

March 18, 2020

Dear AUArts Community;

Today, I must commend all of you for rising to the challenge of this truly unprecedented situation and for going above and beyond. There has been a Herculean effort from everyone, and I am so, so very proud to be a member of this incredible community.

It is only Wednesday, only a few scant days since we suspended classes. In less than one week, we have implemented Microsoft Teams for all faculty, students and staff. Most of our faculty and staff are now working remotely and safely from home, collaborating together. I cannot express enough thank yous to all the folks in CTS for their dedication and support in making all this possible.

I want to assure all students that your faculty are working very hard in devising new ways to ensure you can complete courses and be successful in finishing this semester. We pride our university on creative and critical thinking and throughout this crisis, I have not ceased to be impressed and amazed by the outpouring of impactful out-of-the box thinking to solve problems facing all areas of the campus. In my latest communication today to the ministry, I wrote about witnessing in action what we teach; problem solving and design thinking.

Again, I urge everyone to stay safely at home if possible, to continue to follow all the recommendations from our health officials on how to stay healthy, and importantly, to remember to be kind and supportive to each other and to your neighbours. Only by working together as a united community we will succeed in weathering this crisis.

Please watch for updates available through your email, the website, and the AUArts Safe App. There are frequent changes, such as limited building access (now 7 am to 6 pm) and availability of services (4<sup>th</sup> floor computers are available; the bookstore is open this week). Counselling and tutoring services are essential and continue to operate, but after this week is only available by phone/MS Teams. Be assured that your artworks, equipment and desk are safe and secure and will be here for you when you come back.

Sincerely,

Daniel

**Dr. Daniel Doz**

President and CEO