



ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES OF ART + DESIGN

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Mellon Foundation awards significant grant to the Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design (AICAD)

Funds to support continued work centering social justice in
arts and design higher education and career pathways

Providence, RI – The Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design (AICAD) has been awarded a \$250,000 grant for one year to support new initiatives that continue to build on its commitment to centering social justice, diversity, equity and inclusion within arts and design higher education and the career pathways that follow. Grant supported activities will include faculty training and support for decentering whiteness in curriculum and pedagogy across multiple disciplines, and convenings and planning with key industry partners dedicated to addressing bias that exists within creative career pathways.

“AICAD is honored to have the support of the Mellon Foundation to help us further advance initiatives we see as critical to the present and future of arts and design higher education,” said Deborah Obalil, President & Executive Director of AICAD. “The initiatives supported by this grant build upon our existing programs such as the Post Graduate Teaching Fellowship and the BIPOC Academic Leadership Institute to integrate equity and social justice into the learning experiences of all students at our member institutions.”

Chair of the AICAD Board of Trustees and President of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago Elissa Tenny praised “the Mellon Foundation’s support of North America’s leading art and design schools. Not only will the programs this grant enables enhance AICAD students’ collegiate experience, it expands the worldview of the emerging artists and designers who we’ll be relying on to envision and bring forth a more just and equitable future.”

AICAD is a non-profit consortium of the leading arts and design colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Its mission is to connect and strengthen the member institutions while promoting the value of arts and design higher education to a broader public. AICAD and its members strongly believe that contemporary arts and design education, thinking and making requires the full embrace of diversity, equity and inclusion. AICAD member institutions collectively educate over 50,000 students annual in undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and thousands more through extended learning opportunities.

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