The world communicates across generations and cultures through the arts. The University of Washington offers degree programs, exhibitions, and performances that reflect the dual nature of the arts as creative endeavors and subjects of scholarly research. Through critical inquiry, technical training, and interdisciplinary and collaborative processes, our students develop as imaginative and enterprising artists, designers, scholars, cultural leaders, and arts advocates.

Highlights

The Mellon Foundation awarded a three-year, $750,000 grant to the University of Washington for a project led by Meany Center for the Performing Arts, in collaboration with the School of Drama, School of Music, Dance Program, and DXARTS. The grant funds a Creative Fellowships Initiative to support guest artists in developing new works and to integrate arts disciplines into the broader University curriculum.

The School of Art + Art History + Design offers two annual lecture series, Critical Issues in Contemporary Art Practice and the Kollar American Art Lecture, which bring a dynamic roster of renowned artists, art historians, and designers to campus to inform and engage students, faculty, staff, and the community at large.

The Burke Museum is engaged in a multi-year transformation project that will culminate in a new facility. Opening in mid-2019, the New Burke will be a flagship natural history and culture museum that inspires wonder and pride about the Northwest and our place in the world.

The Dance Program offers a pioneering and interdisciplinary MFA program that is a leader in helping professional dancers launch successful careers as educators at leading public and private universities. The program is now in its 26th year.

The School of Drama attracts internationally renowned guest artists like Anne Washburn, Chay Yew, Whit MacLaughlin, and Pearl Damour, offering students the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from masters in their field and forge critical connections to the world of professional theatre.

The Center for Digital Arts & Experimental Media (DXARTS) received a $80,000 Creativity Connects grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to do research in brain-computer interfaces for music performance in collaboration with Swedish Neuroscience Institute.

The Henry Art Gallery is the region’s sole art museum devoted to contemporary art. It is a laboratory for the visual arts, where risk-taking and openness to uncertain outcome foster inquiry, dialogue and debate.

Meany Center for the Performing Arts is a model of innovative performance, public engagement, learning and creative research in the arts. Partner artists include Bandaloop vertical dance company, Jack Quartet, Yo-Yo Ma, and the Silk Road Ensemble.

The School of Music has forged trailblazing partnerships by creating faculty positions for world-renowned artists including Seattle Symphony Music Director Ludovic Morlot, guitarist Bill Frisell, Grammy-winning Opera director Stephen Stubbs, and as the new home of the Harry Partch instrument collection.
Education & Research

Faculty in the Arts advance artistic excellence by honoring tradition, fostering innovation, and providing broad access to the arts for the benefit of our students, our community, and future generations. For many students, the University provides the first point of contact with the visual and performing arts and their first encounter with any form of individual creative expression. Students’ lives are enriched and transformed through first-hand exposure to the arts gained through our general education courses. The College offered over 1,100 courses in the Arts in 2015-16 with more than 23,000 course enrollments.

UW faculty are top educators and researchers in their fields: award-winning generative and performing artists, scholars and designers; recipients of prestigious national and international awards and artistic commissions; and holders of patents for new technology. In the classroom they share their expertise with students; they also forge connections with professionals in our region’s arts and business sectors (many of whom are alumni), helping students to transition successfully from college to career and to understand how their education plays into their future success and civic responsibility.

Outreach & Impact

The Arts Division is dedicated to providing immersive and transformative experiences to campus and community members. Each year we offer hundreds of public performances, exhibitions, lectures, and master classes featuring the work of our award-winning faculty, world-renowned visiting artists and artists in residence, and our talented and innovative students. Our ArtsUW website (http://www.artsci.washington.edu/artsuw) provides easy access to an up-to-date menu of all arts events on campus, along with program and ticket information.

The BurkeMobile and Burke Boxes programs provide nearly 65,000 hands-on learning experiences to pre-K-20 students each year.

The Dance Program’s Chamber Dance Company and its growing digital archive bring rarely seen and meticulously reconstructed modern and contemporary dance repertory to campus, community, and numerous national library collections.

The School of Art+Art History+Design’s Design Alum Blog (uwdesignalum.net) chronicles the lives and careers of designers who graduated from our nationally-ranked Design program, with an aim to help students learn more about the professional world of design through interviews with alumni working in the industry.

The Henry Art Gallery’s Visiting Fellow Program brings renowned artists to Seattle to develop projects that benefit UW students and the public. Recent visiting fellows include Deborah Willis, Ann Hamilton, Pablo Helguera, and Franz Erhard Walther.

Meany Center for the Performing Arts serves 50,000 individuals annually through its ticketed performances, and free public and UW campus engagement activities including youth matinees for more than 5,000 K-12 students.

The School of Drama’s Performing Arts Lecture Series invites the community to join faculty and students in an exploration of the intersections of art, humanities, science, and culture with topics like The Arts & Humanities in the STEM-focused Academy and Protest Theatre and Environmental Activism.

The School of Music welcomes the public to more than 100 concerts and events each year to experience students, renowned faculty, and visiting artists performing symphonic music, jazz, chamber music, opera, experimental music, and music from around the world.

In 2016, DXARTS partnered with local art and technology organizations for the production of 9e2, an art exhibition and performance series commemorating “9 Evenings: Theatre & Engineering,” an iconic 1966 exhibition at the Armory in New York that sparked a new era of collaboration between artists, scientists, and engineers.

DEGREES GRANTED (2015-2016)

Bachelor’s degrees (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Design)
302
Masters degrees (Master of Arts, Master of Music, Master of Fine Arts, Master of Design)
41
PhD degrees (Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Musical Arts)
22

Henry Art Gallery exhibition Ann Hamilton: the common S E N S E engaged over 20 departments and units across the UW campus. Photo by Jonathan Vanderweit.