

# College of Fine Arts Vision Plan – FY 2006-2007

## Introduction

Since the first Vision Plan for Information Technology was completed in 1991, the College of Fine Arts has systematically implemented student microcomputer facilities, technology classrooms, a College-wide network, and other technology infrastructure needed to serve the instructional mission of the college. This year, the process continued with the deployment of specific equipment and software intended to address four areas: upgrades to the existing network infrastructure, additional wireless coverage intended to encourage mobile computing, technology classroom additions and upgrades, and improvements to existing computer laboratories.

## Overview -

### *Mission*

Originally formed in 1995 to address the growing needs of the College, the Information Technology division works to enhance instruction, research and administration in the College of Fine Arts.

### *. . . from implementation to assimilation*

While we continue to deploy new technologies in the service of the college's mission, it is clear that our efforts are shifting from implementation to the successful use of those new technologies. Over the last 14 years, we have developed a large installed infrastructure that requires increasing amounts of maintenance and training. Therefore, in addition to funding for several projects, we will also request a larger amount of recurrent funding to create a new Instructional Technology position. This is intended, along with other changes in the college IT effort, to help faculty better use the extensive technology infrastructure already in place.

### *Important cooperative efforts*

The other important trend is the increasingly collaborative nature of IT projects. This year, we will continue to participate in joint projects with the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Communications and General Libraries. Proposals to advance these projects are included under separate cover.

- The "Digital Archive Service", a joint project between Liberal Arts and Fine Arts received funding for FY 2004-05 and again in FY 2005-06 and has been in use since the summer of 2005. We continue expanding the project to include more collections and have begun moving some of the source digital assets to General Libraries' servers.
- The "Automatic Media Capture" project, a joint effort between Fine Arts and Communications with participation from several other colleges and schools, will

automate the process of capturing audio and video in the classroom environment and make that media available on a web-accessible server. The successful completion of this pilot project will make it possible to greatly simplify media capture for instructional activities where student review of their classroom work is essential and eliminate the use of camcorders with their attendant limitations.

## Summary of Requests

The College of Fine Arts requests \$235,000 for a variety of projects this year. A summary of the projects is provided in the table below:

Technology Classroom Upgrades	Fine Arts	\$60,000
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## Overview of Current IT Programs and Infrastructure

The College of Fine Arts, one of 16 colleges and schools at The University of Texas at Austin, consists of three academic units – the Department of Art and Art History, the School of Music and the Department of Theatre and Dance – and two non-academic units – the Blanton Museum of Art and the Performing Arts Center. With nearly 2000 students, 172 faculty and 214 classified and professional staff, it qualifies as one of the small to mid-size colleges on campus.

### *The College of Fine Arts at a glance*

#### Departments

Department of Art and Art History  
School of Music  
Department of Theatre and Dance  
Jack S. Blanton Museum  
Performing Arts Center

#### Personnel

1994 students (fall, 2005)  
172 Tenure-track Faculty  
214 Classified and Professional Staff

#### IT Division Services

Help Desk  
Networks and Servers  
Technology Classrooms  
Computer Labs (FAML TADL)

Recording Studio  
A/V Support (T&D)  
Fine Arts Web

### **IT Staffing**

College – 13 FTE, 20 part-time (includes T&D)  
Art – 2 FTE, 12 part-time  
Music – 1 FTE, 7 part-time

### **Programs**

Recurrent ITAC funding is used primarily to support the routine operation of the major student computer laboratories in the three academic units. The College reserves a small portion (about 28%) to support the central student computer laboratory and network, and distributes the remainder to the three academic units proportionally, based on their generated semester credit hours.

### **Infrastructure**

The College of Fine Arts has a growing number of computer laboratories, technology classrooms and other special purpose facilities:

#### **Computer Laboratories**

- Fine Arts Microcomputer Lab (FAML, located in the Fine Arts Library)
- Art Lab (ArtL, located in ART)
- Design Lab (DesL, located in ART)
- Music Microcomputer Lab (MML, located in MRH)
- Theatre and Dance Lab (TaDL, located in WIN)
- Specialty Laboratories
  - Electronic Music Studios (EMS, located in MRH)
  - Piano Keyboard Labs (2, located in MRH)
  - Music Education Lab (located in MRH)
  - Transmedia (located in ART)
  - Digital Photography (located in ART)
  - Robotic Lighting (located in WIN)

#### **Technology Classrooms**

- ART 1.102, 1.110, 1.120, (General Purpose)
- DFA 2.204, 4.104
- MRH 2.608, 2.610, 2.634, m3.112, m 3.114, 2.604, 4.130
- WIN 2.112, B202, 1.134, 1.148, 2.136

#### **Other Facilities**

- Teleconference Suite (MRH 2.636)

- Electronic Classroom (located in FAML)
- Fine Arts Recording Studio (MRH 2.638)

### ***Funding for IT programs and infrastructure***

Annual funding for Information Technology is expected to decrease by almost 8% from \$1,232,027 in FY 2004-05 to \$1,137,865 in FY 2005-06 (projected). This number is an amalgam of several funding sources: the Fine Arts Instructional Technology Fee, recurrent and project-specific ITAC funding, state appropriated salaries and user fees. It does not include program or course specific fees, some of which are used for IT.

<b>Overall IT Funding (not including course or program-specific fees)</b>	<b>FY 2004-05</b>	<b>FY 2005-06 (projected)</b>	<b>% change</b>
Fine Arts Instructional Technology Fee	\$574,592.00	\$491,800.00	-14.41%
ITAC (recurrent)	\$117,320.00	\$114,600.00	-2.32%
ITAC (project)	\$234,000.00	\$213,000.00	-8.97%
State Appropriation	\$201,996.00	\$221,481.00	9.65%
User Fees	\$46,844.00	\$37,000.00	-21.01%
Other Local Accounts	\$57,275.00	\$59,984.00	4.73%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,232,027.00</b>	<b>\$1,137,865.00</b>	<b>-7.64%</b>

### ***Best Practices***

#### **Help Desk partnership w/ITS**

Given the relatively small size of Fine Arts, we are always interested in collaborating with other colleges and units on campus to extend our resources and play to our core strengths. Our “Help Desk” operation is a case in point. Several years ago, when it became apparent that we weren’t keeping up with the growing number of requests for desktop support, we began exploring the possibility of working with the ITS Help Desk to bridge the gap. As we discussed possible arrangements with the then newly-hired John Hunter (manager of the ITS Help Desk), it became apparent that we had complimentary strengths, and a combination effort would provide much better service to College faculty and staff.

With the equivalent of two full-time workers doing desktop support, it was difficult to both answer a trouble line and visit users to install, configure and support desktop computers and software. Conversely, the ITS Help Desk had no capacity to visit users, but had an extensive and effective phone effort. We decided to try setting the Fine Arts

help desk up as an “expert group” and redirect all Fine Arts support calls to the ITS operation. Fine Arts faculty and staff were instructed to call the “new reserved Fine Arts Help Desk”. The special number presented calls to the same body of ITS consultants used by the rest of campus, while facilitating the tracking of Fine Arts calls. If the problem persisted after the normal “triage” with the ITS consultant, the “trouble ticket” was forwarded through a custom website to the Fine Arts “expert group” for an on-site follow up.

Over the last 3-4 years the system has worked well. The volume of direct calls to our local staff has dropped by about 70% (most problems can be solved over the phone) and our consultants can spend more time with the problems that require on-site assistance. With the recent purchase and implementation of “Remedy” (a customizable software package often used for Help Desk trouble ticket routing), the system promises to be even more effective.

### **DASE partnership w/Liberal Arts**

Similar to the Help Desk collaboration, we engaged in a project last year that has become known as the Liberal Arts Digital Archive Services (DASE). A joint effort of Liberal Arts, Fine Arts, and General Libraries, this project consists of building a set of applications for the collection, cataloging, and serving of digital media collections from all over The University. The project will give faculty and students the ability to search diverse collections of hundreds of thousands of images, videos, audio files, and other media. Users will be able to download files or organize them into online collections accessible from within DASE. A special feature gives faculty the ability to quickly create online slide shows and share them with students either online or projected in class. A two screen option in the slideshow feature will allow faculty teaching in dual screen auditoriums to organize and format dual screen shows and present different slides on each screen.

Prototypes of the first two modules of DASE are available for use. Media Browser allows users to search, organize personal collections, and create slideshows. Collection Builder allows collection managers to upload images, organize catalog records, and input metadata. These prototypes have constantly expanding sets of functionality and work primarily with digital images at present, although some video and sound files are contained within the system. The prototypes are protected by password.

If you would like to take a look at DASE, please contact Peter Keane [pkeane@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:pkeane@mail.utexas.edu) for passwords and instructions.

Development of DASE is going forward under funding from College IT fees, two consecutive ITAC awards, and a grant from the Utopia project. A joint request with Fine Arts and General Libraries for further development of The University-wide features of this project will be submitted under separate cover.

## Use of Previous Academic Year Allocations

For FY 2005-06, Fine Arts requested \$258,300 and actually received \$189,000 in project funding as well as \$114,445 in recurrent funding. Another \$50,000 was awarded jointly with Liberal Arts and Engineering for work on the “Classroom 2010” project as well as \$49,000 awarded jointly with Liberal Arts for continuing work the “Digital Archive Service” (DASe).

Fine Arts actually spent \$316,856 in ITAC funding during FY 2004-05, and expects to expend \$188,800 in funding awarded for 2005-06 as shown on the following chart. These are the projects that were proposed in the last Vision Plan. Since the ITAC project award for FY 2004-05 was less than that requested, some projects were not funded. Projects listed as “referred to department” were accomplished with departmental funds.

<b>FY 2005-06 Fine Arts Request</b>			
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Status</b>	
Technology Classroom Upgrades	\$60,000	In Progress	\$60,000
FAML Computer Upgrades	\$30,000	Not Funded	
Summer Faculty Technology “boot camp”	\$10,800	Funded	\$10,800
Instructional Technology Support	\$12,000	Not Funded	
Transmedia Studio Technology Hub (Art & Art History)	\$56,500	Funded	\$56,500
Three New Technology Classrooms (Music)	\$40,500	Funded	\$40,500
Piano Classroom Projectors (Music)	\$6,000	Referred to Department	
Film Scoring Lab Acoustic Wall Treatment	\$11,500	Referred to Department	
Tascam/Gigasampler Project	\$10,000	Referred to Department	
Flatbed Press site workstations	\$21,000	Funded	\$21,000
<b>Total Requested</b>	<b>\$258,300</b>	<b>Funded</b>	<b>\$188,800</b>

## Programs

Of the \$114,445 recurrent ITAC funding that Fine Arts received for FY 2005-06, the majority was split among the academic units to cover the routine upgrade and maintenance of their principal student computer laboratories. They each received an amount that was proportional to their student enrollment based on the last academic year. The next largest portion of recurrent funding was used to support the operation of the

College central student computer lab (the Fine Arts Microcomputer Laboratory – FAML).

Fine Arts has, until recently, resisted using ITAC funding to cover recurrent staff costs, but continuing budgetary limitations have made it necessary to reconsider. Therefore, FY 2003-04 was the first time ITAC funding was used to cover some staff cost in support of the Visual Resource Collection (part of the Art History division) and to provide Web support of the College Student Division. These projected expenditures for FY 2005-06 and the previously mentioned departmental allocations are reflected in the figure below:

<b>FY 2005-06 recurrent ITAC Allocation</b>			
Art			\$26,543
Music			\$33,656
Theatre			\$22,201
FAML			\$13,515
Desktop Support for the VRC			\$6,530
Web Support			\$12,000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,445</b>

## ***Infrastructure***

### **Core Network improvements**

The Fine Arts network infrastructure was last renovated prior to the “Y2K” event, and the routers, switches and related support equipment were nearing the end of their useful life. Using College and ITAC funding accumulated over the last several years, a major renovation was recently completed, with the bulk of the work completed during the last fiscal year (total expenditure during FY 2004-05: \$154,338). Improvements included a new core router, new building switches and additional capacity to support new wireless capabilities. These improvements have resulted in gigabit backbone speeds, the ability to isolate individual machine ports (needed for new security demands) and better overall network efficiency.

### **Additional Wireless Coverage**

A small amount of wireless coverage was added to the College in 2001, and this project has greatly enhanced that coverage. By improving wireless service throughout the College, we expect students to bring their own portable computing equipment thus reserving increasingly valuable computer lab space for more specialized use. We anticipate about 70% coverage across the Fine Arts academic buildings – a reasonable trade-off between cost and benefit. Most of the funding was expended during the 2004-05 fiscal year with the completion of coverage for the Winship and Art & Art History buildings. MRH remains, with project completion anticipated for the spring of 2006.

### ***Classroom Maintenance and Upgrades***

Several classrooms were upgraded this year with new projection systems and refurbished consoles. Since the first technology classrooms were constructed in 1993 and the college now maintains 20 such facilities, we anticipate a continuous maintenance process for the foreseeable future.

## **Needs and Proposed Use of Funds**

### ***Programs and One Time Projects***

#### **Doty Fine Arts Building Renovation - Background**

The Doty Fine Arts Building currently houses the Fine Arts Dean's suite, a portion of the Art History faculty and Visual Resource Collection, the Fine Arts Career Center, the Fine Arts Microcomputer Laboratory (FAML) and the Fine Arts Library. Until a few months ago, there had been few changes to the building since it was completed in 1982.

Recently, several renovations have been considered, all of them intended to re-make the building as a hub for student and faculty activity in the college as well as a focus of activity for the east side of campus.

Coincident with the college's interest in updating the building, General Libraries (who manages the Fine Arts Library) had noted a decline in visitors to their facility, and was considering strategies that would increase traffic. The college interest in renovating the building, coupled with the Libraries' interest in increasing traffic to their facility merged in a plan to renovate the main floor of the Fine Arts Library with significant changes to its furnishings, services and consequent use. Acting in partnership, and sharing the cost of the project, Fine Arts and General Libraries began last summer, with phase one now largely complete. Old wooden study carrels, with mostly obsolete technology have been demolished and removed. A significant number of the large book ranges containing underutilized reference materials have been removed. Aging furniture from the original building equipment has been removed. All of this prepared for the implementation of a new Student Learning Center.

The new Center received cosmetic changes including new carpeting and paint. Large, movable window screens have been installed to reduce glare on computer screens while preserving the grand view of campus those windows afford. An entirely new compliment of comfortable furniture including tables, chairs, café-style booths, over-stuffed chairs with desks, computer workstations and group work stations have been purchased and installed. Pervasive wireless coverage now exists throughout the facility as well as dozens of new electrical outlets – all intended to make mobile computing more convenient. Finally, 35 desktop workstations and 40 laptops – all available for overnight checkout – have been purchased and installed. Online access to applications and

reference materials that used to be separately maintained on different machines have been merged so as to be available from any machine in the space. In short, the Fine Arts Library main floor has been redesigned and equipped to facilitate modern learners and researchers.

### **Instructional Technology Service Bureau - \$45,000 (recurrent)**

Phase two is next. Since computing services now exist throughout the library, the Fine Arts Microcomputer Laboratory, first opened in 1993, will be closed. The resulting space will be repurposed to house the growing technology staff of the college, numbering some 13 full-time and over 20 part-time employees. In addition to office and shop space for the IT Staff, a new service facility – one intended to provide desktop and instructional technology support – will be opened. It is this new service facility for which we seek funding.

As we noted earlier in this document, a generous array of technologies have been implemented over the last several years in this college and around campus. Computer laboratories, technology enhanced classrooms, wireless coverage, online services – all have provided new opportunities for teaching and learning on campus. The principle remaining need is learning to effectively leverage these technologies. We propose creating a new position in the college, an instructional technology support specialist, who will work with an existing college staff member (whose job will be re-purposed as a Project Manager) to form the core of this new service. Faculty, who must currently either seek limited support from other entities on campus such as the DIIA or learn to build their own digital materials, will for the first time have a service in the college for designing and implementing such materials. In other words, we intend to create an Instructional Technology Service Bureau. As the service ramps up, we will augment the two full-time staff members with student workers – an idea modeled on the CIT's ~FasTex program – to expand the Bureau's capacity as needed. With funding support from the ITAC, we hope to follow models already in place in Liberal Arts and Engineering that help faculty take full advantage of the extensive technology infrastructure on campus.

### **Fine Arts Student Center Classroom and Performance Space - \$50,000**

#### **Electronic Gallery Space - \$22,000**

As the main floor of the Fine Arts Library has been re-invigorated as a Student Learning Center, Substantial changes have also been envisioned for the ground floor of the building. Currently, the Fine Arts Career Center is the only tenant (apart from a few faculty offices) on the ground floor, along with a large un-used space of the now-defunct food service. The planned renovation would change the entire space, expand the square

footage by enclosing part of the patio, and remove physical barriers that hide the ground floor from the street – all intended to re-purpose the space as a Student Services Center.

The new center would include the Fine Arts Student Division (currently located in the Dean's Suite), the Career Center, a modest food service, a combination classroom and performance space, and an electronic gallery. While substantial support for the project already exists from an outside donor, we seek help with the technology needs of the project, namely the combination space and the electronic gallery.

The classroom and performance space will be equipped with the standard classroom compliment with upgraded an upgraded sound system and acoustic treatment, and a programmable lighting system. The exact configuration of the space is likely to change as plans develop, but at present it is expected to provide space for 25-30 people.

Gallery space for art exhibitions is always in short supply, and with an increasing amount of art being produced electronically, it makes some sense to begin providing electronic gallery facilities in the college. Since the Student Services Center will be hub of activity, such a gallery would be a natural. Likewise, with the new Student Learning Center in the Fine Arts Library, a gallery there would be very desirable. We propose providing four large format displays, two intended for each space, and four computers to drive the displays on which students could curate their own digital exhibitions on a rotating basis. Besides showcasing student and faculty work in the college, the gallery space would add to the interesting and inviting ambience of the spaces.

### **The Mesoamerica Center - \$58,000**

The new Mesoamerica Center planned for the ART building in a space formerly occupied by part of the Blanton Museum will house a significant lab and studio space devoted to the study of Pre-Columbian art and archaeology, with an emphasis on digital photo archives, drafting, the production of publications, and the continued upkeep of our two websites. A critical component of the Center will include undergraduate and graduate students, providing them opportunities to work with faculty on original research in the field. One major endeavor will involve the photographic processing and drawing associated with the Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions Project (based at Harvard's Peabody Museum) with which David Stuart is affiliated.

Students and affiliated faculty from the Department of Art and Art History and related departments (Anthropology, Linguistics, etc.) will make use of the Center's space and equipment for their own research needs, allowing students to work in a state-of-the-art laboratory alongside world-famous scholars and faculty. In addition, the facility will be an on-campus headquarters for archaeological field projects in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras, where a number of cutting edge digital technologies will be tested and applied. These digital technologies will allow students the opportunity to engage in research on newly discovered buildings, monuments, and artifacts, which are often in remote areas of

Central America, or are located in tombs and caves that have been sealed off to protect them from looters and vandals.

## ***Infrastructure***

### **Technology Classroom Upgrades - \$60,000**

With three additional classrooms to be completed during the current fiscal year, Fine Arts will have an inventory of 20 technology classrooms. They represent an estimated \$600,000 in investment given that each of the 20 rooms cost an average of \$30,000 to implement. These classrooms have been installed over the last 10 years, and a staggered program of maintenance and refurbishment is now appropriate. During FY 2004-05 several of them received new projection systems, touch panels and other replacement parts and upgrades – a first effort in comprehensive refreshment for the college. Experience has shown that an annual maintenance budget for such an installation is approximately 10% of the installation's value, therefore, we are requesting \$60,000 for technology classroom maintenance again this year.