

AI Can't Dance: Generative AI, Creative Thinking, and the Future of Arts Education

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly sophisticated in generating visual, written, and sonic content, arts programs must grapple with fundamental questions about creativity, originality, and the nature of artistic practice. This discussion explores three critical tensions in AI-integrated arts education: how AI tools are reshaping creative thinking processes and problem-solving approaches; the irreplaceable value of embodied, physical performance and artmaking that exists beyond algorithmic reproduction; and the concerning tendency of AI to optimize toward average outputs while art has always been about pushing boundaries and breaking conventions. Drawing from hands-on experience training AI models over the last five years, implementing technology in arts programs and serving on AI task forces, this session invites participants to consider how we can prepare students to use AI as a tool without allowing it to flatten the radical, risk-taking spirit that defines meaningful artistic work. Through collaborative dialogue, we'll examine practical strategies for teaching students to harness AI's capabilities while maintaining the human capacity for genuine innovation, physical presence, and creative courage that the arts provide.

Presented by:

- Jer Nelsen
 - Associate Dean, South Carolina School of the Arts at Anderson University