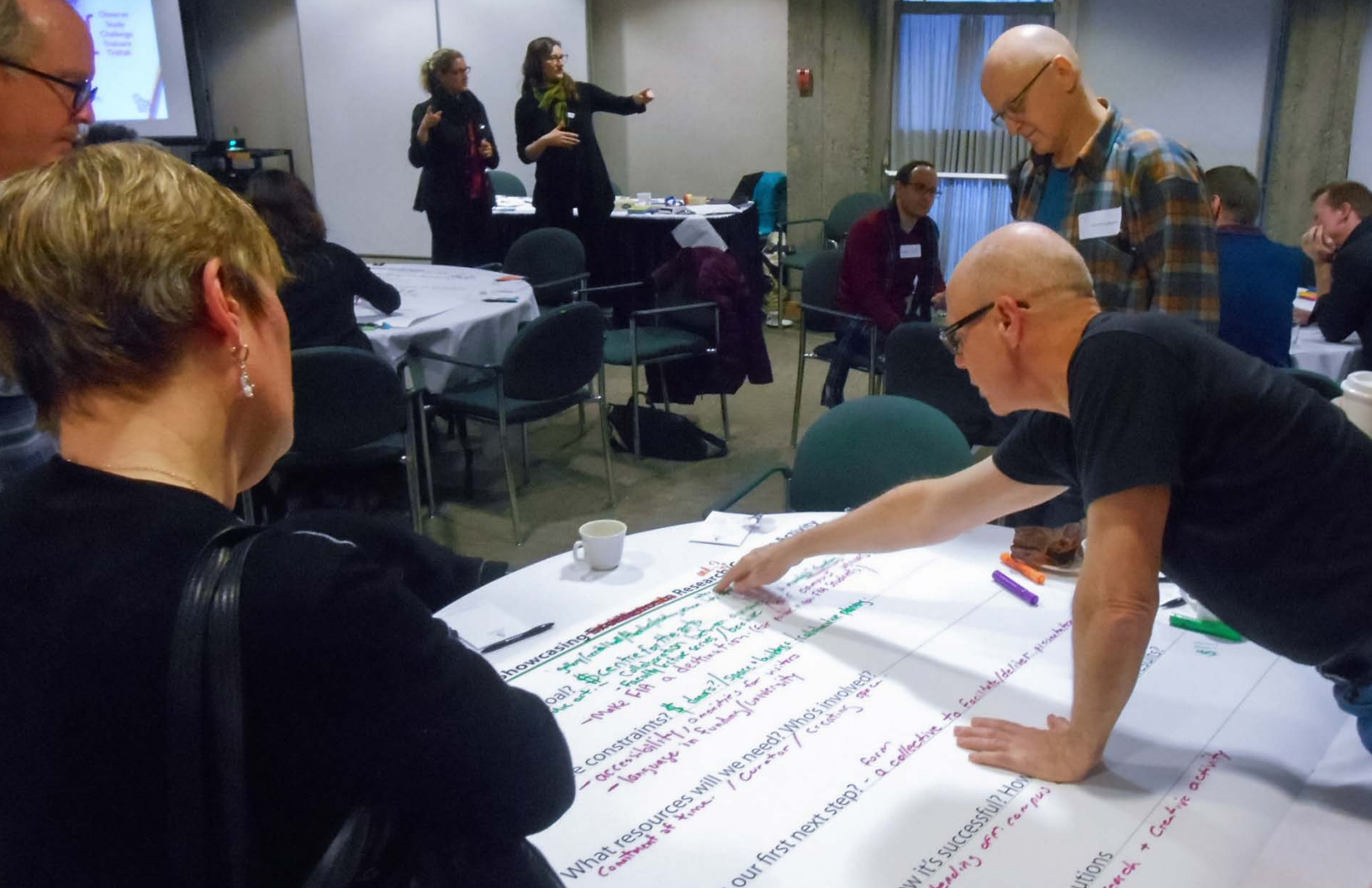


# FACULTY OF FINE ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN **2017–2021**



University  
of Victoria  
Fine Arts





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## MISSION

With experiential learning at its core, Fine Arts provides the finest training and learning environment for artists, professionals, and students. We integrate and advance creation and scholarship in the arts in a dynamic learning environment. As British Columbia's only Faculty exclusively dedicated to the arts, Fine Arts is an extraordinary setting that supports new discoveries, interdisciplinary and diverse contributions to creativity, and the cultural experiences of the students and communities we serve.

## VISION

We aspire to lead in arts-based research and creative activity and education in local, national, and global contexts. We aim to be an essential and vital cultural partner on campus and in the community. To achieve this, Fine Arts will build on the excellence of its core mission of artistic practice and scholarship, while advancing new agendas for creativity and innovation.

## THE PLAN

Fine Arts has a direct and lasting impact on the quality of life for our region, and contributes to the economic and creative vitality of our country. Fine Arts has an extraordinary legacy spanning almost fifty years of artists and scholars learning, teaching, and creating works and scholarship that inspire.

In the next five years Fine Arts will build on this legacy by supporting excellence, investigation, and experimentation in research and creative activity, teaching, and community engagement through six priority initiatives.





Visual Arts professor Paul Walde's artistic practice is closely tied to environmental concerns

Phoenix Theatre's production of *The Threepenny Opera* brought a 21st century aesthetic to the early 20th century masterpiece





# 1 A commitment to experimentation and excellence in research and creative activity

Research and creative activity are core to who we are. They are how we define ourselves and are central for the continued growth and development of faculty, educators, staff, and students. Research and creative activity are also directly relevant to the teaching mission of the Faculty. There is a range of teaching methods and course delivery in Fine Arts. Across the Faculty, arts pedagogy is an intensive training environment that demands that educators are also practitioners or scholars actively engaged in the field.

- a. Pursue strategic recruitments and support career progression to maintain and enhance excellence in research and creative activity
- b. Ongoing review of standards and duties documents to support excellence in research and creative activity
- c. Explore options to create structural support at the Faculty level to facilitate and enhance faculty members' research and creative activity and grant-writing through opportunity identification, mentoring, proposal review, and budget development
- d. Establish collaborative partnerships across the Faculty, such as a Faculty-level symposium or lecture/performance/production series
- e. Conduct needs assessment and feasibility study for a research centre and act on results
- f. Develop communication and engagement strategy to enhance our reputation and vital impact
- g. Pursue maintenance, renewal, and the addition of new research infrastructure and equipment to support our core mission
- h. Explore opportunities to increase on campus exhibition, faculty studio space, and production and performance space
- i. Advocate for increased dedicated space for film rehearsal and production/VR studio space/research lab and interactive media
- j. Further plans to enhance space for object-based and community engaged teaching and research



Hands-on learning is an essential part of working with the Lafayette String Quartet in the School of Music



Using the latest technology is an essential part of both the teaching and creative practice of Writing professor and filmmaker Maureen Bradley

## 2 A commitment to experiential learning and innovative programs

A starting point for a strong Faculty is strong departments with distinct programs that have experiential learning at their core. The Fine Arts Strategic Plan harnesses the individual strengths of disciplines and modes of artistic practice and inquiry, and channels them to build a leading Faculty.

- a. Increase and deepen integration of research and creative activity into educational programs through field schools and related experiential learning opportunities in areas such as sound studies, museum studies, film production, digital storytelling, interactive media, art for social change, chamber music, and opera scenes
- b. Support innovative programmatic opportunities that integrate the arts
- c. Strengthen learning through the arts by providing a robust array of courses and programs to students from across campus
- d. Explore opportunities to integrate work-integrated and community-engaged learning into curricula, including enhancing co-op and work experience for Fine Arts students
- e. Leverage resources in Career and Co-Op to embed career development within courses and programs, where relevant
- f. Partner with the Libraries and LTC to develop resources to support courses, programs and research
- g. Respond as a Faculty to the International Plan and Indigenous Plan
- h. Support flexibility in course scheduling and delivery to increase student mobility and opportunities for faculty mobility



Extensive backstage facilities and a large professional staff enable Theatre students to create award-winning mainstage productions



Our renowned Islamic art collection and acclaimed faculty consistently attract international graduate students to the Art History & Visual Studies department





### 3 A commitment to the best student experiences

Fine Arts is a vibrant and engaging learning community that supports student success in the classroom, on stage, and in the community. We support a broad definition of the student experience that encompasses the educational goals, personal development, and social, emotional, and cultural needs of our students.

- a. Recruit, admit, and retain a diverse and inclusive group of qualified and talented students
- b. Review specific learning and/or academic supports and establish additional supports as identified and in collaboration with campus partners
- c. Support student success that aligns with the International Plan and Indigenous Plan
- d. Enact initiatives for students, staff, and faculty that support wellness and student mental health
- e. Align academic advising practices, services, and student interfaces in relation to Faculty and campus priorities
- f. Increase options to support student collaboration, peer and professional networking, and mentorship with arts leaders in the community
- g. Encourage collaborative partnerships and student connections across the Faculty, such as a Faculty-level symposium or lecture/performance/production series
- h. Support fundraising efforts to enhance opportunities for students through scholarships, awards, and bursaries
- i. Enhance communication and information sharing through a student advisory group to the Dean



The Big Button Blanket project brought the campus and community together with Indigenous elders to create a memorable experience

City of Victoria Indigenous Artist in Residence and Visual Arts MFA alumna Lindsay Delaronde leads a corn doll workshop as part of her exhibition at UVic's Legacy Art Gallery





## 4 A diverse and inclusive creative community

Fine Arts supports a vision of equity which champions equity as necessary for excellence, the benefits of equity for all, and the shared responsibility for all to practice equity. Fine Arts promotes cultural diversity and diverse examples of cultural expression.

- a. Foster a diverse, respectful, engaged, and welcoming workplace and learning environment
- b. Support the professional goals, development, and recognition of our students, staff, and faculty
- c. Further diversify the student, staff, and faculty complement through implementation of the Fine Arts Equity Plan
- d. Support unit equity plans with goals related to diversity, equity, and inclusion for both employment and educational equity
- e. Maintain and enhance diversity of artistic practice, research methodologies, and pedagogies
- f. Support the development of courses and curriculum planning that address equity and diversity goals
- g. Support the activities of the Fine Arts Working Group on Indigeneity and the Arts
- h. Create opportunities for students to engage in Indigeneity and the arts through curricular offerings and pedagogies, the Orion series in Indigeneity and the Arts, and support for educational initiatives of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission





A Theatre department field school in India used applied theatre techniques to improve the lives of impoverished seniors and orphaned children



School of Music alumnus, instructor and Victoria Symphony principal tubist Paul Beauchesne leads UVic's annual Tuba Christmas community fundraiser in Market Square



## 5 A partner on campus, in the community, and around the world

Fine Arts is well positioned to be an expert on key campus priorities. Fine Arts offers a persuasive case for how to integrate experiential learning into all aspects of programming, at every level. The Faculty's model of the student as artist and scholar presents a compelling example of what is articulated in the Strategic Research Plan. Many Fine Arts instructors, staff, and students – artists, performers, writers, and scholars – engage with important social issues in their work, including the environment and sustainability, technology, human rights, the legacy of colonialism, aging, race, and gender – areas also signaled as priorities in campus plans.

Partnerships and collaboration strengthen the Faculty and provide opportunities to reach greater numbers and more diverse students. At present, Fine Arts contributes expertise to several programs in the Faculties of Humanities, Engineering, the Division of Continuing Studies, interdisciplinary studies, and the Department of Athletics. The Faculty hosts about fifty guest artists and scholars from across Canada and around the world every year through the Orion Series in Fine Arts, and holds formal agreements with institutions such as the En'owkin Centre and Bangkok University. We are committed to extending our reach on and beyond campus to position Fine Arts as a vital actor in the community and around the world.

- a. Create a communication plan to articulate existing and new partnerships and opportunities
- b. Strengthen and grow partnerships and collaboration across the Faculty, campus, and beyond
- c. Partner with the Libraries to support research-creation through digitization, exhibition, and multi-media initiatives
- d. Enhance community outreach programming through partnerships such as Science Venture
- e. Explore partnerships that boost the impact of our contributions to the communities we serve
- f. Build on existing partnerships and explore new opportunities with the local arts community, including the Legacy Gallery, Open Space, the Victoria Symphony, Pacific Opera Victoria, and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
- g. Encourage national research, artistic, and educational partnerships that enhance our reputation and position us as arts leaders
- h. Strengthen international partnerships and opportunities that align with Faculty and campus priorities (International Plan)

Writing professor and alumna Joan MacLeod is one of Canada's top playwrights and has had a number of world premieres at the Belfry Theatre, seen here in rehearsal



The Theatre department created a special course in order to develop the site-specific historical play *A Queer Trial*, which was performed for free in downtown's Bastion Square





## 6 A commitment to serving and engaging the community

Fine Arts is a Faculty for which public engagement is an essential condition: an audience is a requirement for the assessment of our students and faculty members, and thus critical for the delivery of our core programming. We are committed to the transformative power of the arts as we seek to engage audiences and communities. We appreciate the generosity of our donors who support our programs and students. We are proud of our alumni who share their expertise, passion, and creativity in their careers and roles after graduation.

- a. Strengthen individual cultural awareness and increase arts participation of university community, surrounding community members, donors, and alumni
- b. Engage with alumni through chapters, alumni stories, career paths
- c. Increase donor engagement and support by developing a case for support for Fine Arts
- d. Promote alumni success by responding to results of the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project
- e. Enhance Faculty engagement with local arts, technology, and creative communities through activities such as an advisory board to the Dean
- f. Support networking and mentorship by building a program across the Faculty to pair current students with arts leaders and alumni

