



vcuarts

Dear _____,

For twenty months we have been faced with the pandemic and its challenges. How we teach, work and live has changed all of us during this shared experience. As 2021 comes to a close, I am pleased to share that VCUarts is emerging stronger than ever before.

The familiar activity of students returning to campus brings much joy. The School of the Arts was fortunate to retain students at the same level as previous years, and in fact we welcomed over 3,000 students this fall, a four percent increase in undergraduate enrollment. Our studios, labs and performance spaces have come alive with seventy four percent of courses being taught in-person or hybrid.

The performing arts were profoundly affected by the pandemic, but VCUarts, known for its resiliency, has rallied. Due to the determination of our students and the tremendous work and dedication of our faculty and staff, Theatre students are back on stage with four productions scheduled this season. The Department of Dance & Choreography is celebrating its 40th anniversary performance season and Music students are delighting audiences both in-person and virtually from the concert stage.

This past year, the university commemorated Dr. Murry N. DePillars (1938-2008), artist, educator, scholar and dean of the School of the Arts for nearly twenty years (1976-95). The fine arts building located at 1000 West Broad Street was dedicated to his legacy and now bears his name. I invite you to learn more about Dr. DePillars' rich contributions to our school's history: arts.vcu.edu/community/murry-depillars/

On behalf of our students and faculty I recognize and thank you for your past support. Still, there is much more work to be done. Please consider making a gift to the VCUarts annual fund today. Together we can provide the resources needed to launch the artists, designers, performers and scholars of tomorrow toward successful careers and exciting futures.

Best regards,

Carmenita Higginbotham, PhD
Dean
Special Assistant to the Provost for VCUarts Qatar

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Quoter name
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