

Report on the Faculty of Fine Arts Strategic Plan for the 2025-2026 academic year

The Faculty continues to implement its 2022–2027 Strategic Plan, fostering a vibrant ecosystem of learning, research, and creation. In 2025–2026, our departments have demonstrated excellence through initiatives that prioritize equity, sustainability, and collaboration, while engaging diverse communities both locally and internationally. This report highlights major achievements, reflecting our commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and social impact through the arts.

[Faculty of Fine Arts 2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#)

What We Aspire Toward: To be a model of excellence in the Fine Arts by collectively developing innovative approaches to learning, research, creation, and work, empowering our community to be agents of positive change

Our Mission: To foster a vibrant learning, research and creation ecosystem committed to critical engagement with knowledge-making, art practices, and social transformation

Contents

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 1: To prioritize equity practices in how we build community, support students, faculty, and staff, and improve diversity and accessibility	2
STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 2: To engage with diverse perspectives and with the Indigenous Directions Action Plan to shape our processes and curriculum	4
STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 3: To mobilize expertise across the Faculty in sustainable and collaborative practices for how we create, study and work.	6
STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 4: To improve our capacity to be agile, embrace renewal and lighten administrative burden where possible, in order to focus on our mission	9
STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 5: To serve our community by building a culture of reciprocity, accountability, rigor, and excellence	13

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 1: To **prioritize equity practices** in how we build community, support students, faculty, and staff, and improve diversity and accessibility

The **Department of Creative Arts Therapies** established an **equity and sustainability working group** that was comprised of faculty and student representatives from all modalities. Initial discussions have been productive, highlighting the importance of fostering community through arts-based activities and informal opportunities for connection. The Department will continue to build upon this work in 2026-27.

Contact: [Cynthia Bruce](#), Chair, Departments of Art Education and Creative Arts Therapies

FOFA Gallery's spring exhibitions included a dedicated **Accessibility Project**, funded by a microgrant from the Canada Council for the Arts and offering a full afternoon of programming centered on Deaf and low-vision audiences, with ASL and LSQ interpretation provided for both anglophone and francophone communities. The initiative featured guided tours with artist Sendy-Loo Emmanuel and a public conversation between Po B. K. Lomami and eunice bélidor. It was held alongside the launch of *Esse arts + opinions* Issue 117: *Crip/handi*. By integrating audio signage, braille exhibition texts, and touch tours, the Gallery expanded its knowledge of inclusive curatorial practice and reinforced its commitment to accessibility in contemporary art spaces.

Contact: [María Andreína Escalona De Abreu](#), FOFA Gallery Exhibitions Coordinator

The **FOFA Gallery** also supported an exceptional cohort of four interns — three FRQ and one Young Canada Works — each leading a distinct strand of gallery activity: Black Arts Series coordination, public outreach, accessibility programming, and sustainability. These positions represent meaningful, paid, skills-building opportunities for emerging arts workers that are rare in the current landscape, and reflect the gallery's commitment to mentorship as a core part of its mandate.

Contact: [Gwynne Fulton](#), Administrator of the FOFA Gallery

Concordia students are supporting youth creative development through the [Press Start Art and Social Transformation Mentorship Program](#), a community initiative based in Montreal's Pointe-Saint-Charles neighbourhood. Supported by Concordia's Office of Community Engagement, the program pairs **Fine Arts student mentors** with racialized and queer youth to explore artistic practice, leadership and social transformation through hands-on, collaborative learning. Grounded in a cooperative model that emphasizes shared decision-making and horizontal learning, Press Start fosters skills

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

development, confidence and community connection, while reinforcing reciprocal exchange between Concordia students and local youth.

Contact: [The Office of Community Engagement](#) or [Press Start](#)

The Faculty of Fine Arts continues to play an important role in **Concordia's Black and African Diaspora Studies program**. This year, the University expanded the program with the introduction of a new Certificate in Black and African Diaspora Studies in the Canadian Context, building on the success of its pioneering minor. Through Fine Arts courses in music, literature and the arts, the program enriches interdisciplinary learning by centering Black histories, cultural production and creative practice. The expansion reflects Concordia's commitment to equity, accessibility and decolonial learning while broadening opportunities for students across faculties, alumni and non-degree learners.

Contact: [Christiana Abraham](#), Senior Lecturer, Communication Studies & Program Director, Black and African Diaspora Studies in the Canadian Context

The School of Performance is **expanding access to contemporary music creation** with the launch of a new [Microprogram in Songwriting and Music Production](#) this fall. Offered in the evening, the flexible 12-credit program helps remove barriers for students with work, family or other daytime commitments, while providing emerging artists and working professionals with accessible, portfolio-based training in songwriting and music production. By combining creative and technical skills within a cohesive curriculum, the microprogram responds to the changing landscape of independent music production while creating pathways for a diverse range of learners. Credits may also be applied toward existing Fine Arts degree programs, supporting academic progression and lifelong learning. The initiative builds on recent curricular renewal in Music and demonstrates the Faculty's commitment to innovative, student-centered programming that advances equity, accessibility and inclusion.

Contact: [Georges Dimitrov](#) Associate Teaching Professor, Music, and Undergraduate Program Director at the School of Performance

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 2: To engage with diverse perspectives and with the Indigenous Directions Action Plan to shape our processes and curriculum

The Department of **Art Education** **furthered its commitment to decolonizing education and pedagogy** through targeted participation in online learning modules, instructional workshops and conferences offered by the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the Indigenous Decolonization Hub. Faculty members subsequently shared insights and strategies with the department to support ongoing efforts toward decolonization. Events attended included:

- Online study of the Primer Course: “History, Resilience and Continuance of the Rotinonhsión:ni Confederacy;” and inclusion of the Primer Course on our syllabi
- November 14, 2025: “Mitigating the Impacts of Climate Change: Insights on Environmental Protection and Restoration led by the Kanien’kehá:ka Community”
- January 8, 2026: “Pedagogical Strategies to Integrate the Modules of the Primer Course”
- March 26-27, 2026 (4th Space and online): Indigenous Land-Based Educational Practices Conference/Perspectives on Climate Change.

Contact: [MJ Thompson](#), Professor and former Chair, Art Education

[Indigenous Special Projects Grants](#) continue to support student-led initiatives at all degree levels, providing awards of \$1,000 each. In 2025-2026, grants were awarded to Grace Clark (Jazz Studies and Vocals, BFA) to record an EP featuring songs she wrote about navigating growth and transition entitled *Sweet Talk*; and to Milo Puge (Print Media / Anthropology BA) to develop a ‘zine exploring his personal connection with Métis dogsledding culture. Grace will use her professionally mixed EP to further her professional singing career, while Milo intends to continue his studies in our MFA Print Media program, with this completed zine being a key component of his application.

These grants support the [Indigenous Directions Action Plan](#) by contributing to a more inclusive cultural climate within the Faculty of Fine Arts for Indigenous people and by facilitating Indigenous student-led activities through new funding opportunities.

Projects can take a number of forms, such as individual student or student group special projects, curated exhibitions organized by or for students, screenings, performances, conferences and lectures, guest artist or expert fees, travel for curricular or

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

extracurricular invitations to present student projects, and community-based events. Projects may be student-directed or initiated by Indigenous faculty or staff members in collaboration with Indigenous students, particularly in the case of larger group activities.

Contact: [Tricia Middleton](#), Student Life Coordinator, Fine Arts

Through their research, creative practice and leadership, Faculty of Fine Arts members are advancing the University's commitment to engaging diverse perspectives and **implementing the Indigenous Directions Action Plan**. Their work strengthens Indigenous approaches across research, artistic creation, teaching and community partnerships. Recent examples include:

- Jason Edward Lewis (Design and Computation Arts Professor): Through his leadership of the Indigenous Futures Research Centre, the Abundant Intelligences Partnership and Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace, [Lewis integrates Indigenous perspectives into artificial intelligence](#), digital media and emerging technologies. His interdisciplinary collaborations and mentorship of emerging Indigenous scholars demonstrate how Indigenous knowledge can shape research, innovation and academic partnerships.
Contact: [Jason Edward Lewis](#), Professor of Computation Arts, founder of the Obx Laboratory for Experimental Media and co-director of the Indigenous Futures Research Centre
- Hannah Claus, MFA 04 (Studio Arts Professor) presented an exhibition at the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery that invited audiences to [experience Tiohtià:ke through Kanien'kehá:ka perspectives on land, water and sky](#). By centering Indigenous relationships to place within contemporary artistic practice, her work contributes to broader conversations about Indigenous knowledge, creative research and teaching.
- Hannah Claus, along with Kaia'tanó:ron Dumoulin Bush, was also selected to create *Teionihhtiohtià:kon*, [the inaugural mural for Concordia's Indigenous Public Art Mural Program](#). Through the **partnership with MU**, Indigenous art students are also being hired and mentored as part of the mural's creation, including Concordia alumna Diane Roe, who has worked with MU for the past eight years. The mural, to be unveiled in September 2026, will strengthen Indigenous visibility and representation in public spaces across campus.

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Contact: [Hannah Claus](#), Co-Director of the Indigenous Futures Research Centre at Concordia, and Associate Professor in the Department of Studio Arts.

- Nadia Myre, MFA 02 (Studio Arts Professor): Through her internationally recognized artistic practice, community-engaged research and leadership of the Kinawind Lab, Myre **advances Indigenous material research and decolonial approaches to art**. Her work strengthens Concordia's commitment to integrating Indigenous perspectives across research, creation and pedagogy. Myre was awarded Quebec's highest distinction in visual arts, the [Prix Paul-Émile-Borduas](#), recognizing her transformative contributions to contemporary Indigenous art and cultural dialogue. And in May 2025, Myre opened the major solo exhibition *Waves of Want* at the [National Gallery of Canada](#). Bringing together more than two decades of her practice, the exhibition was particularly significant as one of only three solo exhibitions by living Indigenous women artists produced by the National Gallery in its history.

Contact: [Nadia Myre](#), Associate Professor, Studio Arts

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 3: To mobilize expertise across the Faculty in **sustainable and collaborative practices** for how we create, study and work.

The Faculty of Fine Arts launched a dedicated [Sustainability webpage](#) featuring work and resources developed by the Sustainability of Fine Arts (SOFA) Committee to support students, staff and faculty in **adopting more sustainable practices**. Rooted in the Faculty's Sustainability Action Plan and aligned with Concordia's broader sustainability, Indigenous Directions, and equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) frameworks, the pages provide practical guidance and resources across key areas, including knowledge sharing, curriculum development, research and innovation, community wellbeing, and resilient infrastructure.

Contact: [Kelly Jazvac](#), Chair and Professor, Department of Studio Arts, former chair of the SOFA Committee

In collaboration with Volt Age, the Dean's office helped develop and launch the **pilot edition of the new [Spark Fellowship](#)**. This one-year fellowship will support two recent graduates from Concordia's Faculty of Fine Arts, each receiving a total value of approximately \$50,000. The Fellowship initiative brings together artists, researchers and

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

community partners through interdisciplinary collaboration, reinforcing the Faculty's commitment to sustainable practices and demonstrating the vital role of artistic research in addressing complex environmental challenges, notably the energy transition.

Contact: [Volt-Age](#), or [Haidee Wasson](#), Associate Dean of Research, Graduate Studies and Faculty Development in the Faculty of Fine Arts

Through its collaboration with the [Grantham Foundation for the Arts and the Environment](#), the Faculty supported Concordia students' participation in the **New Horizons Prize**, which recognizes emerging visual artists whose practices engage with environmental issues. The initiative provides valuable professional development opportunities while reinforcing the Faculty's commitment to sustainability through creative practice.

Contact: [Fannie Gadouas](#), Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Industry Engagement

Concordia researchers partnered with the **Society for Arts and Technology (SAT)** to develop [open-source, artist-centered AI and digital creation tools](#) that give creators greater control over their data, workflows and creative processes. Through collaborative research spanning design, computation, and media arts, the initiative advances ethical, accessible and sustainable approaches to AI while providing new opportunities for students and artists to explore emerging technologies through research-creation.

Contact: [Fannie Gadouas](#), Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Industry Engagement

The Department of **Studio Arts** continues to develop **innovative sustainable practices**:

- The **Sculpture** Area established a collaboration with Concordia's engineering department to recycle their aluminum waste in the Sculpture Program's foundry. This free resource results in recycled aluminum casts for Studio Arts students at no cost. From a pedagogical perspective, systems for material circularity were developed as part of the new sustainability courses, including recycling waste materials into new natural plaster recipes.

Contact: [Kevin Andres-Teixeira](#), Technician, Department of Studio Arts regarding the aluminum waste project and [Kelly Jazvac](#), Chair and Professor, Studio Arts regarding the new plaster recipes

- The **Printmaking** Area is advancing non-toxic processes in the intaglio lab, researching water-washed photo-based etching to reduce acid-based processes for students. With the Graphics Lab (Hewitt Foundation Master Printer) project,

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

the Printmaking Area is also working to reduce plastic waste from the process of plate exposure in both photo-intaglio and photo-lithography processes.

Contact: [Catherine Wild](#), Professor, [Mitch Mitchell](#), Associate Professor, or [Erika Adams](#), Associate Professor, Department of Studio Arts

Concordia partnered with Montreal theatre company **Porte Parole** to present [The Assembly – Energy in Canada](#), a documentary theatre production that brings together activists, policymakers and industry professionals to explore tensions surrounding Canada’s energy transition. Staged at the Hall Auditorium as part of Canada Climate Week Xchange, the performance blended journalism, storytelling and live dialogue to examine how differing perspectives on climate and sustainability intersect. Through this collaboration, the Faculty mobilizes artistic practice as a tool for interdisciplinary exchange and public engagement with complex environmental issues.

Contact: [Shauna Janssen](#), Associate Dean, Academic Programs & Pedagogy, Fine Arts & Associate Professor, Theatre, School of Performance

In 2025, Concordia’s [Centre for Creative Reuse](#) (CUCCR) launched a **satellite space** in the VA Building, **expanding access to free, reclaimed art materials** for Fine Arts students. Located in VA 012, the new hub offers a rotating selection of donated supplies such as paper, fabric and studio offcuts, helping students source materials directly within their building. The initiative builds on CUCCR’s broader sustainability mandate to divert usable materials from landfill and support more circular creative practices across campus. Alongside the Grey Nuns depot and EV satellite, the VA space strengthens a growing network of student-driven reuse sites, encouraging hands-on engagement with sustainability while reducing waste in artistic production.

Contact: [CUCCR team](#)

Now in its second year, the **FOFA Gallery's Sustainability Project** (supported by a \$250,000 Canada Council Cultivate Grant) reached new milestones in 2025–2026, as they produced sustainable signage for nine exhibitions across FOFA, the Leonard & Bina Ellen Gallery, and the Guido Molinari Foundation. They developed a prototype signage robot prototype scaled for larger institutions; and established a pilot rooftop natural dye garden with the Molinari Foundation. Sustainability co-curators Joé Côté-Rancourt and Joshua Jensen received Concordia’s Sustainability Champion Award in April 2026 and presented their research at Le Labo (Toronto) and Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico City).

Contact: [Joé Côté-Rancourt](#) and [Joshua Jensen](#), Sustainability Co-Curators, FOFA Gallery

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

The [Tenure Guidelines](#) were ratified by Faculty Council on May 15, 2026. The guidelines outline performance markers for successful tenure dossiers, within the parameters of the CUFA Collective Agreement, and establish essential baseline elements across the three areas of faculty responsibilities: teaching, research and service. They also recognize the disciplinary diversity across our Faculty, allowing for differences in teaching environments and pedagogies, research practices and outputs, forms of service, and the varied individual and collective impacts of academic labour. While the guidelines are intended to support consistent and sound decision-making through the implementation of Fine Arts norms, they provide a flexible framework that reflects the diverse practices and contributions of the professoriate faculty members across the Faculty.

Contact: [Haidee Wasson](#), Associate Dean of Research, Graduate Studies, and Faculty Development in the Faculty of Fine Arts

Strategic orientation 4: To improve our capacity to be agile, embrace renewal and lighten administrative burden where possible, in order to focus on our mission

Concordia officially [launched the new School of Performance](#) on May 4, 2026 at Place des Arts; featuring performances by students and acclaimed alumna Dawn Tyler Watson. As Quebec's first interdisciplinary hub of its kind, the School brings together the departments of Contemporary Dance, Music and Theatre under a single structure within the Faculty of Fine Arts. This new model **streamlines academic leadership and administration, strengthens collaboration across disciplines, enhances performance training and research-creation, and reinforces Concordia's leadership in interdisciplinary performing arts** education and innovation.

Contact: [Shauna Janssen](#), Associate Dean, Academic Programs & Pedagogy, Fine Arts & Associate Professor, Theatre, School of Performance

The Departments of Art History and Design and Computation Arts began **implementing a shared administrative model**, establishing a more resilient and integrated administrative structure while maintaining high-quality support for students, faculty, and academic programming.

Contact: [Danielle Miles](#), Administrator, Art History and Design and Computation Arts

To support **merger planning between the Departments of Art Education and Creative Arts Therapies**, faculty members participated in two rounds of consultations during Winter and Spring 2026. A total of six meetings were held, with strong participation and constructive discussions focused on the opportunities, added value and potential

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

challenges associated with the merger. These initial "getting-to-know-you" sessions laid the groundwork for the next phase of planning, including a 4TH SPACE Study Day scheduled for November 2026 to explore approaches to research and teaching, as well as the creation of working groups to advance the process throughout 2026–2027.

Contact: [Cynthia Bruce](#), Chair, Departments of Art Education and Creative Arts Therapies

In a workshop for Fine Arts leadership hosted by the Office of the Dean and led by Rosemary Reilly (Chair, Applied Human Sciences in the Faculty of Arts and Science), **academic and administrative leaders in the Faculty of Fine Arts developed their understanding of change and transitions leadership**. Each participant brought a real-life change project relevant to their context to explore, and the workshop demonstrated collaborative approaches while providing opportunities for colleagues to interact and engage with the material.

Contact: [Tristan Khaner](#), Director, Office of the Dean and Faculty Operations.

To help staff make **better use of the growing range of digital automation tools** available at the university, the Office of the Dean hosted a **digital skills-sharing session**. The session highlighted practical workflows, key considerations and lessons learned through three real-world demonstrations. Presenters included Marie-Christine Lavoie (Student Academic Services), who showcased an appointment-booking system supporting frontline academic advising; Jules Beauchamp Desbiens (Core Technical Centre), who demonstrated a real-time data management dashboard for Digifab project tracking and planning; and Gabriel Desjardins (University Secretariat), who presented an automated Access to Information workflow integrating Microsoft Forms, Outlook, SharePoint, OneDrive, Word and Excel. The initiative fostered knowledge sharing and encouraged the adoption of digital tools to streamline administrative processes and improve efficiency across the Faculty.

Contact: [Jen Cressey](#), Supervisor, Administrative Services, Office of the Dean

For the second consecutive year, the Office of the Dean partnered with **departments to review and improve administrative processes**. This year's initiative focused on the role of Graduate Program Assistants (GPAs), whose work is essential to supporting graduate students and faculty. Through a series of workshops facilitated by Miguel Del Pino, Process Analyst in the Digital Transformation Office, GPAs from across the Faculty collaboratively mapped their core processes and developed a standardized operating procedure for graduate admissions. The initiative supports greater consistency, knowledge sharing and operational efficiency across the Faculty.

Contact: [Jen Cressey](#), Supervisor, Administrative Services, Office of the Dean

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Under the University's Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) framework, Student Academic Services (SAS) focused on three key priorities: **course optimization, student retention and recruitment**.

- **To optimize course offerings**, SAS implemented a proactive course enrolment review process with the Dean's Office, SAS and departments to identify low-enrolment classes early. This enabled timely adjustments including the reallocation of teaching resources and the cancellation or consolidation of under-enrolled sections, while preserving students' ability to remain on track with their degree requirements.
- **To strengthen student retention**, SAS Retention Advisor continued to implement **targeted interventions**, including one-on-one consultations with students on failed, conditional or in-jeopardy standing, as well as information sessions focused on academic recovery planning. These efforts helped identify service gaps, connect students with appropriate resources, and develop individualized success plans. Through continuous monitoring, follow-up and tailored student support, the proportion of students returning to acceptable academic standing increased by 75%.
- **To support recruitment**, SAS updated the **Faculty's recruitment plan** and collaborated with departments to develop strategies to support their enrolment goals.
- Concordia also continued to host **National Portfolio Day**, welcoming representatives from 15 North American and European institutions and prospective students to campus, increasing the Faculty's visibility. Campus initiatives, including facility tours and the **Student for a Day** program, were expanded in alignment with recruitment targets, alongside increased collaboration with departments to enhance on-campus recruitment events.

Contact: [Mary Laliotis](#), Manager, Student Academic Services.

The Office of the Dean led a cross-sector collaboration to transition more than 100 Faculty of Fine Arts **course and lab fees to the Student Information System (SIS) billing system**. This initiative streamlines fee collection and reduces administrative work for technical and teaching staff, freeing up dozens of hours annually that can be redirected toward higher-value activities and enhancing the student experience.

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Contact: [Tristan Khaner](#), Director, Office of the Dean and Faculty Operations

The Faculty of Fine Arts Budget Office offered **small-group, hands-on Financial Services sessions** to Department Administrators, providing tailored training and support and contributing to the development of a shared knowledge base. This approach maximized engagement and created a forum for peer-to-peer learning that has continued to evolve beyond the training sessions.

Contact: [Susan Groff](#), Financial and Planning Officer

In the fall of 2025, the YMCA du Quebec announced that they would be closing all of their summer camp activities, marking the end of a longstanding and fruitful collaboration with the Faculty of Fine Arts. In response, the Office of the Provost, in collaboration with the Faculty of Fine Arts and other faculties, developed and rolled out an in-house **Concordia Summer Camp**. Ran as a pilot edition, the **camp is anticipated to become a new source of revenue generation** for the University, while allowing us to maintain important child-care services for our local communities.

Contact: [Fannie Gadouas](#), Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Industry Engagement

The Visual Collections Repository (VCR) and Centre for Digital Arts (CDA) collaborated on a **shared support model** for operating the VCR's screening and viewing rooms, and cross-training so that day-to-day technical operation does not rest on one person. This initiative extends the CDA's existing technical support model to VCR facilities and trains VCR staff and work-study students to operate and resolve common faults. It draws on existing technical expertise that the Faculty already holds rather than duplicating it, breaking down silos.

Contact: [Pamela Caussy](#), Manager, Visual Collections Repository and [Chris Ready](#), Supervisor, Audio Visual, Centre for Digital Arts

A detailed **governance document** was created for the department of Art Education, to be finalized and voted on in Department Councils, Fall 2026.

Contact: [MJ Thompson](#), Professor and former Chair, Art Education

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 5: To serve our community by building a culture of reciprocity, accountability, rigor, and excellence

Concordia launched the inaugural [Studio Baie-Saint-Paul residency](#), offering Fine Arts students an immersive five-week **learning experience** in partnership with the Musée d'art contemporain de Baie-Saint-Paul, Réussir en français and the Département d'études françaises. Designed for anglophone and allophone students, the program integrates French-language learning into artistic practice through studio work, critiques, museum visits and community engagement in a fully francophone environment. By combining experiential learning with strong institutional and community partnerships, the residency strengthens students' professional development while fostering excellence, collaboration, and meaningful engagement with Quebec's cultural community.

Contact: [MJ Thompson](#), Professor Art Education, in charge of the first cohort.

Art Volt [celebrated a milestone year](#) in 25-26, expanding opportunities for emerging Fine Arts alumni through mentorship, residencies, professional training and national exposure. The program debuted at Art Toronto, achieved major institutional acquisitions at Plural Contemporary Art Fair, and continued to strengthen artists' transition into professional practice through a historic \$1-million donation from Power Corporation of Canada to expand Art Volt's mentorship, training, residencies and visibility initiatives, strengthening support for emerging artists as they transition from graduation to professional practice. These achievements reinforce the Faculty's commitment to fostering artistic excellence and supporting the long-term success of its graduates.

Contact: [Fannie Gadouas](#), Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Industry Engagement

In 2025-2026 the Faculty of Fine Arts signed **new Memorandum of Understandings** with the Museum of Contemporary Art, The Festival international du film sur l'art, and the McCord Museum. These agreements highlight the Faculty of Fine Arts commitment to building strong collaborative relationships within our local cultural ecosystem, as well as the continued engagement of leading cultural institutions in partnering with us.

Contact: [Fannie Gadouas](#), Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Industry Engagement

The Faculty of Fine Arts established a network of student mobility agreements with leading art schools such as OCADU, NSCAD University, Emily Carr University, York University, and Alberta University of the Arts. While student mobility agreements have traditionally focused on international exchanges, this initiative expands opportunities for students to study and build connections within Canada. The new network strengthens collaboration among Canadian art and design institutions while giving Fine

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Arts students greater access to diverse learning environments, perspectives and creative communities.

Contact: [Amanda Holt](#), Advisor, Retention, Student Academic Services

Thirteen Concordia students received [Behaviour Interactive Scholarships](#) supporting innovative research-creation projects in game design, developed within a collaborative ecosystem spanning students, faculty and industry partners. Through mentorship and community-based practice, recipients explored new forms of interactive storytelling, including projects such as aging action-hero narratives and micro-games about everyday social encounters. The initiative reflects Concordia's commitment to mobilizing interdisciplinary expertise and fostering experimental, practice-based approaches to creative production in game studies and digital media.

Contact: [Jonathan Lessard](#), Professor, Design and Computation Arts, Behaviour Interactive Research Chair in Game Design, and Department Chair, Design and Computation Arts

The Faculty of Fine Arts launched [CTRL + AI – Human Creativity and Agency in the Age of AI](#), its inaugural **AI Expert-in-Residence program**, which includes public conversations, workshops and a for-credit course. Designed to help students critically and creatively engage with generative AI, the initiative connects leading practitioners with students and faculty, fostering ethical, collaborative and future-focused approaches to creative practice and technological innovation.

Contact: [Shauna Janssen](#), Associate Dean, Academic Programs & Pedagogy, Fine Arts & Associate Professor, Theatre, School of Performance

The **Travel Grants for Undergraduate Students** program was relaunched in 2024 after a four-year hiatus and continued strong throughout 2025-2026. The program offers financial support to Fine Arts undergraduate students who receive official invitations from recognized, professionally operated arts organizations to present their original creative or academic work outside of Concordia. It addresses a gap in undergraduate funding by supporting students who are increasingly invited to share their work in professional contexts beyond the University.

Contact: [Tricia Middleton](#), Student Life Coordinator, Fine Arts

The Department of Art History completed construction and activated the **Elsbeth McConnell Curatorial Laboratory**, a new teaching and research space made possible through philanthropic support by the Doggone Foundation. The Lab provides students with hands-on opportunities to explore curatorial practice through exhibitions, workshops, research activities, and collaborations with visiting scholars and cultural partners. Its inaugural programming represents an important investment in experiential

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

learning and interdisciplinary engagement, supporting the Faculty's commitment to innovative teaching and student success.

Research and public engagement flourished under the leadership of the new Director of the **Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art**, Dr. Gabby Moser. During her first year, the Institute delivered [an ambitious program](#) of lectures, workshops, exhibitions, research initiatives, and community partnerships. These activities significantly expanded opportunities for students and faculty while strengthening the Department's research profile and national visibility.

Contact: [Gabrielle Moser](#), Research Chair, Director of the Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art and Associate Professor, Department of Art History

A multi-year curriculum development and capital improvement project has transformed the Photography department's facilities, equipment and course offerings to better reflect contemporary practices in the field. The **Photo Digital Migration project** included a restructuring of entry-level courses and program requirements, alongside significant upgrades to equipment and technical spaces. The project introduced new cameras, computers and printers and transformed former analogue colour darkrooms and processing spaces into contemporary digital facilities. These changes align the curriculum and learning environment with evolving technologies, while maintaining support for historical silver-based processes and addressing the needs and interests of students and faculty.

Contact: [Noémie da Silva](#), Photo Technician

In Studio Arts, Print Media students benefitted from enhancements supported by the **Hewitt Foundation Master Printmaker Fund**. These included **equipment upgrades**, such as new rollers, ink jet printers, and a lithography press, as well as visits from guest artists. The program also continued to strengthen connections between students and the Montreal's arts community including through its annual undergraduate exhibition at Galerie Alain Piroir and a student residency hosted at Zocalo, an artist-run centre in Longueuil.

Contact: [Catherine Wild](#), Professor, [Mitch Mitchell](#), Assistant Professor, or [Erica Adams](#), Associate Professor, Department of Studio Arts

The Ceramics program developed **ongoing summer residency opportunities**, including one for graduate students at [1001 Pots in Val-David](#), and an award with the [Medalta International Ceramics Residency](#), targeted toward undergrads.

Contact: [Linda Swanson](#) or [Mat Karas](#), Associate Professors, Department of Studio Arts

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Concordia Fine Arts students **collaborated with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB)** and Université de Montréal musicians to create [Archives : remixage / Re:Archive](#), an interactive installation presented at Nuit blanche as part of Festival Montréal en Lumière. Developed across Film and Moving Image Studies and Curatorial Studies and Practices, the project invited audiences to actively remix archival footage in real time, transforming historical material into new collective narratives through sound, image and live editing. The initiative reflects Concordia's commitment to interdisciplinary practice-based collaboration that integrates research, creation, and public engagement.

Contact: [Johanne Pelletier](#), Director, Public Engagement

The Faculty of Fine Arts partnered with the John Molson School of Business to develop a **new undergraduate Microprogram in Production Accounting for Film and Television**. The program combines expertise in film production and business administration to address the growing need for specialized knowledge in budgeting, financial management and production accounting within Québec's screen industries. This interfaculty initiative creates new opportunities for Fine Arts students to develop complementary production management skills while enabling business students to engage with the creative sector. By bridging artistic production and financial expertise, the microprogram will support Concordia's commitment to interdisciplinary and professionally relevant education.

Contact: [Shauna Janssen](#), Associate Dean, Academic Programs & Pedagogy, Fine Arts & Associate Professor, Theatre, School of Performance

Recent support from Bell Canada is **strengthening Concordia's Department of Creative Arts Therapies** within the Faculty of Fine Arts, [expanding community-based programs in art, music, drama and play therapy across Montreal](#). Led by the Concordia Arts in Health Centre, the initiative connects training with practice, allowing students to gain hands-on clinical experience while increasing access to arts-based mental health care for communities that might otherwise be underserved. Over the next two years, the funding will enhance partnerships with local organizations, support student supervision and help deliver thousands of hours of free, bilingual services in English and French.

Contact: [Marc Wieser](#), Principal Director of Development, Fine Arts

For more information on the Strategic Plan or to suggest highlights for next year, please contact: [Tristan Khaner](#), Director, Office of the Dean and Faculty Operations.