

FACULTY OF
FINE ARTS

BRIGHT LIGHTS
2025 - 2030



University
of Victoria

Kelly Richardson, "Embers and the Giants" | SITE Photography



Visual Arts students learn traditional Indigenous hide-tanning techniques

BETH BINGHAM

Territory acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) peoples on whose territory the university stands and the ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Dedication

We dedicate this Strategic Plan to our students. Their creativity, enthusiasm and commitment to the arts inspire and instruct us.

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN 2025–2030

Mission

As British Columbia's only Faculty exclusively dedicated to the creative arts, we are trailblazers in experiential and experimental pedagogies that redefine artistic and scholarly excellence. We advance the arts in innovative ways that not only empower our graduates to achieve their career aspirations, but also help them to flourish as critical thinkers, engaged citizens and creative leaders. In our classrooms, studios, galleries and on our stages, we pursue solutions to urgent local and global challenges while remaining attentive to our responsibility to generate a future that is inclusive and equitable.

Vision

We seek to realize the potential of the creative arts to tell difficult truths, to foster relationships based on trust, to respect the profound differences in our experiences and to celebrate our shared aspirations. We strive to lead in arts-based education, research and creative activity in local, national and global contexts. We aim to be an essential and vital cultural partner on campus, in our communities, across the country and around the world. To accomplish these goals, we will build on the excellence of our core mission of inspirational and socially responsible artistic practice and scholarship, while advancing new agendas for creativity and innovation.



School of Music faculty members join in 5 Days of Action's "Stories & Sound"



Theatre faculty members participate in a Fine Arts Honouring Ceremony

Guiding Principles

- A commitment to the idea that the expressive powers of the arts connect people in ways that remind us that we are never alone in the joys and challenges we face navigating the world
- A commitment to the belief that the arts are a transformative mode of thinking and a powerful catalyst for change
- A commitment to robust and innovative partnerships in our Faculty, across the campus, locally, regionally, nationally, internationally
- A commitment to unconventional and fearless experimentation
- A commitment to experiential learning and dynamic teaching in a variety of places and spaces
- A commitment to honouring and enacting the Laws and Philosophies outlined in the University of Victoria's "Indigenous Plan" (2023):

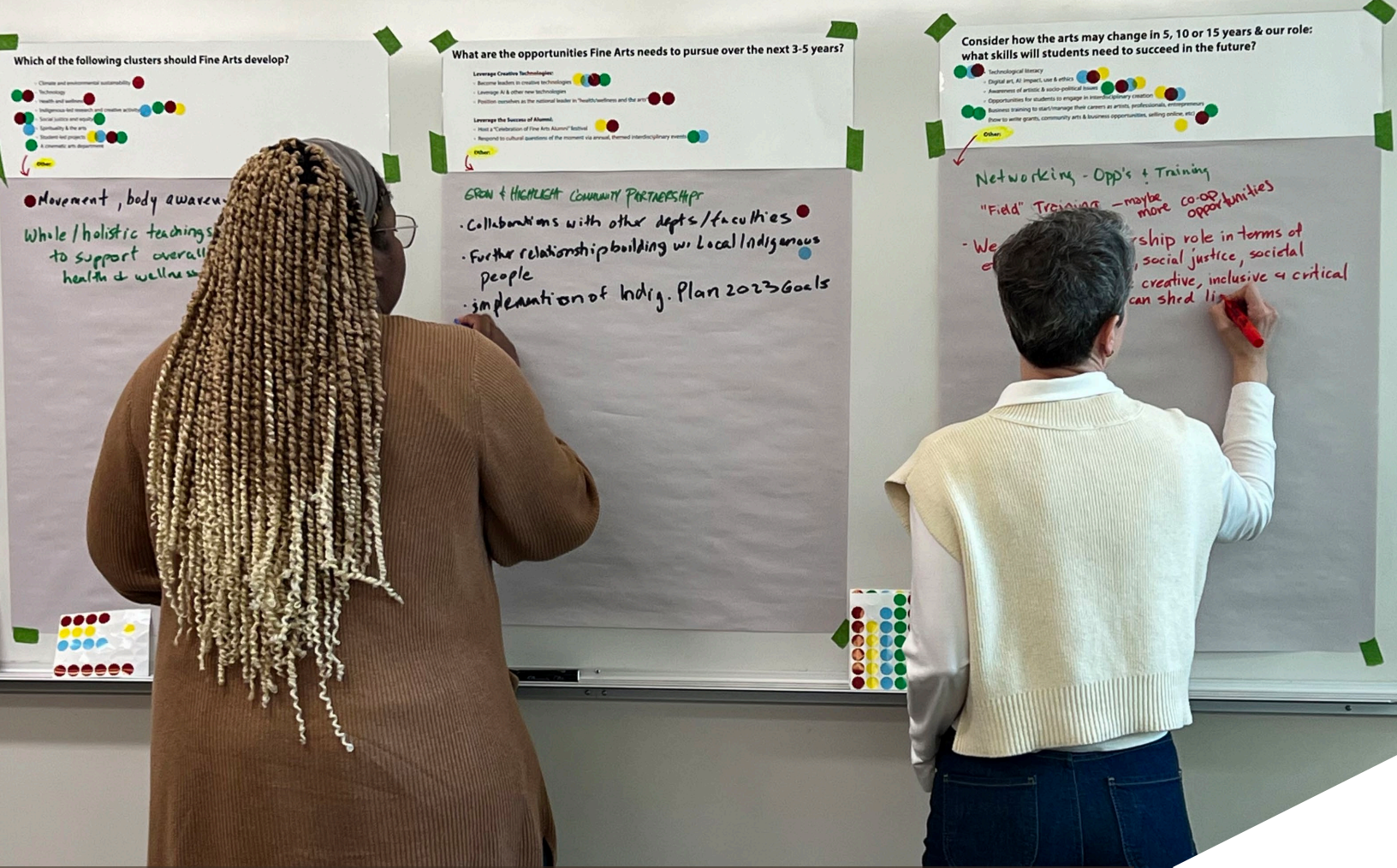
Hé?akʷ ʔa cə čalénən ʔta | HÁEQ ŁTE OL TFE ČELÁÑEN ŁTE
Remember our ancestors and birthright

Nəcəmaat kʷəns če?i | ČĀNEUEL OL
Work together

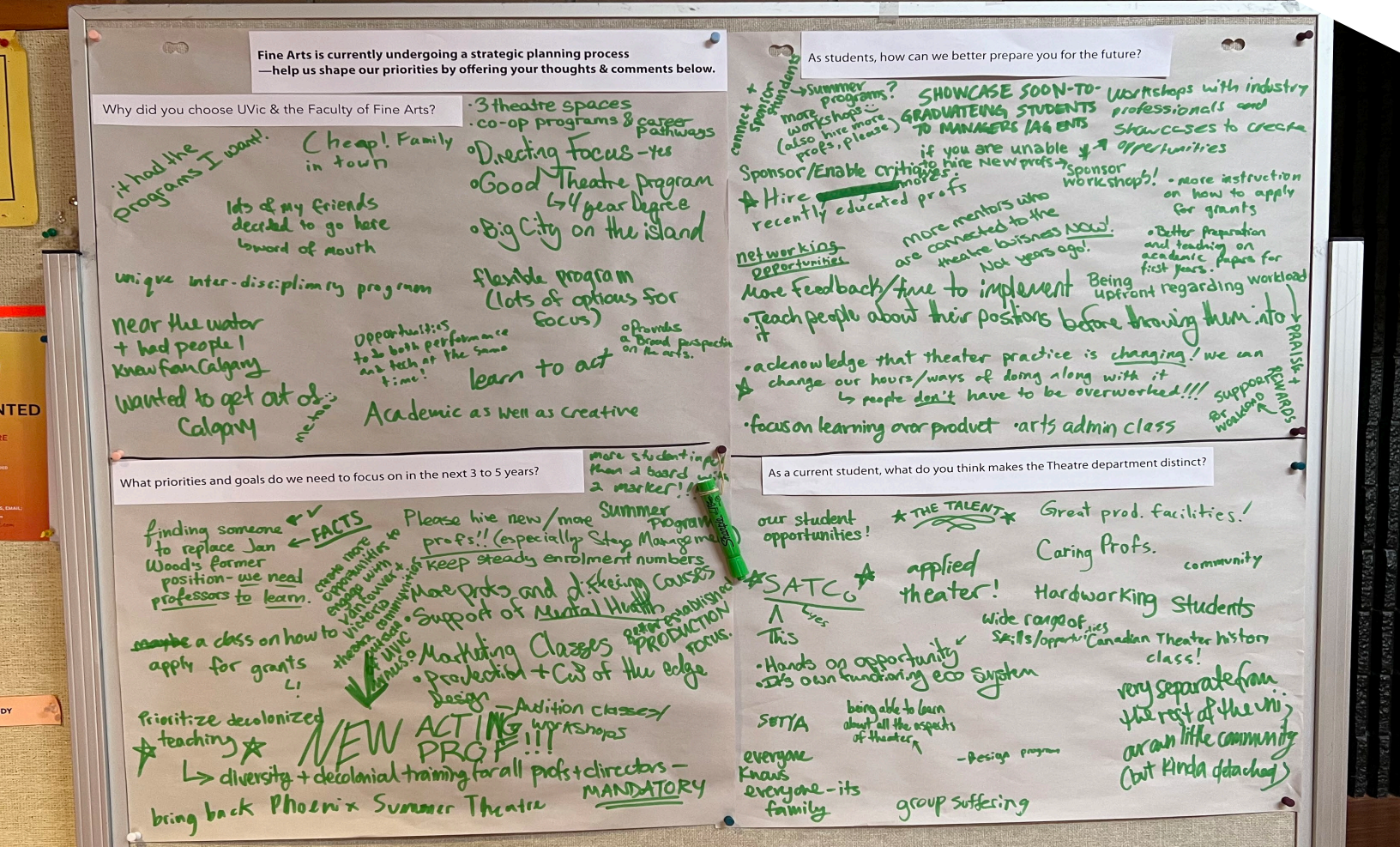
Nəwes šxʷ cən ʔay šqʷeləqʷən | ÁMEKT TFEN ÍY, ŠKÁLEÇEN
Bring in your good heart and mind

Le?t šxʷ helə ʔa cə məkʷ sče?i sə? | S,HOL ET MEQ EN ENÁ SE SCĀ
Be prepared for the work to come

Visit uvic.ca/ovpi/language to hear these Laws and Philosophies spoken in Ləkʷəŋən and SENĆOŦEN



Faculty, staff, students and instructors from across Fine Arts participated in the 2024 strategic planning process



The Plan

- Our Faculty has an extraordinary history spanning over 50 years of artists and scholars learning, teaching and creating. We have had a direct and lasting impact on the quality of life for our community and contribute to economic and creative vitality of our region and country.
- In the next five years, we will build on this impressive legacy by celebrating curiosity and supporting intrepid exploration in teaching, research and creative activity through the following six strategic priorities.

Strategic Priorities

- Foster an inspiring and healthy creative community
- Design experiential, experimental and innovative learning opportunities that prepare students to lead lives fueled by creativity
- Build the future of our Faculty on a foundation of resiliency and sustainability
- Reimagine the potential of creative technologies
- Listen, learn and act with courage and humility to advance our equity, diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility goals
- Amplify the impact of the creative arts for the well-being of society and our planet.



Applied Theatre student Lauren Fisher facilitates a community workshop at the New Horizons senior centre



Visual Arts student Claire Jorgensen paints a commissioned mural in UVic's Medical Sciences building

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Foster an Inspiring and Healthy Creative Community

Over the next five years we will focus on creating a whole system of care that will inspire students, faculty, educators and staff to reach their creative potential.

Ideas into Action

- Implement learning opportunities, programs and processes to support people's wellness and ability to thrive, striving to customize these offerings in a way that supports the unique needs of our Faculty.
- Embrace an advocacy and partnership role with the health and wellness initiatives across campus, ensuring we are at the table to integrate our creativity and the creative arts into decision making.
- Create more partnerships with colleagues and donors who can activate health and wellness initiatives.
- Amplify and encourage faculty's research and creative activities related to health and wellness.
- Offer more courses that incorporate health and wellness components.



MFA candidate Arnold Lim (centre) directs a short film for Writing's film production class



Graduate students tour Hornby Island's Jeffrey Rubinfeld Sculpture Park, home to the Art History & Visual Studies "Art as a Source of Knowledge" endowment

2 Design Experiential, Experimental and Innovative Learning Opportunities that Prepare Students to Lead Lives Fueled by Creativity

With excellence in experiential and experimental learning as a core commitment, we will design and implement innovative initiatives that are known locally and globally for nurturing our students' creativity.

Ideas into Action

- Create and implement welcoming recruitment strategies for international students and students from underrepresented communities.
- Increase the integration of research and creative activity into our educational programs through field schools and other curricular offerings.
- Ensure that our teaching facilities and equipment are in alignment with industry standards and expectations so students can achieve their career aspirations.
- Offer more interdisciplinary curricular opportunities to help students reimagine the contours of creativity.
- Help our students to develop transferable skills.
- Encourage more graduate students to take advantage of co-op and other work experience program opportunities.
- Help current students to connect with alumni and arts professionals.
- Offer more professional development opportunities to help students thrive as arts leaders and professionals after graduation.
- Provide more opportunities for students to engage with visiting artists and scholars.



Theatre's scenic construction head Greg Smith teaches practical skills



Future students tour the faculty during our annual Explore UVic recruitment day

3 Build the Future of our Faculty on a Foundation of Resiliency and Sustainability

The impact of the pandemic and the ensuing financial challenges have taught us the importance of resiliency and sustainability. We will use our abundant collective creativity to transform hardships into opportunities.

Ideas into Action

- Update our image and reputation to ensure we are attractive to prospective students.
- Secure the financial health of our Faculty so we can support innovation and growth (e.g., prioritize fundraising activities).
- Explore solutions for space needs within Fine Arts.
- Review and develop policy documents that support the administrative, pedagogical, research and creative activity needs of staff, students and faculty.
- Support staff to ensure they have the resources they need to do their work effectively and efficiently.
- Enhance the remarkable strengths of our faculty and administration through ongoing reflection to improve the services we provide to colleagues and our students.



Students working in the School of Music's CReaTe Lab, a recording studio and mixing facility



Visual Arts students using the Grey Room, a multimedia photographic and installation studio

4 Reimagine the Potential of Creative Technologies

Technology is rapidly changing the arts and arts education. We will creatively consider the possibilities of this revolutionary moment through our research, creative activity and pedagogical offerings.

Ideas into Action

- Pursue more partnerships and investments involving the use of technology in our research, teaching and creative activity.
- Fundraise to ensure that we can help our students to learn using cutting-edge equipment and creative technologies.
- Increase curricular opportunities for the experimental and experiential use of creative technologies.
- Establish a working group to explore the opportunities and challenges of new technologies (e.g., generative AI).
- Engage with alumni who are already working in these areas.
- Create more degree-focused opportunities and partnerships related to emergent technologies.

1st Place

Cate Freeborn

“At 19, I am diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder”

BETH BINGHAM



Writing student Cate Freeborn focused on neurodiversity in the annual writing contest run by UVic's Equity & Human Rights + Libraries

PHOTO SERVICES



School of Music professor Virginia Acuña

5 Listen, Learn and Act with Courage and Humility to Advance our Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity, and Accessibility Goals

We will create a Faculty that is safe and welcoming for everyone.

Ideas into Action

- Implement UVic's Indigenous Plan and Equity Plan, the Scarborough Charter and our Faculty's Equity Action Plan.
- Offer more student awards and scholarships for Indigenous, BPOC and other equity-seeking learners to improve accessibility to educational opportunities.
- Continue to prioritize preferential and limited hires of stellar Indigenous and BPOC faculty and staff.
- Provide support to Indigenous, BPOC and other equity-seeking faculty and staff to facilitate their career success.
- Strengthen our partnership with the En'owkin Centre.
- Encourage research and creative activity projects led by Indigenous, BPOC and other equity-seeking faculty members.
- Ensure our facilities are safe and welcoming for all members of the Faculty, as well as our patrons and community partners.
- Create new partnerships with a broad range of equity-seeking communities (e.g., 2SLGBTQIA+).
- Celebrate our individual and collective histories while critiquing and redressing the influence of colonial assumptions and strategies in our repertoire, curriculum and pedagogical methodologies.



Award-winning filmmaker Atom Egoyan offers industry insights during a film studies class



Theatre graduate student Dennis Gupa during his Ocean Networks Canada artistic residency

6 Amplify the Impact of the Creative Arts for the Well-being of Society and our Planet

The creative arts are a powerful catalyst for understanding, questioning and reimagining the world. We will contribute to the betterment of society and our planet through impactful artistic and scholarly action.

Ideas into Action

- Create research and creative activity clusters related to social justice and climate change issues.
- Highlight the wisdom of our guest artists and scholars, the expertise of our faculty and the creativity of our students in addressing today's issues and challenges through the arts.
- Engage with community partners to further our shared commitment to improving lives of individuals, communities, ecosystems and our planet.
- Amplify the impact of our alumni in their socially engaged work.
- Become the academic partner of choice for local, regional, national and international leaders committed to social justice and climate change action.



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uvic.ca/finearts