Taking Stock
A Faculty of Breadth, Strength, & Diversity

This document constitutes a renewed five-year plan for the Faculty of Arts, the largest Faculty at the University of British Columbia.

Arts has 25 academic departments, institutes and schools spanning the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Creative and Performing Arts, as well as professional programs, more than 15 interdisciplinary programs, a gallery, a museum, theatres, concert venues, and a performing arts centre.

The Faculty of Arts comprises nearly 13,000 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students, as well as 850 faculty (including approximately 550 tenure stream faculty), and over 500 staff. Our students come from over 100 countries, and we have 102,000 living alumni.
Indicators of Excellence

Many of our departments are considered in the top two in Canada and among the top 15-20 in the world. Although international rankings are imperfect, they provide one measure of our reputation and achievement.

The *Times Higher Education Survey* (THES) World Rankings placed UBC’s Social Sciences (2016) at #20 among all universities globally and the Humanities (2016) at #43.

This document identifies four key areas of focus for 2016-2021: Rethink Arts Education, Enhance the Student Experience, Excel at Research, and Engage with the Community.

UBC Arts will address these areas recognizing its responsibility to our students and the people of British Columbia to provide high-quality, high-impact, accessible and cost-effective education and research.
Rethink Arts Education

The Faculty of Arts aspires to be the best Faculty of its kind for teaching and learning; internationally recognized for its innovative, student-focused pedagogical practices. We aim for an Arts education that is ‘liberal’ in the traditional sense and ‘practical’ in its applications. To reach these goals, we commit to:

• Redesign the Arts degree and current set of breadth requirements into a coherent integrated curriculum, with a specific focus on first-year programs.

• Renovate our academic offerings finding areas of niche strength and emerging societal needs and fostering a culture of innovation in pedagogy.

• Provide improved documentation of the efficiency of the Arts Degree, building on our bottom up program learning outcomes process to improve accountability, and to develop measurable outcomes for our programs, stressing disciplinary attributes and skills. Continue to devote resources to analytics to map and evaluate our programs to determine how they deliver on their outcomes.
• Provide transformative and high-impact education through first-year cohort experiences and learning communities, writing-intensive small-class experiences, global learning and research, community service learning/community-based research, and a mix of practical experiences including co-op, internships, work study and interdisciplinary research opportunities guided by our learning outcomes.

• Engage with sustainability initiatives at the university through our interdisciplinary and professional programs, renewing our minor in Environment and Society, building the energy-environment stream in the Masters of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) and continuing to build sustainability programs in Geography.

• Emphasize career preparation combined with social responsibility, global citizenship, and the cultivation of the mind (critical thinking, research, communication), along with a exposure to ways of thinking and asking questions as essential preparation for a broad range of professions, personal fulfillment and enhancement of civic life.
Enhance the Student Experience

- Continue to support flexible and personalized learning plans for students, enhance and evaluate systems to assist students in navigating through their degree programs, improve waitlist procedures and renovate classrooms to facilitate flexible learning.

- With a new student information system on the horizon, support the ability of students to assemble portfolios that include curricular and extracurricular achievements and experiences.

- Work with the University and the Faculty of Science to pilot a student retention program.

- Continue to support a seamless process of student advising and early intervention for students at academic risk.

- Improve our ability to track graduate student outcomes post graduation, and open up additional teaching and training and career preparation opportunities.

- Continue to collaborate with the VP Students, the Arts Undergraduate Society and other student organizations, and other faculties at UBC to implement and evaluate programs to reduce stress and improve physical and mental wellness.

- Advocate for improved graduate student funding and alternative career paths for PhDs
Excel at Research

We will strengthen our position as Canada’s leading Social Science research university and build on the strong foundation of our Humanities researchers, continuing to enhance the quality and impact of research and scholarship in Arts. We commit to:

- Investing in research clusters with potential to be leaders in their fields, encouraging our faculty members to participate in collaborative networks.

- Improve tracking of research success and publications across the Faculty, as well as provide better coordination for the nomination of Faculty research awards and prizes.

- Continue to increase the number and quality of grant applications through enhanced administrative support.
• Consolidate a new UBC School of Public Policy and Global Affairs with the Masters of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) degree and the Institute for Future Legislators within it.

• Create a new professional masters in Museums, Curation and Heritage based at MOA by bringing together the campus’ three leading museum galleries and linking to programs in archiving, museum anthropology, critical curatorial studies, museum education and the Western Repository of the Truth and Reconciliation Archives.

• Inaugurate a unified School of Media, Journalism and Information, articulated to initiatives in data science at UBC and elsewhere.

• Encourage greater participation in innovation initiatives both within and external to the university, including supporting improved involvement in e@UBC and developing closer feedback loops to public and private sector employers.

• Continue to support integrative thinking in the humanities such as the digital humanities and global humanities.

• Continue to emphasize the social and cultural impacts of our research (knowledge mobilization) in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Creative and Performing Arts.
Engage with Community

We will exchange knowledge and expertise widely and engage in reciprocal partnerships with community. We will foster student, faculty, staff and alumni engagement, developing a creative campus and opportunities for lifelong learning, while continuing to provide our students with research and experiential learning opportunities that will better equip them to make a difference to our world. We commit to:

• Further enhance the creative and performing arts as a core element of UBC’s identity with the development of a creative campus, a rich student experience and a healthy engagement with the community.

• Develop the capacity for our units to participate in providing lifelong learning and teaching across the Faculties, including summer programs, MOOCs and career and personal education.

• Improve and enhance faculty governance, governance bodies, transparency and accountability.

• Educated students in—and by—communities locally, nationally and internationally, emphasizing the relevance of disciplines and interdisciplinary collaboration in tackling real world issues and problems ethically and productively.

• Continue to support and enhance Humanities 101, our outreach program that offers free university-level education to low-income communities in Vancouver.

• Transform Arts Development and Alumni Engagement in anticipation of a future campaign.
Intercultural Understanding

At UBC Arts, we cultivate intercultural aptitudes among our students through study, reflection, debate and action across cultural differences. These aptitudes will serve our students as they emerge as leaders in their chosen fields and communities across the globe. We commit to:

• Renew our curriculum to ensure a sophisticated approach to the complexities of intercultural communication.

• Provide our students the opportunity for intercultural experiences in the classroom, in the university community, in our local communities and globally.

• Partner with the Asian Canadian Community Engagement Committee to consult on a five- to 10-year vision for the university’s commitment to advancing understanding of Asian Canadians.
Aboriginal Engagement

We seek to continue to expand and enhance Aboriginal research and teaching initiatives to increase understanding of Aboriginal cultures and histories and to supportively and respectfully engage with Aboriginal peoples. We commit to:

• Enhance Aboriginal curriculum across the university, increase First Nations hiring, student enrolment and retention, and provide critical support for the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre.

• Our initiatives in this area include: the newly launched Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies (ICIS) bringing together First Nations and Endangered Languages and First Nations and Indigenous Studies, a rural BC community engaged learning program, MOA’s Native Youth Program, the Archaeological Field School, the School of Social Work Squamish BSW Pilot Program, a new Journalism Go Global course, “In Search of Indigenous London, Reporting in Indigenous Communities”, Musqueam 101, and our partnership with the Dechinta: Bush University Centre for Research and Learning, among others.
International Engagement

We seek to further internationalize our curriculum so that our students can understand the global dimensions to their areas of study, excel in international work, and engage with communities globally. We commit to:

• Include a global dimension in all of our new (relevant) programs of study.

• Develop an international community-engaged learning program.

• Continue to build partnerships with international universities for exchange, joint programs and research such as our successful dual degree program with Sciences Po, and in program areas such as Media Studies and the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs.

• Build on particular strengths from area studies, global research, faculty strengths and in regions of special importance to UBC.