

Centering: A Call for Collective Action

There are concrete and symbolic threats to the arts which have driven us to distraction, bringing policies that are actively dismantling the way we study, enjoy, and create the arts. For example, challenging arts as a public good; or seeing art only as entertainment or instrumentalized to reinforce a certain world view. Legislation is being modeled on the idea of narrowing the value of arts degrees to be defined solely by economic returns in a short postgraduate window.

Fundamental to our collective future is a more connected and strategic front, but what would this look like and how would we build it? Our hope is that the conversations begun here will seed collective action, or a series of collective actions, that lead to a more desirable future. This session will explore the following prompts.

How can we:

- Structure common forums for strategic thinking and solidarity
- Build a coordinated response, marking coherent and connected research agendas
- Recognize universities as cultural engines with the power and space to imagine a different and durable future insulated from political whims
- Ensure institutions lead in this moment and steward culture
- Leave behind scarcity rhetoric and mindset that feeds a false narrative of competition
- Leverage highly trained artists to be cultivated as leaders
- Pro-actively (and publicly) debate with those who have outsize impact on how we operate, and finally
- Build cultural literacy to overcome the loudest voices in the room; and articulate the methodology of the arts for public service

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