

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS PRIORITY AREAS

Priority 1: Raising Support for our Arts Experience Fund

Asset: [Start with Art Poster](#)

The School of the Arts Excellence Fund champions the creative talents of our students, offering them unmatched opportunities to amplify their academic and artistic pursuits. Fueled by the philanthropic generosity of our community, this fund breathes life into extraordinary experiences beyond the traditional classroom. It enables access to experiential learning opportunities, internships, conferences, artist residencies, exclusive masterclasses, innovative workshops, and state-of-the-art materials.

The School of the Arts Excellence Fund plays a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of leading artists, designers, and performers by fostering a rich environment of exploration and professional development.

Priority 2: Identifying and Supporting Experiential Learning Opportunities of Our Students in the Community

Our region is blessed with a vibrant arts presence but most organizations need help. We aim to provide resources for students to gain valuable skills and experience by interning at art organizations and organizations who wish to accentuate the arts as a method of improving their culture and impact through internships, field schools, Investigate Boise courses, and the Arts Passport.

Priority 3: Helping Students from Across the University Learn How to Live an “Artful Life”

(e.g. [The Arts Passport initiative](#))

The Arts have deep intrinsic value where making, creating, and experiencing art and creative activities can help us feel connected, inspired, and nurtured. Art can provide an outlet for self-expression and a way to process and express emotions. Engaging in creative activities can help increase our health and well-being.

We aim to help all students at the university learn how to live an artful and how the university can support that whether it’s through classes, degrees, events, exhibitions, and more. We partner with local arts and cultural agencies to provide opportunities for our students off



campus as well. For example, Boise State sponsors the Boise Art Museum so all faculty, staff, and students can attend for free.

Priority 4: Connecting the School to our Broader Region, State, and Beyond So That the School is the Front Door to the Community

(e.g. [Stein Luminary partnership with Onramp for Idaho schools](#))

The School of the Arts is well-positioned to become the front door of the university to nurture community partnerships in audience engagement, research and creative activity, and student experiences in K-12 and higher education. We offer an Arts Passport program with local arts partners, a creative placemaking program with the Idaho Commission on the Arts, and we are working with the Idaho Policy Institute to provide impact reporting on the Treefort Music Festival. Another example is how the GIMM team continues its collaboration with Onramp to develop augmented reality activities on iPads to pair with the museum's historical collection for K-12 visitors (facilitated by Extended Studies' professional development: Terra Feast and John Kiser).

Priority 5: Creating Opportunities for our Faculty and Students to Have Access to Emerging Technologies

(e.g. School of the Arts Working Group: [Storytelling and Technology: Generative Artificial Intelligence](#).)

The importance of art in storytelling and decision-making is becoming increasingly recognized. Our experience with the Stein Luminary is an example of using art and technology as a way to demonstrate data, trends, science, and much more. By visualizing potential changes to data and the impact of those changes, government and environmental agencies, businesses, and other organizations will make quicker and better decisions. The School of the Arts is also hosting a working group that is exploring the role of AI in our curriculum and our responsibilities with teaching, research, creative activities, and service.

In today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force across various disciplines, including the arts. As AI continues to reshape industries and academic fields, it becomes imperative for arts faculty to incorporate AI tools and methodologies into their research and curriculum in discerning ways. This initiative outlines a comprehensive plan to assist arts faculty in learning how to effectively integrate AI into their classes as both a point of exposure and a creative learning opportunity, thereby enhancing the educational experience for students and preparing them for the demands of the future. We have nationally and internationally renowned faculty who are experts in their fields, and we want to



provide the support to help re-train them with new methodologies, techniques, and processes that advance their research and that benefit hundreds of students.

Priority 6: Celebrating and Supporting the Artistic and Creative Excellence of our Faculty, Staff, and Students

(e.g. Resilience Cooperative below, [IRA: Rapid Response Design Lab](#))

The School is home to faculty who are regionally, nationally, and internationally renowned for their research and creative activity. The school, in partnership with the COAS strategic plan and the university's Grand Challenges initiative, is investing in collaborative, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary efforts in addition to traditional processes and practices.

One project is the Resilience Cooperative where faculty Jill Annie Margaret (ADVS) and Alyssa Cole (Social Work) introduce participants to the wonder and creative potential of printmaking while learning the biology of stress reactions on the nervous system and inner resilience to bring it back into balance, building resilience skills and improving emotional and physical well-being. Mindfulness, empathy, and improving relationships with self and others through visual art are central to the cooperative's mission.

Priority 7: Implementing our Capital Campaign Strategy for the School of the Arts

Asset: [Giving Levels document](#)

The university is undertaking Unbridled, a \$500 million capital comprehensive campaign strategy centered around endowed faculty positions and endowed scholarships. For the campaign, the School of the Arts is working to elevate each of our art disciplines by providing resources to support living an artful life, artistic and creative workforce development for our students, problem-solving, and decision-making through the arts, and community engagement.

