

INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

A Unit of the

Office of the Senior Vice President for Research

STRATEGIC PLAN

2008/09 – 2012/13

Prepared by
Marica S. Tacconi, Director
Sherry Roush, Associate Director
Institute for the Arts and Humanities

Ihlseng Cottage
The Pennsylvania State University

Fall 2007

The Institute for the Arts and Humanities at The Pennsylvania State University

With wide-ranging, inclusive programming and funding that supports faculty and graduate students, the Institute for the Arts and Humanities has raised the research and teaching profiles of the arts and humanities at Penn State University, and has become a leader and model for interdisciplinary centers/institutes across the nation.

Building on its many successes, including the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant awarded in 2002, the Institute has added three new funding opportunities (the Short-term Distinguished Visiting Professorship, Bridging the Classroom, and Dissertation Fellowships) to its five other highly effective competitions (Team Teaching across the Disciplines, Individual Faculty Grants, Faculty Residencies, Summer Graduate Student Residencies, and Interdisciplinary Groups). The Institute has also added two extremely high profile initiatives (the Medal for Distinguished Contributions to the Arts and Humanities and Moments of Change) to its three other programs (Recognizing Pennsylvania Black Art and Artists, the Summer Seminars for High School Teachers, and Public Humanities Scholars), as well as an IAH Book Series in collaboration with Penn State University Press. Moreover, \$2,000,000 (two million) was raised to meet the NEH “challenge” (final certification was submitted in Fall 2006), further exemplifying the Institute’s success and reputation.

Goal #1: As the flagship center for artistic and humanistic study, the Institute for the Arts and Humanities will help to propel Penn State University into the top tier of the CIC.

Strategy A: The Institute’s reputation, programming, and funding opportunities will enable Penn State’s Colleges of Arts and Architecture and the Liberal Arts to attract and retain the very best faculty and graduate students.

- By supporting cutting-edge interdisciplinary work where the most exciting and innovative artistic and humanistic contributions are emerging today through Institute-supported research, teaching, residency, and groups competitions.
- By hosting nationally and internationally recognized scholars and artists, thus providing strong and easily accessible networking opportunities for Penn State faculty and graduate students.
- By giving preference, where possible, to initiatives that encourage diversity, the international exchange of ideas, and global awareness by supporting international research and travel, hosting scholars and artists with an international/global perspective, or presenting symposia or other initiatives that launch dialogues fostering a better understanding of underrepresented groups, because the best faculty and students seek dynamic and diverse study environments.

Strategy B: The Institute will promote and disseminate the best outcomes from its funded projects and from Moments of Change lectures, roundtables, and symposia, further bolstering Penn State faculty and programs, and raising the University’s reputation in the arts and humanities.

- By launching the IAH Book Series with Penn State University Press, including edited collections of essays related to the Moments of Change initiative.
- By expanding opportunities to participate in lectures, concerts, performances, and exhibits through IAH podcasts, web postings, television broadcasts (WPSU, C-NET), compact disc recordings, and other easily and widely accessible venues and formats.

Goal #2: The Institute will continue to support and present the highest quality work in artistic and humanistic studies to the University community, to State College and its region, to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (in its outreach and land grant missions), to the nation (in its leadership among similar interdisciplinary centers/institutes), and beyond (in its international/global initiatives), while advocating for and attesting to the absolute necessity today for relevant, inspiring, challenging, and timely pursuits in the arts and humanities.

Strategy A: The Institute will serve as a leading cultural hub of the region and will select and promote public forums, distinguished visitors, performances, and comprehensive initiatives that address interdisciplinary gaps in knowledge and experience, challenge widespread assumptions, inspire new modes of thinking, debate key topics in current events and in the public sphere, etc. The Institute will create experiences that participants will remember and by which they will be fundamentally changed.

- By supporting fewer “safe” or traditional initiatives and pursuing more controversial speakers, underrepresented opinions, experimental works, etc.

Strategy B: The Institute will pursue new avenues of collaboration with other colleges and units in the University to expand the boundaries of interdisciplinary knowledge.

- By working with the Schreyer Honors College to bring interdisciplinary courses and seminars more fully within the honors student experience, with the College of Communications to expand interests in shared areas (including rhetoric, media, and film studies), with the College of Information Sciences and Technology to consider computerized applications of artistic and humanistic fields and to explore Virtual Worlds as an emerging “genre,” and with the Dickinson School of Law to find intersections of common interests (e.g. in the area of International Law).

Strategy C: Penn State’s Institute for the Arts and Humanities will continue to grow in its leadership among interdisciplinary center/institutes nationwide.

- By supporting the participation of the Institute’s Director and/or Associate Director in national arts and humanities consortia and organizations (i.e. Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, Imagining America, National Humanities Alliance, American Council of Learned Societies). They will attend annual meetings, participate in workshops and panels, promote the Institute’s mission, and submit presentation proposals articulating strong views for the future of concerned disciplines.

- By leading the formation of a CIC Arts and Humanities Consortium, aimed at bolstering artistic and humanistic study at sister institutions and creating new funding or exchange opportunities for faculty and graduate students of participating institutes.

Goal #3: The Institute will achieve its two primary goals by re-evaluating, adapting, and restructuring some existing programs and human resources.

Strategy A: The Institute will continue to fund and promote its most successful and high profile initiatives, but will reassess and adapt others to bring them in line with the objectives outlined above.

- By merging the two teaching competitions (Team Teaching Across the Disciplines and Bridging the Classroom) to dispel current confusion concerning how the two programs differ and to focus more prominently on the Institute's priorities in research, scholarship, and outreach.
- By promoting more aggressively its marquis events: Moments of Change, the short-term distinguished professorships, and the Medal for Distinguished Contributions to the Arts and Humanities.
- By better allocating current human resources and hiring targeted help. The Institute can meet its future goals and objectives if changes are made according to the recommendations proposed below (see Appendix: Resource Request).

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

By 2013, through inspired leadership and with adequate support, the Institute for the Arts and Humanities will be a premier interdisciplinary institute in the nation, articulating a strong and challenging voice in the arts and humanities, and serving as an indispensable recruitment and retaining resource for faculty and students. The Institute will also serve as a leading cultural hub, enriching the lives of local and regional community members.

APPENDIX

Opportunities and Threats

Building on its previous successes, the Institute is more than ever well positioned to achieve future growth, moving from a well-respected Institute to a nationally recognized premier center of interdisciplinary inquiry and activity. The largest threat to the Institute is in expecting continued growth in quality and quantity without the necessary investments in human resources and infrastructure for the coming years.

Metrics that will help determine the Institute's success

- Attendance at Institute events: size of audience and audience response.
- Reports from recipients of Institute funding.
- Outcomes of Institute-funded projects: books/articles published; works exhibited and performed; etc.
- National/international recognition of research and creative work funded by the Institute (e.g. external grants; reviews of publications, performances, exhibitions).
- The Institute is already serving as a model and point of reference for other arts/humanities centers, organizations, and consortia across the nation (for example, the Simpson Humanities Center at the University of Washington recently established a new Summer Residential Dissertation Fellows program, based on the IAH's graduate student summer residencies). As the Institute achieves even greater prominence, its success will likely also be measured by its role as a firm point of reference for other institutions.