



The University of Texas at Austin  
College of Fine Arts

Fine Arts Advisory Council  
Fall 2021 Meeting Agenda  
October 15, 2021

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**THEME:** Creative Collaboration

**11:00 a.m. Business Meeting begins**

**Welcome**

*Sondra Lomax, Executive Director of Development*  
*Caroline Schupbach, Council Chair*

**Today's Theme and State of the College Update**

*Dean Ramón H. Rivera-Servera*

**Development Update**

*Sondra Lomax*

***Social Fabric: Art and Activism in Contemporary Brazil***

*MacKenzie Stevens, Director of the Visual Arts Center*  
*Adele Nelson, Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Art History*

**Partnering with Industry and within COFA: Gensler Digital Experience  
Design and Storytelling with Mini-Golf**

*Michael Baker, Chair, Department of Arts and Entertainment Technologies*

**Announcements and Closing Remarks**

*Caroline Schupbach*

**12:30 p.m. Lunch**



The University of Texas at Austin  
College of Fine Arts

**Fine Arts Advisory Council  
Fall 2021 Meeting  
2021-2022 New Members**

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**Caroline Finkelstein**

Houston, TX

Nominators: Stephanie Cockrell, Stephanie Goodman, Marita Fairbanks & Traci Young  
Caroline is an interior designer and co-owner of ecco design, a firm that specializes in residential spaces. She is a UT alumna (BBA-Marketing) and serves as a volunteer for several organizations in Houston including the boards of Child Advocates Inc. and River Oaks Baptist School, and chaired events for the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, the Menil Collection, and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.

**George Irwin**

Carrollton, TX

Nominator: Amy Hofland

George is a designer, entrepreneur, and gallery owner. He is the founder and director of Western Gallery in Dallas whose mission is to serve fine artists and art lovers while connecting viewers to the land, cultures, and heritage of western North America. George is an alumnus of the College of Fine Arts (BFA-Design).

**Steve Kahng**

Austin, TX

Nominator: Doug Dempster

Steve Kahng is a principle of Arboretum Capital and also president of Kahng Foundation. Currently Steve spends most of his time on philanthropy and non-profit work through his family foundation. He is currently on the board of Hoover Institution of Stanford University, San Francisco Opera, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Kaist US foundation and the committee for Human Rights in North Korea. Steve is also a member of the What Starts Here Campaign Volunteer Committee for the UT College of Fine Arts.

**Donna Overly**

Fernandina Beach, FL

Nominator: Doug Dempster

Donna is an independent artist with 16 years of experience in painting with an emphasis in watercolor, pastel, and acrylics. She is also a published author of contemporary women's fiction. Donna is an alumna of the College of Fine Arts (BA-Studio Art).

### **Claire Richards**

Austin, TX

Nominator: Brooke Taylor

Claire is an associate principal and project design manager for StudioSIX5 in Austin. She is a College of Fine Arts alumna (BA-Art History) and a native Austinite. She currently serves on the Urban Land Institute Multifamily Council, and has served on the Seton Development Board and the Kappa Kappa Gamma Austin Alumni Board. Claire is a member of Texas Association for Interior Design and has been a guest panelist for the Women in Asset Management Summit.

### **Latana Schachenmann**

Singapore

Nominator: Joe Batson

Latana is a mixed media artist working with photography, sculpture, drawing, painting and digital processes. She has exhibited in the United States, Europe and the Pacific Rim. Her career began in fashion photography and reportage but she soon became passionate about fine art. Since then, she has continued to expand her craft while traveling the world. Latana's latest endeavors unite photography and sculpture, creating unique works that cross traditional boundaries.

### **Cissy Warner**

Austin, TX

Nominator: Maline McCalla

Cissy is a member of the Heritage Society of Austin and the Contemporary Art Museum of Houston. She belongs to the Menil Collection Museum of Houston, the Women's Symphony League in Austin, the Charles Moore Foundation, Austin Museum of Art, and has served on the board of directors of the St. James School. Cissy served as co-chair of the capital campaign for the Thinkery and the H.E. Butt Foundation Expansion Project. She has also worked in development for KLRU Public Television and KMFA listener-sponsored classical music radio in Austin. Cissy previously served on the College of Fine Arts Advisory Council from 2003-2011.



## Fine Arts Advisory Council Fall 2021 Meeting Development Report

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### Sondra Lomax

Executive Director and Assistant Dean for Development

As we move into the new academic year and under new leadership, the College of Fine Arts continues to raise the bar on excellence in 21<sup>st</sup> century arts education. To make this possible, we have maintained a robust fundraising operation during the pandemic with great help from members of our Advisory Council.

For academic year 2020-2021, the College of Fine Arts received **over \$12 million** in gifts and pledges. This accomplishment is the result of dedicated efforts by Advisory Council members, chairs and directors, development staff, alumni, and friends. To each of you, I extend my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the College of Fine Arts students, faculty, and staff.

Most of this \$12 million is restricted, meaning that funds are designated to specific endowments or purposes. Some are planned gifts that will provide us with transformational funding in the future. But all of these gifts share a common bond: they help the college in its pursuit of excellence so that we can continue to provide the best arts education and creative research opportunities for our students.

And this year's fundraising is off to a great start: Since September 1, 2021, the college has raised over \$9.3 million! Our goal for this fiscal year is \$15 million, and we are well on our way to achieving, if not, exceeding that goal. With your help, we will make it a banner year!

One of our top fundraising priorities remains student support across the college, whether it be undergraduate or graduate scholarships, internships, or funds for our satellite programs, UTNY and UTLA. Our goal is to make COFA financially accessible for the brightest students in Texas and beyond, offering the most scholarship help that we can, so that our students can enjoy the best educational opportunities available and graduate with the least amount of student loan debt.

Another key priority is funding for innovation in research and creative practice. Support for creative innovation funds will fund faculty research as well as co-commission and co-production projects between our academic and our presenting units, and in collaboration with other leading platforms for arts research and creation across the globe, including industry partners.

As we anticipate the launch of the university-wide comprehensive “What Starts Here” campaign in March 2022, we are already ahead of our “silent phase” \$90 million goal. The “silent phase” counts funding raised for COFA since September 2016. You will be hearing more about the “What Starts Here” campaign in the months ahead.

As we continue to build and sustain COFA, we are moving aggressively with our fundraising initiatives across the college. Each gift to the College has the potential to help transform lives, whether it enables a student to view great works of art, study with renowned musicians, or create a role in a theatrical production. And please remember, every gift counts, no matter the size!

To achieve our goals, our hope is that each and every Advisory Council member will find a project with which to become involved, and that you will work with the dean and me, and with our chairs, directors, faculty and staff, to keep the College of Fine Arts at the forefront of arts programs nationally. With your help, we will succeed!

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me, or members of my staff, if we can assist with questions or projects. And once again, thank you for your support of the College of Fine Arts!

### **COFA DEVELOPMENT FAST FACTS**

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

Total Raised for COFA:	\$12,012,372
Student Support:	\$4,352,496
Faculty Support:	\$1,100,345
Program Support:	\$6,066,204
Facilities Support:	\$493,354

#### **New Endowments Created: 15**

#### **COFA’S ENDOWMENT TOTALS = \$228 MILLION**

Number of Endowments:	497
Student Support:	326
Faculty Support:	79
Program Support:	92

#### **“WHAT STARTS HERE” CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS: \$94 MILLION (2016 TO PRESENT)**

#### **2021-2022 YEAR-TO-DATE FUNDRAISING TOTAL: \$9.3 MILLION**



Fine Arts Advisory Council  
Fall 2021 Meeting  
Speaker Bios

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**RAMÓN H. RIVERA-SERVERA, DEAN**

For over 20 years, Ramón H. Rivera-Servera has been a scholar focused on the ways the arts contribute to social transformation—from the emergence of collective identities and politics facilitated by media and performance cultures to the activation of art-based methodologies to address moments of collective crisis. He has produced award-winning scholarship, developed curatorial and arts development practices and platforms and advanced a significant portfolio of externally funded practice-based projects focused on the ways the arts can help us become a more intentionally collaborative and ethical society.

Rivera-Servera's research focuses on contemporary performance with special emphasis on the ways categories of race, gender and sexuality are negotiated in the process of (im)migration. His work documents a wide array of performance practices ranging from theatre and concert dance to social dance, fashion and speech. Along with the pursuit of scholarship and creative practice, Rivera-Servera has advanced transformational change in the arts, especially around issues of equity and inclusion. Beginning with the co-founding of the Latinx Theatre and Performance Studies Focus Group at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (now the Latinx, Indigenous and Americas Focus Group) and including the creation of two arts incubation platforms—the Performance in the Borderlands Project at Arizona State University and the Puerto Rican Arts Initiative at Northwestern University—he has worked to advance the artistic practices of communities not historically embraced in the national art scenes of the United States.

He is the first student to graduate from the doctoral program in Performance as Public Practice at The University of Texas at Austin, where he also completed a doctoral portfolio in Mexican American Studies. Prior to his appointment as dean at the College of Fine Arts, he directed one of the leading doctoral programs and an interdisciplinary graduate cluster in performance studies; chaired two of five departments in Northwestern University's School of Communication; served on the governing boards of three different academic programs in the interdisciplinary humanities at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; and worked on the administrative committees of the School of Communication and the Graduate School.

His leadership service to the arts includes board service to organizations invested in advancing more inclusive institutional and industry cultures. He's served on the board of the National Association for Latino Arts and Culture, the largest funding and

advocacy organization devoted to the support and promotion of Latinx arts in the United States, and the advisory board of OpenTV, a digital film and media production platform invested in producing the work of underrepresented communities and networking them into distribution platforms.

### **ADELE NELSON**

Adele Nelson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Texas at Austin, where she also serves as Associate Director of the Center for Latin American Visual Studies (CLAVIS). She received her BA in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies and Art Semiotics from Brown University and her MA and Ph.D. in Art History from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. She specializes in twentieth and twenty-first century art of Latin America, with a focus on the postwar and contemporary art of Brazil. Her research and teaching interests include transnational exchange between Latin America, Europe, and the United States; the close study of objects; the history of art institutions, exhibitions, and pedagogy; and theories of modernism.

Dr. Nelson is the author of *Jac Leirner in Conversation with/en conversación con Adele Nelson* (Fundación Cisneros, 2011), which appeared in Portuguese translation in 2013. Her writings on art from Latin America have appeared in international magazines and academic journals, including *Art in America*, *Art Journal*, *Artelogie*, and *ARTMargins*.

Her forthcoming book, *Forming Abstraction: Art and Institutions in Postwar Brazil*, is in press with the University of California Press and will appear in the Studies on Latin American Art series in January 2022. The book highlights the importance of exhibitionary and pedagogical institutions in the development of abstract art in Brazil in the 1940s and 1950s and illuminates the complex, strategic processes of citation and adaption of local and international forms. It ultimately demonstrates that Brazilian art institutions and abstract artistic groups—and their exhibitions of abstract art in particular—served as crucial loci for the articulation of societal identities in a newly democratic nation at the onset of the Cold War. Her research has been supported by the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, the National Endowment for the Humanities, UT Austin, and Temple University, where she was an assistant professor of art history from 2012 to 2016.

### **MACKENZIE STEVENS**

Stevens received her BA in art history from the University of California, Berkeley and her MA in art history from the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. As director of the Visual Arts Center, Stevens has organized exhibitions with Carmen Argote, Nikita Gale, Juan Pablo González, Madeline Hollander, Luiz Roque, and Kenneth Tam amongst others as well as a mid-career survey featuring the work of Houston-based artist, Lisa Lapinski. Currently, Stevens is working on a book project with Lisa Lapinski and co-curating a group exhibition titled *Social Fabric: Art and Activism in Contemporary Brazil*, focusing on Brazilian contemporary art with Adele Nelson that is slated to open



at the Visual Arts Center in September 2022. *Social Fabric* received The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Grant.

Prior to joining the Visual Arts Center, Stevens was part of the curatorial team at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. There, she organized exhibitions, performances and public programs, contributing to a number of exhibitions with artists such as Petrit Halilaj, Judith Hopf, Kevin Beasley, Marwa Arsanios, Maria Hassabi, Pedro Reyes, among others, as well as the first North American retrospective of Jimmie Durham, which toured from the Hammer Museum to the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, and the Rемаi Modern in Saskatoon, Canada. She was part of the curatorial team for *Made in L.A. 2016: a, the, though, only* and *Made in L.A. 2018* — the Hammer’s biannual museum-wide exhibition that celebrates the work of artists living and working in the greater Los Angeles area. Stevens contributed to the exhibition catalogues for *Jimmie Durham: At the Center of the World* and *Made in L.A. 2018*.

Prior to her tenure at the Hammer, Stevens held curatorial and research positions in Los Angeles and New York City at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and Pace Gallery, New York

### **MICHAEL BAKER**

Currently the chair of the Department of Arts and Entertainment Technologies, Michael Baker is an experienced industry professional and educator focused on the convergence of real-time technology, mixed reality, and immersive media, which is powering new forms of storytelling, education, and business models. A 20-year veteran of the game industry, he has worked on projects large and small, including indie games, large licensed projects based on *Star Wars* and *Alien*, and software tools for the popular Bullet Physics Framework, which powers countless authoring tools, feature films, and games. In 2013, he co-founded Codex Worlds, an indie game studio based in Austin, Texas.

Michael is a graduate of the Imaging and Digital Art program at the University of Maryland.





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College of Fine Arts

Fine Arts Advisory Council  
Fall 2021 Meeting – COFA Events

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**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15**

Concert: Sandy Yamamoto & Friends  
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Bates Recital Hall, Butler School of Music  
Tickets required

Theatre: Sonnets for an Old Century  
7:30 p.m.  
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre, Department of Theatre and Dance  
Tickets required

**ONGOING**

Visual Arts Center  
Open Noon-5pm, Tuesday-Saturday  
Free Admission

Landmarks  
Self-Guided Tours



## Fine Arts Advisory Council Fall 2021 Meeting In Memoriam

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*We fondly remember current and former Advisory Council members who passed away this year.*

### **Kirby Attwell, 1935-2021**



Kirby Attwell of Houston and Wimberley, Texas, died at the age of 86 on July 6, 2021 at his home in Houston. He passed away surrounded by love in the company of his family and his dear golden retriever, Zia.

Kirby was born in Houston on June 1, 1935, the son of Khleber Van Zandt and Lucille McAshan Attwell. He attended Houston's public schools, graduating from Lamar High School in 1953. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from The University of Texas in 1957 with a B.A. in economics. In 1960, he received his MBA from Harvard Business School. Kirby served active duty in the United States Air Force from 1953 to 1956 and remained in the Air Force Reserves from 1957 until 1963.

During his time in Austin, Kirby was the captain of the varsity golf team and President of Kappa Sigma fraternity. Throughout his three years of playing golf for the Longhorns, he never lost a match, a remarkable achievement that prompted mention by his coach, the legendary Harvey Penick, in both *The Little Red Book (The Grip)* and *The Little Blue Book (Advising Kirby)*. Kirby "Putt-well" continued to play golf competitively throughout his life, winning the club championship at River Oaks Country Club eleven times, the last time at age 63. He shares the course record on the "old course," and in 2015, the club championship trophy was named in his honor.

The discipline, determination, grit, and intensity that helped make Kirby such a successful golfer were also evident throughout his extensive business career. Kirby spent over 20 years as an executive at Lincoln Finance, the last eight as President and Chief Executive Officer. He later ran several other companies including Supply Corporation, American Packing and Gasket, and Travis Enterprises. He was an active member of the YPO, the Young Presidents' Organization, and remained active for many years with his YPO Forum. He enjoyed the Harvard Business School Club of Houston and gave back to the business community by volunteering with the Houston Angel Fund and as a judge at the Jones School at Rice University's Business Plan Competition for more than 20 years. He was a long time member of the Board of Trustees of Texas Children's Hospital, and he served for a period as its Treasurer.

In 1965, Kirby met and married the love of his life, Nancy McGrory, from Carney's Point, New Jersey, and they remained inseparable until Nancy's death in 2011, during which time they raised their son and daughter.

In retirement, Kirby became an accomplished artist and an award-winning watercolorist. He exhibited his work across the United States and, had COVID not interfered, was set to show internationally in Spain in 2020. During the pandemic, Kirby spent his time in Wimberley, Texas, at the family's home near the confluence of Cypress Creek and the Blanco River. His days were filled with painting, walking Zia through the Square and enjoying many art classes and Bible studies with friends via Zoom. In his later life, Kirby's passion turned to philanthropy. He supported and volunteered his service to many local charitable projects and organizations throughout Texas, including Emilyann Theatre in Wimberley, Bella's Buddies in Buffalo, Texas, the Center for Recovering Families and Loving Lamar supporting homeless students in Houston, The University of Texas at Austin College of Fine Arts and many, many others.

### **Virginia "Ginnie" Payne, 1928-2021**



Ginnie Payne was born to Marshall and Olive Webb on June 4, 1928 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and died peacefully at her home in Dallas, Texas on August 30, 2021 at the age of 93.

After her family moved to San Antonio, Texas, she graduated from St. Mary's Hall preparatory school in 1946. She attended Pine Manor College for two years and then matriculated to the University of Texas at Austin, where she joined the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and graduated in 1950. During her time at UT she met 101st Airborne veteran Bob Payne, who was attending UT law school. They were married in 1950 and moved to Dallas where they spent 58 years together until his death in 2009.

Ginnie was naturally curious and loved literature, fashion, fine arts, antiques, and her family. She was an active member in many social and civic organizations, including the Junior League of Dallas, Pierian, Dallas Woman's Club, the Dallas Garden Club, VNA of Texas, and the DMA gift shop, and served for many years on the Fine Arts Advisory Council at UT and the altar guild at the Church of the Incarnation. She and Bob were longtime supporters of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Opera, and various hospitals in Dallas.

Ginnie, affectionately called "Bebe" by her grandchildren, was beloved for her razor-sharp wit, her sparkling sense of humor, and her keen perceptivity. She was a great listener and loved to "analyze" situations one on one, dispensing wisdom and wit in equal measure. Time with Bebe left you brighter, lighter, and often in stitches, and her memorable quips were a source of joy and wry wisdom for her family-collected, quoted, and passed down over the years.