



The Board of Governors of Alberta University of the Arts Mandate and Roles Document

Preamble

This Mandate and Roles Document for the Board of Governors of Alberta University of the Arts (“AU Arts” or “The University”) has been developed collaboratively between the Minister of Advanced Education (“Minister”) and the University. This document is in furtherance of the parties’ legal obligations under the *Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act* (APAGA) to reflect a common understanding of respective roles and responsibilities in governance of the University.

1. Mandate

The University’s mandate is set out in the Investment Management Agreement entered into by the University and the Minister.

1. Type of Institution, Sector, and Governance

Alberta University of the Arts is a board-governed public post-secondary institution operating in Alberta as an Undergraduate University under the authority of the PSLA.

2. Outcomes

For almost 100 years AUArts has played a leading role in Canada's visual culture as the only art, craft and design university in Alberta, the prairies and one of only four in Canada. AUArts is committed to diversifying Alberta and Canada's economy through fine art, craft and design industries. The university graduates’ students who contribute to not only employment in the creative sectors but education, technology, business and many other sectors.

AUArts employs the greatest number of creatives in Calgary and a significant number of graduates become entrepreneurs, starting new businesses, establishing new markets and creating jobs. Alumni and faculty receive the highest honours, including Governor General's awards.

3. Clients/Students

AUArts serves undergraduate and graduate students, adult learners, children and youth, and life-long learners who are focused on the pursuit of professional artistic practices and creative careers.

AUArts is a driver of the growing S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) economy, producing graduates who have the high-demand problem solving and critical thinking skills critical to business. Alumni contribute heavily to Alberta's vitality and diversity.

4. Geographic Service Area and Type of Delivery

AUArts is centrally located in northwest Calgary, Alberta. The majority of AUArts’ students originate from Calgary and the province of Alberta, and attracts students from across Canada and internationally.

AUArts' students learn by doing in a studio-based classroom with rigorous academic and experiential learning opportunities with instruction by master artists and craftspeople. The face-to-face studio approach and favorable student to teacher ratio facilitates a compelling, relationship-based learning environment. Students develop their skills and understanding of art, craft and design while creating distinct creative content and alternative points of view.

5. Program Mandates and Credential Offering

AUArts offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in art, craft and design and the offerings align with the Alberta Credential Framework and include degrees in the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Art, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Craft and Emerging Media, Bachelor of Design, and the only graduate degree, Master of Fine Art, in Canada with a specialty in craft and emerging media.

Through its School of Continuing Education and Professional Development, AUArts offers career-orientated certificate programs that bridge students for entry into undergraduate and graduate programming. AUArts is committed to developing and maintaining partnerships and programming with institutions within the Campus Alberta system.

6. Special Program Areas/Areas of Specialization

Degree program majors include graphic design, character design, advertising, drawing, illustration, photography, ceramics, fibre, glass, jewellery and metals, media arts, painting, print media, and sculpture. Additional specializations through program minors include animation, comics, object design and fabrication.

The School of Continuing Education and Professional Development is increasingly focused on career-oriented programs designed for a graduate's immediate entry into creativity-oriented, high demand technology positions.

7. System Collaboration and Partnerships

AUArts collaborates with other post-secondary institutions and maintains several partnerships with local and provincial stakeholders, while moving toward expanded relationships with strategic partners and communities that enrich and improve students' learning outcomes.

8. Research and Scholarly Activities

AUArts' research and scholarly activities directly align with the Alberta Research and Innovation Framework's outcome of economic diversification and job creation, while stimulating bold ideas and actions from innovators, industry and entrepreneurs. Strategically working toward enabling innovation and experimentation through teaching, applied and scholarly research, and creative activities.

Faculty conduct research, innovation and scholarly activities and in doing so share their evolving knowledge with their students. AUArts students and faculty generate the highest volume of intellectual property rights and copyrights for an Alberta post-secondary institution, as each artist holds intellectual property rights and copyrights for each artwork created.

9. System Mandate

As an artistic community, AUArts plays a social role in Alberta as home to a community of diversity and inclusivity in culture, identity and perspective.

AUArts is honored to provide appropriate supports to its significant population of students with self-declared disabilities. We are committed to helping all students harness the potential societal benefit of their resilience and courage.

AUArts has a significant Indigenous student population and has graduated a cohort of Indigenous alumni who have received national and international recognition. It is proud to offer culturally appropriate supports to all Indigenous students.

10. Other

AUArts' mission is a diverse and inclusive community committed to leading education and research in creative practices. The university offers artistic learning while exquisite artworks are being crafted.

AUArts contributes to Alberta's cultural wealth, both in terms of the graduates and their works.

AUArts is a part of the exciting possibilities of what and who can emerge from the coming together of a multitude of creative voices and how these can contribute to a changing Alberta and world.

AUArts is about empowering students, faculty, and staff to become thinkers, doers, and makers with purpose for themselves and for their community. Its vision is to change the world through art, craft and design while enriching creative communities and economies.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The Board

The Board manages and operates the institution in accordance with its mandate and carries out the other duties and responsibilities legislated by the PSLA.

The Board sets strategic direction and monitors implementation.

The Board participates with the Minister in setting its long-term objectives and short-term targets, if any.

Board Members

All board members, regardless of the manner of their appointment, have the fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of the institution.

Board Chair

The Chair is the interface between the University and the Minister and provides leadership to the Board.

President

The President has general supervision over the direction of the operation of the institution and has other powers, duties, and functions that are assigned to the President by the Board.

Minister of Advanced Education

The Minister is responsible for the performance of all public agencies under Advanced Education, including the University.

The Minister's responsibilities as legislated by the PSLA and APAGA include:

- appointing, or recommending the appointment of, the Board members and the Chair;
- monitoring whether the institution is acting within its mandate and achieving its long-term objectives and short-term targets;
- advising the institution respecting any government policies applicable to the institution or its activities or operations; and
- reviewing the mandate and operations of the institution at least every seven years.

Department of Advanced Education

The Department supports the Minister and University in meeting their legislated responsibilities.

Subsidiaries

The University has no subsidiaries.

3. Accountability Relationships of the Public Agency

The flow of accountability relationships at the agency is as follows:

- The President is accountable to the Board.
- The Board is accountable to the Minister through the Chair.
- The Chair is accountable to the Minister for the mandate and conduct of the public agency.

4. Process for Administering the Code of Conduct

The University's Code of Conduct is reviewed and approved by the Ethics Commissioner, and the Board ratifies and makes public the Code of Conduct. Updates to the Code of Conduct are submitted to the Ethics Commissioner for review. The Chair administers the Code of Conduct for board members. The Chair of the Governance and Human Resources Committee of the Board of Governors administers the Code of Conduct for the Chair.

5. Mutual Expectations – Communication, Collaboration, and Consultation

The relationship between the University and the provincial government is an important one. Boards are accountable to the Minister, who has primary responsibility for the PSLA.

The Minister oversees strategic planning and direction setting for Alberta's advanced learning system, policy development, funding for general operations and specific purposes, and the promotion of transparency and accountability. The Minister is responsible for providing clear mandate direction to boards, establishing clear expectations for oversight and accountability, and for participating in an ongoing dialogue with boards on important issues.

The board has a governance oversight role in relation to the institution it governs. Because the chair serves as the voice of the board, and is directly accountable to the Minister, the relationship between the Minister and the chair is critical.

Other officials, such as the Deputy Minister who oversees the operations of Advanced Education, will typically be in closer contact with institution presidents and vice-presidents. Similarly, department staff may be in regular contact with staff of the institutions on areas of mutual interests.

6. Committee Structure

Committees of the Board include:

- Finance and Audit Committee – The purpose of the Finance and Audit Committee is to assist the Board in fulfilling its obligations and oversight responsibilities relating to financial planning, the audit process, financial reporting, the system of corporate controls and risk management, and when required, to make recommendations to the Board for approval.

- Governance and Human Resources Committee – The purpose of the Governance/HR Committee is to ensure the Board has an effective human resources and governance framework, and the Board is effective in carrying out its responsibilities.
- Advancement Committee – The purpose of the Advancement Committee is to advise the Board on stakeholder relations, which includes fund development and community, external, stakeholder and government relations. The committee provides strategic counsel and input to administration and recommends major programming or activity to the Board.
- Honorary Degrees Committee – The mandate of the Board of Governors Honorary Degrees Committee is to oversee the nomination of candidates for honorary degrees and to advise the Board of Governors on the awarding and revocation of honorary degrees.

7. Financial, Staffing, and Administrative Arrangements

The University receives funding from the Government of Alberta via its Operating and Program Support Grant.

The Auditor General is the auditor of the University.

The University is subject to sections 1, 2(5), 5, 6, 7, 13(3), 57.1, 80, and 81 of the *Financial Administration Act*.

While the *Post-secondary Learning Act* gives the Board of Governors broad authority to appoint employees, the President is the only employee that reports to and is directly accountable to the Board.

For Alberta's public post-secondary institutions, positions that are defined as "designated executives" by the *Reform of Agencies, Boards and Commissions (Post-secondary Institutions) Compensation Regulation*, are subject to the compensation framework and limits on total remuneration established thereunder.

8. Planning and Reporting Requirements

The Board is required to enter into an Investment Management Agreement with the Minister that includes

- the mandate of the institution,
- performance metrics for the institution, and
- anything else determined by the Minister.

Annually, the University provides the Department with a Capital Plan and a Budget Plan.

Each year the Board must prepare and submit to the Minister a report that includes the audited financial statements for the preceding year.

The Board is also required under the PSLA to submit to the Minister any reports or other information required by the Minister.

9. Administration

Three Year Renewal or Revision

The Mandate and Roles Document must be reviewed and renewed, amended or replaced within three years after the day on which the document or the most recent amendment to the document was signed.

Transparency

Copies of the Mandate and Roles Document will be filed with the Minister and the Public Agency Secretariat. This document will also be made publicly available on the Board's website and the Government of Alberta's website.

His Majesty in right of Alberta, as represented by the Minister of Advanced Education



Minister

The Board of Governors of Alberta University of the Arts



Board Chair

March 26, 2024

Date

February 8, 2023

Date