

# CU ARTS

## University of Colorado Boulder

You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.

– Maya Angelou

When the U.S. Congress voted to pass the National Foundation of the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965, it signaled a bold move: the federal government declared that the arts and artists matter. The creation of the NEA and NEH built upon previous initiatives, including President Eisenhower's 1960 Commission on National Goals, where he posited: "In the eyes of posterity, the success of the United States as a civilized society will be largely judged by the creative activities of its citizens in art, architecture, literature, music, and the sciences."

**The time is ripe for the University of Colorado Boulder to make an equally bold move in 2018, to create an integrated and horizontal consortium which brings together faculty and students from across the campus who are interested in and dedicated to the creation and study of art, and the exploration of creative practices: CU ARTS.**

### NEED

We in America have not always been kind to the artists and scholars who are the creators and the keepers of our vision. Somehow, the scientists always seem to get the penthouse, while the arts and the humanities get the basement.

– President Lyndon B. Johnson

Alas, President Johnson's observation in 1965 is no less true in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. However, the main challenge facing the arts at CU Boulder is not merely financial, it is structural. **Faculty and students who are interested in and dedicated to the creation and study of art, and the exploration of creative practices are scattered all across campus and have no mechanism to facilitate communication.**

Numerous faculty conversations over the last decade have explored various models of bringing the arts together – College of Information, Communication, Journalism, Media and Technology (ICJMT), Interdepartmental Program in Fine Arts (IPFA), School of the Arts (SOTA), etc. – but they were all limited in scope to a handful of departments. **CU ARTS** takes the best ideas of these conversations, and applies them to this vision for the entire campus.

## PROPOSED GOVERNANCE

CU ARTS will hold no tenure lines, rather interested faculty can petition for CU ARTS Affiliate status, an appointment which comes with no service obligation nor voting privileges.

The administration of the program will be handled by 10 CU ARTS Faculty Fellows, who serve staggered two-years terms. These faculty will teach CU ARTS courses – creative practice, creative thinking, arts management, arts entrepreneurship, arts outreach, etc. – and supervise Internships, Honors Thesis, etc.

CU ARTS will convene working groups – initiated by faculty or students – to pursue a specific research question. These ad hoc working groups could produce a product (exhibit, performance, conference, new course, publication, etc.) or be completely process oriented.

## RESOURCES

With our award-winning faculty, **CU ARTS** has the human resources it needs to soar. In addition, the Boulder / Denver metro area is a rich site of innovation and creativity.

University of Colorado **Boulder** is located in one of  
*The 100 Best Small Arts Towns in America*, by author John Vallani

Richard Florida states that Boulder  
“sits atop my own rankings of the nation’s most creative metros.”

Denver metro area nonprofit arts, cultural and scientific organizations generated \$1.8 billion in Total Economic Activity in 2016, according to a study conducted by the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA). Over 300 nonprofit organizations in the seven-county area, employed 10,731 people and generated 13.9 million in attendance.

CU ARTS faculty include four Guggenheim Fellows, eight Fulbright Scholars, two participants in the Venice Biennale, and numerous faculty who have been invited for residencies at Yaddo and McDowell. Faculty have received funding from Creative Capital, Philanthropiece, National Performance Network, Getty Foundation, NEA, USA Fellows, Pollock- Krasner Foundation, etc. Of the 27 active members of the CU President’s Teaching Scholars, six are in the arts and humanities.

## OPPORTUNITIES

In honor of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare’s death in 2016, **eight departments** at CU Boulder collaborated to bring Shakespeare’s First Folio from the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., to campus. Our \$80,000 budget allowed for the creation of **32 discrete programs** with the involvement of **32 faculty members, 32 staff members, and 48 students and alumni** from across campus. A further **15 community partners** assisted in making **Shakespeare at CU** a success, drawing over 8000 participants to campus during the year.

CU Boulder should be creating such campus-wide focused programming every year. **CU ARTS** will facilitate and nurture such multi-modal collaborations, born out of faculty creative work and research. Indeed, CU Boulder is the only institution in the state that has the creative and scholarly expertise “in house” to create such blockbusters. These cross-disciplinary events are not only efficacious for the dissemination of faculty creative and scholarly work, but they are invaluable in teaching our students how to see and participate in cross-cultural approaches to the creation and study of art.

Future upcoming campus-wide events could include:

- 2018 • CU Libraries is investigating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley’s **FRANKENSTEIN**.
- CU College of Music is celebrating Leonard Bernstein’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, with partners Film Studies, Jewish Studies, Theatre & Dance
- 2019 • various individuals on campus have expressed an interest in creating “Bauhaus 100,” an opportunity to assess the legacy of this innovative arts school established in Germany in 1919, and a time to explore the teaching / pedagogy of art instruction in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- 2020 • The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed in 1920, and its anniversary begs us to look at the role of the arts in its passage, celebrate women’s contributions, and explore how the depiction of women has changed (or not) since its passing.

CU Boulder is a dues-paying member of **Imagining America** and **a2ru** (Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities), but as there is not much campus awareness of these vital organizations, CU Boulder faculty and students are not engaged in national conversations we should be part of. CU ARTS will actively advertise these two programs in order to build robust participation.

## **VISION**

The primary vision of CU ARTS is to provide multiple platforms to inform interested students, faculty, and the public as to what is happening on campus, not only in terms of speakers, performances, presentations, and exhibitions, but also classes and collaboration opportunities.

CU ARTS will spearhead an initiative to help students get around campus-imposed structural barriers that restrict their ability to take courses outside of their home school or college. CU Boulder should encourage, not hinder, a student’s ability to broaden their course of study.

CU ARTS will facilitate collaborations and interdisciplinary work, both between units, across the campus, and with outside entities in order to strengthen the innovative artistic community of students and faculty at CU Boulder.

CU ARTS will partner with the faculty, students, and staff to strengthen existing programs, and create new interdisciplinary initiatives that will realize the potential of this multifaceted collective.

## **Why create CU ARTS ?**

- Build bridges and create synergies among students, faculty, schools, colleges, institutes, and community partners;
- Create interdisciplinary courses;
- Recruit the most talented students; and
- Articulate CU ARTS' narrative and vision in order to support fundraising and arts advocacy

## **CU ARTS University of Colorado Boulder**

### **Mission Statement DRAFT 12-6-17**

**The mission of CU ARTS is to honor, challenge, and invigorate the praxis and innovation of the arts.**

### **VISION**

**We enthusiastically pursue art-making and the study of art within the context of a liberal arts education. We seize opportunities presented by changes in culture and society. We capitalize on the combined strengths of the faculty, staff, and students within the University of Colorado Boulder who wish to investigate creative practices.**

**Learning: Our faculty, staff, and students embrace diversity, collaboration, and experimentation that cultivates creativity with a broad range of critical perspectives and pedagogical approaches.**

**Community: Through fostering intellectual rigor and experiential learning, we empower our students to develop unique voices, transgress boundaries, and participate in local and global communities.**

**Scholarship & Creative Work: We generate essential and influential scholarship and creative work that comes from our archives, studios, galleries, labs, and imaginations.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Bud Coleman, THDN**