



Board of Governors 2024-2025 Report



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Chair's Message

Oki Niiksukua / Hello all our relations,

2024–2025 was a year of connection, transition, and preparation for an extraordinary milestone in AUArts' history — our Centennial. Together, we celebrated artistic excellence, strengthened governance, welcomed a new leader, and laid the groundwork for the next century of creativity. This annual report highlights a remarkable year and offers a glimpse of the exciting one ahead. I hope it inspires reflection on our recent achievements and the initiatives shaping AUArts' future.

Our Board year began on September 26, 2024, with the Illingworth Kerr Gallery opening reception of [Sea of Clouds by Karen Tam](#), followed the next day by our Board retreat at Heritage Park. This gathering brought together the Board, the President's Cabinet, and members of the General Faculties Council to reflect on Dr. Daniel Doz' presidency, goals for the year ahead and to begin the groundwork for envisioning AUArts' next 100 years and strategic direction.

With Dr. Doz's term set to end in April 2025, the Board's Governance and HR Committee and the Presidential Search Committee undertook an international search for AUArts' next President and CEO, recommending a candidate in December. In February, we were pleased to announce that Dr. Janis Goldie would be stepping into the role. Dr. Goldie presented an ambitious, inclusive, and pragmatic vision for the university — one that builds visibility, expands partnerships, and supports our community. The Board looks forward to helping bring that vision to life.

Momentum also grew for our 2026 Centennial celebrations. In addition to the Centennial Scholarship fundraising campaign, planning is underway for two major Illingworth Kerr Gallery exhibitions (September 2025 and January 2026) highlighting AUArts' history, as well as release of 100 years of AUArts publication. We will also host our Centennial birthday celebration and the installation of Dr. Janis Goldie, President and CEO on February 2, 2026.

As the academic year concluded, a highlight was our 2025 Convocation, where 216 students graduated. We celebrated Board of Governors student award winners and alumna Jillian Tamaki was granted an Honorary MFA degree. Jillian is an acclaimed illustrator of comics, picture books, and editorial works. In her keynote, Jillian reflected on her journey from AUArts to professional practice, underscoring the value of how the community and learnings from her time at AUArts impacted her career. The ceremony was followed by the Grad Show, featuring graduates' work in a dynamic exhibition of artistry, craft, and design — available online at <https://auartsgrad.ca/>

In May, we welcomed Alberta's new Minister of Advanced Education, the Honourable Myles McDougall, and extended our thanks to the Honourable Rajan Sawhney for her service from May 2023 to May 2025. We look forward to hosting Minister McDougall on September 17, 2025, and sharing AUArts' unique role as the Alberta's only art, craft, and design university.

Throughout the year, the Board engaged in workshops with Inclusive Excellence Strategy Solutions (IESS), building knowledge on inclusive practices to strengthen Board effectiveness and decision-making. In December 2024, we were saddened by the passing of IESS founder Alden Habacon. We honour his legacy and the positive impact of his work on our community.

I extend my gratitude to the President's Cabinet for their leadership, with special recognition to the team for achieving AUArts' first clear audit report since 2018, reaching ratification of the Collective Agreement with the AUArts Faculty Association, finalizing a proposal for a new Bachelor of Creative Industries (submitted to the Ministry in June 2025), and completing the Campus Alberta Quality Council Institutional Review.

I would also like to thank Board members for their service, particularly Cassandra Paul and Nurgül Balaç, whose terms ended this year. We welcomed new members Samantha Mirjah in October and Kurtis Lesick in June. On behalf of the Board, I extend deep appreciation to Dr. Daniel Doz, whose 15-year presidency concluded in April 2025, for his vision and dedication to AUArts.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome Christine Tausig-Ford, President of Higher Thinking Strategies, to our Fall Board of Governors meeting for a governance-focused session. As 2026 draws near, our Centennial celebrations promise to be defining moments in our institutional history.

I look forward to working alongside all Board members in 2025–2026. I encourage each of you to engage fully in campus events — the rewards will be felt by you and by our students, faculty, and staff.

As always, I welcome your questions, ideas, or concerns at adrian.stimson@auarts.ca

2020-2027 AUArts Strategic Plan: Moving Toward 2027

The 2020-2026 Strategic Plan was originally approved by the Board in December 2019, and set to conclude in 2026. In December 2023, the Board approved a one-year extension to the plan which outlines the direction and high-level priorities of AUArts over the period 2020 to 2027.

It also provides direction for unit planning that will translate these directions into specific initiatives throughout the University. The Strategic Plan aligns with the government's Alberta 2030 plan.

The Board's role in strategic planning entails identifying priorities, establishing goals and objectives, finding resources and allocating funds to support the decisions that need to be made around strategic planning. The Board is also responsible for monitoring the execution of the Strategic Plan. The AUArts Board of Governors is continuously informed of the action plan and initiatives for the Strategic Plan as the President's Cabinet reports link directly to the Plan and there is a fulsome debrief and discussion at the annual retreat.

Vision Statement

To change the world through art, craft and design while enriching creative communities and economies.

Mission Statement

Alberta University of the Arts is a diverse and inclusive community committed to leading education and research in creative practices.

Values

At AUArts, we are a diverse community of critical thinkers driven by curiosity and inspired by imagination. We create, make, shape, explore and help emerging artists, craftspeople and designers find a career path while finding themselves.

Together, our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and our many collaborators transform perspectives, spark discussion, and ignite change. We use visual art, craft and design as powerful vehicles to change the world.

And that is our real masterpiece, the work we are most **P.R.O.U.D.** of.

- **Passion:** We are curious and thoughtful risk-takers; we celebrate our creative process.
- **Respect:** We build relationships based on trust and accountability; we are connected to one another's success and wellness.
- **Openness:** We embrace diversity and inclusivity in culture, identity and perspective; we are transparent, confident, approachable and welcoming.
- **Unique:** We pursue excellence in our studio-based practices, and in our support for our learners, faculty, staff, and external partners.
- **Daring:** We are courageous and deeply committed to experimentation, free enquiry, and research.

Board of Governors Mandate and Role

Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) Board of Governors oversees the management and operation of the university's business and affairs within the prescribed mandate of the institution. The Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) [Mandate and Roles Document](#) has been developed in consultation with Alberta's Ministry of Advanced Education pursuant to the [Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act](#) and the [Post-Secondary Learning Act](#) (PSLA).

The Board's powers and duties, as articulated in the PSLA, are mainly discharged through delegation to and oversight of the President and CEO as provided for in the [Delegation of Authority Policy](#). The President and CEO sub delegates some of these responsibilities to the President's Cabinet while still retaining accountability to the Board for the overall administration of the institution.

Board of Governors Membership

- Adrian Stimson, Public Member, Chair
- Sheila Taylor, Public Member, Vice Chair
- Dr. Janis Goldie*, President and CEO, Chair, Honorary Degree Committee
- Sara Anhorn, Public Member, Chair, Advancement Committee
- Chi Iliya-Ndule, Public Member, Chair, Governance and Human Resource Committee
- Tom Graham, Public Member, Chair, Finance and Audit Committee
- Patrick Chiu, Public Member
- Chris Cran, Public Member
- Ruby Gupta, Public Member
- Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, GFC nominated representative
- Evan Legate, Public Member
- Kurtis Lesick*, Faculty Association nominated representative
- Samantha Mirjah*, AUPE nominated representative
- Tanya Mryglod, Students' Association nominated representative
- Tammi Price, Public Member
- Murray Wittmeier, Students' Association nominated representative

**Terms commenced during 2024-2025.*

Terms completed during 2024-2025

- Nurgül Balaç, Faculty Association nominated representative
- Dr. Daniel Doz, President and CEO
- Cassandra Paul, AUPE nominated representative

Board Resources:

Joanne Deaver, Scribe

Cherie Tutt, University Secretary

Management:

Dr. Janis Goldie, Dean, Academic Programs

Nicole Hamilton, Dean, Innovation, Learning and Development

Wendy Harding, Executive Director, People and Culture

Jamie Leong-Huxley, until February 2025

Dr. Pablo Ortiz, Dean of Students

Scott Powell, Vice President, Finance and Operations



Back Row (L-R): Sara Anhorn, Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, Tom Graham, Adrian Stimson, Chris Cran, Samantha Mirjah, Tanya Mryglod, Tammi Price, Sheila Taylor, Evan Legate, Patrick Chiu, Nurgül Balaç. Front Row (L-R) Ruby Gupta, Dr. Daniel Doz, Murray Wittmeier, Cassandra Paul

Board of Governors Annual Highlights and Approved Motions

The Board met seven times in 2024-2025 and held one Board retreat. In addition to the action items at each meeting, the Board received regular reports from the Chair, the President and CEO, internal constituent groups, and the President's Cabinet Strategic Plan Report outlining progress towards the strategic goals. Updates to institutional policies and procedures were shared for information, as applicable. Board member succession planning, was a standing item on each agenda. For a full overview on Board meeting activities the open session minutes can be viewed on the [governance website](#).

September 27th, Retreat:

- The morning session was divided into two parts, which included the 2023-2024 Alberta post-secondary institutions comparator report, 2024-2025 President and CEO's goals and objectives, AUArts Strategic Plan Summary Report, an update on the Master Plan and an overview of Dr. Doz highlights from the past 15 years. The second half of the morning focused on planning for AUArts Centennial and Board leadership and engagement.
- General Faculties Council members joined the retreat for lunch and the afternoon for an overview of Cabinet accomplishments from 2023-2024 and goals for 2025-2026, followed by a strategic planning session for the next strategic plan.

October 22nd Meeting

- Financial Statements, Year ended June 30, 2024
 - *Motion: That the Board of Governors approve the Annual Financial Statement for the year ended June 30, 2024, in the form provided to the Board, as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.*
- Review of Governance Documents: Board Work Plan; Board 2023-2024 Evaluation Results
- Centennial Update
- Board Retreat Debrief
- Presidential Search Update (In-Camera)

December 10th Meeting

- Presidential Search Update and Recommendation
 - *Motion: That the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Dr. Janis Goldie as President and CEO of Alberta University of the Arts, effective April 14, 2025, and authorize the Board Chair in consultation with and approval of the Governance and Human Resources Committee to negotiate and conclude a contract with Dr. Goldie, contingent on approval by the Ministry of Advanced Education.*
- Annual Report to Government
 - *Motion: That the Board of Governors approve the 2023-2024 AUArts Annual Report, in the form provided to the Board, and authorize the Vice-President Finance and Operations to make non-substantive changes prior to submission to the Government of Alberta, and as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.*
- Accessibility Services and Supports Report
- Enterprise Risk Management Report (Closed)

- Centennial Update (Closed)

February 25th Meeting

- 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Board and Standing Committee Meeting Schedule
 - *Motion: That the Board of Governors approve the Board and Standing Committee Meeting Schedules for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 as recommended by the Governance & HR Committee.*
- Board of Governors Expenses Policy
- Tuition and Fees Proposal
 - *Motion: That the Board of Governors approve the 2025-2026 tuition and fees proposal as set out in the documents provided to the Board, and as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.*
- Centennial Update
- Fundraising Year-end Summary (Closed)
- Honorary Degree Update (Closed)
- EDIA Strategy Update (Closed)
- President Transition Update (In-Camera)

April 23rd Meeting

- Board and President and CEO Student Art Commissions 2024-2025
- Centennial Update
- President and CEO Transition (In-Camera)

May 20th Meeting

- Board of Governors Graduating Student Award Winners Presentation
- Budget 2025-2026
 - *Motion: That the Board of Governors approve the Operating Budget and Capital Budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, as set out in the document provided to the Board, and as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.*
- Board Member Annual Survey

May 30th Special In-Camera Meeting

- Ratification of AUArts Faculty Association Collective Agreement (In-Camera)
 - *Motion: That the Board of Governors ratify the proposed July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2028 Collective Agreement between the Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) Board of Governors and the AUArts Faculty Association, as presented, contingent on ratification by the AUArts Faculty Association.*

June 17th Meeting

- Approval of the Tuition and Fees for the Bachelor of Creative Industries
 - *Motion: That the Board of Governors approve the tuition and fees for the Bachelor of Creative Industries as presented, and as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.*

Standing Committees

Advancement Committee

The purpose of the Advancement Committee is to advise the Board on relationships with community, external and government, and fund development. The committee provides strategic counsel and input to administration and recommends major programming or activity to the Board.

Membership

Sara Anhorn, Chair
Nurgül Balaç
Patrick Chiu
Chris Cran
Ruby Gupta
Evan Legate
Tanya Mryglod
Samantha Mirjah
Sheila Taylor
Murray Wittmeier
Adrian Stimson, Ex-Officio, non-voting
Dr. Daniel Doz, Ex-Officio, non-voting

Management Personnel

Jamie Leong-Huxley
Cherie Tutt

Advancement Committee Annual Highlights

The Committee met three times in 2024-2025:

October 1st Meeting

- Centennial Update

November 26th Meeting

- Discussion of a new Naming Policy and Procedure
- Advancement Unit Update
- Centennial Update

February 2nd Meeting

- Centennial Update
- Fundraising Year-end Summary (Closed)

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, investments, the system of corporate controls and risk management, and when required, to make recommendations to the Board for approval.

Membership

Tom Graham, Chair

Tammi Price

Sheila Taylor

Adrian Stimson, Ex-Officio

Dr. Daniel Doz, Ex-Officio and non-voting, term end April 13, 2025

Dr. Janis Goldie, Ex-Officio and non-voting, term start April 14, 2025

Management Personnel

Scott Powell

Cherie Tutt

Finance and Audit Committee Annual Highlights

The Committee met six (6) times in 2024-2025:

October 10th Meeting

- Exit Report, Office of the Auditor General, Year ended June 30, 2024
- Recommendation of the Annual Financial Statement, Year ended June 30, 2024
 - *Motion: That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Annual Financial Statement for the year ended June 30, 2024, as set out in the form provided to the Committee.*
- Update on Ministry Request to Change Year-end
- Q4 Financial Results
- Q4 Investment Report
- Investment Policy Update
- Q4 Executive Expense Disclosure
- Review of the Work Plan, Finance & Audit Committee, Fiscal 2025
- Review of proposed revisions to the Finance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference
- Endowments Update

November 25th Meeting

- 2024 Annual Report
 - *Motion: That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2023-2024 AUArts Annual Report, in the form provided to the Committee, and authorize the Vice-President Finance and Operations to make non-substantive changes prior to submission to the Government of Alberta.*
- Cybersecurity Report (Closed)
- Enterprise Risk Management Report (Closed)

- Internal Controls Report (Closed)
- Q1 Financial Results
- Q1 Investment Report
- Q1 Executive Expense Disclosure
- Labour Relations Update (In-Camera)
- Asset Manager RFP

February 6th Meeting

- Funding Facility Growth
- Cybersecurity Recommendation Update
- Investment Manager Update
- Asset Manager RFP Update
- Budget Update: Tuition and Fees Proposal
 - *Motion: That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2025-26 AUArts Tuition and Fees Proposal as presented.*
- Q2 Financial Results
- Q2 Investment Report
- Q2 Executive Expense Disclosure
- Enterprise Risk Management Follow-up (Closed)

April 10th Meeting

- Asset Manager Finalist Presentations (Closed)
- Legislative Compliance Annual Report (Closed)
- Office of the Auditor General Audit Plan for Fiscal 2025 (Closed)
- Office of the Auditor General Report on Post-Secondary Institutions

May 8th Meeting

- Asset Manager RFP Update (Closed)
- Budget, Fiscal 2026 and Investment Management Agreement
 - *Motion: That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the Operating Budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, as set out in the document provided to the Committee.*
 - It was reported that the current Investment Management Agreement is coming to an end, and that the government has reported that renewal of the agreements will occur in the Fall.
- Internal Controls Update
- Q3 Financial Results
- Q3 Investment Update
- Q3 Executive Expense Disclosure

Governance and Human Resource Committee

The purpose of the Governance and Human Resource Committee is to ensure the Board has an effective human resources and governance framework, and the Board is effective in carrying out its responsibilities.

Membership

Chi Iliya-Ndule, Chair

Evan Legate,

Sara Anhorn

Tom Graham

Sheila Taylor

Adrian Stimson, Ex-Officio and non-voting

Dr. Daniel Doz, Ex-Officio and non-voting, term end April 13, 2025

Dr. Janis Goldie, Ex-Officio and non-voting, term start April 14, 2025

Management Personnel

Wendy Harding

Cherie Tutt

Governance and Human Resources Committee Annual Highlights

The Committee met seven (7) times in 2024-2025 and held one email vote:

October 2nd Meeting

- Board Education – IESS Initiative
- Board Governance Document Review – Bylaws and Standing Committee Terms of Reference
- Board Evaluation results and May Board Survey response (Closed)
- Board Succession Planning (In-Camera)
- President and CEO Compensation Recommendation (In-Camera)
- Presidential Search Update (In-Camera)
- Labour Relations Update (In-Camera)

November 27th Meeting

- Board Education – IESS training debrief
- Board Governance Document Review – Bylaws and Standing Committee Terms of Reference
- October Board Meeting and Board Retreat Survey Responses
- Member Survey Responses (Closed)
- Labour Relations Update (In-Camera)
- Board Succession Planning (In-Camera)
- Presidential Search Update and Discussion on the Appointment of an Interim President and CEO

December 4th Special In-Camera Meeting

- President and CEO Search Update

December 17th Special In-Camera Meeting

- President and CEO Search Contract Next Steps

January 30th – Email Vote

- President and CEO Contract

February 5th Meeting

- Recommendation of the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Board and Board Standing Committee Meeting Schedule
 - *Motion: That the Governance and Human Resources Committee recommend that the Board of Governors approve the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Board and Board Standing Committee Meeting Schedule, in the form provided to the Committee.*
- Board Governance Document Review – Bylaws and Standing Committee Terms of Reference
- Board of Governors Expense Policy Review
- Board Retreat Survey responses and December Meeting Survey responses (Closed)
- Status update on EDIA strategy (Closed)
- Presidential Search Update (In-Camera)
- Board Succession Planning (In-Camera)

April 9th Meeting

- Board and Board Standing Committee Annual Surveys
 - *Motion: That the Governance and Human Resources Committee approve the Board and Board Standing Committee 2024-2025 surveys, in the forms provided to the Committee.*
- Board Member Recruitment Guideline
- Board Bylaws Review
- February Board Meeting Survey responses (Closed)
- President and CEO Cabinet update (In-Camera)
- Labour Relations update (In-Camera)
- Board Succession Planning (In-Camera)
- Presidential Transition Update (In-Camera)

May 7th Meeting

- Board Member Recruitment Guideline
- Board Bylaws Review
- April Board Meeting Survey responses (Closed)
- President Emeritus Process (In-Camera)
- Labour Relations Update (In-Camera)
- Board Succession Planning (In-Camera)

Honorary Degree 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.

Membership

Dr. Daniel Doz, Chair
Patti Dibski, term end January 6, 2024
John Gaucher
Dr. Janis Goldie
Jamie Leong-Huxley
Adrian Stimson, term end on Committee March 19, 2024
Cherie Tutt, non-voting

Honorary Degrees Committee Annual Highlights

The Committee met once (1) time in 2024-2025:

September 25th Meeting

- Review of the Honorary Degree Committee Terms of Reference
- Review of the Process to Recruit/Secure Honorary Degree (HD) Nominations
- Review of Past HD Recipients and Nominations