

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Chancellor  
Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



January 9, 2018

**Arts Strategy Task Force**

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Dear Colleagues:

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has seen tremendous change and progress in the last three years in the Arts arena. Under the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and as part of the last strategic plan, the Arts Working Group outlined a strategy for the Arts on campus. During this time, many faculty and staff have received prestigious awards such as National Endowment for the Humanities, Fulbright, Getty Foundation and Guggenheim Fellowships, as well as research grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Mellon Foundation.

To build on this progress, to contribute to our next phase of strategic planning, and to create the best possible foundation for future success in this area, we are initiating the development of a comprehensive strategy for Arts research, education and engagement.

Based on consultation with campus leadership, including the Deans and Directors with whom you are associated, you have been identified to contribute critically to this process by serving on the Arts Strategy Task Force. Cynthia Oliver has agreed to lead this Task Force, whose efforts will culminate in a report. We understand that the Arts Strategic Task Force began meeting at the end of 2017, and that this letter serves to “officially” charge the work that is already underway.

In carrying out its strategy making effort, the task force should explicitly address the following:

- In what areas does Illinois have the greatest opportunity to positively impact state, national and global Arts through research, education and engagement?

- What opportunities and challenges do we face in arts-related research and education over the next five to ten years?
- What specific actions would be most effective in realizing our potential in Arts education, research and engagement? What new investments would be necessary to implement those actions? What funding can be redistributed? What synergies can be established to capitalize on funding already in place? Please distinguish short- (two years), medium- (two to five years), and long-term horizons (five to ten years) for the actions.
- How can we better leverage our research strengths to enhance the university's educational mission in arts-related fields?
- The Arts present many opportunities for community engagement. How best can we engage our local community through the arts?

Your team might wish to consider additional questions to help guide the development of multiple strategies for the arts at our institution. In producing the comprehensive strategy, we ask that you develop a process for engaging key internal and external stakeholders and drawing on the diversity of disciplinary expertise on the campus.

We would like to receive your presentation as an initial report no later than January 22, 2018; and would like to invite a representative of your group to a broader planning meeting on January 26, 2018 to present your initial findings. A report will be due in February, 2018. Please contact Associate Provost for Academic Effectiveness Staci Provezis ([sprovez2@illinois.edu](mailto:sprovez2@illinois.edu)) with questions or requests that emerge during your review.

We appreciate your willingness to serve on this task force.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Jones  
Chancellor



John P. Wilkin  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

c: W. Bernhard  
S. Martinis  
S. Provezis