

## **Associate Provost**

The associate provost Philip S. Khoury 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 staff and Office of the Arts and CAST report, the List Visual Arts Center (LVAC), and the MIT Museum. He is a member of the Executive Committee of CAST, The MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology, a joint initiative with the deans of the School of Architecture and Planning and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. The associate provost chairs the Creative Arts Council and the advisory board of the Catalyst Collaborative at MIT (CC@MIT). He is an *ex officio* 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.

## **The Arts**

### **Current Goals**

Each of the units in the arts in the provost's office is poised to make a substantial leap forward in the near future, and our goal is to support their endeavors and maximize their potential to enhance the arts at MIT and by extension, MIT's visibility and presence in the world.

CAST, the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology, will launch two public-facing series in the coming academic year. The first biennial international symposium, "Seeing/ Sounding/ Sensing," in September, 2014, will focus on a dialogue between the arts and cognitive sciences, featuring artists Tauba Auerbach, Alvin Lucier, and Tomás Saraceno along with neuroscientists and humanities scholars from a range of disciplines. On this occasion CAST also will launch a new annual music concert series, "MIT Sounding." The first season begins with Alvin Lucier and concludes with Terry Riley – two pioneers of experimental electronic music, who in very different ways paved the way for electronica, post-minimalism, sampling, speech as music, and many other contemporary forms.

The List Visual Arts Center is preparing to present in May 2015 an exhibition of the work of Joan Jonas, professor emerita in ACT, the Program in Art, Culture and Technology, at the U.S. Pavilion at the 56<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, the oldest and most distinguished international art exhibition in the world. This double honor for MIT (the selection of a faculty member as the U.S. representative and the List as the commissioner and presenting institution) is a major opportunity to advance the reputation of the List and MIT in the international art world.

The MIT Museum has recently learned that the Institute intends to move forward with a plan that will relocate the Museum to Kendall Square, as a key component of plans for the new, eastern gateway to the campus and improvements in Kendall Square, developed in collaboration with the city of Cambridge.

## **Accomplishments**

The 2014 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT, presented biennially, was the most successful to date. The prize continues to gain stature and bring visibility to the arts MIT in the Boston region and far beyond, fulfilling the aspirations Margaret McDermott expressed upon augmenting the endowment in recent years. She traveled from Dallas (at the age of 102!) along with her daughter Mary Cook to attend the public lecture and gala in honor of 2014 awardee Olafur Eliasson. The celebratory dinner and award ceremony attracted 32 sponsors and achieved a 100% increase in funds raised for the arts since its inception 2010, the first time a gala associated with the award was held. More information on the McDermott Award is presented in later sections of this report.

The selection of the List Visual Art Center by a committee of the U.S. State Department as the commissioner and presenter of the U.S. pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2015 was the signal achievement by the List in the past academic year. In addition, the List organized six exhibitions, published three catalogues, launched a new web site, and is developing percent-for-art projects for five MIT buildings.

The MIT Museum was re-accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in October 2013 and continues to increase its audience, attracting a record number of visitors in the previous year -- 123,750. The repurposing of the Compton Gallery (10-150), where the MIT Museum Studio is now located, has significantly advanced the Museum's ability to engage MIT students in developing and showcasing student projects. An alliance with the Edgerton Center, in support of a new student club, EDGE (Engineering Design Group for Exhibitions), and funds from CAST and the Council for the Arts at MIT allowed the Museum to hold its first exhibition of student work: *Inventions: 2014 MIT Student Showcase*. The Cambridge Science festival continues to grow, attracting more than 50,000 visitors for its eight annual festival. The related Science on the Street initiative, which disseminates popular science programs year-round and throughout the state, reached 70,866 participants at 34 events. Finally, the Science Festival Alliance (SFA), a national network of science festivals coordinated by the MIT Museum, now includes almost four dozen independently organized festivals in the U.S. and Canada.

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. Today the collaboration is with both theater companies at the Central Square Theater (CST). This year the CST produced a working titles reading as well staged reading and panel discussion at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences about the competing interests shaping the future of the planet prior to a full production of *Sila* [Inuit for "breath"] under the CC@MIT banner.

## **Administrative Initiatives**

The Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru), of which MIT is a founding member, conducts research, compiles case studies, and develops strategic alliances to promote the integration of the arts into the nation's research universities. The organization held its first national student hackathon at Stanford University in January 2014. With support from the Council for the Arts, the director of arts initiatives and manager of student programs selected

three Arts Scholars to attend and present their own projects at the closing plenary session of the two-day event.

### **Finances and Funding**

CAST achieved two early successes in its effort to supplement and sustain start-up funds awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through AY2016. An endowment of \$450,000 from Fay Chandler – the Fay Chandler Creativity Seed Fund – will enable CAST to continue to offer support proposals by faculty to sponsor research and create new cross-disciplinary subjects at the intersection of art, science and technology. Ronald A. Kurtz '54 provided \$60,000 in expendable funds to develop a new studio focused upon the convergence of the arts and material sciences, in honor of Merton Flemings, professor of materials processing and Toyota Professor Emeritus

The Council for the Arts established a priority several years ago of increasing annual donations from Members to half a million dollar annually, and this year received \$506,680, reaching a significant milestone.

The 2014 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT gala was given \$187,000 from 32 sponsors, a 50% increase over 2012 proceeds and a 100% increase over the inaugural gala held in 2010.

The List Visual Arts Center has brought in \$765,000 of a projected \$1.4M budget for the 2015 Venice Biennale.

The MIT Museum raised \$533,695, including \$203,875 in the second year of the Patrons Program.

### **Future Plans**

The overarching goals for the arts are to sustain the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) beyond 2016, to advance the programs of the List Visual Arts Center and to raise capital for the MIT Museum's move to Kendall Square within the context of MIT's capital campaign.

### **Personnel**

The creation of the new position of Arts Development Officer in the office of the provost, filled by Erin Genereux in August 2013, has enabled more focused attention to fundraising by the units in our sector and closer coordination of efforts with central resource development and development officers in the various schools at the Institute. Her stewardship of Margaret McDermott, the Fay Chandler gift and coordination of fundraising for the List's Venice Biennale participation have been particularly noteworthy.

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 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 Professor John Brisson (Mech-E) directs, builds on more than a decade of MIT education and research activities in Singapore. It 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, continues to gain momentum. Discussions have begun within MIT about how best to conduct SUTD renewal/extension negotiations with the Singapore Government.

The effort to design and build a climate observatory in Rwanda, which will be the first of its kind in equatorial Africa, gained momentum with the visit of Rwanda's President Paul Kagame to MIT this past spring. The associate provost, 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.

#### **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 develop a plan for the establishment of an MIT office in China to help with MIT's expansion of activities in that country.
- 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 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 continue the support of efforts to revise the Global MIT website.

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

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