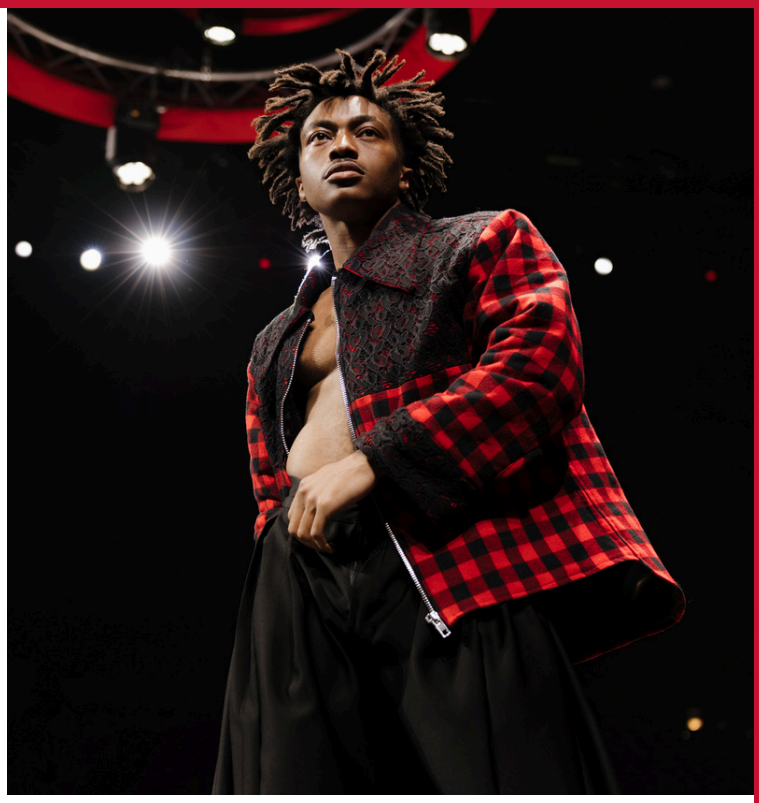
MIAMI UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF CREATIVE ARTS



2025-26 CCA IMPACT REPORT









MIAMI UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF CREATIVE ARTS

At the Miami University College of Creative Arts (CCA) in Oxford, Ohio, we are empowering creative minds to transform the world. CCA is Miami's center for a broad liberal education, intersecting with all forms of art and design to build a more innovative and beautiful tomorrow.

MiamiOH.edu/CCA

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ON THE COVER: Riley Johnson

With the Art Department's mural course, which took place at Newport on the Levee, Miami student and Urbana native, Riley Johnson, leveraged this professional experience to launch "The Urbana Mural Project." Read more.

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Champions of Creativity,

As I reflect on the past year, one word continually comes to mind: resilience. In an ever-evolving world, creativity remains our most vital tool for making sense of human experience, fostering connection, and driving meaningful societal change. Over the past twelve months, the College of Creative Arts has not only adapted to changing landscapes — we have actively shaped them.

This annual impact report is a celebration of what happens when passion meets purpose. Across our departments — from visual art, design, and theatre to music, arts entrepreneurship, interactive media, and architecture — our students and faculty have pushed boundaries, challenged conventions, and enriched communities.

This year was defined by extraordinary faculty/student achievement and measurable growth:

- Empowering the Next Generation: We awarded over $210,000 in scholarships, ensuring that financial barriers do not stand in the way of creative ambition.
- Community Engagement: Our public exhibitions, performances, and community workshops engaged more than 100,000 visitors, turning our campus into a vibrant cultural hub for the region.
- Creative Research and Innovation: Faculty and student researchers secured more than $460,000 in grants, launching multidisciplinary projects that bridge the gap between creative practice, technology, and social impact.
- Career Readiness: Our career services team was instrumental in helping 300+ CCA students get career ready.
- Major Renovation Project Underway: Thanks to a major 2023 gift from Richard and Carole Cocks, we are renovating the art museum, which is currently closed, with plans to reopen Fall 2027.

None of these achievements would be possible without the steady dedication of our faculty and staff, the innovative commitment of our exceptional career services team, the tireless energy of our students, and the generous support of our alumni and donors. Your belief in the transformative power of creative education fuels everything we do.

As we look toward the coming year, our focus remains clear: expanding access to innovative technologies, deepening our community partnerships, and preparing our graduates to be creative leaders in a rapidly changing global landscape.

Thank you for being an integral part of our creative community. Together, we are ensuring that creativity continues to inspire and transform lives.

With warmest regards and gratitude,



Dean Ryan Fisher, Ph.D.



COLLEGE OF CREATIVE ARTS

DEPARTMENTS

- Architecture and Interior Design
- Art
- Emerging Technology in Business and Design
- Music
- Theatre

INSTITUTES

- Institute for Innovation in Arts and Design
- Fashion Institute at Miami
- Armstrong Institute for Emerging Technology

CENTERS

- Center for Community Engagement (OTR)
- The Art Center



Led by Todd Stuart, the new Institute for Innovation in Arts and Design empowers students and the broader Miami community to engage with the arts and design as catalysts for innovation.



Led by Jamie Schisler, the new Fashion Institute of Miami is a central hub connecting students, faculty, staff, and industry partners. The Institute prepares our growing population of students to shape the future of fashion.



Led by Glenn Platt, the Armstrong Institute for Emerging Technology supports cross-disciplinary research, creative inquiry, and educational programs focused on artificial intelligence, data analytics, and emerging digital design.



Led by Jeff Kruth, the Center for Community Engagement is a collaborative initiative between Miami University's Department of Architecture and Interior Design and the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood in Cincinnati.

CCA: BY THE NUMBERS

2025-2026

Empowering Creative Minds. Transforming the World.

No. 24

Undergraduate game design program among public universities (#24 overall)

The Princeton Review, 2026

Top 100

Graduate program in studio art ranked in the top 100 nationally (a 41.8% advancement in our rank)

U.S. News

98%

Post-graduation success rate (Oxford Bachelor's Degree Recipients, 2022-2023)

Miami University

710

Total Number of Events and Performances

Student Enrollment

Spring 2026

2,518 Undergraduate Students

Majors/Co-Majors, Minors

60 Graduate Students

Graduation

395 Undergraduates

31 Graduates

Scholarships

$210K+

Scholarships awarded to CCA students

Grants

$460K+

Grant monies awarded to CCA faculty

Exhibitions

68 Exhibitions

20,000 (Est.) Exhibition Visitors

Performances

8,836 Tickets Sold

Excludes free events

14,000 (Est.) Attendees of Concerts, Recitals, Music Events, and Theatre Productions

Marching Band

252,927 Home Football Game and Championship Attendees

566,000 Snoop Dogg Arizona Bowl Game TV Reach

Lectures and Talks

260 (Est.) Visiting Artist Speakers

1,000 (Est.) Attendees of Artist Lectures and Talks

Social Media

4,600 Instagram and Facebook Followers

662 LinkedIn Followers

LinkedIn launched in 2025.

282.9K Views on Instagram

123.6K Views on Facebook

@MiamiOHCCA

DEGREE CHANGES

2025-2026	2026-2027
ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN	
BA in Architecture	BA in Architecture (no change)
BFA in Interior Design	BFA in Interior Design (no change)
ART	
BS in Art Education	BFA in Art: Concentrations in Art Education and Studio Art
BFA in Studio Art	
BA in Art & Architecture History	BA in Art: Concentrations in Art History, Studio Art, and Fashion Design
BA in Studio Art	
BFA in Communication Design	BFA in Graphic and Experience Design
ARTS MANAGEMENT AND ARTS ENTREPRENEURSHIP (AMAE)	
BA in AMAE	BA in AMAE - NEW track in Entertainment Management
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY IN BUSINESS + DESIGN (ETBD)	
BA in ETBD: Digital/Applied	BA in Interactive Media & Design: Digital/Applied
BS in Games + Simulation	BS in Games + Simulation (no change)
MUSIC	
BA in Music: Tracks in Performance, Technology, and Music & Culture	BA in Music: Tracks in Music Production and Music Business
BM in Music Education	BM in Music: Concentrations in Music Education and Performance
BM in Music Performance	
BM in Composition	Closed out degree
THEATRE	
BA in Theatre	BA in Performing Arts: Concentrations in Theatre, Dance, and Entertainment Design

MIAMI BANDS BRING THE HYPE

In March 2025, Miami University became the official education partner of the Cincinnati Bengals. The Miami University **Marching Band** performed in September 2025 at the Bengals' home opener. In December, the Marching Band supported the Miami football team at the 2025 Snoop Dogg Arizona Bowl, which marked the RedHawks' second consecutive appearance in the game following their 2024 win.



"I feel like we bring **a lot of hype**."
- Senior Color Guard Captain Kaley Koch



Miami's **Pep Band** helped celebrate the 2025-2026 winning seasons of the RedHawks men's and women's basketball and ice hockey teams. The women's team won the 2026 Mid-American Conference (MAC) Tournament, while the men's basketball team claimed the MAC regular-season title and made the NCAA Tournament First Four. The ice hockey team captured the Belpot Trophy in November 2025.





PERFORMING ARTS SERIES


Seraph Brass


Seth Myers


Robin Spielberg


Mutts Gone Nuts



Spamilton


Miami Choral Collective Concerts


Electric Root Festival

PERFORMANCES: THEATRE



"What the Constitution Means to Me"
Written by
Heidi Schreck



"Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express"
Adapted by Ken Ludwig

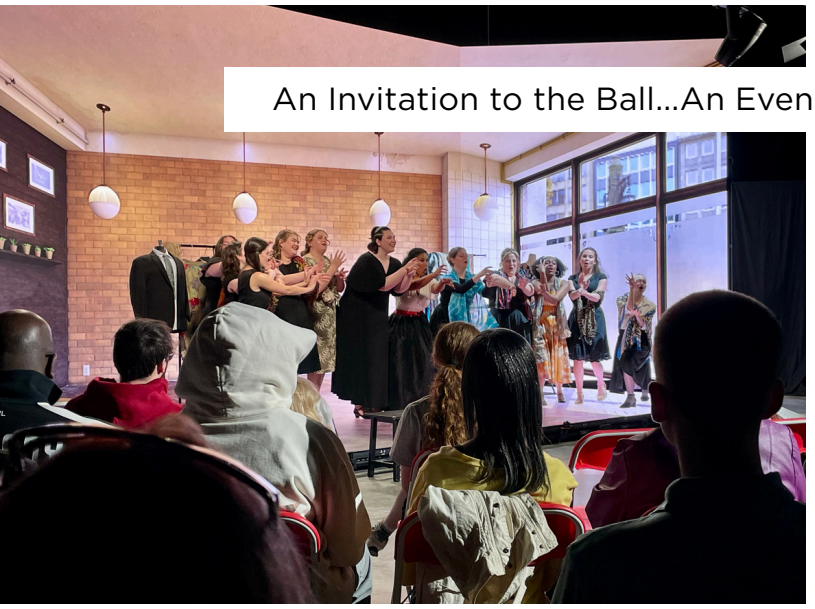


"By the Way, Meet Vera Stark"
Written by
Lynn Nottage



"Into the Woods"
Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine

PERFORMANCES: XR STAGE





An Invitation to the Ball...An Evening of Opera Scenes in April 2026



One of the standout features of the Richard M. McVey Building is the Immersive and Reactive Lab, where students from the Emerging Technology in Business and Design program come together to develop and showcase their projects on the cutting-edge XR (Extended Reality) stage.



The Laptop Ensemble in December 2025

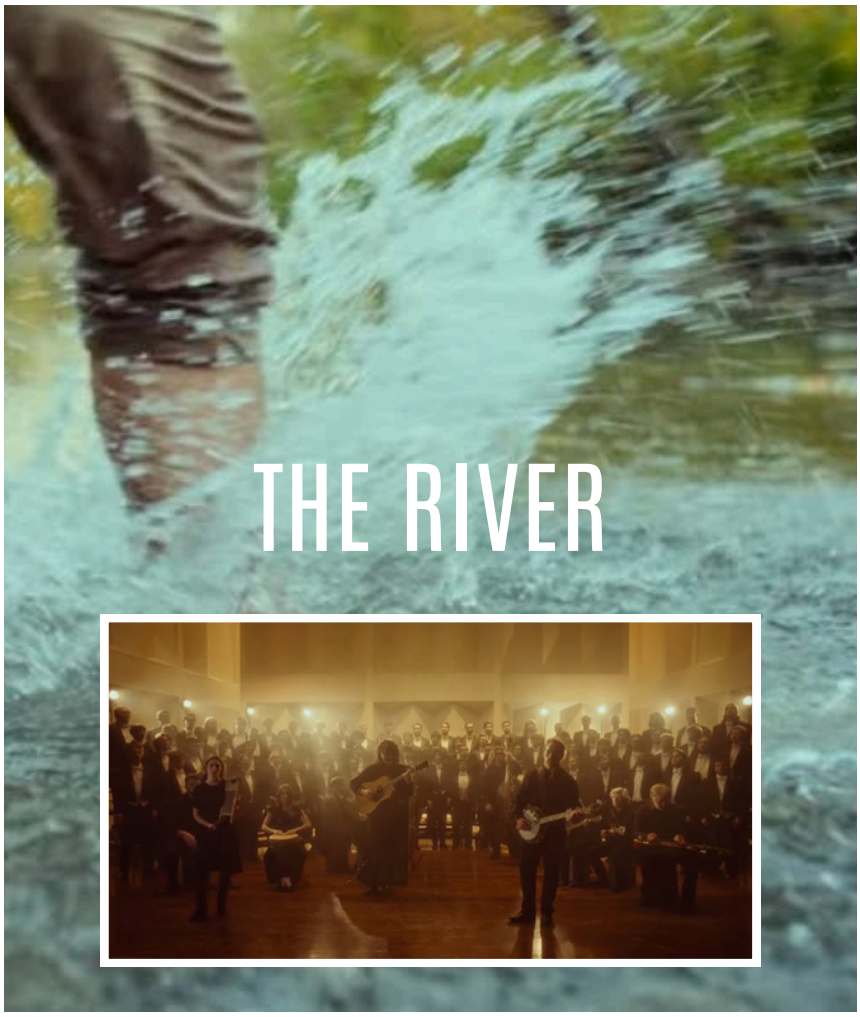
MUSIC



Miami University was well represented at the 2026 Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Professional Development Conference. The Miami University Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble were both selected to perform at the January 2026 event in Columbus, Ohio, through a blind peer review process.

Daniel Farr, director of bands and assistant professor of Music, called the opportunity "incredibly gratifying." The selection for the OMEA conference followed the Wind Ensemble's invitation to perform at the North Central Conference of the College Band Directors National Association in April 2026 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.





On Halloween, Miami University brought a classic monster back to life in a way concert goers never experienced before with a Halloween concert by the Miami University Symphony Orchestra. The centerpiece of the evening was the 1931 classic horror film Frankenstein, projected on the big screen while the orchestra performed a thrilling new soundtrack by composer Michael Shapiro — live, in real time.



In spring 2026 the Men's Glee Club released their first professional music video which features their performance of Susan LaBarr's choral piece "The River" accompanied by a bluegrass ensemble.





The Miami University Wind Ensemble (MUWE) was selected to perform at the College Band Directors National Association North-Central Division Conference at the University of Michigan in April 2026. "Our students really stepped up, and we had such a blast performing in the iconic Hill Auditorium," said MUWE director Daniel Farr.

EXHIBITIONS Hiestand

Winners of the 2026 Miami University Young Painters Competition for the $10,000 William (Miami '36) and Dorothy Yeck Award were announced at a reception for the nine finalists in February 2026 in Hiestand Galleries.

The winners were selected by competition juror and artist, Saya Woolfolk, an American artist known for her multimedia exploration of hybridity, science, race, and sex.

This national competition for artists ages 25-35 celebrates the current trends in contemporary painting. The 2026 competition focused on nonrepresentational paintings.



"Fossil Record, 2025"

Hannah Keats, Tallahassee, Florida
MFA, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
BFA, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida

$10,000 Yeck Award



"Altar, 2025"

Donny Nie, Galesburg, Illinois
MFA, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
BFA, Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto, Canada

$2,500 2nd Place Award



"When I'm Dead, 2025"

John Singletary, Brooklyn, New York
MFA, University of California-San Diego, San Diego, California
BFA, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

$2,000 3rd Place Award

RCCAM





In early January 2026 Jason E. Shaiman (pictured above left) assumed the role of interim director at the Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum (RCCAM). Since joining Miami University in 2010, Shaiman — who holds degrees in Art History and Museum Studies from the University of South Carolina — has curated and managed more than 80 exhibitions.

From January through June 2026, the RCCAM showcased two exhibitions: "Rooted Here: Networks of Modern and Contemporary Art" (it's 15th Art History Capstone Exhibition) and a special Ohio 250 grant-funded exhibition titled "Culture Crops: Ohio's Hidden Gardens and Secret Food Histories", featuring works by Cincinnati-based photographer Tina Gutierrez examining the intersection of agriculture, heritage, and community in Ohio.



Work featured in "Rooted Here" exhibition: Philip Morsberger (American, 1933-2021), "The Sportsfield," ca. 1960, Oil on canvas, Gift of the Artist, 1980.P.22.23



Work featured in "Culture Crops" "eehsenaamišipoohkiiyankwi" meaning "we harvest maple sap" in the Myaamia language. Members of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Oxford, Ohio. Tina Gutierrez, 2025

RCCAM







The Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum welcomed visitors back on August 26, 2025, with the opening of its new featured exhibition: the Department of Art Faculty and Alumni Exhibition. On view through December 13, 2025, this quadrennial exhibition celebrated the artistry and innovation of 39 faculty and alumni whose work represents the continuing legacy of Miami's Department of Art.

Featured Artists

Current Faculty: Amanda Alexander, Christy Carr, Dennis Cheatham, Joomi Chung, Annie Dell'Aria, Dilge Dilsiz, Tracy Featherstone, Jordan Fenton, Richard W. James, Jennifer Purdum, Geoff Riggle, Rob Robbins, Dana Saulnier, Ann E. Taulbee, Roscoe Wilson, Jennifer Pearson Yamashiro, Jon Yamashiro

Emeritus Faculty: Larry Winston Collins, Susan R. Ewing, Jeannie Langan Heins, E. James Killy, Ellen Price, Ron Stevens, Robert Wolfe

Alumni: Chrissy Collopy, David Dotson, Katherine J. Fries, Steve Garst, Amy Holmes George, John Hankiewicz, Anna Kell, Travis Linville, Hannah Litt, Brent Payne, Katrina Shafor, Billy Simms, Sarah-Faith Strait, Nicole Trimble





EXEMPLARY EDUCATORS, STAFFERS


Stephanie Danker


Ashley Goos


Rod Northcutt


Todd Stuart

2026 University Outstanding Professor Award

Miami's Associated Student Government (ASG) announced Stephanie Danker — associate professor of Art Education — as the winner of the 2026 Outstanding Professor Award. The award, managed by ASG, provides undergraduate students with an opportunity to recognize a faculty member who has had an exceptional impact on their Miami experience.

These CCA professors were among the top 14 other nominees:

- Ashley Goos, assistant teaching professor of Theatre and director of Dance.
- Rod Northcutt, associate professor of Studio Art.
- Todd Stuart, associate teaching professor of Arts Management and Arts Entrepreneurship (AMAE) and director of the Institute for Innovation in Arts and Design.

2026 P.R.I.D.E. Staff Award

These four CCA staffers were honored with Miami P.R.I.D.E. Awards for outstanding Performance Resulting In Distinguished Excellence (P.R.I.D.E.) at Miami University:

- Gretchen Baer, data and planning analyst, Dean's Office
- Cristy Betz, administrative assistant, the Department of Music
- Erin Heil, administrative assistant, Art Center and the Department of Art
- Krista Stenger, administrative assistant, AMAE and the Department of Theatre


Gretchen Baer


Cristy Betz


Erin Heil


Krista Stenger



The Crossan Hays Curry Distinguished Educator Award honors outstanding faculty in CCA who have blended creative and scholarly achievements to the advantage of student learning. Our 2026 Curry award winner was Artie Kuhn, teaching professor in Emerging Technology in Business and Design.



May Khalife, assistant professor of Architecture and Interior Design, was one of three recipients of the New Faculty Teaching Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. The award is given in partnership with the American Institute of Architecture Students.



Siok Lian Tan, professor of piano, was named a Music Teacher National Association (MTNA) Foundation Fellow during the 2026 MTNA national conference held in Chicago in March 2025.



Tammy Kernodle, distinguished music professor, was named an Honorary Member of the American Musicological Society.

The Miami University Symphony Orchestra (MUSO), under the direction of Ricardo Averbach, achieved a historic milestone by placing in four distinct categories of the American Prize. This achievement marks the first time an orchestra has placed in four categories within the same season:

- 1st Place: Orchestral Performance (College/University Division)
- 2nd Place: Orchestral Conducting (Ricardo Averbach and MUSO)
- 2nd Place: Orchestral Composition (Professional Division)
- 3rd Place: Bacon Memorial Award for American Music Performance (College/University Division)



Ricardo Averbach directs MUSO



Stephanie Danker

Stephanie Danker was awarded the 2025 Kathy Connors Teaching Award by the Coalition for Feminisms in Art Education.



Amanda Alexander

Amanda Alexander, chair of the Department of Art, earned the 2026 National Edwin Ziegfeld Award from the United States Society for Education through Art for distinguished leadership in the fields of art education.

Luke Meeken received the Ohio Art Education Association Higher Education Division Award.



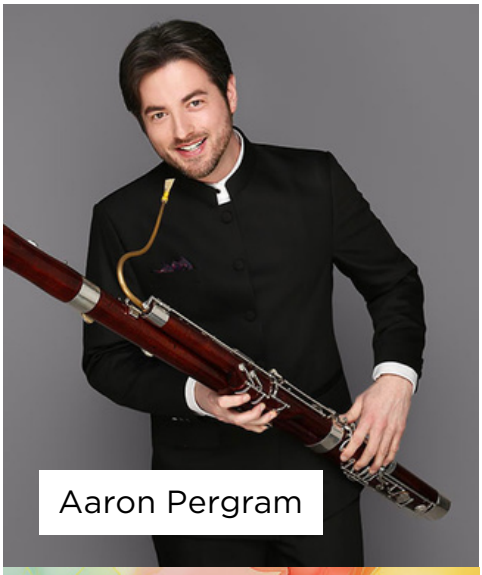
Luke Meeken

FACULTY FOCUS

Violin professor Harvey Thurmer proposed an idea to Kinesiology professor Mark Walsh that sparked an interdisciplinary partnership between music and movement. Together, they are mapping violinists' playing techniques to prevent overuse injuries and improve performance habits.



Harvey Thurmer



Aaron Pergram



Music professor Aaron Pergram's new album "The Dragon Dream" – released in fall 2025 – showcases virtuosic music of the bassoon, electronics, and traditional Chinese instruments.

Kristina Fox, Myaamia education coordinator, along with Miami University professors Stephanie Danker and Luke Meeken, were published in the Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education. Their article titled "Collaboratively Teaching Myaamia Color Systems and Contemporary Digital Practices within a Reciprocal Partnership" examines how teaching future art teachers about Myaamia color systems and digital art can change the way they think about Indigenous cultures.



Stephanie Danker, Kristina Fox, and Luke Meeken

CCA professors Richard W. James (Ceramics), Youngaah Koh (Arts Management and Arts Entrepreneurship), Aaron Pergram (Music) and Adam Strantz (jointly-appointed in the departments of Emerging Technology in Business + Design and English) were promoted to associate professors.


Richard W. James


Youngaah Koh


Aaron Pergram


Adam Strantz

"Our faculty members are at the heart of our success." - Dean Fisher


Per Bloland

Per Bloland, professor of Music Composition and Music Technology, released his latest album, "Shadows of the Electric Moon." Bloland was promoted to full professor in March 2026.


Andrea Ridilla

Andrea Ridilla, professor of Music (Oboe) received a prestigious invitation to join with esteemed international cadre of double reed artists in a project funded by a grant from the Ministry of Education of the Czech government, as part of a broader initiative by the Ministry of Education, to support education and research. The Double Reed Laboratory at the Faculty of Music, Janáček Academy of Performing Arts, aims to enhance research and development in the field of wind instrument performance.



Michael Stillion

"And then it was flowers" exhibition by Michael Stillion, associate teaching professor of Art, was on view from April 24 until August 30, 2026, at the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) in Cincinnati, Ohio. Stillion also participated in a fireside-style discussion at The Artist's Table at CAC.



Robin Heinsen

Robin Heinsen, assistant professor of Music Education, presented at the Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting in November 2025.

A scene pictured here shows "Convening Stories at the Crossroads," a cross-disciplinary art installation showcased at Venice's Palazzo Mora in October 2025 as part of the European Cultural Centre's Time Space Existence exhibition during the 2025 Venice Biennale. The artist, choreographer, and curator are all Miami faculty: Diane Fellows, professor of Architecture and Interior Design; Ashley Goos, assistant teaching professor of Theatre and director of Dance; and Annie Dell'Aria, associate professor of Art History.



Ashley Goos performs

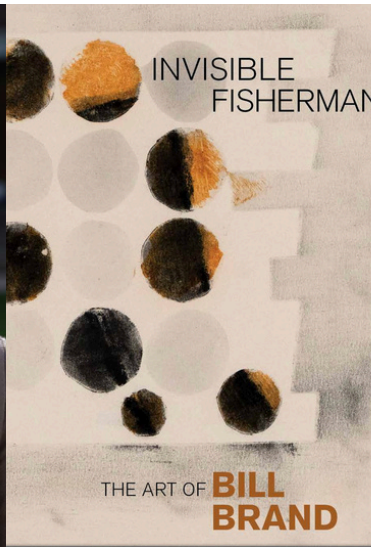


Liz Martin-Malikian

Liz Martin-Malikian, chair and professor of Architecture and Interior Design, was appointed to serve in two prestigious statewide leadership roles. Within the American Institute of Architects (AIA), she will serve as the schools director on the AIA Ohio Board and as the chair of the leadership committee for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.

Annie Dell'Aria, associate professor of Art History, wrote the chapter "Masstransiscope: Experimental Film for the Masses" in the book "Invisible Fisherman: The Art of Bill Brand." Dell'Aria also welcomed Bill Brand as a visiting artist where he restaged "Pong Ping Pong," an expanded cinema performance he brought to Western College in 1972 in Sawyer Hall.


Annie Dell'Aria







Jeff Kruth speaking to community members

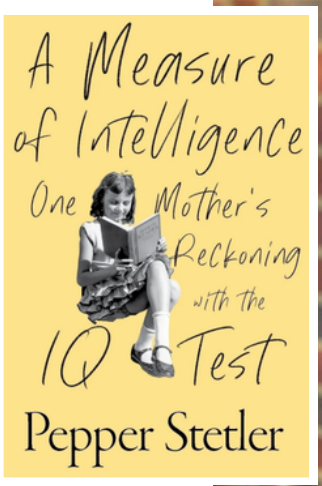
Jeff Kruth, associate professor of Architecture, worked with the art-and-advocacy organization, Perfect City, and Princeton University to run an "Avoidance & Belonging" urban mapping workshop at the Center for Community Engagement in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine. They also worked with students and community partners in Dayton, Ohio, to help facilitate a neighborhood planning and community engagement process in the Westwood neighborhood.

GRANTS



Joomi Chung

Joomi Chung, professor of Studio Art, was awarded $3,450 from Cincinnati nonprofit FotoFocus for her collaborative project “Unfolding Stories 2026: Stories from the RCCAM Collection” which will be included in the 2026 FotoFocus Biennial: The Long View.





Pepper Stetler

Pepper Stetler, professor of Art History, received a grant from the Thomas Foundation to fund an expanded curriculum for the Access Miami Program, known as AMP. The enhanced program pairs traditional Miami students with adults with disabilities, offering disability studies coursework, electives from Access Miami Faculty Fellows, campus internships, and practical career readiness. For Stetler — author of the 2024 book “A Measure of Intelligence: One Mother’s Reckoning with the IQ Test” — the mission is personal. Her daughter, Louisa, participated in AMP’s art studio.



Matt Omasta (center) with Miami President Gregory Crawford and Provost Christopher Makaroff

Matt Omasta, chair and professor of Theatre, was awarded a $300,000 contract to evaluate a national touring theatre program and was among the distinguished faculty and staff recognized during the 2026 Miami University Awards Celebration. Omasta was honored with Miami’s Excellence in Research and Innovation Award for his outstanding scholarly contributions and dedication to advancing theatre research and education.

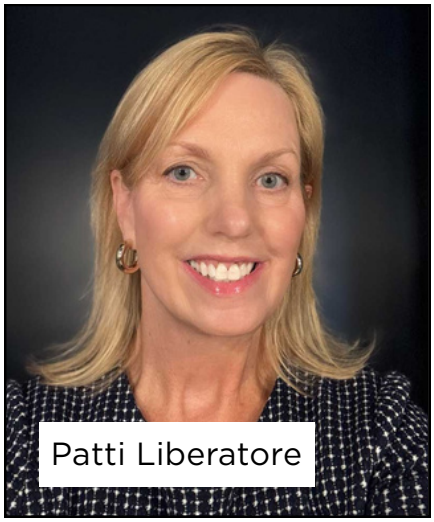


May Khalife and Mary Ben Bonham

Architecture and Interior Design faculty members May Khalife and Mary Ben Bonham were honored with the Architecture Research Centers Consortium Research Incentive Award. The $10,000 grant will support their project, "Revisiting the Ten Shades of Green: Toward a Contemporary Ecological Architecture Paradigm."

Ohio Arts Council

Patti Liberatore, director of the Performing Arts Series, received $25,145 from the Ohio Arts Council for the 2025-2026 Performing Arts Series Season.


Patti Liberatore



Jeff Kruth, assistant professor of Architecture, received $5,000 from the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation to support the "Storefronts Community Arts Collaborative." The initiative brought community members together in an Over-the-Rhine pocket park for a theatrical performance celebrating the inherent value of historically overlooked spaces, people, and urban landscapes.





CAREER READY

CCA career liaison Madeleine Hood of the Center for Career Exploration and Success (CCES) and Taylor Conteh, former associate director of employer relations, were instrumental in helping 300+ Miami students get career ready!


Madeleine Hood

Career Trek: 50 Miami students, including many with majors in CCA, visited several Cincinnati-area employers during the Arts in Action: Cincy Spotlight – Career Trek Trip. The day-long trip to the Queen City inspired students and opened their eyes to new career possibilities. An "'aha moment' where they realize what's possible," said Hood.

Creative Career Day: 200 aspiring creatives from across campus participated in Creative Career Day in the Armstrong Student Center.

Creative Careers Uncovered: 52 students participated. CCA majors represented in the room were Architecture, Art, Art History, Art Education, Art Therapy, Arts Entrepreneurship, Arts Management, Communication Design, Emerging Technology in Business + Design, Games + Simulation, and Theatre.



CCES's framework for student career readiness:

- On-campus interviewing
- Employer-hosted events (virtual and on-campus)
- Interview pre-nights, information sessions, tabling
- Mock interviews
- Job shadow experiences
- Programming, panels, presentations
- Miami Alumni Connect
- Career treks
- Career Partners Program
- Career fairs
- The Hub





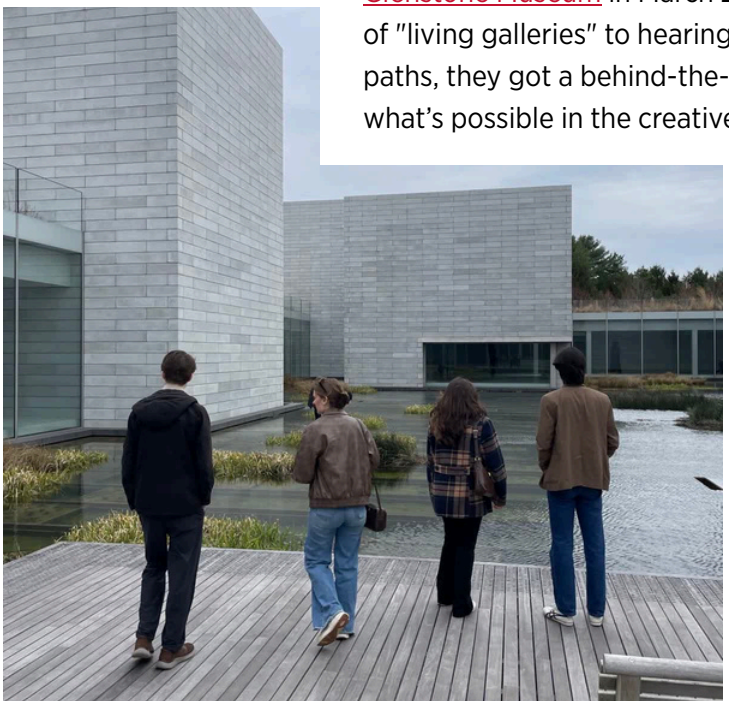






Glenstone

29 CCA students, faculty, and staffers enjoyed a three-day immersive experience at Glenstone Museum in March 2026 in Potomac, Maryland. From exploring 200+ acres of "living galleries" to hearing from museum professionals about their unique career paths, they got a behind-the-scenes look at where art meets landscape and learned what's possible in the creative world.

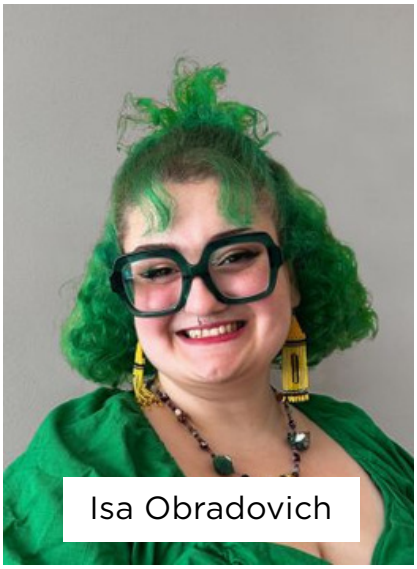


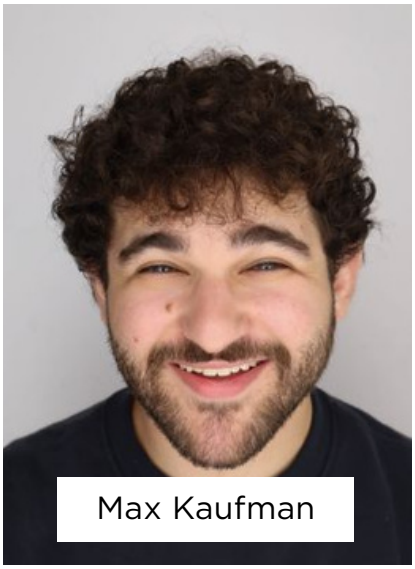




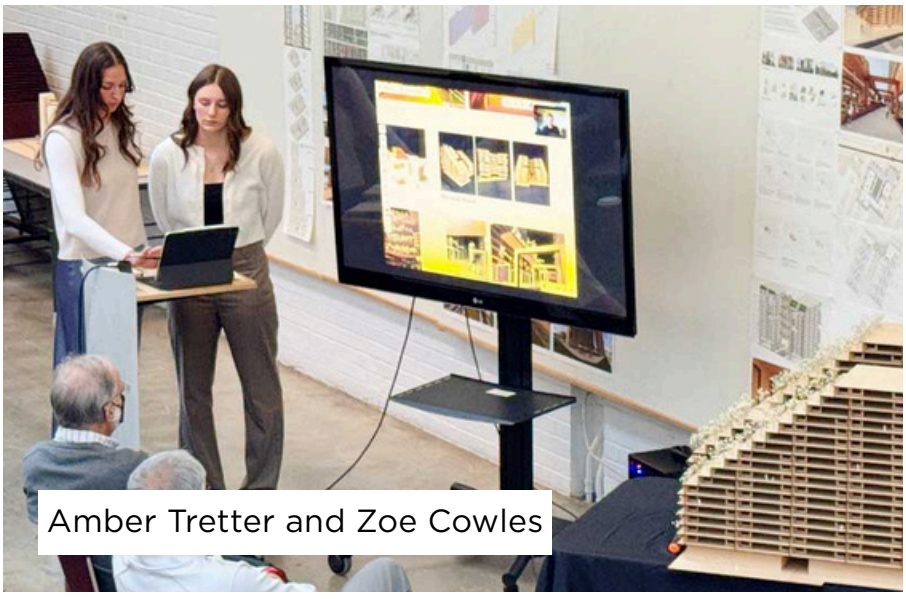
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS


Ryan Jeansonne


Isa Obradovich


Max Kaufman

CCA students Ryan Jeansonne, Isabella “Isa” Obradovich, and Max Kaufman were among 23 Miamians honored with 2026 President’s Distinguished Awards. Jeansonne received the Service Award for his outstanding leadership and service to CCA and the campus community. Obradovich and Kaufman received the Student Scholar Award, a prestigious recognition that highlights their exceptional scholarship, creative work, and contributions that carry a distinct national impact.


Amber Tretter and Zoe Cowles


Tretter and team after their MAC win

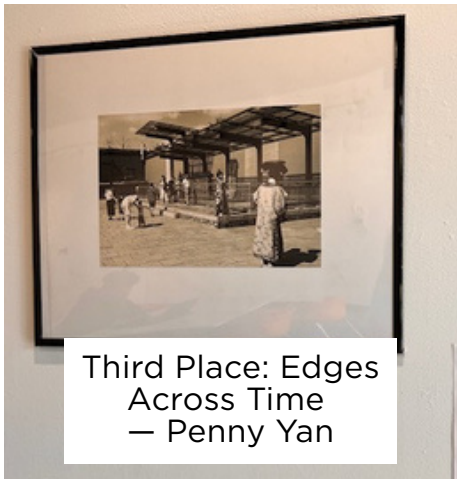
During the fall semester, junior Architecture students Amber Tretter and Zoe Cowles presented an affordable housing design proposal to a panel of experts. Off the presentation floor, Tretter also celebrated a winning season with the RedHawks women’s basketball team. In March 2026, they won the Mid-American Conference (MAC) women's basketball tournament at Rocket Arena in Cleveland, Ohio.



First place winner Cora McNeill and second place winner Lia Pistole in front of McNeill's Chairs at the Table



Second Place: Waiting for a Visitor — Lia Pistole



Third Place: Edges Across Time — Penny Yan

The Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum (RCCAM) and Miami's Department of Art hosted the Student Response Exhibition (SRE) Bridging Generational Gaps in the fall and awarded cash prizes to students Cora McNeill, Lia Pistole, and Peixuan "Penny" Yan through the generosity of the RCCAM Membership Committee.



SparkFest — Miami's annual student-run creative block party — returned for a fifth year in April 2026, and it was bigger than ever, with over 150 students showing off their talents.



50 booths + 10 performances



2026 Planning Committee



Jordyn Pryor, a senior majoring in Games and Simulation, was awarded $2,500 from the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar Program. The award helped fund Pryor's study abroad studies at Konkuk University in South Korea.

Miami students competed against 177 peers from across the state at the Ohio National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition. The following students were honored:

- 1st Place, 1st-Year Musical Theater – Ali Lewis
- 1st Place, Advanced Classical – Lucas Spencer
- 2nd Place, 1st-Year Classical – Katie Hartley
- 2nd Place, 2nd-Year Classical – Natalie Klug
- 2nd Place, 4th-Year Classical – Molly Stein
- 3rd Place, 2nd-Year Classical – Michaela Sweis
- 3rd Place, 3rd-Year Classical Tenor, Baritone, Bass – Will Loudon
- 3rd Place, 3rd-Year Classical Treble – Anna Voss
- 4th Place, Advanced Classical – Katie Feduccia
- Honorable Mention, 1st-Year Classical – Cate Mazzella



Voice professor Alison Acord (left) and students



Jack Nomina

Winning Miami's concerto competition earned Jack Nomina, principal oboe of the Wind Ensemble and Miami University Symphony Orchestra, the opportunity to perform a solo piece accompanied by the orchestra in March 2026. Nomina, a Mechanical Engineering and Music Performance double major and May 2026 graduate, will remain at Miami as he works toward finishing his master's degree.

In November 2025 six Art Education students presented at the 2025 Ohio Art Education Association (OAEA) Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Senior Ellen Long placed first and was awarded the OAE Foundation Preservice Scholarship ($3,000). Miami faculty member Luke Meeken received the Higher Education Division Award.



Art education students and faculty at OAEA



Ellen Long



The Rural Arts Development (RAD) Project, under the leadership of CCA student Skylar Stapleton (pictured waving), continues its mission of supporting rural arts organizations in Southwest Ohio. In a collaboration with associate teaching professor Erin Hoppe (pictured in the forefront), the group presented a strategic visibility plan to the Adams County Arts Council. This partnership exemplifies RAD's commitment to community-based consulting and professional arts management.





Supported by associate professor Youngaah Koh and Meleca Creative Advisors, 14 Miami University students presented research on public art's local impact to the Oxford City Council and Public Arts Commission of Oxford (PACO) in April 2026. The presentations were met with overwhelmingly positive responses from local legislators and PACO members and prompted city leaders to discuss future cultural planning and consider adding a student position to PACO to coordinate future partnerships and maintain momentum for Oxford's public art initiatives.



Miami seniors partnered with Enjoy Oxford to design sustainable tourism and community engagement projects. Enjoy Oxford plans to implement these ideas to boost long-term connection among residents, visitors, and students.

Murals, Murals, Murals



Oxford, Ohio: What began in fall 2024 as a request from Newport, Kentucky, to help beautify the city has blossomed into a multi-city creative partnership with Miami's Art Department. Led by assistant teaching professor Michael Stillion, students took full ownership of the project—handling everything from initial conceptualization to the culminating mural installation. This project was done in partnership with Oxford's Public Arts Commission with support from Duke Energy. The second half of the wall will be completed next spring.



Urbana, Ohio: The Art Department's mural class at Newport on the Levee, structured as a formal course where students function as a professional art firm, helped Arts Management and Arts Entrepreneurship student and Urbana native Riley Johnson transition into a lead visionary role for a community-driven public art initiative. He went on to complete a 1,300-square-foot public artwork in his hometown of Urbana, Ohio, which earned recognition in the Murals Across Ohio program and placed in the top three of Zibra Paint's nationally ranked Golden Brush Awards.





MFA artists

The States of Becoming: 2026 MFA Thesis Exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) in Cincinnati, Ohio, showcases the work of Master of Fine Arts (MFA) candidates from Miami University and the University of Cincinnati.

Meet our Miami MFA students and their works:

Bubly Barna ~ “the body between us (4),” 2025, Hand-stitched soft sculpture, dimensions variable.

De-Graft Boateng ~ De-Graft Boateng, “Ethereal Enchantment,” 2024, Brass, 25x27 in.

Noelle Hemrich ~ “December 7, 2024,” 2025, Oil on canvas, 48x36 in.

Fatemeh Shekarforoush ~ “Groundless,” 2026, Mixed media acrylic sheets, 60x50 in.

Their works, which focused on the forces that shape individual identity, were exhibited Feb. 20 through March 22, 2026 and featured diverse media, including ceramics, paintings, and photography.

Images courtesy of CAC.


Bubly Barna






De-Graft Boateng


Noelle Hemrich

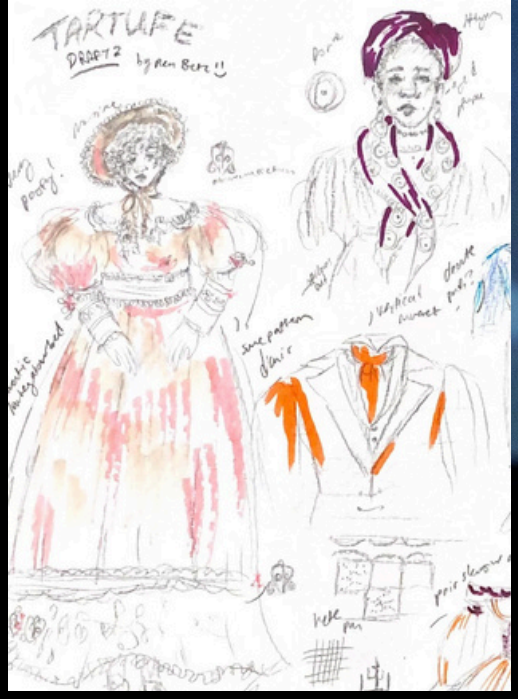





Fatemeh Shekarforoush



Ren Betz





Janel Bartee





Tatiana Fecowycz



Costume and Fashion Design

Three CCA students won national and international-level awards for costume-fashion design.

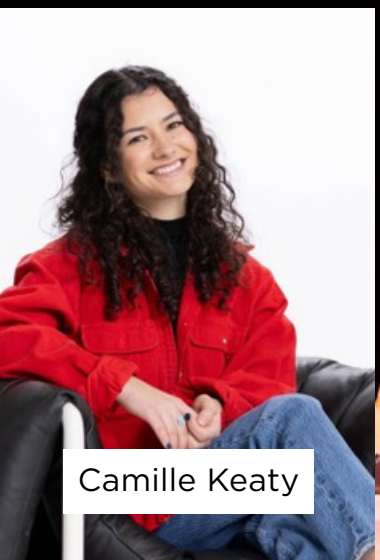
Theatre major Ren Betz won the Lin Conaway National Partners of the American Theatre Design Award for Costume Design from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Student designers Janel Bartee and Tatiana Fecowycz placed as finalists in the Association of Sewing and Design Professionals International Student Design Challenge. Bartee won first place with a lapel-topped, faux leather corset. Fecowycz's ensemble, a combination of thrifted denim, hand-stitched daisy pleating, and a red, white, and blue theme, earned a finalist spot among the six other contestants.

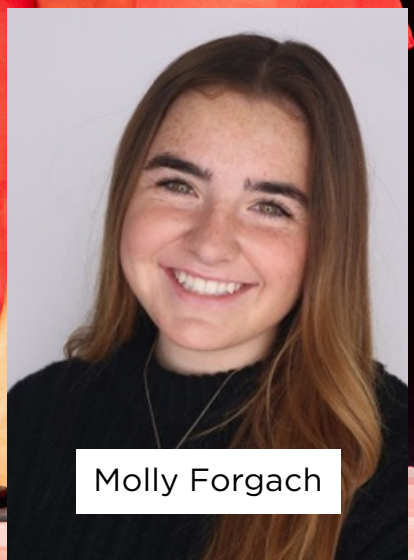


In April 2026, Miami celebrated fashion and design at the "Allure" fashion show in Millett Hall. Hosted by Miami University Fashion and Design (MUF&D), the annual event was one of the largest student-run fashion shows in the nation – featuring 22 designers, 87 models, and 23 assistants, all supported by a 15-member executive board. With an audience of over 2,000 attendees, it was clear how much this event meant to the Miami University community.

Following the show, two students were awarded $10,000 in Altman Institute for the Humanities Scholarship funds. Camille Keaty, a senior marketing and fashion student and MUF&D's design co-director, was awarded $5,000 for most creative design, while Molly Forgach, a senior marketing student, was awarded $5,000 for most commercial design.


Camille Keaty




Molly Forgach



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS





Baylee Schmitt

Baylee Schmitt '23 won the 2025 Young Sculptor's Competition for the $10,000 William and Dorothy Yeck Award for her work "Oak Table and Chairs" (2023, crochet, yarn and wire).

Robert A. Siebenaller '82, '84 was named the 2025 Architect of the Year by the Toledo Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for his 41-year career focused on creating meaningful, wellness-centered spaces. His work spans healthcare, education, sustainability, teaching, and community leadership.



Robert A. Siebenaller



Becca Borton at the National Fellowships Reception

Graduate student Becca Borton '25 received a Fulbright grant offer to be an English Teaching Assistant in Poland. Borton, a current master's student in History, majored in Integrated Social Studies Education and Political Science with minors in Music Theatre, History, and Spanish as a Miami undergraduate student.

Caleb Adelman '24, who majored in Emerging Technology in Business and Design, launched PILLARS, a civic engagement app that helps users know who they're voting for before they hit the polls. The idea to create the app got its start at the Techstars Startup Weekend in the Farmer School of Business.



Caleb Adelman



Leanna Renee Hieber and her book cover

Bestselling author, actress, ghost tour guide, and Miami graduate Leanna Renee Hieber '01 (BFA in Theatre) visited Miami in the fall to discuss her co-authored book, "America's Most Gothic: Haunted History Stranger Than Fiction." Published in September 2025, the book explores North America's darkest folklore and includes a chapter on President Helen Peabody, a formidable 19th-century headmistress who, according to local legend, still keeps a watchful eye over her women's college in Miami's Peabody Hall.



Amanda Dunne Acevedo, left, and Lindsey Barlag Thornton

Amanda Dunne Acevedo '06 and Lindsey Barlag Thornton '06 are two Miami University alumnae who have been collaborating since their days on campus 20 years ago. They established their Chicago-based artistic partnership, Genesis, to create performances that intentionally consider space and audience. Their latest project, "there are no dead people," had its New York premiere as part of the Lincoln Center Presents series in February 2026.

Carolyn Sorg '24 has made history as the first female president of John Carroll University. Bringing a bold vision to the role, Sorg aims to reimagine the student journey through innovative design and service leadership. Her career — deeply rooted in student-centered strategy — perfectly illustrates the transformative impact CCA graduates are making at the highest levels of higher education.



Carolyn Sorg

Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of supporters, the Miami University Men's Glee Club Alumni reached a major milestone in June 2025. They completed their 10-year March to a Million campaign – raising a collective $1 million for five donor-established funds that will continue to support Glee Club members for years to come. With more than 100 singers from all majors, the Glee Club performs a diverse repertoire and connects with an alumni network of 1,400 members across all 50 states and 10 countries.



GLOBAL IMPACTS

Creativity doesn't stop at the state line. Our students study fashion in New York, art history in Italy, theatre in London, and more — all while staying on track to graduate in four years. These experiences deepen their craft and their confidence.



Experiencing Arts and Culture in Ireland

58 Study Abroad / Away Programs

247 CCA Students Participating

19 Countries

Numbers above include travel programs that occurred Summer 2025 through Summer 2026.

STUDENT LIFE AT MIAMI EXTENDS BEYOND OXFORD, OHIO.

Students carry the spirit of love and honor with them for the rest of their life and use it to change the world.



Miami University in Venice, Italy



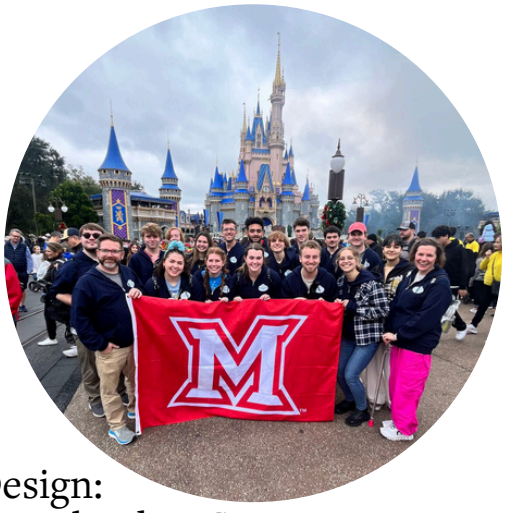
London Interactive Design, U.K.



Miami University in Luxembourg



Inside Hollywood, U.S.



Entertainment Design: Innovation at Disneyland, U.S.

STRATEGIC GUIDANCE

The CCA Advisory Board provides strategic guidance, specialized expertise, and networking, helping CCA leaders make better decisions about the future of the arts both locally (at Miami) and globally.

Meet our newest board members:



Michael Frederick
Architecture, BA 2006
Senior Associate
Gensler, LA



Dion Graham
Theater, 1985
Actor and Narrator
New York, NY



Bailey Mincer
Fine Arts, 2019
Art Director,
Cleveland Cavaliers
Cleveland, OH



Scott Robinson
Architecture, BA 1994
MFA, 2000
Principal, Populous
Kansas City, MO



Julia Rubio
Music Education, 1999
Executive Director, National Association of Music Merchants Foundation
Philadelphia, PA



Anthony Thompson
Theater, 2018
TV Development, Hartbeat
Los Angeles, CA



Janet Yenter
Music, Voice Performance, 2001
Director of Community Engagement,
International School of Denver
Denver, CO



YOUR GIVING IMPACT | By the Numbers

Gift Donations and Commitments

$7,570,844

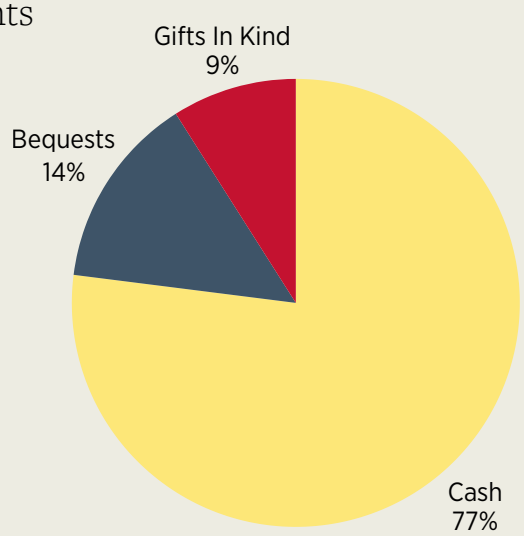
$6,031,102
FY25

$1,539,742
FY26

3,137
No. of Donations and Commitments

$2,413
Average Gift Size

Commitments by Type



This information highlights data from financial contributions made July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS



Jim and Ann Prock

A special thank you to all of our generous donors. Because of YOU, CCA is cultivating its creativity and building a more innovative and beautiful tomorrow!

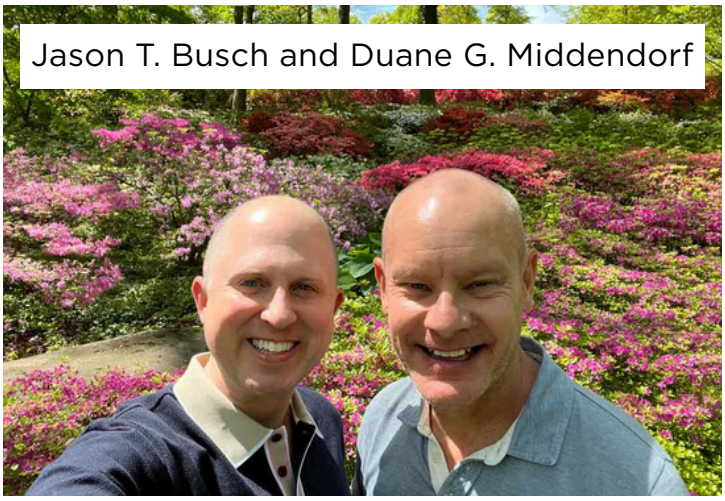
Through a thoughtful gift in their trust, Ann and Jim Prock established the Ann and Jim Prock Marching Band Fund. As a Miami trumpet player, she found a community that resonated long after her final halftime show and graduation in 1975. This planned gift serves as a permanent investment in the traditions and relationships on the field, ensuring that the music — and the community it creates — never stops playing.

Miami is moving fashion forward thanks to the generosity of Miamians Lee '68 and Rosemary Holoviak Fisher '69. Through the Fishers' financial support, students in the Fashion Program within CCA will be able to enjoy experiential learning opportunities to advance innovation, industry engagement, and interdisciplinary learning.



Rosemary Holoviak Fisher at the 2026 Allure fashion show

Jason T. Busch and Duane G. Middendorf



Mentorship and academic flexibility at Miami helped Jason T. Busch '96 build a nationally recognized career as a museum curator and director. Today, he and Duane G. Middendorf are giving back with a transformational gift to the Richard and Carole Cocks Art Museum (RCCAM). The couple established the Jason T. Busch & Duane G. Middendorf Curatorial Director Support Fund, which will fully endow and name the curatorial director position at RCCAM.

SUPPORT FOR CREATIVE INNOVATION

At CCA, state-of-the-art facilities and an innovative curriculum empower students to push traditional creative boundaries. By blending cutting-edge techniques with hands-on entrepreneurial experience, we prepare students to build successful careers in the evolving creative industries.

WAYS TO GIVE

Annual gifts provide ongoing support for faculty and student research, visiting scholars and artists, workshops, and community outreach.

Memorial and honorary gifts recognize an individual, organization, or cause by funding a program, scholarship, or annual event, such as a memorial lecture.

Endowments and planned gifts provide lasting support for the study of the creative arts at Miami University.

DONATE NOW

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Cultivate Your Creativity



MIAMI UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF CREATIVE ARTS