



CENTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS

AT THE

PAUL H. O'NEILL

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2024

LEADERSHIP



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INTRODUCTION

On May 8th and 9th, 2019, we officially opened the Center for Cultural Affairs at the O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. The opening symposium – “New Frontiers in Arts Research” – was a gathering of researchers, practitioners, and funders, all with an interest in understanding how research can be useful in advancing the arts and cultural sector. Over the course of the symposium, we heard a variety of perspectives from speakers and attendees on priority areas in arts policy and management research. What became clear from hearing these perspectives is that the field we are calling ‘cultural affairs’ is at a turning point, marked by a demand for knowledge, but a lack of consensus on what questions we need answers to.

We created the Center for Cultural Affairs to fill a gap in the field. Before the opening of the CCA, there was no academic research center for arts and culture focused on producing high-quality scholarship that was also a training ground and connecting hub for researchers in the field. Our strategic plan for the first five years of the CCA outlines our priorities for cultural affairs research, training, and outreach that will enable us to achieve our vision for advancing the field.

Publishing our strategic plan is an effort at welcoming the community of cultural affairs researchers, practitioners, and funders to join us in achieving our vision. In other words, we need the collaborations and support of our community in order to be successful.

We look forward to hearing from you –

Joanna, Michael, and Doug

VISION

The Center for Cultural Affairs at the O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs aspires to be a leading force in advancing the field of cultural affairs. The CCA envisions itself as a catalyst for the development of rigorous, objective, and critical scholarship in the field of cultural affairs. Paramount to this work, the CCA will be a connecting node for the community of cultural affairs researchers. Along with that, the CCA strives to be the foremost training ground for the next generation of cultural affairs researchers.

MISSION

The mission of the Center for Cultural Affairs at the O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs is to advance the understanding of the place of arts and culture in public life. The CCA will facilitate a network of scholars and practitioners interested in advancing cultural affairs research, produce high-quality and relevant research on arts and cultural policy and management issues, and serve as a resource to the arts and cultural sector.

ADVISORY BOARD

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CORE VALUES

Community

An interconnected community of scholars and practitioners is essential to advancing the field of cultural affairs.

Inclusion

The definition of cultural affairs should be broad and inclusive.

Arts and Culture

Arts and culture are fundamental to society.

Research Excellence

Cultural affairs research should be rigorous and objective.



PRIORITY ONE: TRAINING

Establish a Ph.D. Fellowship program

Fellows must be admitted into the Ph.D. in Public Affairs degree program at the O’Neill School. Fellows’ dissertation stage will be funded by the CCA given that they write a dissertation in cultural affairs and have a CCA co-director as a committee chair. Fellows will receive training in conducting rigorous and objective research in cultural affairs. Fellows will strive to be placed in research positions at universities and organizations after completing their degrees.

Support and enhance the coursework of the graduate and undergraduate programs in Arts Administration and Management

The CCA will work to enhance the graduate and undergraduate programs in Arts Administration and Management through increased administrative and research-related opportunities, including satisfying practicum requirements with experiential learning opportunities, graduate assistantships, internships, and extracurricular programs. These experiences will teach graduates of these programs how to apply theory to practice, and exercise objective and critical decision-making in future arts leadership positions. By engaging students in research, the CCA will also develop a pipeline of applicants for Ph.D. programs in cultural affairs.

PRIORITY TWO: RESEARCH

Establish and implement a network for theory development in cultural affairs

The CCA will act as a facilitator for a network of scholars focused on advancing theory in cultural affairs research. The research network will manifest itself in colloquia, workshops, data collection, and publications with contributions by scholars both at, and outside of Indiana University. The network will promote rigorous and objective research in cultural affairs and lead to research collaborations. The development of a theory in cultural affairs will guide scholars toward asking critical questions pertaining to issues in cultural affairs.

Organize a biennial research conference for cultural affairs researchers

The CCA will organize a biennial conference series for cultural affairs researchers. The conference will result in the publication of original research in academic publishing outlets. The conference will build and foster a community of researchers working in the field of cultural affairs, provide opportunities for researchers to share ideas and receive feedback on their work, and promote scholarship in cultural affairs.

Apply for and receive external funding for cultural affairs research projects

The CCA will actively apply for external funding that will help fund cultural affairs research projects. Externally funded projects provide opportunities for graduate student training and help produce scholarship that advance the field. Externally funded projects are also an opportunity to partner with organizations and researchers in producing research addressing salient issues in cultural affairs.



PRIORITY THREE: OUTREACH

Publish a digest of cultural affairs research

The CCA will publish a digest of cultural affairs research to be disseminated through its mailing list. The digest will include relevant publications produced with rigorous and objective research methods. The digest will highlight cultural affairs researchers, and share useful knowledge with the arts and cultural sector.

Disseminate an e-newsletter

The CCA will send out an e-newsletter through its mailing list. The newsletter will include an update on CCA activities, upcoming events, and special features. The e-newsletter will highlight opportunities for partnership, share knowledge, and encourage engagement with the CCA from the arts and cultural sector.

Organize and implement a CCA speaker series

The CCA will host speakers to give talks on cultural affairs research, which will include speakers both internal and external to Indiana University. The speaker series will highlight researchers doing rigorous and objective research in cultural affairs, and share useful knowledge with the arts and cultural sector.



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