

## **Associate Provost**

The associate provost oversees two areas: 1) extra-academic arts programs and institutions; and 2) with Vice President Claude Canizares, international strategic programs and initiatives. Arts programs include Arts Initiatives, to which the Office of the Arts reports, the List Visual Arts Center (LVAC), and the MIT Museum. The associate provost chairs the Creative Arts Council and the advisory board of the Catalyst Collaborative at MIT (CC@MIT). He is a member of the executive committee of the Council for the Arts at MIT and the advisory boards of the List Visual Arts Center and the MIT Museum. He also chairs the Advisory Board of the Kuwait Center for Natural Resources and the Environment at MIT and co-chairs the International Advisory Committee (IAC). He oversees the MIT-Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) Collaboration and the MIT Portugal Program.

## **The Arts**

### **Current Goals**

The overarching goal for the arts is to sustain the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) beyond its four-year launch period and to advance the programs of the List Visual Arts Center and the MIT Museum, within the context of MIT's upcoming capital campaign.

### **Accomplishments**

In its inaugural year, MIT's new Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) has fulfilled its initial goal of promoting closer collaboration between creative arts faculty, scientists, engineers, students, and visiting artists, with an overall mission of demonstrating the value of artistic thinking and the professional practice of the arts to MIT's core values -- fostering a culture of creativity and innovation, learning by doing, and disseminating knowledge, research, and inventions that make a difference in the world. To date, CAST has sponsored three courses, one each in the schools of Science, Architecture and Planning, and Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, along with a concert series, artists' residencies, and more than a dozen weekly lecture/demonstrations by visiting multimedia artists and other research or performance projects. More than a dozen proposals by faculty to sponsor research, new cross-disciplinary subjects, and a major international symposium planned for September 26 to 28, 2014, will solidify CAST's role as a catalyst for cross-disciplinary research and connecting creative activities across the Institute.

Established in the office of the provost with support from the associate provost with responsibility for the arts, the deans of the School of Architecture and Planning (SA+ P), and School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS), and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, CAST has advanced MIT's leadership in integrating the arts into the curriculum and research of institutions of higher learning, a national initiative supported by the Mellon Foundation. MIT was one of 10 institutions examined in spring 2013 by Mellon Foundation researcher Bruce Mackh, who will publish the first comprehensive guide to best practices in the integration of arts practice in U.S. research universities in fall 2015. Preliminary findings reveal that MIT leads the cohort in the role given to arts subjects within the core curriculum, the number of students enrolled in arts subjects, and the prevalence of cross-disciplinary research in which the arts are a crucial component.

In spring 2013, the List Visual Art Center (LVAC) launched a new exhibition program in the Bakalar Gallery, *List Projects*, a series devoted to emerging or overlooked artists with a

substantial body of work. Scheduled off-cycle from exhibitions in the two main galleries, the new program allows the List to remain open throughout the year instead of closing between major exhibitions and during the summer months. In addition, programming by a new outreach coordinator, supported by a substantial grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, has created more visibility for the List, both within the MIT community and the Boston region. A new audio guide to MIT's outstanding public art collection, overseen by the List, includes an introduction of actor, film director, and photographer Leonard Nimoy and commentary by artists such as Dan Graham, Cai Guo-Qiang, Matthew Ritchie, Sarah Sze and many others about their works on campus.

A major publication based on the exhibition mounted by the MIT Museum for the Institute's 150th anniversary, *Countless Connecting Threads: MIT's History Revealed Through Its Most Evocative Objects*, appeared in April. The Museum once again expanded its very successful Cambridge Science Festival, with a statewide "Science on the Street" initiative and by extending the national Science Festival Alliance to still more cities and institutions, supported by two major grants (see below). The Museum consolidated its collection in an off-site storage facility and completed the extension review process and site visit required for reaccreditation by the American Alliance of Museums.

The Catalyst Collaborative at MIT (CC@MIT), established in 2004 between MIT and the Underground Railway Theater (URT), brings together theater artists and MIT scientists to create and present plays that deepen public understanding of science and technology, while providing emotional and artistic experiences not present in other dialogues about science. In spring 2012, the advisory committee approved a proposal to have the Nora Theater Company join URT in the Catalyst Collaborative. As envisioned, the merger doubled the number of plays about science presented at the Central Square Theater, and this season included a very successful run of *Operation Epsilon*, written by professor of theater and former associate provost for the arts Alan Brody, and produced by Council for the Arts at MIT member Ellen Berman.

### **Administrative Initiatives**

With support from the associate provost with responsibility for the arts and the deans of SA+P and SHASS, MIT became one of 28 founding members of the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru), which conducts research, compiles case studies, and develops strategic alliances to promote the integration of the arts into the nation's research universities. The executive director of arts initiatives serves on the executive committee and presented at the Alliance's first research symposium in spring 2013.

### **Finances and Funding**

The Council for the Arts increased annual contributions by nearly 10 percent, in an ongoing effort to meet a goal of half a million dollars per year.

The National Endowment for the Arts awarded \$30,000 to the List Visual Arts Center for new outreach activities. In honor of its 40th anniversary, the Council for the Arts at MIT made a special gift of \$40,000 for purchases of work for the Student Loan Art Collection.

The Science Festival Alliance (SFA) at the MIT Museum received a three-year award of \$1,027,712 from the National Science Foundation and a two-year grant of \$399,545 from the

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The MIT Museum established a patrons program to recognize donors who contribute \$10,000 or more annually. In its first year it raised a total of \$232,000.

### **Future Plans**

- Create a robust development plan for the arts, in collaboration with Resource Development.
- Continue to raise the prominence of the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT and the fundraising potential of the gala to be held in March 2014.
- Establish CAST's intellectual leadership in cross-disciplinary scholarship between science and the arts through the first symposium, "Seeing, Sounding, Sensing" to be held in September 2014.
- Build the Patrons and Friends programs at the MIT Museum and List Visual Arts Center into strong sources of support for the institutions.

### **Personnel**

Changes in staff at the Office of the Arts, the List Visual Arts Center and the MIT Museum are reported in later sections.

### **International**

#### **Accomplishments and Finances/Funding**

The International Advisory Committee (IAC), co-chaired by the associate provost and vice president Claude R. Canizares, continued to review proposals for new and existing international programs across the five schools. The committee continues to revise and update the IAC's 2009 report: Guiding Strategies for International Activities, especially in light of MITx and its global potential.

The MIT-SUTD (Singapore University of Technology and Design) collaboration came under the direction of Professor John Brisson (Mechanical Engineering), who replaced Professor Sanjay Sarma. He reports to the associate provost, who chairs the collaboration's steering committee and serves with the provost and dean of engineering on its joint governance council. The "collaboration," which builds on more than a decade of MIT education and research activities in Singapore, is one of the largest and most complex university capacity-building endeavors in MIT's history. The MIT-SUTD collaboration has made excellent progress in the area of curriculum development and has also contributed to the MIT-SUTD efforts to recruit its first faculty members. The International Design Center (IDC), which constitutes the research arm of the collaboration, emerged slowly but now appears to be gaining momentum. The effort to help the government of Rwanda develop a climate observatory, to be the largest in equatorial Africa, has been making reasonable progress in recent months. The associate provost and vice president for research Maria Zuber and Professor Ronald Prinn (Earth and Planetary Sciences Department) lead this effort, which emerged from a field trip they made to Rwanda in November 2009 at the request of the Rwandan government.

The associate provost, in cooperation with the Global Initiatives Office in Resource Development, established in 2011 new faculty innovation (seed) funds for India and China as part

of the MIT International Science and Technology Initiative (MISTI) seed fund initiative. \$150,000 each for India and China was made available for research and educational seed initiatives and that funding will be renewed for a third year.

The associate provost helped to organize the effort to secure a \$35 million research grant (over five years) for the Center for Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (CSAIL) from the Qatar Computer Research Institute (supported by the Qatar Foundation). This new program was launched in July 2012. The associate provost went to Qatar to sign the agreement on October 21 with the president for research of the Qatar Foundation.

#### **Future Goals:**

- To build on the work of the Greater China Faculty Working Group, which was reconstituted in 2011, to focus on the implementation of the China Strategy Report.
- To accelerate the activities of the India Faculty Working Group and to develop new resources for research and educational programs in and with India through the MIT India Trust and the MIT-India Innovation Fund.
- To continue to assist in efforts to strengthen MIT's relationship with Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), the Kuwait Center, and the MIT Portugal Program.
- To develop MIT's latest collaboration with Saudi Aramco.
- To continue to monitor through the International Advisory Committee (IAC) all major international research and education programs, and especially those in Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Russia, and China.
- To find a solution for regularly updating and strengthening the impact of the [Global MIT](#) website, which is listed on the MIT homepage.

#### **OpenCourseWare**

The associate provost transferred oversight of OpenCourseWare (OCW) to the director of Digital Learning, Professor Sanjay Sarma (Mechanical Engineering).

**Philip S. Khoury**  
**Associate Provost**

More information about the [associate provost](#).