COLLEGE
FINE ARTS
Andrew Carnegie’s vision for education intentionally balanced science and technology with the arts — because he knew that each greatly enhanced the others.

The College of Fine Arts is integral to that vision, and a key part of Carnegie Mellon’s future. This is a place that expands society’s notions of what art can be. It’s where conversation is sparked, ideas are cultivated, perspectives are shared, minds are changed, genres are reinvented, and humanity is restored.

With your support of the College of Fine Arts through Make Possible: The Campaign for Carnegie Mellon University, we will:

• Elevate arts education with dynamic spaces for creation and performance.
• Support excellence and diversity in the arts by increasing access to talented students from all backgrounds.
• Enrich the human experience by supporting creativity and discovery and the students and faculty who fearlessly create inspiring work.

Philanthropic support in these areas allows us to work toward innovations and expressions that address the world in which we live, how to make it better, and how to work together to create global solutions that preserve and sustain our built world.

TOGETHER, WE WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE.
Creative spaces are laboratories where ideas are sparked that shape our modern culture. Investments in facilities for creating and performing will inspire Carnegie Mellon’s visionaries to experiment, imagine and innovate in ways that will echo through art, architecture and design, across our planet, for generations.
ADVANCING A NEW ERA of CREATIVITY.

The College of Fine Arts is home to bold and innovative artists, designers and architects. When we intentionally build spaces that merge disciplines, we can prepare our students to lead the contemporary creative world.

Technology dominates our lives; the arts are no exception. Like acrylic paints or a clarinet, technology is another instrument that artists use to express themselves. And Carnegie Mellon is the perfect place to do so; with prowess in both art and technology, we’re well positioned to combine them to produce life-altering works.

On CMU’s campus, the Pausch Bridge is both a metaphor and a physical connection. It serves as a literal link between the School of Computer Science and the School of Drama. Many interesting and fascinating projects have come out of that exposure and integration. For instance, faculty are working on theatrical productions that include augmented and virtual reality in addition to live performances.

Consider an event like “Pushing Air,” which merges music, soft sculpture and textile robotics, or “SubSurface: Site-Specific Sight and Sound,” which allows participants to explore passageways of a limestone mine filled with art installations, music performances and costumed movement. These are just two examples of the ways we fuse art and technology, allowing audiences to immerse themselves in artistic expression and develop a richer understanding of complex issues and perspectives.

New and improved performance spaces — with a focus on the intersections between art and technology — will give artists the freedom to create more works like these. They will provide abundant opportunities to collaborate with students and researchers in other disciplines, to forge powerful partnerships that lead to innovative ways of doing, making and connecting. In a world that continually seeks something new, that’s vital. And in a society that yearns for more human insight and meaningful interactions, it’s necessary.

Additional resources will provide the spaces and environments our students need to collaborate across disciplinary boundaries. Ultimately, this will help them expand their horizons and be more imaginative, more inventive and eventually more successful.

With your support, we can explore every angle of creativity across disciplines, giving our students the freedom they need to discover and define the future of the arts.

“Arts education is really about exploring the human heart, about exploring our existence as human beings with each other, humanity, and community, and storytelling. It’s about connecting and making a difference. Whether it’s to inspire or to move, to motivate or to entertain, it envelops all that. I think it reaches another level of consciousness that makes us whole.”

MING-NA WEN (A 1986)
WHEN WE EVOLVE, EXPAND AND ELEVATE OUR SPACES, WE’LL make BOLDER CREATIVE EXPRESSION POSSIBLE.

By giving our students the finest arts facilities in higher education, we’ll provide them with fertile, technology-enhanced ground to grow their artistic visions and hone their talents.

With your support, we will:

Expand initiatives that integrate arts and technology.

In spaces like the Purnell Center, Kresge Theatre, and studios and classrooms across the college, we will enhance environments that encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration and explore new fields of creative inquiry for an increasingly technology-driven world.

Open up spaces for creative exploration.

Our incredibly talented students require freedom to create, perform, engage and collaborate. With more practice and rehearsal space for performers and musicians, and more studio space for artists and architects to bring their visions to life, we will give our students the latitude to stretch and grow, and push forward the boundaries of their fields.

YOU CAN ADVANCE CREATIVITY AND FUND THE GREAT WORKS OF THE FUTURE.

Help us make it possible by providing critical support to our college’s faculty and students through:

RENOVATED AND TRANSFORMED FACILITIES
Create spaces that promote learning, making, creating and performing at the highest level possible — across all the schools of the College of Fine Arts. Great environments inspire students and faculty to do their best work, and prepare them to enrich a modern, technology-enhanced world.

FACULTY RESEARCH FUNDS
Inspire faculty with funds dedicated to promoting high-quality research and creative endeavors.

CFA AND SCHOOL-SPECIFIC INNOVATION FUNDS
Fuel innovation at the College of Fine Arts and its five schools by giving us the flexibility to seize emerging opportunities, take advantage of new ideas, and enhance the college’s and schools’ ability to attract gifted faculty and students from around the world.
WHEN WE TEAR DOWN BARRIERS, we BOOST CREATIVITY.

Our students are immersed in an atmosphere of diverse perspectives, positioning them to create work that resonates with all of humanity.
For Sofía Bosch Gómez, a fellowship to CMU’s graduate program in transition design opened new doors in her life. And thanks to this support, she’ll eventually change the lives of others in her home country of Mexico. As a doctoral candidate, she’s focusing her research on the overlap of design and policymaking in the Global South. While innovation and design thinking have become governmental buzzwords, Gómez asserts that, by developing public policy through design — and with an ethical intent — we can address challenges that all countries will face in the years ahead.

"Designers have a political stake, and the solutions are definitely not linear," she says. "It’s time for designers to be considered seriously in decision-making, not only as beautifiers, but as people who can address the actual roots of problems."

Gómez’s design work will solve problems and address pressing policy challenges, all of which is made possible through the fellowship she received. With philanthropic support for fellowships, more students like Gómez will pursue work that matters.

“My CMU fellowship was pivotal for me to attend CMU. Having the opportunity to be economically supported by the university and to be trusted to teach wonderfully creative and engaged undergraduate students has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.”
Increase diversity among our student body. Exceptionally gifted students from all backgrounds come to CFA to pursue their education, their passion and their compelling work. With additional funding, we will continue to make our programs more accessible and inclusive, cultivating a rich, supportive environment in which diverse viewpoints are celebrated and horizons are expanded.

Ensure that talented students can benefit from a CMU education. Each year, we see impressive portfolios and jaw-dropping auditions from students who belong here — and who deserve to be here. With your support, we will make undergraduate and graduate education at CFA more affordable with merit scholarships and fellowships for promising students, freeing them from intense financial pressures so they can focus on what truly matters: their creative pursuits.

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With your support, we will:

SCHOLARSHIPS
Recognize talented undergraduates with merit-based scholarships that fuel their artistic and creative passions and build a student body that thrives on diverse perspectives.

FELLOWSHIPS
Unlock a world of creativity for the next generation of artistic innovators and leaders, by opening up a CFA education to skilled graduate students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND STUDENT TRAVEL FUNDS
Expand our students’ interactions with and throughout the world, by funding travel and other experiences that offer fresh inspiration to create, make, explore and perform.

Help us make it possible, by providing critical support to our college’s faculty and students through:

YOU CAN FOSTER AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES ARE SUPPORTED, INSPIRING GREATER CREATIVITY.

BY CREATING A MORE DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE CULTURE, WE’LL MAKE MORE inspiring WORK POSSIBLE.

BY ACTIVE SEEKING OUT talented artists from all backgrounds, we’ll facilitate creativity across cultures, communities and experiences, which will make our work even more powerful.

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WHEN WE GIVE PEOPLE THE FREEDOM TO TAKE RISKS, WE SPARK PROGRESS AND INSPIRE HUMANITY.

With the opportunity to push boundaries and spaces that fuel innovation and exploration, the world’s most creative minds will find a place at CMU where they can produce work that starts conversations and moves society forward.
The College of Fine Arts brings together some of the most creative minds in the world. Here they have both the autonomy to explore their craft and the opportunity to connect with students. When you support faculty like these, you’ll inspire their work and give young artists invaluable mentorship that ignites their passions and steers them toward a fulfilling future.

CREATING A VISION FOR THE FUTURE.

SUSANNE SLAVICK
Susanne Slavick curates art that both unsettles viewers and cultivates empathy. Her projects grapple with uncomfortable uncertainties, probing urgent human rights issues and posing questions about the causes and consequences of the violence we continue to commit. Her exhibits have been recognized internationally, but her heart is in guiding CMU students as the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Art. She says, “There is nothing more rewarding than helping students recognize how they can imagine, visualize and build a new world.”

JOHN PAUL ITO
John Paul Ito, director of graduate studies and associate professor of music theory, leads research that moves the world of music, measure by measure. His groundbreaking research uses both science and art to study how musical expression and physical coordination influence one another during performance. His project encompasses meter and hypermeter, and their connections with cognition, performance and the history of musical style. Ito’s work is crucial to the future of music at Carnegie Mellon, in that it lets students bring cutting-edge research to bear on their practical music-making.

CINDY LIMAURO
From stages to skyscrapers, University Professor Cindy Limauro lights the way in her field. As a lighting designer for theatre, opera, dance and architecture; as a design partner in C&C Lighting; and as a professor of lighting design in CMU’s School of Drama and School of Architecture, her designs have been featured across the globe. But those familiar with the Carnegie Mellon campus might also recognize her touch in one of our most iconic landmarks: the Randy Pausch Memorial Bridge.

ERICA COCHRAN HAMEEN
Erica Cochran Hameen, assistant professor and co-director of the Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics, helps address social equity disparities with smart architectural design. After noticing such inequities during her public-sector work in New York, she decided to focus her professional efforts on conserving energy and increasing health, productivity and quality of life — drawing on smart building design to enhance air, light, thermal and spatial quality. At CMU, she takes her students into Pittsburgh’s public schools to measure these conditions, and teaches local high schoolers to use sensors to track these factors themselves, empowering both groups to effect change through architectural design.

STUART CANDY
Stuart Candy designs the future — literally. In his role as associate professor in the School of Design and director of CMU’s Situation Lab, Candy facilitates the creation of tangible and immersive experiences of alternative futures. Through games, tools and interactive exercises, he works with leaders, learners, and organizations large and small — helping them to think in more flexible and adaptive ways, and equipping students to envision and shape tomorrow’s possible worlds.
By offering security and support to practicing artists and professionals from a multitude of disciplines and perspectives, we will attract and retain faculty who continually seek to push their work forward, enrich the educational experience for our students, and shape the future of artistic endeavor for generations to come.

WE’LL make MORE ARTISTIC EMPOWERMENT POSSIBLE.

With your support, we will:

Attract top artistic and design talent.
With the resources to recruit and retain more of the world’s leading artistic voices as educators, we’ll foster meaningful connections between our students and these discipline-advancing artists, creatives and professionals—furthering their affinity for the work, fostering vital mentorships, and providing faculty the freedom to pursue their creative goals.

Cultivate creative freedom.
Experimentation is a crucial part of the creative process. By giving artists, performers, architects and designers the freedom and resources to experiment, explore and grow, we will advance creative expression and tell the human story in bold new ways.
With award-winning faculty and alumni across five of the most respected arts, design and architecture schools in the world, the College of Fine Arts is transforming modern culture and preparing the next generation of creative visionaries to think boldly, create across boundaries, and merge technology and artistic expression to elevate and challenge the arts as we know them.

FARNAM JAHANIAN
President
Henry L. Hillman President’s Chair