

MISSION STATEMENT OF SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

Mission Statement

The School of Fine Arts at the University of Connecticut provides the University community, as well as the state of Connecticut a cultural environment that provides unique expressions of emotion, intellect and spirit. Antoine de Saint-exupéry in his book *Flight to Arras*, states that “A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral.” It is the intrinsic vision in arts activities that is essential to a Research I Institution. Students and faculty in the School of Fine Arts have the artistic vision and the artistic imagination to create “cathedrals.” Artistic skills, technique, analytic processes and historical investigations are all a part of the Fine Arts educational environment, but it is the **vision** that makes art. It is the visionary image that creates the play, the symphony or the piece of sculpture. The School of Fine Arts balances artistic and cultural legacies with the innovative approaches and techniques of contemporary art. In so doing, the School of Fine Arts serves students at the University of Connecticut in both their educational and professional development.

The School reaches out to the student body as a whole and to our larger community which extends from Storrs around the world. The School is committed to reflecting the cultural and racial diversity of our constituency through the content of our programs as well as the recruitment of faculty, staff and students.

Goals

The School of Fine Arts has five primary goals:

- to give undergraduate and graduate students the highest possible level of professional training in the various fields of the performing and visual arts;
- to function as a major arts organization in the production of new and classical works throughout the fine and performing arts for the enrichment of the students, faculty and staff of the University and the citizens of the state and region;
- to encourage faculty excellence in research, whether it is measured by publications or by creative achievements and to thus have a significant impact on the practice of the arts nationally;
- to enrich the cultural life of the state, region, and world through an extensive outreach program of off-campus performances, exhibitions, and lectures;
- to serve as a resource center in the arts, primarily for the citizens of Connecticut, providing access to the latest developments in art, music, and dramatic arts as they may be applied to professional, educational, or avocational interests. In addition, fund raising continues to be a major priority for the School, particularly as a means of increasing the School's scholarship and fellowship support, as well as support for artists in residence from the United States and foreign countries, and for renovations and additions to Fine Arts facilities.

The School of Fine Arts is a professional school dedicated to training university students in music, drama, performance, design, the visual arts; the histories of art, music and drama; theoretical aspects of artistic forms and the pedagogical fundamentals of music, drama and art. The School of Fine Arts is a nationally recognized school and conservatory for advanced professional education and training in specific artistic areas as designated by the three academic departments. The University of Connecticut community greatly benefits on many levels from having a professional quality School of Fine Arts on its campus as a cultural and intellectual center for the benefit of the general university student, faculty and the general population of the region.

The five primary goals of the School of Fine Arts guide educational, artistic and budgetary decisions as we strive to be the Center for Arts and Culture in New England and in the Northeast. Objectives specific to each of the individual units in the School of Fine Arts present a structure for a **Five-Year Plan** for the School of Fine Arts.