

This mandate statement has been developed by Alberta University of the Arts in consultation with Alberta's Ministry of Advanced Education pursuant to Section 103 of the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA).

1. Type of Institution, Sector, and Governance

Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) is a board-governed public post-secondary institution operating in Alberta as an Undergraduate University under the authority of the PSLA.

2. Outcomes

For almost 100 years AUArts has played a leading role in Canada's visual culture as the only art, craft and design university in Alberta, the prairies and one of only four in Canada. AUArts is committed to diversifying Alberta and Canada's economy through fine art, craft and design industries. The university graduates' students who contribute to not only employment in the creative sectors but education, technology, business and many other sectors.

AUArts employs the greatest number of creatives in Calgary and a significant number of graduates become entrepreneurs, starting new businesses, establishing new markets and creating jobs. Alumni and faculty receive the highest honours, including Governor General's awards.

3. Clients/Students

AUArts serves undergraduate and graduate students, adult learners, children and youth, and life-long earners who are focused on the pursuit of professional artistic practices and creative careers.

AUArts is a driver of the growing S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) economy, producing graduates who have the high-demand problem solving and critical thinking skills critical to business. Alumni contribute heavily to Alberta's vitality and diversity.

4. Geographic Service Area and Type of Delivery

AUArts is centrally located in northwest Calgary, Alberta. The majority of AUArts' students originate from Calgary and the province of Alberta, and attracts students from across Canada and internationally.

AUArts' students learn by doing in a studio-based classroom with rigorous academic and experiential learning opportunities with instruction by master artists and craftspeople. The face-to-face studio approach and favorable student to teacher ratio facilitates a compelling, relationship-based learning environment. Students develop their skills and understanding of art, craft and design while creating distinct creative content and alternative points of view.

5. Program Mandates and Credential Offering

AUArts offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in art, craft and design and the offerings align with the Alberta Credential Framework and include degrees in the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Art, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Craft and Emerging Media, Bachelor of Design, and the only graduate degree, Master of Fine Art, in Canada with a specialty in craft and emerging media.

Through its School of Continuing Education and Professional Development, AUArts offers career-orientated certificate programs that bridge students for entry into undergraduate and graduate programming. AUArts is committed to developing and maintaining partnerships and programming with institutions within the Campus Alberta system.

6. Special Program Areas/Areas of Specialization

Degree program majors include graphic design, character design, advertising, drawing, illustration, photography, ceramics, fibre, glass, jewellery and metals, media arts, painting, print media, and sculpture. Additional specializations through program minors include animation, comics, object design and fabrication.

The School of Continuing Education and Professional Development is increasingly focused on career-oriented programs designed for a graduate's immediate entry into creativity-oriented, high demand technology positions.

7. System Collaboration and Partnerships

AUArts collaborates with other post-secondary institutions and maintains several partnerships with local and provincial stakeholders, while moving toward expanded relationships with strategic partners and communities that enrich and improve students' learning outcomes.

8. Research and Scholarly Activities

AUArts' research and scholarly activities directly align with the Alberta Research and Innovation Framework's outcome of economic diversification and job creation, while stimulating bold ideas and actions from innovators, industry and entrepreneurs. Strategically working toward enabling innovation and experimentation through teaching, applied and scholarly research, and creative activities.

Faculty conduct research, innovation and scholarly activities and in doing so share their evolving knowledge with their students. AUArts students and faculty generate the highest volume of intellectual property rights and copyrights for an Alberta post-secondary institution, as each artist holds intellectual property rights and copyrights for each artwork created.

9. System Mandate

As an artistic community, AUArts plays a social role in Alberta as home to a community of diversity and inclusivity in culture, identity and perspective.

AUArts is honored to provide appropriate supports to its significant population of students with self-declared disabilities. We are committed to helping all students harness the potential societal benefit of their resilience and courage.

AUArts has a significant Indigenous student population and has graduated a cohort of Indigenous alumni who have received national and international recognition. It is proud to offer culturally appropriate supports to all Indigenous students.

10. Other

AUArts' mission is a diverse and inclusive community committed to leading education and research in creative practices. The university offers artistic learning while exquisite artworks are being crafted. AUArts contributes to Alberta's cultural wealth, both in terms of the graduates and their works.

AUArts is a part of the exciting possibilities of what and who can emerge from the coming together of a multitude of creative voices and how these can contribute to a changing Alberta and world.

AUArts is about empowering students, faculty, and staff to become thinkers, doers, and makers with purpose for themselves and for their community. Its vision is to change the world through art, craft and design while enriching creative communities and economies.



M. Carol Ryder, Chair
Board of Governors of Alberta University of the Arts

May 28, 2020

Date

The Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides
Minister of Advanced Education

Date