



BALLOT & CANDIDATE PROFILES 2025

Results of the electronic election will be presented at ICfAD's 61st Annual Conference as part of the Annual Business Meeting and in accordance with election procedures outlined in the Council's bylaws.

The Annual Meeting of the International Council for Arts Deans

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 16, 2025

Santa Fe, New Mexico

**ANDREW DAVIS**, Founding Dean

Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts, University of Houston

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

The role of organizations like ICFAD in higher education has never been more important. We face monumental challenges in funding, governance, equity and access, fundraising, curriculum, instructional delivery, and many others, all on top of constant pressure to innovate in order to ensure the long-term relevance of the arts and arts education—and the relevance of higher education itself. Such challenges pose enormous opportunities, no doubt, but they are on such a scale that

they cannot be met in a vacuum, by individuals. They must be met collaboratively, with arts leaders working in partnership with arts leaders to envision and execute common solutions to shared problems, leveraging the strength that results from collective action as a body. I have been attending ICFAD since 2016 and have strongly believed since my first meeting in its mission—"Deans and executive fine arts administrators with a shared commitment to excellence in arts leadership and advocacy in higher education"—and I welcome the opportunity to sustain, develop, and advance this mission from the position of Secretary.

BIO

Andrew Davis is Founding Dean of the Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts at the University of Houston. His work there has focused on integrating interdisciplinary training into the curriculum and on establishing the arts as a leading force for social engagement and community impact. He is a strong advocate for the value of an arts and a liberal-arts education; the benefits of international study-abroad opportunities for students; and the opportunity for the arts to actively engage and transform universities and their cities. A music theorist by training and a long-time board member of the Texas Society for Music Theory, he has published and lectured widely on opera and instrumental music of the Romantic and late-Romantic periods. He is the author of *Il Trittico, Turandot, and Puccini's Late Style* (Indiana University Press, 2010) and *Sonata Fragments: Romantic Narratives in Chopin, Schumann, and Brahms* (Indiana University Press, 2017).

Davis served previously as Director of the Moores School of Music and as Associate Dean of the Honors College, both at the University of Houston, and he was co-chair of the university-wide committee that brought a chapter of the honor society Phi Beta Kappa to the University of Houston. He was the recipient of a university-wide teaching excellence award in 2010; he is a co-founder and organizer of the Council of Texas Arts Deans; and in Houston he serves on the boards of the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Houston, the Houston Symphony Orchestra, the Houston Arts Alliance, and Workshop Houston.



PEG FAIMON, Founding Dean

Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design, Indiana University

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

For years I heard about ICFAD and wanted to get involved. When I became a first-time Dean in 2016 I jumped in and became a member of the DEI Committee and started attending the conferences more regularly. Serving as a mentor with the Leadership Development Workshop was a highlight and I believe I learned as much from the experience as the mentees. I also served as the Chair of the Leadership Development Committee and during the pandemic we put together a great series of webinars to bring arts leaders together for learning, support, and comradery. These sessions proved to be very successful. As a member of the ICFAD Board and a candidate for Secretary, I'm especially interested in being a part of the breadth and depth of conversations and planning for the organization as it grows in its mission of "deans helping deans."

BIO

Peg Faimon received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Indiana University and a Master of Fine Arts from Yale University, earning the Norman Ives Memorial Award. She started teaching at Miami University in 1991, where she served as the Chair of the Department of Art and Professor of Graphic Design. At Miami, she also held positions as the Co-Director of the Armstrong Institute for Interactive Media Studies (AIMS), Founding Director of the Miami Design Collaborative (MDC), and Lead Faculty of Graphic Design. She was named the Miami University School of Fine Arts Crossan Hayes Curry Distinguished Educator in 2000 and the Naus Family Faculty Scholar in 2008. In July of 2016, she moved to Indiana University Bloomington to become the Founding Dean of the newly formed School of Art, Architecture + Design, which was the merger of various art, design, and business disciplines. In 2019, the School was renamed the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design.

Faimon's design consultancy, Peg Faimon Design, and has received national and international recognition. She is Vice President of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, and is currently on the Board of Directors for the International Council of Fine Arts Deans. Additionally, she is the author/designer of *Design Alliance*, and the co-author, with John Weigand, of *The Nature of Design*, both published in 2003 by HOW Design Books. Her third book, *The Designer's Guide to Business and Careers* was published in 2009 by HOW Design Books.



CELINE PARREÑAS SHIMIZU, Dean
UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

The Arts remain the least represented in higher education leadership, and ICFAD stands as the premiere organization addressing this deficit in institutions that shape future generations.

When I transitioned into my first Chair/Director and Dean roles, ICFAD became my lifeline—a source of learning and developing my power as a leader. Through mentorship programs, exceptional conference roundtables, opportunities for studying challenging issues whether difficult dialogues or the fears surrounding new technologies, meeting so many colleagues with whom I connect across the country, and illuminating site visits for learning how different regions and countries do our work as leaders and educators, I discovered pathways to effective leadership. The communications workshops taught me to implement systems that unified my communities. Learning from others' organizational charts, enabled my architecture of new leadership structures my new responsibilities demanded. ICFAD's fundraising sessions revealed joyful methods for securing institutional resources that then increased my ambitions and aspirations. ICFAD shaped me as a leader and ensured my success.

In seeking to join the Executive Board as Secretary, I am driven to prioritize excellence alongside equity, inclusion, and innovation. The Arts must lead in democratizing access to higher education, transforming society and creating pathways to social and economic mobility for our students and their families. We have yet to actualize the full power of the arts until everyone has access to it. True inclusion creates better art. I see ICFAD as an organization with the power to inspire ripple effects across how we teach, make, and think about the arts. Let us deploy this power to ensure all artists and arts scholars feel valued, needed, and appreciated. Let their courage to pursue the arts fuel our collective work.

BIO

Celine Parreñas Shimizu is Dean of Theater, Film and Television and Distinguished Professor of Film, Television and Digital Media at UCLA. A premiere scholar of race and sexuality in representation, her books include *The Movies of Racial Childhoods* (Duke, 2024), *The Proximity of Other Skins* (Oxford, 2020), *Straitjacket Sexualities* (Stanford, 2012), and *The Hypersexuality of Race* (2007) which won Best Book in Cultural Studies from the Association for Asian American Studies which also awarded her the 2022 Excellence in Mentorship Award. Her peer-reviewed articles appear in top journals in cinema, performance, ethnic, feminist, sexuality studies, and transnational popular culture. Her writings are translated to French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Distributed by Women Make Movies, her films *The Celine Archive* (2020) and *80 Years Later: On Japanese American Racial Inheritance* (2022) each won several festival awards. Her latest *So To Speak* (2025) is on the festival circuit. She received her Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature from Stanford University (which inducted her into its Multicultural Alumni Hall of Fame in 2023), her M.F.A. in Film Directing and Production from UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and her B.A. in Ethnic Studies from U.C. Berkeley.



CRAIG BATTY, Pro Vice Chancellor

College of Creative Arts, Design & Humanities, Adelaide University (Australia)

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR

I first attended ICFAD at the San Diego conference in 2022, where I really enjoyed meeting colleagues from the USA and around the world. As one of only a handful of international delegates at the conference, I was excited by the possibility of developing networks outside of my own country, and in particular US-based universities and colleges, which operate in a very different Higher Education system to that of Australia. This initial foray was then followed by attendance at the 2024 conference in Montreal, and the 2025 international symposium in Doha. At these events I enjoyed re-connecting with peers and making new connections, and better understanding the international Higher Education landscape. Given the relatively small population of Australia, and its comparatively very small university ecosystem, I think it is important to maintain international networks for both professional and personal development. I also think that from an Australian perspective, I have something to offer the ICFAD group, to help further internationalise its community and perspective. For example, I am a passionate advocate for what in Australia we call creative practice research (e.g., practice-based research; artistic research), which is an important and well-understood part of academic life. Building on Australia's success in elevating creative practice research as a national priority, I am keen to develop this as an area of development within ICFAD, where we can exchange understandings and processes to ensure that the creative arts are recognised and valued as vital knowledge-making practices in universities and colleges, for community and society.

BIO

Professor Craig Batty inaugural Pro Vice Chancellor of the College of Creative Arts, Design & Humanities at Adelaide University, located in South Australia. With a background in screenwriting and script development, he is the author, co-author or editor of 15 books, including *TV Transformations & Transgressive Women: From Prisoner: Cell Block H to Wentworth* (2022), *Script Development: Critical Approaches, Creative Practices, International Perspectives* (2021), *The Doctoral Experience: Student Stories from the Creative Arts and Humanities* (2019), *Writing for the Screen: Creative and Critical Approaches* (2nd ed.) (2019) and *Screen Production Research: Creative Practice as a Mode of Enquiry* (2018). He has also published scholarly articles and chapters on the topics of screenwriting practice, screenwriting theory, creative practice research and doctoral supervision. Craig is editor of two journals: the *Journal of Screenwriting*, and *Media, Practice and Education*. Craig is currently President of the Australian Council of Deans and Directors of Creative Arts (DDCA), which serves as the national peak body for creative arts higher education and research in Australia.

**LISA BROOKS**, Dean

Jordan College of the Arts, Butler University

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR

In light of the current unprecedented attacks on the arts and culture sector, there is a new sense of urgency surrounding the need for arts leaders to come together to share stories and strategies, and to simply provide emotional support to each other and our institutional colleagues. In my current role as chair of ICfAD's DEIB Committee, I have tried to directly address critical and thought-provoking topics we are all confronting, such as cultural appropriation and the support of gender-expansive arts students. As a member of the ICfAD Board of Directors, I would welcome the opportunity to join in the ongoing dialogue about how we as leaders can underscore and magnify the importance of the arts in everyday life, by underscoring the words of Pablo Picasso, who stated that, "The purpose of art is [to wash] the dust of daily life off our souls." Thank you for your consideration.

BIO

Lisa Brooks came to Butler in 1994 as a member of the violin faculty. Prior to her appointment as Dean of JCA, she served as Chair of the School of Music and Director of the Graduate Music Program. She held previous faculty appointments at Baylor University, the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, Messiah College, and Dickinson College. Brooks received both a bachelor's and master's degree in violin performance from West Virginia University. Her doctorate in violin performance is from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

As an orchestral musician, Dr. Brooks is currently principal second violinist of the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, and a frequent substitute musician with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra on both violin and viola. She presents the pre-concert lectures for the Ensemble Music Society, and is a member of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee of the International Council for Arts Deans.

In 2013, Brooks received the inaugural Faculty Award for Distinguished Service and Leadership from Butler University, and in 2001, she received a Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship from the Arts Council of Indianapolis.



bruce mcclung, Dean

College of Visual and Performing Arts, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR

From September to December 2020, I participated in ICfAD's Leadership Development Workshop and since then have been a regular participant in its monthly webinars devoted to leadership, advocacy, fundraising, and marketing. In addition to serving on ICfAD's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, I attended the 58th Annual Conference in San Diego and the International Symposium in Doha. At the 61st Annual Conference in Santa Fe, I will be leading two roundtable discussions: "Strategies of Leading and Building a Team" and "Post-Pandemic Changes to the Arts Executive Search Process" with Jackie Mildner from Isaacson I Miller. ICfAD's mission is to "provide professional development opportunities and [to] facilitate forums for the exchange of ideas, information and issues of common concern for the arts in higher education," and I have become a better leader because of the professional connections that I have made through ICfAD. I especially value the professional networking and sharing that occurred among ICfAD members during the pandemic as we endeavored to keep our visual and performing arts institutions vibrant and safe for faculty, staff, and students. Now with higher education under intense scrutiny from the United States government, arts administrators are faced with new challenges in which the sharing of information and strategies has never been more immediate or pressing. I would be interested in helping ICfAD to identify new avenues for its members to support one another during these tumultuous times and would be honored to serve on its Board of Directors.

BIO

bruce mcclung is Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), a position he has held for the past six years. With thirty-three years' experience in higher education, mcclung has held academic appointments at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) where he served as Interim Dean for two years and Thomas James Kelly Professor of Music. At the University of Cincinnati, mcclung received the A. B. "Dolly" Cohen Award for Distinguished Excellence in Teaching and the Graduate School's Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring Award and was elected to the University's Academy for Fellows of Teaching and Learning. mcclung is the author of *Lady in the Dark: Biography of a Musical* (Oxford University Press), which received an ASCAP Deems Taylor Award, the Kurt Weill Prize, and the George Freedley Memorial Award's Special Jury Prize. He is co-editor of the two-volume critical edition of *Lady in the Dark* for the Kurt Weill Edition and served as the musical and text consultant for the Royal National Theatre's production of that musical play. Dean mcclung currently serves on the boards of directors of the Carolina Theatre of Greensboro and the Piedmont Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He holds a PhD in musicology, an MA in musicology, and a MM in organ performance in literature from the Eastman School of Music, and a BM in organ performance from the New England Conservatory.



CHRIS WALKER, Associate Vice Provost

Special Advisor to the Provost on the Arts, The University of Wisconsin–Madison

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR

Since joining in 2021 as Director of the Division of the Arts at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, I have found ICFAD to be an important space for arts leadership development and strategic action grounded in shared purpose. We are at a pivotal moment for arts in higher education, shaped by external pressures such as diminished public funding, the rise of generative AI, and shifting societal expectations. I believe the arts are essential to navigating this moment. They are central to innovation, belonging, and institutional resilience. I am committed to helping shape national leadership that reflects these values.

If elected, I would like to bring focus on how we elevate the value of the arts, its expanding reach and intersections with creativity, innovation, invention, and imagination—across disciplines (health, science, engineering), industries, and the broader mission of higher education. Second, I see an opportunity to leverage ICFAD's collective expertise to gather university arts infrastructure data and lead strategic conversations about university arts spaces that support an interdisciplinary and community-engaged future. ICFAD brings together the leadership and expertise needed to meet and lead this moment, and I would be honored to serve the organization as we move together into the next chapter for the arts on our campuses.

BIO

Chris Walker is a professor in the Dance Department at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and Special Advisor to the Provost on the Arts. Walker served most recently as the Director of the Division of the Arts. He is the founding artistic director of the First Wave Hip Hop and Urban Arts Program. A multi-hyphenate contemporary dance and movement artist and scholar from Jamaica, Walker's work investigates African Caribbean dance as a lens for engaging environmental activism, social justice, and cultural preservation. His interdisciplinary approach bridges these critical fields, integrating creative and performance practice with academic inquiry. His creative research intersects contemporary dance choreography for the concert stage, movement as dramaturgy for theatre, as well as devised movement collaborations with visual and performance artists for museums, alternate spaces, and video/film.

His most recent academic publications include the chapter *Dancing to a Different Beat: The Distinctive Evolution of Dance Education Research in Jamaica*, a collaborative work exploring the historical development of dance education in Jamaica, and *Seaweed King: Weaving Narratives of Loss and Renewal in the Anthropocene*, a work highlighting activism and environmental justice.

**RYAN FISHER**, Dean

College of Creative Arts, Miami University

CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

My engagement with ICfAD began during my tenure as Associate Dean for the College of Communication and Fine Arts at the University of Memphis. From the outset, I recognized the organization as an essential resource for continued professional development—both through its annual conferences and its thoughtfully curated webinar series. Equally important has been the sense of community fostered among academic leaders who share a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in arts administration.

My first in-person ICfAD conference, held in Austin on the campus of the University of Texas, was particularly formative. The development-focused pre-conference session provided practical tools and strategic insights that continue to inform my approach to fundraising and institutional advancement.

In my service on the ICfAD Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, I have had the privilege of working alongside dedicated colleagues to offer training sessions and lead roundtable discussions on best practices in this critical area. Our recent efforts have also attempted to address the growing national trend of dismantling or defunding DEIB initiatives—an issue that warrants thoughtful dialogue and collective response.

I consistently encourage new deans and associate deans to engage with ICfAD, as I believe the strength of our field lies in the breadth and depth of its leadership. As we continue to expand our membership, we enhance the impact and reach of the organization. I would be honored to support this important work by serving in this capacity.

BIO

Ryan Fisher, Ph.D., serves as Dean of the College of Creative Arts at Miami University, where he leads an academic division dedicated to advancing creativity across the visual and performing arts, architecture, design, arts management, arts entrepreneurship, and emerging creative technologies. Prior to joining Miami University, Fisher served as Interim Dean and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Communication and Fine Arts at the University of Memphis, where he also held a faculty appointment as Professor of Music Education. An active scholar and choral conductor, Fisher's research has been published in leading music education journals and choirs under his direction have performed at numerous state and regional conferences.

Fisher has held leadership positions in numerous professional organizations, including serving as President of the Tennessee Music Education Association, President-Elect of the Arkansas Music Educators Association, and Vice President of the Texas Private School Music Educators Association. He has also served on the National Association for Music Education Choral Council and the editorial committee for *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*.

He earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Lee University, a Master of Music in Choral Conducting, and a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of North Texas. In 2016, he was honored as the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by the Lee University School of Music.



JANIS MCKAY, Dean

College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts (PSFA), San Diego State University

CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

My experience with ICFAD began during the Fall of 2020, when I became Vice Dean of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas College of Fine Arts, working with Dean Nancy Uscher. I had the opportunity to participate in the ICFAD leadership training program and was mentored by Dean Eileen Stempel. I attended my first conference in the transborder region of San Diego and Tijuana during the fall of 2022 and vividly remember learning about the history of Friendship Park among other border topics. We visited many of the area arts organizations and I met new colleagues and friends.

When the dean position came open at San Diego State University later that academic year, these experiences at the conference were part of what drew me to apply for the job and I'm so grateful that I did. While attending another conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, I was reminded of the importance of feeling connected to other arts professionals. Administrative positions can be very lonely and the ICFAD community as well as the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences community are wonderful support systems when working in isolation.

In addition to the conferences and the leadership training, it has been very beneficial to participate in a number of the online workshops over the years. ICFAD has given me a lot. I would like to give something back by serving as a member of the nominating committee. Thank you for your consideration.

BIO

Janis McKay is Dean of the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts (PSFA) at San Diego State University, recently designated an R-1 institution. PSFA houses seven schools: Art and Design, Communication, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Journalism and Media Studies, Music and Dance, Public Affairs, and Theatre Television and Film. PSFA is also home to 3 departments of ROTC studies, 18 centers and institutes, 43 majors, and over 5000 students.

Previously, Dr. McKay served as Vice Dean for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) College of Fine Arts. A large college within an R-1 institution, the College of Fine Arts consists of seven unique units: Architecture, Art, Dance, Entertainment Engineering Design, Film, Music, and Theatre. As Vice Dean, Dr. McKay led various initiatives within the college, as well as managing college operations, facilities, budgets, curriculum, and personnel.

As Professor of Music at UNLV, Dr. McKay taught student bassoonists as well as numerous undergraduate and graduate courses for 25 years. She authored the book *"Played Out on the Strip: The Rise and Fall of Las Vegas Casino Bands,"* published by University of Nevada Press in 2016, as well as a book chapter in *"The Possibility Machine: Music and Myth in Las Vegas,"* published October 2023 by University of Illinois Press. She has published 2 articles in the New Grove Dictionary of American Music. Dr. McKay was elected Chair of the UNLV Faculty Senate during the 2019-2020 academic year.

McKay is a professional bassoonist who held the position of principal bassoon with the Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra for 26 years, stepping down when she moved to San Diego.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

SECRETARY Please vote for one.

The Secretary will serve for a period of two (2) years. The office of Secretary will place the Secretary in position to become the automatic nominee of the Nominating Committee for the office of the President-Elect, assuming that s/he has served as Secretary with distinction and is a member in good standing.

- ☐ **Andrew Davis**, Dean, Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts, University of Houston
- ☐ **Peg Faimon**, Founding Dean, Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design, Indiana University Bloomington
- ☐ **Celine Parreñas Shimizu**, Dean, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television

DIRECTORS Please vote for two. Two of these seats will carry three-year terms of 2025 – 2028.

- ☐ **Craig Batty**, Pro Vice Chancellor, College of Creative Arts, Design & Humanities, Adelaide University (Australia)
- ☐ **Lisa Brooks**, Dean, Jordan College of the Arts, Butler University
- ☐ **bruce mcclung**, Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- ☐ **Chris Walker**, Associate Vice Provost, Special Advisor to the Provost on the Arts, The University of Wisconsin–Madison

NOMINATING COMMITTEE Please vote for one.

- ☐ **Ryan Fisher**, Dean, College of Creative Arts, Miami University
- ☐ **Janis McKay**, Dean, College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts (PSFA), San Diego State University

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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ARTS DEANS

Thursday, October 16, 2025
Santa Fe, New Mexico

ICFAD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair Nancy Uscher, Dean, College of Fine Arts, UNLV (Immediate Past President)

Amir Berbic, Dean, VCUartsQatar

Claudia Bornholdt, Dean, Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Coastal Carolina University