WHITE PAPER

Research Institute for Arts of the Americas (RAII)

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Team Listing:
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List of Units Affected by Proposal:
School of Music
School of Theatre Arts
School of Art
School of Dance
School of Media Arts
Research Institute for Arts of the Americas (RIAA)

Overview: Where Are We Now? Where Are We Going?

Dean Maurice Sevigny says it best: “The College of Fine Arts at The University of Arizona consists of five professional schools: art, music, dance, theatre arts, and media arts. Its accomplished faculty and alumni contribute to the College’s world-class reputation and to Tucson’s popular identity as “The City of Arts.” New Art Forms, and innovative technologies, complement strong foundations and traditional skills that take full advantage of the interactive, conservatory-style environment of the College” (from recent CFA Viewbook).

It has taken almost 20 years to move the five teaching units in the College of Fine Arts to professional School status. Immediately a need has emerged – how to capitalize on the new prominence of all the Schools collectively -- on the national scene. The purpose of this White Paper is to answer this need by creating an agency -- an institute -- that can gain access to a larger pool of funding, while substantially increasing both CFA’s and UA’s national profile/image. By doing so, it fits the recent President/Provost initiative to move UA to top 10 rankings, while becoming more financially independent from state monies.

Building on a three-year initiative to move the School of Music to top-20 status, the concept of creating a Research Institute for Music of the Americas emerged through numerous faculty, staff and student meetings. Recently, in discussions with the other Schools in CFA, it became clear that by having all five units work together, this initiative would have a far stronger research and financial impact. Additional work is needed to determine whether this is best framed as an intercollegiate institute or as an arts education research institute.

Connecting the Arts to Business: Opening Doors

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, in an October 7, 2008 Arizona Daily Star article entitled “Growth in AZ exports termed a bright spot” mentioned that Arizona’s biggest trade partners were Mexico and Canada. The Economics & Business Research Center in the Eller College of Management has an online report entitled “Benchmarks: Arizona Exports by Metropolitan Statistical Areas.” In this report, Tucson is identified has having Mexico and Canada as markets for a third of its 2006 global exports, while Phoenix has Asia identified as its most important market. Building on the century old connection between culture and commerce, the arts have a clear role to play in opening up new territories and strengthening our friendships and economies with others. Tucson’s cultural past places current and future economic strength in looking toward North, Central and South America.

A more focused alignment with UA’s economic initiatives involved the Americas, along with the arts ability to open doors and connect business and cultural activities. Competitively, our sister and brother Arts Schools at other universities in the United States have begun their own research initiatives. A few of these will serve as illustrative examples: the University of North Carolina at Greensboro has launched a Music Research Institute with a focus on music-related hearing loss, music performance, music medicine, music education, and ethnomusicology. The University of Colorado at Boulder has opened an American Music Research Center with a focus on information and dissemination of American music. Rutgers University runs an Institute of Jazz Studies with a focus on archiving jazz music and materials. None have the wide-reaching and global focus that this CFA Research Institute for Arts of the Americas would provide – to create energy and support the national and international impact that the UA Strategic Plan embraces.
Fit with UA Strategic Plan

The current 5-year Strategic Plan places emphasis on four directives, and this White Paper fits well with two of them: Quality and Outreach. This proposal also assists UA as it moves to be more of a Hispanic-serving university by 2020.

CFA Schools Have Requisite Strengths and Experience Upon Which to Build a National Research Institute for Arts of the Americas

Each School Director, with their staff, has donor cultivation (over 2,000 donors) and fund raising expertise ($100,000 to over $600,000 per School annually on average) in addition to planning, organizing and presentation skills. Collectively the 5 Schools present over 400 concerts, performances, films and gallery showings to over 100,000 citizens in the Tucson area. Beyond these accomplishments, the CFA Schools have hosted or presented research-related events. A few examples include:

1. Desert Skies Music Education Research Symposium
2. Music and Medicine Symposium (first one ever held at UA in 2007)
3. Latin American Music Symposium (2nd to be held in early 2009)
4. Institute for Innovation in String Music Teaching
5. Publish/edit national association String Research Journal
4. Direct the James Rogers Conducting Institute as a Leadership Institute for Musicians
5. Bamboo Project has faculty central to idea development (i.e., Patrick Neher, music)
6. Dance Performance Series (some with UApresents)
7. Theatre Performance Series (almost $500,000 in ticket sales/year)
8. Visiting Artist & Scholar Lecture Series (8-10/year by School of Art)
9. Film Series (Media Arts lectures)
10. Winter Conference on Arts Education
11. Showcase of Talent (Theatre)

Collaborating UA Colleges/Programs/Resources (no order implied)

College/School of International Studies
UApresents
Office of Research & Office of Technology Transfer
Jazz and Popular Music Research Initiative in School of Music (builds on Riddle endowed chair)
Vaudeville Collection: recently gained world’s largest memorabilia collection
Department of Physics
College of Engineering
Spanish and Portuguese Language Departments
Latin American Studies
Hanson Film Institute (CFA)
UA Museum of Art
Center for Creative Photography (via UA Libraries)
College of Science
College of Medicine
College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
Outreach College
College of Humanities
Department of History
Department of Classics
Women’s Studies
Comparative Cultural and Literary Studies (CCLS)
Orvieto Institute (Study Abroad program)
UA Libraries
Poetry Center
Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Center for Educational Resources in Culture, Language and Literacy (CERCLL)
Opera Program in School of Music (builds on Rieman endowed chair)
Mexican American Studies & Research Center
Eller College of Management: Economic & Business Research Center

Alliances/Partnerships
Brazil, Chile, Argentina (individual faculty initiatives already in place)
Tucson Symphony Orchestra (TSO)
Tucson Unified School District (TUSD): Opening Minds through the Arts (OMA) program
Arizona Opera
Tucson Jazz Society
Tucson Guitar Society
Greater Oro Valley Arts Council (GOVAC)
University of Toronto, Canada & UA faculty exchange/relationship in process
Sonora County Arts Festivals, Mexico

While it has not been possible to consult with all parties at this point in the process, if this proposal is approved, we will collaborate fully with all parties listed, plus look for guidance on any/all others that should be included.

Research Institute for Arts of the Americas (RAII): Budget

This Proposal will be funded internally via redistribution of faculty loading, staff duties, and graduate teaching assistants realigned to research assistant duties as needed, with a generally understood zero costing effect on each CFA unit. While this White Paper’s zero savings, at first glance, may read as a weakness, the potential for major Federal and national organization/association grants and funding is the real goal in terms of budget.

Grant Funding Agencies/Associations/Foundations
Andrew Mellon Foundation
George Lucas Education Foundation
National Association of Music Manufacturers (NAMM) Foundation
National Education Association
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
National Science Foundation (NSF):
  * Recent NSF grants to others include: $500K for “Musical Brain” (music, medicine)
  * Digital Music Library $3.1M given to Indiana University (arts, library, engineering)