

UGA Arts Collaborative Annual Report FY2023

I. OVERVIEW

Mission

The UGA Arts Collaborative is a catalyst for innovative, interdisciplinary creative projects, advanced research and critical discourse in the arts, and for creative applications of technologies, concepts, and practices found across disciplines. It is a collaborative network of faculty, students, and community members from all disciplines of the visual and performing arts in addition to other disciplines in the humanities and sciences. The Arts Collaborative enables all stages of creative activity, from concept and team formation through production, documentation, and dissemination of research.

Support

The UGA Arts Collaborative is supported by Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of Research, the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, and the Graduate School. Additional support for the Arts Collaborative has been provided by the National Science Foundation, Lamar Dodd School of Art, Dance, Theatre and Film Studies, English, Hugh Hodgson School of Music, Morehead Honors College, Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities, Georgia Museum of Art, and the generous volunteer and financial support of many others.

History

The UGA Arts Collaborative began in 1999 as a series of conversations among faculty and students throughout the university and local community to address the need for a program that would support collaboration in the arts. Seed grant funding from the Office of the Provost enabled the launch of a summit in 2001 that brought together a group of national and international artists interested in issues of collaboration and new forms of art, often involving multiple disciplines. Known then as Ideas for Creative Exploration, the group developed original projects and events, hosted visiting artists and scholars, held workshops, published websites, and established a campus office.

Governance

David Saltz is the Executive Director and Mark Callahan is the Artistic Director of the Arts Collaborative.

The Advisory Board consists of the Executive Director and thirteen members appointed by the Executive Director for a three-year renewable term. The Advisory Board includes at least one student representative.

The following Advisory Board members served in FY23:

Anna Abraham (Torrance Center)

Madeline Blankenship (Athens community)

Melisa "Misha" Cahnmann-Taylor (Education)

Chris Cuomo (Women's Studies and Philosophy)

Connie Frigo (Music)
David T. Gay (Mathematics)
Rebecca Gose (Dance)
Moon Jung Jang (Art)
Peter Van Zandt Lane (Music)
T. Anthony Marotta (Theatre and Film Studies)
Meredith Welch-Devine (Graduate School)
Andrew Zawacki (English)
Meredith Emery (Student Representative)

See **Appendix A** for the Arts Collaborative Bylaws.

Graduate Assistantships in Interdisciplinary Arts Research

UGA offers Graduate School Assistantships to students entering programs in Art, Music, and Theatre and Film Studies following a highly qualified student's nomination by their home department. These competitive, merit-based awards support collaborative research between the arts and other disciplines. Recipients of these assistantships work in a cohort of graduate students with the Arts Collaborative.

Assistantship recipients receive two years of funding from the Graduate School, followed by a third year of funding from the appropriate home department in the form of a Departmental Assistantship.

The current graduate assistants are Lucas Eytchison (Art), Nkululeko Zungu (Music), Azadeh Beidollahkahni (Theatre and Film Studies), Meredith Emery (Art), Bryan Wysocki (Music), and Meg Grey (Theatre and Film Studies).

Graduate assistants starting in August 2023 are Samuel Horgan (Art), Sierra Wojtczack (Music), and Cicely Osborne (Theatre and Film Studies).

See **Appendix B** for a report of Graduate Assistant activities.

Partnerships

The Willson Center for Humanities and Arts is a showcase for faculty innovation and achievement. It facilitates intellectual exchange with the University and the public by the encouragement of interdisciplinary activity, which extends to the sciences and other orders of knowledge. The mission of the Willson Center is to promote research and creativity in the humanities and arts. It supports faculty through research grants, lectures, symposia, publications, visiting scholars, visiting artists, collaborative instruction, public conferences, exhibitions, and performances. It is committed to academic excellence and public impact.

The Idea Lab student organization is registered with the Student Affairs department of Engagement, Leadership, and Service. It is a network of graduate and undergraduate students interested in interdisciplinary arts collaboration. Members plan events and creative projects. The Artistic Director serves as an advisor to the student organization.

The Center for Integrative Conservation Research (CICR) mission is to advance new visions for conservation and environmental governance that are more just and more effective in creating the

conditions in which all life can thrive, through innovations in graduate education, research and societal engagement that embrace multiple ways of knowing and relating to the world around us.

The UGA Office of Sustainability coordinates, communicates, and advances initiatives in teaching, research, service, student engagement, and campus operations. In alignment with UGA's Great Commitments to create healthier populations; stronger, more resilient communities; and a safer, more secure future for all; our sustainability initiatives provide meaningful experiential learning for students and valuable support for the communities we serve.

UGA is an institutional member of the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru), an organization that advances the full range of arts-integrative research, curricula, programs, and creative practice to acknowledge, articulate, and expand the vital role of higher education in our global society. a2ru envisions a world in which universities – students, faculty, and leaders – acknowledge, deeply embed, and seamlessly integrate the arts in the pursuit of basic knowledge and in everyday practice.

II. PROJECTS and EVENTS

Vibrant Ecologies of Research Reading Group Fall 2022

The Arts Collaborative hosted a local Vibrant Ecologies of Research reading group in partnership with a2ru's national reading group program. The group met three times during the fall semester and joined additional online presentations facilitated by a2ru. *Vibrant Ecologies of Research* is a special issue of *Ground Works*, a journal that promotes research-based, interdisciplinary collaborations through rigorously peer-reviewed presentation of arts-inclusive work, and guided reflection on the processes that support them.

Athens Hip Hop Harmonic October 2022

The Athens Hip Hop Harmonic is a multi-year collaboration between the local Hip Hop community and UGA, produced by Arts Collaborative research affiliate Connie Frigo in partnership with Hip Hop impresario Montu Miller and Mariah Parker (aka Linqua Franqa), along with a team of other artists, educators, and supporters eager to create music together to explore their mutual artistic and cultural curiosities. In October 2022 the project engaged the Hugh Hodgson School of Music students, faculty, and staff with a monthlong residency including seminars and a public performance at the UGA Performing Arts Center.

Down The Rabbit Hole, an Opera in One Act October 6 and 14, 2022

Down the Rabbit Hole is a one act opera based on Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. The work was shared in public performances at the UGA Performing Arts Center and the Lyndon House Arts Center. This production aims to engage new audiences, particularly the young and the young at heart, with both new compositions and opera as an art form while also creating performance opportunities for undergraduate singers and instrumentalists. The familiar story, presented through whimsical music, is brought to life through this operatic retelling. Music by Bryan

Wysocki and Julien Berger. Libretto by Abigail Head. Supported in part by an Idea Lab Mini Grant.

The Critical Response Process in Action

November 4, 2022

A webinar in celebration of the release of *Critique Is Creative*, produced in partnership with Wesleyan University Press and Wesleyan University Center for the Arts in affiliation with Alternate ROOTS, American Lyric Theater, Cultural Pluralism Arts Movement Ontario (CPAMO), Dance & BMore, Dance Exchange, David Geffen School of Drama at Yale, Green Music Center/Sonoma State University, Jacob's Pillow, New York Theatre Workshop, Rising Youth Theatre, Willson Center for Humanities and Arts/University of Georgia, and Yerba Buena Cultural Center.

Over the course of 30 years, Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process (CRP) has transformed the practice of feedback in arts, education, and civic life. Both a structured method and a flexible set of principles, CRP is now the focus of its first in-depth study in book form. Join us for this celebration of the release of *Critique Is Creative: The Critical Response Process in Theory and Action* to hear from co-authors Liz Lerman and John Borstel and some of 21 contributors to the book's exploration of CRP and its applications.

Idea Lab Conversation: Mini Grant Stories

November 11, 2022

Idea Lab Mini Grant recipients and mentors hosted a reflective conversation about their projects. Featured participants included Katie Ford (*Imaginary Meadow*), Martijn van Wagtendonk (*Organoids*), and Caro Caden (*Queer Space: Athens, GA*).

Idea Lab Conversation: Arts Funding Trends

November 18, 2022

Graduate Assistants in Interdisciplinary Arts Research presented a report about trends in arts funding and shared examples of recent grants awarded by Creative Capital, South Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Idea Lab Conversation: Kyle Morrison

February 17, 2023

A conversation with Kyle Morrison, VR developer and simulation engineer for an informal conversation about his research and professional expertise in the field of Extended Reality (XR). Kyle was a Graduate Assistant in Interdisciplinary Arts Research at UGA and a master's student in Theatre and Film Studies before joining Collins Aerospace.

Treehouse Zine Events

February 17 and April 16, 2023

Treehouse is a collaborative art zine supported in part by the Arts Collaborative. The project produced community events with food, live performances, vendors, zine-making, and printing workshops. The events were co-hosted by the UGA Art Library and Foxglove Plantbar.

Idea Lab Conversation: Rebecca Kamen

March 2, 2023

Rebecca Kamen, sculptor and lecturer on the intersections of art and science, presented a public lecture as part of the School of Art Visiting Artist and Scholar Series, and joined the Arts Collaborative for a conversation about interdisciplinary collaboration.

Pop Up Math & Design Exhibition

The *Pop Up Math & Design Exhibition* is an ongoing project supported in part by the National Science Foundation. The project brings together art and math students to collaboratively design objects, visualizations, and interactive experiences of mathematics with a focus on topology. In topology, objects can stretch, twist, bend, and deform freely; to a topologist, a twisted rubber band and a circle are the same. With no fixed “shape” to speak of, mathematicians and artists can make creative choices of how to best represent these intriguing objects.

Research affiliates David Gay (Math), Moon Jung Jang (Art), and Alex Tepper (Math) facilitated activities including discussions on topology, design, and scientific communication; ideation and of potential exhibition displays and communication systems; and a computer graphics workshop.

Idea Lab Conversation: Creative Placemaking

March 16, 2023

A conversation with Connie Frigo, a professor of saxophone and co-founder of the Athens Hip Hop Harmonic, a partnership between UGA and the local Hip Hop community. She is an organizer of interdisciplinary arts events with a focus on the creative process, social justice advocacy, and community engagement. Dr. Frigo's participation in the 2022 South Arts Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit was supported by the Arts Collaborative.

Idea Lab Conversation: AI Future

April 4, 2023

A public forum with feature participants Eliana Gelman, Aryan Thakur, and Sudhan Chitgopkar for a conversation about their creative practices and Idea Lab-supported projects incorporating VR, AI, and robotics. Gelman and Thakur are co-creators of *Treehouse Zine*, an art publication exploring the intersection of virtual reality experience and storytelling. Chitgopkar's project *Towards Analog* combines generative art and mathematics.

Generative Garden

April 9-27, 2023

An exhibition in the C-U-B-E Gallery with featured demonstrations and a gallery talk. The *Generative Garden* lies at the intersection of math and art, digital and analog. With algorithm-driven artwork and mathematical visualizations comprising its flora, this garden is one you would normally encounter in the digital world. Brought into the physical world using a pen-plotter, though, the garden is overgrown with works that explore visualizations of scale and imperfections of the analog.

Drawn to the aesthetic qualities of algorithm-driven art, Sudhan Chitgopkar uses generative art to explore his recreational interests in math. After completing his studies in Computer Science and

International Affairs at UGA, Sudhan will continue to explore his interests in optimization, simulation, and visualization while studying computational science at Harvard University. Supported in part by an Idea Lab Mini Grant.

Creating the Conditions for Creativity

April 18, 2023

An online event in affiliation with the Torrance Festival of Ideas, featuring Pireeni Sundaralingam in conversation with Elizabeth King (Ecology/Forestry) and Mark Callahan (Arts Collaborative), hosted by Anna Abraham (Torrance Center).

The demand for creative thinking and innovative problem-solving has never been higher, in business, in classrooms, and across our rapidly changing planet. This panel will explore the neuro-cognitive data on how creativity can be shaped by different spaces, from the height of our office ceilings to the design of VR and other digital spaces with which we interact, and how this impacts our cognitive agility for adapting to the future.

Pireeni Sundaralingam has conducted cognitive research at M.I.T and Oxford as well as leading the research program at Silicon Valley's Center for Humane Technology. As Principal Advisor on Human Potential at the United Nations Museum, she spearheaded strategy on behavior change around key global challenges, and is currently Interdisciplinary Catalyst at Oxford University's oldest college, as well as founder and CEO of Neuro-Resilience Consulting.

#BestShotUGA

#BestShotUGA is a project to help increase vaccine confidence through community participation in the arts. One of only 30 projects funded by the Centers for Disease Control Foundation to increase vaccine confidence and uptake through the arts, *#BestShotUGA* was featured in a Special Exhibit at the Centers for Disease Control Museum, Atlanta, GA, and was published in the *English Journal* article "TikTok and Public Health: An Educational Tale."

Supported by the Centers for Disease Control Foundation, Department of Language and Literacy Education, Mary Frances Early College of Education, UGA Arts Council, Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, and the Arts Collaborative.

Idea Lab Mini Grant Program

The Idea Lab student organization partnered with the Arts Collaborative to facilitate a mini grant program. Idea Lab members created a call for proposals, communications plan, selection committee, and budget strategy. The mini grant program emphasizes project development through mentorship, flexible funding, and creative feedback. Collaborative teams must include participants from multiple disciplines and include at least one student, faculty, or staff member from UGA.

Towards Analog I/O of Generative Art

Towards Analog I/O of Generative Art will introduce analog elements into the real-time creation of generative artwork through the use of a MIDI a robotic pen-plotter.

Project participants:

Sudhan Chitgopkar, Computer Science
Gerasim Iliev, Mathematics

Unwearable Soundscape

Unwearable Soundscape will develop the use of piezoelectric transducers to create a large-scale musical instrument and an immersive form of music creation that can be both improved and composed for by future innovators.

Project participants:

Grayson Pynn, Music
Jacob Robertson, Engineering

"Mate," Materia, and Materiales: Math, matter and materials, a bilingual elementary school STEAM project

"Mate," Materia and Materiales integrates STEM and Art for bilingual elementary school students through fiber arts.

Project participants:

Elizabeth Dubberly, Language and Literacy Education
Emma Scott, Art

Expression of the Superorganism

Expression of the Superorganism will explore art created by ants as a post-humanist aesthetic dimension of being, reframing perceptions of the creative spirit in the natural world.

Project participants:

Jiayi Guo, Art Education
Horace Zeng, Entomology

Down the Rabbit Hole

Down the Rabbit Hole is an opera composed and produced by a collaborative team of undergraduate and graduate students, based on Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* and directed by Abigail Head.

Conferences

2022 Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit
November 3-4, 2022
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

The Arts Collaborative supported Connie Frigo's participation in the Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit.

The Summit is designed to facilitate a network of artists, civic and cultural leaders, educators, public officials, and more from around the South to work in unison to build new and stronger partnerships, projects, programs, and policies. The experiences created at the summit will inform, inspire and empower the voices of those in the community. Hosted by South Arts in partnership with Creative Placemaking Communities.

2022 a2ru National Conference: Exploring Artistic Research

November 3-5

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan

The Arts Collaborative supported Sonia Hirt's participation in the a2ru national conference.

The a2ru national conference is an opportunity for practitioners and researchers from across the higher education spectrum to share innovations and perspectives in the arts. a2ru advances the full range of arts and design integrative research, curricula, programs, and creative practice to acknowledge, articulate, and expand the vital role of higher education in our global society. a2ru's work, in partnership with an international network of leading higher education institutions, envisions a world in which universities—students, faculty, and leaders—explore, embed, and integrate the arts in everyday practice and research.

2023 Emerging Creatives Student Summit

March 2-5, 2023

The Arts Collaborative supported Meg Grey's participation in the Emerging Creatives Student Summit.

The Emerging Creatives Student Summit, “The Future: By Design,” was hosted by the University of Cincinnati at its new Digital Futures Building in Cincinnati’s Innovation District. Digital Futures is a community of experts who partner with government, industry, and the community to deliver reliable and lasting solutions to the real problems impacting people’s lives.

Students will experience Digital Future’s cutting-edge labs and facilities and learn from Digital Futures faculty and staff about their innovative research. They will work in interdisciplinary teams with fellow students from across the a2ru network to create arts-integrative projects responding to the conference theme. Participants will also receive training from a2ru staff on best practices for interdisciplinary collaboration, as well as mentorship and feedback from Digital Futures and a2ru staff on their projects in progress. The three-day summit will conclude with presentations of each team’s project for their peers and mentors.

Meg Grey shared that the summit helped to "cultivate a curious and brave space with fellow students and tackle the impossible questions of the future together. Additionally, the summit allowed me to visit Cincinnati for the first time and get hands on experience with the cutting-edge technological resources at the University of Cincinnati’s Digital Future’s building."

Arts + Environment

The Arts Collaborative plays a leadership role in arts + environment initiatives at UGA with key partners the Center for Integrated Conservation Research and the Office of Sustainability.

Office of Sustainability Artist in Residence

The Office of Sustainability Artist in Residence (AiR) is a non-traditional position designed to infuse creativity into ongoing Office of Sustainability programs and activities, promote collaboration between artists and other disciplines, engage the campus community in new ways, and give artists an opportunity to explore ideas and develop work related to sustainability. The AiR receives support and resources from the Office of Sustainability, with guidance from the Social Ecology Lab and the Arts Collaborative. Kendal Reeves (Theatre and Film Studies/Marketing) embedded with the campus Waste Reduction program and developed a podcast series "The Voices of the Disposed" to highlight the paths that different types of materials take, depending on how they are discarded.

Creativity and Collaboration Graduate Workshops

The *Creativity and Collaboration* graduate workshop program was developed by the UGA Center for Integrative Conservation Research in collaboration with the Arts Collaborative. The program is supported by National Science Foundation *Innovations in Graduate Education* award to study the effectiveness of the workshops and to generate the knowledge required to move these approaches into the broader community. If successful, widespread adoption of these methods will contribute to equipping graduates across the country with communication and collaboration skills and ultimately increase creative and innovative solutions to complex global environmental challenges.

Project team:

Nate Nibbelink (Center for Integrative Conservation Research/Forestry)

Lizzie King (Center for Integrative Conservation Research/Ecology/Forestry)

Mark Callahan (Arts Collaborative/Art)

Kathryn Roulston (Education)

Brian Haas (Psychology)

Chris Cuomo (Philosophy/Women's Studies)

Laurie Fowler (Watershed UGA/Ecology)

Rebecca Gose (Dance)

Jenna Jambeck (Engineering)

Michael Marshall (Art)

Meredith Welch-Devine (Graduate School/Anthropology)

Appendix A:

BYLAWS

Executive Director

The Executive Director is responsible for the budget and overall direction of the Arts Collaborative.

The Executive Director serves as a member and chairperson of the Advisory Board.

The Executive Director is appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Executive Director reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Artistic Director

The Artistic Director is responsible for the daily operation of the Arts Collaborative.

The Artistic Director is appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Artistic Director reports to the Executive Director and Advisory Board.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board consists of the Executive Director and thirteen members appointed by the Executive Director for a three-year renewable term. The committee should represent a diversity of perspectives and academic disciplines inside and beyond the arts, and might include faculty of any rank, staff, students, and community members. The Advisory Board shall include at least one student representative.

The Advisory Board gives counsel to the Artistic Director on the Arts Collaborative's goals, policies, and procedures.

The Advisory Board shall convene at least once each academic year.

Any member of the Advisory Board may convene a meeting of the board at any time with at least one week of prior notice.

A simple majority of the Advisory Board constitutes a quorum.

Ad Hoc Committees

The Advisory Board chairperson shall create ad hoc committees to address specific issues and initiatives as necessary. Members of these committees are appointed by the chairperson for a term of up to three years, eligible for renewal. The chair of each committee will provide a report to the Advisory Board at least once a year.

Graduate Assistants

Arts Collaborative graduate assistants receive peer mentorship and practical experience in arts research design, project leadership, and community engagement. Assistantship duties include the student's own collaborative work across disciplines and facilitating collaborative projects and proposals with faculty, students, and community members.

Graduate assistants are supervised by the Artistic Director.

Semester evaluation reports are provided to the graduate assistant's home department.

An annual report is provided to the Graduate School.

Willson Center for Humanities and Arts

The Willson Center is an administrative partner of the Arts Collaborative and a liaison to the Office of Research and UGA Arts Council.

The Arts Collaborative and Willson Center share resources to promote activities, communicate accomplishments, and develop research opportunities.

An annual report is provided to the Willson Center.

Research Affiliates

The designation "research affiliate" describes individuals or teams who receive funding and/or mentorship support for creative projects from the Arts Collaborative.

Student Organization

The UGA Arts Collaborative student organization is registered with the Student Affairs department of Engagement, Leadership, and Service. It is a network of graduate and undergraduate students interested in interdisciplinary arts collaboration. Members plan events and creative projects.

The Artistic Director serves as an advisor to the student organization.

Amendment Procedures

The Bylaws may be amended by a vote of nine members of the Advisory Board.

Amendments to the Bylaws must be submitted to Board members at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the vote is taken. The ballot may be taken by mail if all members are not present at the designated meeting.

APPENDIX B:

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS RESEARCH

Background

UGA offers Graduate School Assistantships to students entering programs in Art, Music, and Theatre and Film Studies following a highly qualified student's nomination by their home department. These competitive, merit-based awards support collaborative research between the arts and other disciplines.

Graduate Assistants receive peer mentorship and practical experience in arts research design, project leadership, and community engagement while supervised by the Artistic Director of the Arts Collaborative. Assistantship duties include the student's own collaborative work across disciplines and facilitating collaborative projects and proposals with faculty, students, and community members.

Selection Process

To be considered for a Graduate School Assistantship, applicants must provide a one-page statement to their home department's Graduate Coordinator. The statement should describe the applicant's current research interests and any previous training and experience in interdisciplinary or collaborative programs and environments. Nominees will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary selection committee.

Graduate Coordinators in Art, Music, and Theatre and Film Studies submit up to five nominees each for the assistantships. A five-member selection committee reviews the nominations and ranks them within each department. Nominees are considered based on their potential to conduct research in accordance with the Arts Collaborative mission to generate innovative, truly interdisciplinary creative projects and critical discourse in the arts.

The FY23 selection committee included the following members:

John Bray (Theatre and Film Studies)
Adrian Childs (Music)
David Saltz, Executive Director, Arts Collaborative
Isabelle Wallace (Art)
Meredith Welch-Devine (Graduate School)

Graduate Assistants

The current graduate assistants are Meredith Emery (Art), Bryan Wysocki (Music), and Meg Grey (Theatre and Film Studies), Lucas Eytchison (Art), Nkululeko Zungu (Music), and Azadeh Beidollahkahni (Theatre and Film Studies).

Graduate assistants starting in August 2023 are Samuel Horgan (Art), Sierra Wojtczak (Music), and Cicely Osborne (Theatre and Film Studies).

Contributions to Interdisciplinary Arts Research

Graduate assistants play an integral role in providing administrative support to the Arts Collaborative, facilitating interdisciplinary events that make research in the arts available to the

UGA and Athens communities, participating in faculty-led projects, and creating self-initiated projects.

Graduate research assistants worked collectively on the following:

- Administration of Idea Lab, a UGA student organization committed to providing an open, interdisciplinary platform for engagement with topics in arts.
- Administration of the Idea Lab Mini Grants program, including development of criteria, call for proposals, public information sessions, formation of selection committee, and administration of awards.
- Project mentorship for Idea Lab Mini Grant recipients including team meetings, timeline and budget development, documentation, and creative feedback.
- Arts research development including reviews of local, national, and international funding sources for research in the arts.
- Planning, facilitation, publicity, and logistical support for public events.
- Content development for newsletter and social media.
- Orientation for new graduate assistants.
- Leadership of graduate assistant team meetings.
- Assistance with Arts Collaborative move to new office location.
- Review of draft versions of Arts Collaborative vision document and revised bylaws.
- Production of the public event *Idea Lab Conversation: Arts Funding Trends*.
- Production of the public event *Idea Lab Conversation: Mini Grant Stories*.
- Production of the public event *Idea Lab Conversation: Kyle Morrison*.
- Production of the public event *Idea Lab Conversation: Creative Placemaking*.
- Production of the public event *Idea Lab Conversation: Rebecca Kamen*.
- Production of the public event *Idea Lab Conversation: AI Future*.
- Production of the *Vibrant Ecologies of Research Reading Group* in partnership with a2ru.

Graduate research assistants worked individually and collaboratively on the following:

- Meredith Emery served as a project mentor for the collaborative team, BioSculpt, as they developed prototypes and preliminary data for a National Science Foundation grant application.
- Meredith Emery served as a liaison for the *Idea Lab Conversation* series.

- Meredith Emery worked with guest artists Handhouse Studio to complete sections of the *Notre-Dame de Paris Truss* project. Emery collaborated with project coordinators, faculty, students, and community members during a week-long immersive workshop to build several scaled sections of the Notre Dame model, which will be exhibited nationally.
- Meredith Emery served on the Lamar Dodd Visiting Artist Scholars committee as a graduate representative.
- Meg Grey served as a student representative on the UGA Arts Council.
- Meg Grey served as a project mentor for *Queer Space: Athens, GA*.
- Meg Grey represented the Arts Council at *Student Spotlight on the Arts*.
- Meg Grey led public virtual reality demonstrations during the school of art *Art Extravaganza* event.
- Meg Grey designed and implemented the Arts Council Student Engagement Survey and Spring Initiative proposal.
- Meg Grey served as Faculty Representative in the department of Theatre and Film Studies.
- Meg Grey designed media projections for the UGA departmental show *Moving Forward*.
- Meg Grey participated in in the Graduate School's Three Minute Thesis Competition.
- Bryan Wysocki served as a project mentor for *Down the Rabbit Hole*.
- Bryan Wysocki assisted with research on collaborative research publishing.
- Bryan Wysocki and Lucas Eytchison served as committee liaisons for Idea Lab Mini Grant applications.
- Lucas Eytchison served as a project mentor for *Towards Analog, Imaginary Meadow, and Unwearable Soundscape*.
- Lucas Eytchison produced archival documentation of the eco-poetics publishing project *Echo*.
- Lucas Eytchison served on the UGA Campus Sustainability Grant selection committee.
- Lucas Eytchison collaborated with a team of graduate students to organize a multi-day, volunteer-aided installation of murals at the Bigger Vision shelter in Athens.
- Nkululeko Zungu assisted with the development of a collaborative team agreement template.
- Nkululeko Zungu served as a project mentor for "*Mate*", *Materia and Materials*, and *Expression of the Superorganism*.
- Nkululeko Zungu participated in the Fashion Design Student Association and Student Composers Association collaboration at the Georgia Museum of Art.
- Nkululeko Zungu joined the Student Composers Association 2023 board.
- Nkululeko Zungu initiated a collaborative project "That Part" with students in the department of Dance.

- Nkululeko Zungu managed social media for the Student Composers Association.
- Nkululeko Zungu recorded backing vocals for Tom Hiel's Athens Hip Hop Harmonic song, "Freedom," with the African American Choral Ensemble at the Dancz Center for New Music recording studios.
- Nkululeko Zungu collaborated with UGA film students on student projects.
- Azadeh Beidollahkhani assisted with virtual reality equipment management.
- Azadeh Beidollahkhani worked as a crew on the *Mission Steam* project as a sound designer and programming assistant.

Accomplishments

- Meredith Emery received a scholarship to participate in the Pocosin Arts School of Fine Craft summer workshop series.
- Meredith Emery received the Tom Hollingsworth Scholarship from the Lamar Dodd School of Art.
- Meredith Emery exhibited a solo show, *standing by the fall*, in the Dodd Galleries.
- Meredith Emery exhibited in the Lyndon House *48th Juried Exhibition*.
- Meg Grey received a Willson Center Graduate Research Award for her collaborative project *Mission STEAM: Designing Multi-media Performances for Immersive Learning*.
- Meg Grey received a departmental travel grant for the Mid-Atlantic Theatre Conference, where she presented the paper "Augmented Reality as a Tool for Embodied Learning."
- Meg Grey was awarded an a2ru Travel Grant to participate in the 2023 a2ru Emerging Creatives Student Summit, "The Future: By Design" in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Meg Grey will work with Alliance Theatre and the UGA Summer Academy as an instructor.
- Meg Grey performed as a lead role in the UGA Theatre mainstage show *The Comedy of Errors*.
- Meg Grey was nominated for an Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship for her role as Dromio in *The Comedy of Errors*.
- Meg Grey performed in the role of Peter in Edward Albee's *Zoo Story* directed by MFA student Paul Markert.
- Meg Grey participated in the Resiser Atlanta Artists Lab Masterclass: Butoh Transformation for Performers with Frankie Mulnix at the Alliance Theatre.
- Meg Grey participated in the Athen's Playwrights Workshop.
- Meg Grey studied aerial silks and fabrics dance with Canopy Studio in weekly classes.
- Bryan Wysocki presented at the Composition in Asia Conference at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida with UGA doctoral student Vicki Lu. The two presented a lecture recital about their work in the duo Kudzu.

- Bryan Wysocki co-founded a bassoon and percussion duo, Honk and Bonk, with Music graduate student Cassandra Roaché. They presented composer Pilar Miralles' work *Plastic Hugs* for bassoon, percussion, and fixed media at the Music by Women Conference at the Mississippi College for Women.
- Bryan Wysocki presented his work *Idyll Patter for Trumpet Octet* at the Penn State Symposium for New Music at Penn State University.
- Bryan Wysocki and Cassandra Roaché were accepted to perform at the International Double Reed Symposium in Bangkok, Thailand in July 2023. The duo will premiere new works by UGA alumni Ayako Takeda-Pederson and Yeonsuk Jung.
- Bryan Wysocki presented his open form text piece, *The Signs We Send (Neon Signs)*, at the Research on Contemporary Composition conference at the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega, Georgia. The piece was realized by members of the UGA Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, who also performed it at a public performance at The Globe in Athens.
- Bryan Wysocki worked with the Boston-based ensemble Transient Canvas as part of their Willson Center sponsored appearance. They read and recorded his piece *+:o::=:≠ for Bass Clarinet and Marimba*.
- Bryan Wysocki worked with Midwest-based pianist Clare Longendyke as part of her Willson Center sponsored appearance. She recorded and performed his piece *Watch for Piano and Multimedia*. He also co-produced the multimedia for her concert, utilizing an interactive DMX lighting patch that he developed.
- Bryan Wysocki wrote a piece for trombone and fixed media, *Toxic Tobacco Thinkpiece* for guest artist trombonist William Lang.
- Bryan Wysocki continued his partnership with percussionist Sean Ritenauer, who invited him to perform with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra percussion section in their season opener concert.
- Bryan Wysocki performed with the Alpharetta Symphony and Agnes Scott Symphony Orchestra.
- Bryan Wysocki will work with Westminster Schools in Atlanta as a percussion instructor.
- Lucas Eytchison exhibited work in University of Iowa's National Photography invitational.
- Lucas Eytchison assisted the photographer Eric Ryan Anderson with the editing and production of his photobook "Happy Birthday, Sanderson Texas" which was released through Sunnyside Projects in December.
- Lucas Eytchison exhibited work in "Certainty Pending," first-year MFA show in the Dodd Galleries.
- Nkululeko Zungu applied to "What IF..." call for scores for composers.
- Nkululeko Zungu published *South African Folk Songs Collection* (Hal Leonard Publications).
- Nkululeko Zungu joined DawgBytes Electronic Contemporary Music ensemble.
- Nkululeko Zungu programmed his work, *Echoes of a Dying Breed*, for the DawgBytes concert.

Nkululeko Zungu completed a work entitled, *Qonda* for trombone and electronics performed by visiting trombonist William Lang.

- Nkululeko Zungu performed on Reece Moseley student work, “Coded Conversations,” with DawgBytes at the SCA Composers Recital #4.
- Nkululeko Zungu performed a solo work, “I Wanna Be Ready,” accompanied by African American Choral Ensemble at the AACE Spring Recital.
- Nkululeko Zungu performed with the Angela Brown at the “Opera...From a Sistah's Point of View” concert with the African American Choral Ensemble.
- Nkululeko Zungu performed collaborative composition, “Run, Hide, Flee,” and “Home,” with composer/producer, Karthik Pai at the SCA Composers Recital #3.

Outcomes Assessment

The Arts Collaborative graduate assistantship has offered me the freedom to explore my own creative practice and develop my skills as an arts leader. I've been able to collaborate and communicate with faculty and students across disciplines and serve as a representative of the arts on countless occasions. Working with the advisory board and understanding the inner workings of this organization has laid the foundation for artistic practices that I want to carry forward into my own career as an arts administrator.

[Meg Grey]

My work within the Arts Collaborative focuses primarily on the behind-the-scenes work of running a call for proposals, organizing the digital archive, and learning best practices. These experiences are crucial for a career in the arts, and I am thankful for the assistantship for providing me the opportunity to do this work.

[Bryan Wyscocki]

This graduate research assistantship has provided me many occasions to build leadership skills and engage in mentorship. My work as a mentor with Idea Lab mini grant recipients has helped me to holistically understand artists' processes, develop frameworks for successful collaboration, and engage with grant-writing/-making systems, all in greater depth. I continually borrow from the various models for sharing research in public that I have been exposed to through this program. Perhaps most importantly, this assistantship has pushed me to think in terms of questions. That is to say that this role has challenged me to listen and look for the lines of inquiry that are being advanced by interdisciplinary researchers, and to lead with curiosity across my relationships with collaborators and colleagues.

[Meredith Emery]

This assistantship work has been a highlight of my experience at UGA. The cohort's intention to foster interdisciplinary collaboration has been inspiring. In addition to this, the culture that stems from working with one another in the cohort and other people across campus has been motivating. I have come to appreciate that there is always something more to learn. The lessons I have learned so far have empowered me to approach my degree program differently, specifically, asking new questions. Some of these include, how can collaboration with other departments such as the sciences, or

dance aid my research in being a post-colonial African composer – how can my music be proudly African without the influence of Western stereotypes on African sounds?

[Nkululeko Zungu]

Participating in the Arts Collaborative assistantship has not only drawn on my technical skillset within my medium, but it has also enhanced my abilities as a communicator and organizer as well. This assistantship has provided a unique opportunity to broaden the scope of possibilities for projects through collaboration with the project participants, a process that has radically shifted my sense of possibility within my practice as well.

[Lucas Eytchison]

The UGA Arts collaborative has opened a new window to me toward my vision of study, work, and collaboration. As a new grad assistant, I liked the way we meet every week and bring together different perspectives and skill sets, which can lead to a more well-rounded and innovative outcome. This type of collaboration can also foster communication and teamwork skills, as well as teach people how to give and receive constructive feedback and how to be flexible to criticism in order to have better work.

[Azadeh Beidollahkahni]

One of my favorite parts of this assistantship so far has been the mentorship skills I have gained through helping facilitate the Mini Grant program. It has given me insight into the inner workings of the grant awarding process, and I believe that this experience ultimately helped me earn my own Willson Center Graduate Research Award.

[Meg Grey]

I have had the opportunity to engage with dynamic leaders across various disciplines who are interrogating shifting methodologies in interdisciplinary arts research. During an enduring period of critical stress on artistic study and participation, I have had the pleasure of witnessing a revisioning of the language/forums we use to cultivate trust and longevity across arts practices. These conversations have taken the form of weekly meetings with my research cohort, professional development and leadership conferences, cross-disciplinary speaker series, and the multiplicity of artistic happenings in greater Athens. I am equally grateful for the adaptive and empathetic culture that has been modeled in the Arts Collaborative assistantship, allowing me ample time to invest in the curiosities of my own practice.

[Meredith Emery]

Having the time and ability to work on projects both on campus and in the Atlanta community has directly influenced and forwarded my career in a way that would not be possible with any other assistantship.

[Bryan Wyscocki]

My work as a project mentor for two projects has seen a shift in how I approach project guidance. I have had the pleasure of seeing the importance of being present in the journey of realizing a project and staying sensitive to the project's needs. I am appreciative of the reach that the Arts Collaborative has that has allowed me to interact with faculty and students outside my department. Through many public forums hosted by ICE, I have been able to receive pearls of wisdom from the

[Nkululeko Zungu]

One highlight of this year, I attended *azru Emerging Creatives Summit* in Cincinnati, Ohio. This conference served as a platform for networking with other students from range of disciplines and schools, both nationally and internationally. It was during this conference that I truly realized the revolutionary work that Arts Collaborative is doing within UGA. At the conference, I noticed that numerous students lacked a background in interdisciplinary work and found collaboration challenging. However, as an Arts Collaborative graduate assistant, I had a solid foundation for engaging in such collaboration, making it a less daunting and more accessible process.

[Meg Grey]

I found mentoring two projects simultaneous to my personal artistic practice to be a rich and challenging experience. Doing so helped me develop leadership, collaboration, and resource management skills, and afforded me the opportunity to interact with research outside of my formal discipline.

[Lucas Eytchison]

As I continued to mentor projects, I learnt and adapted my approach in several ways. Firstly, I learnt to be flexible to a project leader's needs, learning that every project is different and therefore requires different approaches of support that I offer. Secondly, I learnt to better schedule my calendar to ensure that I could properly manage my time to accommodate the sometime, frequent meetings with project leader's this semester, while balancing the other work as a doctoral student. And finally, I learnt how to voice suggestions and guidance to project leaders as they arise.

[Nkululeko Zungu]

In terms of research, the UGA Arts Collaborative helped me a lot to develop my creative and critical thinking skills. Working with other students with different thoughts and backgrounds can also provide a support system for any kind of help and exploring new ideas and testing different approaches.

[Azadeh Beidollahkahni]