2017 Fall Activity Report

M | Arts Engine

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## Our Mission

ArtsEngine’s mission is to inspire, foster, and strengthen intellectual collisions and durable collaborative practices driven by the arts, to fully maximize the potential of each student and faculty member on North Campus and at the University of Michigan.

### Personal Projections

*Personal Projections by Nikki Horowitz, MicroGrant Winner; Photo credit: Dylan Hancook*
ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

In Fall 2017, ArtsEngine welcomed the School of Information as the fifth academic unit of governance. ArtsEngine is a joint initiative of the North Campus Schools and Colleges, the School of Information, the Office of the Provost, and the U-M Office of Research, driving collaborations among the arts, architecture, engineering, and information. ArtsEngine serves students and faculty by providing resources, research, and programming for scholarly and creative arts integrative work, encouraging students and faculty opportunities to form unique affiliations and push the boundaries of their own fields.

OFFICE

At the beginning of the 2017 Fall semester, the ArtsEngine office relocated from the first floor of the Duderstadt Center to the third floor of the building, next to Center for Entrepreneurship, in what used to be Design Lab 3. The move has afforded additional space for convening and collaborating, along with much appreciated windows! Many thanks to the staff of the Duderstadt Center who helped facilitate the move. In our new space, we were happy to welcome three tours of international students as part of their fall orientation and tour of the Duderstadt Media Center.

FULL TIME STAFF
- Laurie Baefsky, Executive Director
- Deb Mexicotte, Managing Director
- Maryrose Flanigan, a2ru Associate Director
- Gabriel Harp, a2ru Research Director
- Edgar Cardenas, a2ru Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow
- Mark Jones, Living Arts Program Director
- Ruth Marsh, Living Arts Program Assistant
- Amy Tackitt, Program Coordinator
- Sisi Reid, Executive Intern

PART-TIME STAFF
- Jazmyn Rivera, Program Assistant
- Noshin Khan, Program Assistant
- Mengden Yuan, Research Assistant
- Jack Bowman, Research Assistant
- Jillian Neill, Research Assistant
- Karli Johnson, Research Assistant
- Lu Zhang, Research Assistant
- Veronica Stanich, Research Associate
- Rodney Shibu, Web Designer
- Dylan Hancook, Photographer/Videographer
- Bryce Bizer, Photographer/Videographer
- Andrew Howell, Photographer/Videographer
- Darin Martin, Living Arts Graduate Student Intern
- Estefania Escobar, Living Arts Office Assistant

This is the second year in which ArtsEngine has hosted an executive intern. Sisi Reid, a graduate of University of Maryland, joined ArtsEngine in September 2017 and will continue through May 2018. Sisi has been working on various projects for ArtsEngine and a2ru and has been focusing on increasing the social media presence for both organizations.

ArtsEngine is also pleased to have successfully completed the search and hiring process for a grant writer, Mary Jane Taylor. Mary Jane will start work with ArtsEngine Winter 2018 seeking diversified funding opportunities.

Laurie Baefsky, Deb Mexicotte, Maryrose Flanigan, Gabriel Harp, and Amy Tackitt have completed the Essentials of Supervision training and Maryrose Flanigan completed the Foundations of Supervision I training as progress toward the College of Engineering’s leadership goals. Amy Tackitt has participated in a number of training sessions related to sponsored projects processes and budgeting guidelines. Gabriel Harp has also participated in the Computational Social Science Initiative Methods Workshop - “Text as Data”, the Institute for Research on Innovation and Science (IRIS) Data Summit, and the U-M Software Carpentry Workshop.
**PLANNING & REPORTING**

The ArtsEngine Strategic Plan was finalized in early Fall 2017 and includes a timeline of activities tied to strategic initiatives from 2018-2020. Activities outlined in this report reflect progress toward anticipated outcomes outlined in this plan. This 2017 Fall Activity Report is the first of a new reporting protocol which will be paired with a comprehensive annual report to be presented in June.

**TRAVEL**

- July 11, Baltimore: Maryland Institute College of Art campus visit, Laurie Baefsky
- July 13, Washington, DC: National Academies working session: Integration in Higher Education, Laurie Baefsky, Committee Member
- July 19-20, Providence, RI: Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design campus visits, Laurie Baefsky
- August 15, Pittsburgh, PA: Carnegie Mellon University meetings with libraries and presses, Laurie Baefsky
- August 30-September 2, Boston, MA: Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Gabriel Harp, Attendee
- September 7, Athens, GA: University of Georgia, Willson Center for Humanities and the Arts 50th Anniversary, Laurie Baefsky, Panelist
- September 7-9, Berea, KY: Artists Thrive Conference, Maryrose Flanigan, Participant
- September 9-17, Valencia, Spain: International Conference on Mobile Brain-Body Imaging and the Neuroscience of Art, Innovation, and Creativity, Laurie Baefsky, Attendee and Panelist
- September 25, Madison, WI: Arts Research Symposium hosted by the University of Wisconsin Arts Institute: *What Does Arts Research Look Like at the University of Wisconsin-Madison?*, Laurie Baefsky, Panelist
- September 26, Detroit, MI: Arts & Health Symposium, Laurie Baefsky, Maryrose Flanigan, Attendees
- October 1, Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa campus visit, Laurie Baefsky
- October 19, Baltimore, MD: Blackbaud Conference (bbcon), Maryrose Flanigan, Attendee
- November 1-5, Boston, MA: a2ru National Conference, a2ru staff
- November 24-27, Boston, MA: Arts International Connect Retreat, Sisi Reid, Attendee
- December 7-8, Athens, GA: University of Georgia site visit for 2018 a2ru National Conference, Maryrose Flanigan, Amy Tackitt
- December 14: Washington, DC: NeighborWorks America, Maryrose Flanigan

Laurie Baefsky welcomes attendees to the 2017 a2ru National Conference in Boston. Photo credit: Kit Castagne
ArtsEngine has updated its website. Hosting was moved to the College of Engineering for ease of use and support. Living Arts duplicated the website design layout and updated their web presence in an effort to modernize and unify visual marketing and messaging.

Programmatic outreach this fall included traditional advertising through campus outlets (8 diag boards, 6 sets of bus signs, and 1 set of table tents), flyers and posters, college marketing department outreach in the four North Campus Schools and Colleges), 8 bi-weekly student email newsletters with 850+ subscribers, and 3 monthly faculty newsletters.

ArtsEngine actively recruited and displayed at various events throughout the Fall semester including:

- Northfest
- Fallfest
- Earthfest
- U-M Bicentennial Fall Festival
- Engineering Student Organization Diversity Mixer
- Munger Graduate Student Opportunity Fair

Thanks also to the faculty and administration who have made time for ArtsEngine to present on faculty meetings throughout the Fall semester:

- School of Music, Theatre & Dance Chairs
- Biomedical Engineering
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Materials Science & Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Industrial and Operations Engineering
- Theatre (upcoming)
- Architecture (upcoming)
**ART/SCI STUDENT RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

The Art/Sci Student Residency Program offers unique opportunities designed to encourage interdisciplinary learning and creative production by exposing students to life and work in an alternate discipline’s maker space—i.e. the artist in the engineering lab, the engineer in the artist’s studio or performance space. Each residency comes with a cash prize and the expectation that a work of some kind will be produced as a response to experience.

**The Moldwin Prize** is designed for an undergraduate student currently enrolled in the Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design, the A. Alfred Taubman School of Architecture + Urban Planning or the School of Music, Theatre & Dance who is interested in exchange and collaboration with students engaged in research practice in an engineering lab.

Students receiving the residency participate with the undergraduate research team in the lab of Professor Mark Moldwin. Moldwin’s lab is currently doing work in the areas of space weather (how the sun influences the space environment of earth and society) and magnetic sensor development. The resident student artist will gain a greater understanding of research methodologies in the space and climate fields, data visualization and communication techniques, and how the collision of disciplinary knowledge in the arts, engineering, and sciences deepens the creative practice and production of each discipline. The student is expected to produce a final work of some kind within their discipline that reflects, builds on, explores, integrates, or traces their experience in the residency.

Siena McKim, a sculpting major in the Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design was the recipient of the Fall 2017 Prize. Six applicants interviewed this semester to participate during the Winter 2018 semester: Fee Christoph, a sophomore Interarts major also studying computer science, and Maite Irribaren, a junior studying civil engineering and art & design, have been selected for the prize.

ArtsEngine continues to seek new ideas for residencies - especially in the arts to allow engineering students to learn and interact in the creative studio and performance space.

**GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIA ON INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS INTEGRATION**

ArtsEngine is interested in supporting the creation of a new interdisciplinary graduate student organization focused toward creating a regular symposia series based on topics in emerging and arts integrative fields connected to research, teaching, and other professional development needs and opportunities (i.e. Arts in Health, Arts & Entrepreneurship, Arts & Sustainability, Creative Placemaking, SEAD/STEAM). This symposia series will include the presentation of research and projects funded by the ArtsEngine Arts Integration Interdisciplinary Research (AiIR) grant.
UARSTS Courses

The UARSTS suite of courses was created to expand students’ access to courses centered on the arts, creative process, interdisciplinary instruction, and problem- or project-based learning. The two foundational courses, UARSTS 150: Intro to Creative Process and UARSTS 250/550: Creative Process, are taught annually.

UARSTS 150: Intro to Creative Process

To fulfill the academic requirement of Living Arts, all participating students take UARSTS 150: Intro to Creative Process in the fall semester. This 4-credit class is team taught by faculty from each of the four North Campus Schools and Colleges. It is project-based and is also a writing course that fulfills various distribution requirements, including the LSA first-year writing requirement.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to creative process across disciplines, preparing them to master their own creative process for use not just in other courses and academic projects, but throughout their lives. Students gain historical, biographical, and theoretical understanding of creative process through readings, reflect on those readings in writing, and experiment with creative processes first-hand under the tutelage of experts. Fall 2017 instructors included Jeremy Edwards (School of Music, Theatre & Dance), Laura Hirshfield (College of Engineering), Katie Rubin (Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design), Ali Shapiro (LSA Sweetland Center for Writing), and Jono Sturt (A. Alfred Taubman School of Architecture + Urban Planning). Final student projects were showcased on December 18, 2017.

Course Development Grant

The UARSTS Course Development Grant supports the development of courses to be offered under the UARSTS prefix that integrate the arts and design with other disciplines, especially those in engineering and the sciences. Individual grants, typically in the amount of $2,500, are available and can support improving or changing an existing course to meet the UARSTS criteria as well as developing new courses. Grants up to $5,000 may also be available for specific course development needs.

UARSTS Faculty Curriculum Council

The UARSTS Faculty Curriculum Council, comprised of associate deans, faculty, and staff representatives from the four North Campus Schools and Colleges, as well as ArtsEngine and Living Arts staff and student representatives, met to discuss curriculum initiatives, development, and will serve as reviewers for AiiR and UARSTS Course Development Grants throughout the academic year. School of Information representatives will be added in Winter 2018.
Funding

Student MicroGrants

Now in its third year, ArtsEngine Student MicroGrants stimulate and support integrative project-based creative work and sustained research among faculty and students from North Campus and other U-M units. In Fall 2017, ArtsEngine funded 14 projects, with the average award of $500, submitted by students from School of Music, Theatre & Dance (Teagan Faran, Thomas Laub, Colin McCall, Rebecca Rosen) and Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design (Zoe Black, Victoria Essex [below], Alicia Finnorn, Dara Firoozi, Masima Hwati, Jack Hyland, Heidi Liu, Hannah Mabie, Brenna Murphy, Claire Zimmeth).

Projects must be interdisciplinary (involving more than one discipline), with the arts as a primary focus. This may include projects that involve visual arts, design, architecture, literary arts, theatre, dance, film, performance, or music. A wide spectrum of involved disciplines is encouraged (e.g. engineering and dance; biology and music). Projects should demonstrate campus and/or local community impact and are expected to be student led.

Grants up to $1,000 are awarded through review by a committee made up of students, faculty, and staff representing the five supporting schools and colleges of ArtsEngine.

Below is a funded MicroGrant project from the October 2017 cycle currently under construction. Descriptions of all funded projects can be found on the ArtsEngine website along with links to photo and video documentation of the project processes.

**Sustainability by Design: School Bus Conversion**
Victoria Essex
Art & Design Senior

The purpose of my creative project is to sustainably convert a used school bus into a transportable and compact living space. Within the U-M community, as well as within the greater Ann Arbor community, my creative project will have an influential presence. I aim to convey themes of sustainability and living in a fully-immersed, creative lifestyle. After its completion, I will be using it to volunteer on farms and for non-profits across the United States. The bus will have a formal audience as it will be a part of a curated exhibition at the Stamps Gallery in April; there will also be an informal audience of people who see the bus around town, on the road, parked on farms, in state parks, etc. The sheer size of the bus alone will allow it to play a relatively humble, self-promotional role. One of the key aspects of my creative project is that it will be an example of sustainability and an example of a fully-immersive, creative lifestyle. Instead of making work about these important themes, my work aims to embody these themes while it serves a utility.
The Arts Integration Interdisciplinary Research (AiiR) Grant supports graduate student research projects that integrate the arts or design with other disciplines, especially those in engineering and the sciences. Individual grants up to $3,000 can support existing research efforts as well as new areas of inquiry. Graduate students are eligible to apply if they are in good academic standing, currently enrolled in any graduate degree program, and actively progressing toward that degree at the University of Michigan. Students are encouraged to submit letters of intent for review before formally applying for review by the ArtsEngine Curriculum Council.

ArtsEngine is pleased to support the first AiiR grant for Calvin Montano-Maceda, a masters student in the School of Social Work. The project’s purpose is to provide evidence about the effectiveness of art-based intervention with youth with a chronic illness. The group will be for ages 12-25 and will run once a week for five weeks at the Corner Health Center in Ypsilanti. The group will provide art-based intervention aimed to decrease stress and hopelessness in having a chronic illness. Art-based intervention will provide practical tools for self-care and coping. The group will provide youth with a sense of belonging, support, and a safe space to share and express their thoughts and feelings. Group meetings will consist of hip-hop and music therapy through music dialogue, music creation, creative writing, and performance. Participants will understand the power of their voice, narrative, and expression.

The ArtsEngine Interdisciplinary Visiting Scholar Grant encourages the inclusion of guest artists, instructors, or practitioners from outside the primary course discipline. In general, this means someone who would not typically be appointed to teach in a particular school or college (e.g., a sculptor in a drawing class would not typically qualify, neither would a mechanical engineer in a chemical engineering class. However, a musician in a mechanical engineering class would meet this baseline criteria). Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Arts or design must be represented, either in the primary course discipline or in the discipline of the visiting scholar.

Grants up to $1,000 are available to any faculty member or instructor appointed in one of the four North Campus Schools and Colleges (the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning, the Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design, the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, or the College of Engineering) or the School of Information.

a2ru is pleased to have awarded nine travel grant awards to students of a2ru partner institutions to attend the 2017 a2ru annual national conference in Boston (for more information on the conference, see page 13). Applications are currently being accepted for the a2ru Emerging Creatives Student Summit, February 15-18, 2018 hosted by Louisiana State University, as well as the inaugural a2ru Student Summer Intensive, June 11-22, 2018 hosted by University of Florida’s Digital Worlds Institute. Both events will be supported by a2ru through administrative, marketing, and financial support including additional travel grants. Travel grants are available up to $250 each to support travel expenses.
Celebrating and exhibiting student and alumni creative work, UpstART 200 is a U-M Bicentennial project encouraging active engagement with, and connection to, the University through inspiration from art, design, and architecture, examples of which are curated in an online archive. Creative work of all kinds from across disciplines have been accepted into an online exhibition space and are permanently curated as part of the history of the U-M Bicentennial. 154 items have been nominated to the prompt archive. Partner events, course assignments, and student maker grants have contributed to the 40 creative submissions. Submissions will continue to be accepted and curated through Spring 2018.

(Right: The [Paper] Cube by Stephanie Schouman)

Course Assignments

With the goal of connecting students to creative making (both inside and outside the classroom) and to develop as many high-quality connections and responses to the extensive holdings within our U-M knowledge community as possible, the UpstART 200 Planning Committee invited professors and instructors across the University to consider developing an assignment in their courses that would link to this Bicentennial project—creating a platform to extend the impact of students’ work beyond the classroom walls.

Student Pop-Up Performances

In October 2017, ArtsEngine partnered with the U-M Bicentennial Office to engage students in the arts—their work, their passion, their education, and their development—to be at the core of our “looking forward” to the next 200 years.

260 pop-up performances took place over the course of 13 days across campus by more than 20 student groups as part of the U-M Bicentennial Fall Festival. Performances ranged from dance to magic shows and everything in between. Select student organizations also had the chance to participate in performances held on the student stage at the U-M Bicentennial Fall Expo. Performers were required to capture and share their performances on campus via various social media platforms to reach a broader audience.
To celebrate the activities of the past year, ArtsEngine is proud to showcase selected pieces on display to the public in the Duderstadt Gallery, December 15, 2017-January 3, 2018. Thanks to Tom Bray, Ryan Schmidt, and Kathi Reister for helping to build and launch the exhibit. Submissions will continue to be accepted throughout the remainder of the academic year and curated into the permanent archive.

**Student Maker Grants**

Four student maker grants have been awarded for up to $200/individual and $1,000 for teams up to 5 members. Projects may be created in whatever medium the applicant chooses in response to a work of art, design, or architecture. Funded projects include paintings and collage of Rackham, Hatcher Graduate Library, Hill Auditorium, and the Baird Carillon by psychology student Iris Wang; a social impact video game by students in the School of Education, School for Environment and Sustainability, and Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design inspired by Angry Neptune, Salacia, and Stride; video and performance inspired by Nichols Arboretum created by students from the School of Music, Theatre & Dance; and an abstract tapestry created by students in Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design inspired by Impressions.

**Exhibition**

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**Partners**

UpstART 200 is made possible through generous support of the four North Campus Schools and Colleges (A. Alfred Taubman School of Architecture + Urban Planning, Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and College of Engineering) as well as:
- University Library
- Alumni Association at the University of Michigan
- Arts at Michigan
- The Detroit Center
- U-M Office of Communications/Arts & Culture
- University Musical Society (UMS)
- University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA)
- U-M Bicentennial Committee

*Wings by Ophelia Deng. Inspired by Daedalus sculpture on Central Campus.*


artsengine.umich.edu
ARIST-IN-RESIDENCE FOR DIALOGUE BUILDING, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES

In December 2016, with encouragement from administrators in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance and the Provost’s Office, Eryn Rosenthal met with ArtsEngine to discuss the possibility of bringing her expertise in using dance to create effective and meaningful dialogues on the topics of diversity, civility, and democracy to students and faculty at U-M through a supported multi-semester residency. ArtsEngine thought an effort of this kind could bring meaningful and important experience to our campus community in support of campus-wide DEI initiatives. It would also do so through the transformative, though often overlooked, disciplinary approaches of the arts, specifically in this case, dance.

Working collaboratively with Ms. Rosenthal, a proposal was developed and received funding and support of more than $20,000 from a variety of sources, including the King-Chávez-Parks Visiting Professor grant program, the U-M Provost’s Office, the LSA Dean’s Democracy in Action Fund, the Center for the Education of Women (CEW)’s grant funding program, the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), School of Music, Theatre & Dance’s DEI Initiative, Student Life, the Residential College, and a number of individual LSA units including the African Studies Center, the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, and the Center for World Performance Studies. ArtsEngine serves as the administrative and financial “home base” for the residency which includes grant administration and reporting, artist support, advertising and marketing, and financial support.

At the end of Fall 2017, the residency has engaged students, faculty, and staff through a number of workshops, working groups, and presentations, and will continue a number of new and ongoing efforts. Highlights include a new full-semester course and film series, Personal, Present and Immediate: Making Performance on Sociopolitical Questions, offered through the Residential College; a School of Music, Theatre & Dance Dialogue and Innovation pilot workshop program through the Chamber Music Department; a community outreach project, Root Vegetables, Groundedness and Self-Definitions of Beauty, created through collaboration with SMTD’s Dance Department and Argus Farms, the Ann Arbor Public Schools, and the U-M Hospitals; a site-based performance on the Diag honoring Freedom Riders and historic/current student activism at U-M (with Dance, National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID), Rackham/Students of Color of Rackham (SCOR), and LSA units); and a number of Dance and Dialogue workshops and working groups with NCID, CEW, Student Life, and CRLT.

Choreographer ERYN ROSENTHAL examines the democratic underpinnings of Contact Improvisation, and the role of the body in transgressing previously legislated boundaries. Eryn’s ongoing series, The Doors Project, investigates transitions—political, social, intimate—through site-based performance in different doorways around the world. Her related dance theater performance and MFA thesis, Freedom Suite: Transaction Being Processed, is based on ongoing oral history research with anti-Apartheid activists from New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Eryn is an alumna of the MFA program in Dance at U-M, where she also studied in the Ford School for Public Policy. She has taught throughout South Africa, Europe, and the US, and is delighted to be back at U-M as a King-Chávez-Parks Visiting Professor and Artist in Residence for Dialogue-Building, Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives.

www.erynrosenthal.com
Service, Leadership, & Co-Sponsorship

Staff Service

- EXCEL Enterprise Funding Review Committee (SMTD), Deb Mexicotte, Participant
- Arts at Michigan Student Mini-Grants and Course Connections Review Committees (ONSP), Deb Mexicotte, Participant
- Duderstadt Fun Committee, Deb Mexicotte, Amy Tackitt, Participants
- Center for Socially Engaged Design Awards Committee (College of Engineering), Deb Mexicotte, Participant
- North Campus MLK Planning Committee/Spirit Awards Review Committee (4 North Campus Schools and Colleges), Deb Mexicotte, Participant
- 2020 Michigan Meeting Proposal Committee (Stearns Collection), Deb Mexicotte, Participant
- AR/VR/MR Faculty Steering Committee (Duderstadt Center, Academic Innovation), Gabriel Harp, Participant
- Makeathon (MPowered, Center for Entrepreneurship, Duderstadt Center), Laurie Baefsky, Deb Mexicotte, Student Organization Advisors
- Food Gatherers Holiday Food Drive
- Energy + Contest Award Committee (Energy Institute), Laurie Baefsky, Judge
- Research Experience for Masters Students (REMS) Mentorship, Gabriel Harp
- U-M School of Information Capstone Project Mentorship, Gabriel Harp
- U-M Metropolitan Research Group, Edgar Cardenas, Member
- Brightmoor Maker Space and Detroit Community School Partnership Development, Edgar Cardenas

Staff Leadership

- Arts Administrators in Higher Education (AAHE) Organizational Task Force, Deb Mexicotte, Co-Chair
- U-M Leadership Council for the Arts, Deb Mexicotte, Convener; Maryrose Flanigan, Amy Tackitt, Laurie Baefsky, Gabriel Harp, Participants
- Ann Arbor Arts Alliance Cultural Leaders Forum, Laurie Baefsky, Member
- Ann Arbor Summer Festival Board of Trustees, Laurie Baefsky, Member
- National Academy of Sciences Cultural Programs Review Panel, Laurie Baefsky, Chair
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Working Committee on the Integration of STEM, Arts, and Humanities in Higher Education, Laurie Baefsky, Member
- Leonardo Education and Arts Forum (LEAF), Edgar Cardenas, Representative

Co-Sponsorship

- Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series (Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design), Departmental Co-Sponsor
Living Arts

Living Arts is the only learning community on North Campus. Under ArtsEngine, its goal is to spur and support collaborative, creative work across disciplines. 72 students are currently participating in Living Arts as first-year community members, 24 students are employed as community peer mentors, and 3 students are employed as resident advisors. Students from all North Campus academic units and LSA are represented.

Co-Curricular Programming

Co-curricular programming this fall has included a film workshop with Mosaic Film Festival; an artist visit by Keiji Ashizawa (in conjunction with the Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series); a dance movement workshop with Amy Chavasse, Associate Professor, School of Music, Theatre & Dance; and a motion sensor workshop with Lauro Ojeda, Assistant Research Scientist, College of Engineering. Living Arts Director, Mark Jones led the annual instrument making workshop at the beginning of the semester during Welcome Week and the three student resident advisors led an acting workshop based on video games to conclude the programming for the Fall semester.

Living Arts Summer Residential Lab

The Living Arts Residential Lab (LASRL) will go on hiatus for at least two years starting in 2018, allowing the Living Arts staff and ArtsEngine time to explore programmatic alignment with ArtsEngine and the supporting schools and college’s missions, to research the processes and procedures or a true “pipeline” that could encourage students to enroll at U-M, to cultivate additional community partners, and develop underwriting opportunities to make any future summer programming either cost neutral or revenue producing.

The Living Arts Summer Residential Lab (LASRL) started in the summer of 2015 as a program mirroring the Living Arts college program, but for high school students who may not have “maker” or arts opportunities in their high schools, or might need a summer enrichment to better focus college aspirations. The Carr Center in Detroit was a co-sponsor of the program for three summers, encouraging access to student
populations that could benefit. Student populations were recruited in Ypsilanti, Southfield, Detroit, Ann Arbor, and nationally, with efforts coordinated through community organizations, high school guidance counselors, and other marketing strategies. Tuition costs were kept low and were heavily subsidized by ArtsEngine. Living Arts staff worked with participants to receive scholarships from the U-M Center for Educational Outreach and other sources. The session was held during the last two weeks of July for 20 participants each summer, instructed by graduate student instructors from various ArtsEngine units.

**Rebranding**

An exploration of rebranding the Living Arts community was undertaken in Fall 2017, as there was concern that recruiting efforts might be hampered by misconceptions about the interdisciplinary nature of the community (did the name imply a narrow “fine arts” focus, for instance?). There was also a desire to understand the connection students and alumni might have to the name “Living Arts” and whether there were words or phrases we could use to “tune up” our messaging to better communicate the student experience.

Two focus groups were held with peer mentors and community members, surveys were sent to students who had participated in Living Arts over the years who had either left the community or graduated altogether from U-M (approximately 30 surveys were collected from each of these groups), and a presentation and discussion was held with Living Arts staff and the full community. After analysis of the input collected, it was decided a new name was not necessary (as there were many positive connections to the name for both the alumni and recruiting efforts), but the updating of language, adding a descriptive tag line, and updating the logo were in order. That work has either been completed in time for Winter 2018 recruiting (language and taglines), or has been undertaken to be completed Fall 2018 (logo redesign).
The Arts Engagement Project (HUM00036642) is a study of more than 4,000 individual students at U-M between 2010 and 2015, and focuses on the impacts, precursors, barriers, frequency, and perceptions of co-curricular arts engagement in college. This project received an Exploring Learning Analytics (ELA) Grant through the U-M Provost’s Office. Living Arts has conducted pre-, mid-, and post-first year surveys of more than 500 students, assessing the impacts participation on Living Arts and UARTS 150 may have on their creative, social, and academic development.

The Arts Engagement data set analysis is slated to be complete by June 2018 under the guidance of Deb Mexicotte, PI, Gabriel Harp, ArtsEngine/a2ru Research Director, and several student researchers supported by the ELA grant. The Living Arts data was cleaned and prepared for analysis in Summer/Fall 2017.

In Summer/Fall 2017, Gabriel Harp, ArtsEngine Research Director launched the SPARC (Supporting Practice in Arts, Research, and Curricula) knowledge engine—a new repository hosting the ArtsEngine 2012-2013 interview data of about 600 interviews from over 40 universities on the topic of arts integration—its challenges and potential—in higher education. He engaged a new team of research assistants to build capacity for text-as-data analyses to visualization and descriptive statistics to deliver insights into this data set, including identifying ways to collaborate effectively with aligned interests across different fields and disciplines. See the 2017 a2ru annual report at a2ru.org for further details on related research activities.

In October 2017, ArtsEngine submitted its first National Endowment for the Arts grant application under the ArtWorks Research Grant opportunity. The project, “The Arts and Design in Higher Education and Community Outcomes: Toward an Ontology of Impacts and Values,” supports the development of an ontology for the value and impacts of the arts and design in higher education and community and workforce development outcomes. The project includes using text-as-data topic modeling to examine over 4,500 open-ended interview responses, along with review of relevant literature. The working ontology would identify and map the impacts of the arts and design, with results informing the development of a new research instrument designed to validate select features of the ontology with additional populations. This grant was submitted with cost-sharing commitments from the University of Michigan Arts Engagement Grant, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation a2ru Research Grant, and an ArtsEngine/a2ru salary match with approval from the five ArtsEngine deans. We anticipate notification of award in Spring 2018.

A wordcloud for the topic “Creating and Disseminating New Culture” with words weighted by probability. Larger words and color contrasts represent higher probability words. “Creating and Disseminating New Culture” is one of seven categories of topics that emerged around the question, “What is Arts Research?,” in interviews with university faculty, students, and staff.
Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru)

Started in 2012 by the ArtsEngine deans, a2ru is the national arm of ArtsEngine, sharing a staff and leveraging collective programmatic resources. The Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) is now a partnership of more than 40 institutions committed to ensuring the greatest possible institutional support for the full spectrum of arts and arts-integrative research, curricula, programs, and creative practice for the benefit of all students and faculty at research universities and the communities they serve. a2ru advances the full range of arts-integrative research, curricula, programs, and creative practice to acknowledge, articulate, and expand the vital role of higher education in our global society. a2ru envisions a world in which universities—students, faculty, and leaders—acknowledge, deeply embed, and seamlessly integrate the arts in pursuit of basic knowledge and in everyday practice.

See a2ru annual report at a2ru.org for additional reporting details from the past year.

Partner Institutions

- Arizona State University
- Boston University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Dartmouth College
- Iowa State University
- James Madison University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Kent State University
- Louisiana State University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Michigan State University
- Northeastern University
- The Ohio State University
- Oregon State University*
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Rochester Institute of Technology*
- Texas Tech University
- Tufts University
- The University of Alabama
- The University of Alabama-Birmingham
- The University of Arizona
- University of California, Berkeley*
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Colorado Denver
- University of Florida
- The University of Georgia*
- University of Houston
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- The University of Iowa
- The University of Kansas*
- University of Michigan
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- University of North Texas*
- University of Technology Sydney*
- University of Texas at Dallas*
- The University of Utah
- The University of Virginia
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Tech
- Washington University in St. Louis

*New partner in 2017

2017 National Conference

The fifth annual national Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) conference, Arts in the Public Sphere: Civility, Advocacy, and Engagement, convened Wednesday, November 1st - Saturday, November 4th with over 300 attendees from institutions worldwide. Hosted by Northeastern University, with additional events throughout hosted by Boston University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Tufts University, the conference focused on creative placemaking with plenary panels as well as breakout sessions, panels, working groups, performances, papers, presentations, and discussions led and moderated by members of a2ru’s extensive partner institutions and professional networks.
CONFERENCE STATISTICS:
There were over 300 participants from 121 institutions; with 11 attendees representing the University of Michigan. Fifty sessions were included on the agenda including 6 plenary panels, 7 working groups, and a performance and presentation by musicians and participants in Carnegie Hall’s Lullaby Project.

Attendees from the University of Michigan presented or participated in various sessions including:

**ART RESEARCH, AESTHETICS, AND PUBLIC SPACE**
Moderated by Michael Kelly, Founder/President, Transdisciplinary Aesthetics Foundation - University of North Carolina Charlotte
Sarah B. Cunningham, Director, Arts Research Institute - Virginia Commonwealth University
Gabriel Harp, Research Director, Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities - University of Michigan
Gediminas Urbonas, Director, Program in Art, Culture, & Technology - Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Steve Seidel, Patricia Bauman and John Landrum Bryant Chair in Arts in Education - Harvard University

**CONNECTING CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY THROUGH CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS**
Kelly M. Murdoch-Kitt, Assistant Professor, Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design - University of Michigan
Lorrie Frear, Professor, School of Design - Rochester Institute of Technology

**ARTS & HEALTH WORKING GROUP**
Laurie Baefsky, Executive Director, Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities - University of Michigan
Jill Sonke, Director, Center for Arts in Medicine - University of Florida
Lisa M. Wong, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics - Harvard University
Sarah B. Cunningham, Director, Arts Research Institute - Virginia Commonwealth University
Salem Tsegaye, Assistant Director, Arts Research Institute - Virginia Commonwealth University

**EVIDENCE OF IMPACTS WORKING GROUP**
Laurie Baefsky, Executive Director, Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities - University of Michigan
Beth Janetski, Policy and Planning Analyst - University of Wisconsin-Madison
Colleen Syron, Assistant Professor of Practice - University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT AND AMPLIFICATION WORKING GROUP**
Maryrose Flanigan, Associate Director, Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities - University of Michigan
Deb Mexicotte, Managing Director, ArtsEngine - University of Michigan

**SUPPORTING PRACTICE IN THE ARTS, RESEARCH, AND CURRICULA (SPARC) DATA AND RESEARCH**
Gabriel Harp, Research Director, Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities - University of Michigan
The 2017 a2ru national conference was preceded by a full day pre-conference workshop, hosted by Boston University, focused on the intricacies and interdisciplinarity of Creative Placemaking as exemplars for arts integrative practices in higher education. The workshop was designed to explore best practices for advancing the field of Creative Placemaking as a method of interdisciplinary arts integration that bridges higher education and the public good. The session was facilitated by a2ru research partner, Sherry Wagner-Henry, director of the Bolz Center for Arts Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and included pairs of lightning presentations given on topics including extension service and the arts in rural communities, arts and public health, arts in race and immigration, and arts in transportation, housing, and public safety. Findings from a recent creative placemaking survey and data from a2ru’s work with Attentive.ly were shared leading into a futuring exercise with Garry Golden of Futurethink. The pre-conference workshop was graphically recorded by Tamra Carhart, a Boston based artist who specializes in translation of emerging and overarching themes through visual illustrations. Pre-conference materials related to the shared practice modules will be available in the coming weeks on a2ru’s website.

Resources, recordings, and transcripts from the conference are available at research.a2ru.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

a2ru Circuits Webinar
The Future of Creative Placemaking in Higher Education
January 31, 2018, 3pm

a2ru Emerging Creatives Student Summit
Spectacle and the Collective Experience
February 15-18, 2018
Hosted by Louisiana State University

a2ru Circuits Webinar
Cluster Hires
February 2018

42 Hours of RE_Creativity
Transportation Solutions: Getting Here, Going There
March 9-11, 2018

ConFabCafé
Creative Placemaking 2.0
March 23, 2018
Co-Hosted with U-M Ginsberg Center

a2ru Circuits Webinar
Topic to be decided by students at the Emerging Creatives Student Summit
May 2018

a2ru Research Synthesis Meetings
Various Topics
Spring/Summer/Fall 2018

a2ru Summer Intensive
Digital Storytelling: Tools & Techniques
June 11-22, 2018
Hosted by University of Florida Digital Worlds Institute

a2ru National Conference
Arts Environments: Design, Resilience, and Sustainability
November 1-3, 2018
Hosted by University of Georgia

a2ru Emerging Creatives Student Summit
Food
February 7-10, 2019
Hosted by James Madison University