

Rewarding and Recognizing Community-Engaged Scholarship in the Arts

Community-engaged scholarship is increasing in importance in arts colleges throughout institutions of higher education, but it is often misunderstood, defined only as a service activity, and reviewed with the narrow criteria of more traditional forms of scholarship. For this roundtable, we will present a white paper authored through discussion among arts deans in the Big Ten Academic Alliance. The paper discusses the importance of community-engaged scholarship in the arts, summarizes recent research related to this scholarship, and offers strategies for supporting and reviewing faculty whose work is centered in community engagement. It is intended to guide provosts, deans, and department chairs alike in understanding this work and developing policies and procedures that will lead to successful evaluation of faculty. We will present the process through which we crafted this document (including consultation of a number of ICFAD leaders at the 2019 conference), and how we've begun to see it adopted at our own institution and others.



*Homemade, with Love: More Living Room, installation at Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, 2020.
Curator: Dr. Blair Ebony Smith*



Bobbi Korner served as dean of the Penn State College of Arts and Architecture from 2007 to 2019, during which time she has oversaw the development of a bustling Arts District on the northern end of campus. A national leader in arts in higher education, Bobbi and Mark Heckler, former president of Valparaiso University, are directing the 2021 ICFAD Leadership Development Workshop online, which they started in 2020. They developed and directed the Association for Theatre in Higher Education's (ATHE) Leadership Institute from 2000 to 2016. In 2016, she and Heckler were co-recipients of ATHE's Ellen Stewart Award for Career Achievement in Academic Theatre.



Christopher Marks is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Professor in the Glenn Korff School of Music. At UNL, he has also served as Interim Director of the School of Art, Art History & Design and the Johnny Carson School of Theatre & Film. As an organist, he is an active recitalist who has performed at numerous conventions of the Organ Historical Society and the American Guild of Organists. He has published articles on the organ and performance practice and has recorded multiple CDs.



Chuck O'Connor is the dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Through his leadership, the Hixson-Lied College envisioned, proposed and raised the money to create the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts. This academic program and new facility opened in fall 2019 to incentivize interdisciplinary approaches to story making at the intersection of live performance, film, XR-mixed reality, experience design, sensory media and sonic art. He also serves as the convening arts dean of the Big Ten. As a board member of ICFAD he has co-lead online discussions: "This Time Has to Be Different: What Are Arts Colleges Doing about Racism?"



Kevin Hamilton is Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Now in his fourth year as Dean, Kevin has served in leadership roles in the college since 2013, stewarding strategic planning, transformations in promotion and tenure and governance processes, anti-racism initiatives, and research culture. The college currently serves as the research home of the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project, as part of a new Arts Impact Initiative launched in 2020. Kevin is also a co-founder and advisor to *Ground Works*, a new online peer-review platform for arts-integrative research hosted by the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities.