



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

June 26, 2017

Over the course of my first six months as President, I've been planning for the coming year as SFAI reorients around the extraordinary possibilities of our new [Fort Mason Campus](#) and the goal of delivering transformative educational and artistic experiences to our students and the public. This includes taking a clear-eyed look at organizational operations to ensure efficient, responsible management and stewardship as we enter 2017–2018.

The charge is to reconfigure this institution so that it will have a sustainable and impactful presence into the future, even within the turbulent social and financial context of the national educational environment and the specific challenges of San Francisco's dynamism.

SFAI leadership and the Board of Trustees have developed a refined model, to be implemented for the fiscal year beginning July 1, that will focus on our core values, establish an administrative structure appropriate for the current size of the student body, and set the school on solid footing.

Student experience and the augmentation of art's impact on society were the guiding principles informing this restructure. As we move forward we are focused on improving areas I know are students' primary interests and concerns: the teaching and learning environment; diversity, equity, and inclusion on our campus; professional practice opportunities that prepare students for a life in the arts; and other experiences that empower artists to be agents of change.

While change can be difficult at times, it is always a requisite for growth and positive adaptation. This next year marks a new phase for this singular, remarkable school, as we reclaim our mission, energize our exceptional community, and reposition the school back to the heart of the identity of this city. No other cultural institution has had a greater impact on what San Francisco *means* than us, and we need to tell that story.

I look forward to welcoming students (back) to campus in August, and to our work together on this next chapter.

Gordon