

Advisory committee named to aid in Arts Initiative Executive Director search

By Cecilio Palacio  
Office of the Provost

Vice Provost Sara Blair has named a 13-member advisory committee to support the search for the inaugural Executive Director of the Arts Initiative.

The committee, comprised of faculty, staff, students, and members of the university community, is tasked with conducting a comprehensive search and recommending a slate of unranked candidates to the Vice Provost. The selected candidate will succeed Interim Director of the Arts Initiative, Mark Clague.

In an email to colleagues announcing the search, Vice Provost Blair stated that the key aims of the position include “expanding access to the arts on campus and beyond, activating the arts in student learning and campus experience, and integrating arts practice and knowledge-making into research and scholarship across disciplines.”

The advisory committee is chaired by Dr. Linda Gregerson, Caroline Walker Bynum Distinguished University Professor of English and Director of the Helen Zell Writers’ Program within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. The committee also includes:

- Sean Ahlquist, Associate Professor of Architecture and Director, Master of Science in Digital Material Technologies (DMT) in the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.
- Clare Croft, Faculty Director of Arts Research/Creative Practice, OVPR/Arts Initiative and Associate Professor in the department of American Culture in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.
- Amy Davis, Lecturer II in Art and Art History in the Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design.
- Laura De Becker, Helmut and Candis Stern Curator of African Art and Chief Curator at the University of Michigan Museum of Art.
- Cayenne Harris, Vice President of Learning & Engagement at the University Musical Society.
- Caroline Helton, Clinical Associate Professor of Music in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance.
- Carlos Jackson, Dean and Professor in the Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design
- Christina Kim, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors at the University Musical Society.
- David Michael, Undergraduate Student in Music Education in the School of Music, Theater & Dance.
- Sophie Nguyentran, Graduate Student in Architecture in the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.
- Rogério Meireles Pinto, University Diversity Social Transformation Professor, Berit Ingersoll-Dayton Collegiate Professor of Social Work, and Associate Dean for Research

and Innovation in Social Work in the School of Social Work and Professor of Theater and Drama in the School of Music, Theater & Dance.

- Jason Young, Associate Professor of History in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

The committee has partnered with the executive search firm Isaacson, Miller, and will receive support from project managers Cecilio Palacio and Zarinah Aquil, and senior project manager Heather Mozes, of the Office of the Provost.

The committee's charge meeting occurred on Thursday, November 30, 2023. For questions, or to nominate prospective candidates, please email [EDArts-dsac-chair@umich.edu](mailto:EDArts-dsac-chair@umich.edu).