

Charge to the Arts Planning Committee
Robert A. Oden, Jr.

The charge of the Arts Planning Committee is to produce a strategic plan for the arts at Carleton. The Committee's guiding purpose is to shape a vision and outline a plan to relocate the arts more centrally in the educational program at Carleton and to position the College to be a national leader in the arts for decades to come. The arts, of course, consist of many interconnected parts which will complicate and enrich your conversations. The departments most directly associated with this planning process include Art History and Studio Art; Cinema and Media Studies; Music and Theater and Dance. We are entrusting you to embrace this challenge, remove provincial blinders, and think audaciously about the future of art at Carleton. On the eve of a transforming capital campaign, we look to you for a transforming vision.

I have asked Fred Rogers and Scott Bierman to co-chair the Committee. We will want to ground our plan for the arts at Carleton in the College's core educational goals. I ask you to be as specific as possible about reconceived or new programs, how synergies across departments and programs can be exploited, and how these programs achieve objectives you have identified as important for the College. Additionally, we need you to think at once about how existing resources can be used more effectively and also how new resources could move us to a position of national leadership. I ask you to engage the Carleton community broadly and actively in your deliberations in producing this plan. The campus, alumni, and trustees should be abuzz with excited and engaged conversation about the future of the arts at Carleton with you as the central leaders of that conversation. My ambitious hope is that you can deliver your plan to me by the end of the current academic year. This is a great deal to ask of you, but the trustees and I are eager to move forward.

While the Arts Planning Committee is not a facilities planning committee, the plan you produce will have important implication for facility decisions that will subsequently be made. We want these decisions to be deeply informed by clearly identified programmatic elements that collectively achieve the objectives of an undeniably excellent arts education at Carleton. We need to think boldly and to shape a vision for the arts at Carleton whose goal is nothing short of our being nationally recognized as leaders in arts education – Great Plains leaders with a global reach. Thank you.

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