



Dean, School of the Arts and Architecture
University of California, Los Angeles

The [University of California, Los Angeles](#) (UCLA) seeks a visionary and inspiring leader to serve as the dean of the [UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture](#) (UCLA Arts). The incoming dean will have the opportunity to shape the future of the arts and architecture by fostering creative and scholarly excellence at one of the world's premier public research universities.

UCLA Arts is an interdisciplinary hub for discovery, creativity, and connection. One of UCLA's 12 professional schools, UCLA Arts is where art, architecture, dance, design, and scholarship are rooted in the curiosity, conscience, and rigor of one of the nation's top public research universities. The school comprises four departments, nine faculty-led research centers and labs, two world-class museums, an esteemed performing arts program, and two iconic venues. This unique array of scholarly and creative resources broadens and enhances the experiences of the school's students, faculty, and staff and extends its reach and impact throughout the broader community.

The dean will join UCLA at an exciting and pivotal moment, both in its history and as higher education at large undergoes a period of significant uncertainty. The university welcomed Chancellor [Julio Frenk](#) in January 2025, and is in the midst of advancing its 2023-2028 strategic plan, "[Creating the Future](#)," which heavily centers the role of the arts in the identity of the campus and seeks to deepen the university's connection to the city of Los Angeles. UCLA Arts recently refreshed its own [strategic plan](#) to align with these priorities. Looking forward to 2028, UCLA's centrally located campus will serve as the Olympic and Paralympic Village for the summer Olympic Games, which will be hosted in Los Angeles. As such, the dean will join UCLA as it embraces the opportunity to position itself as a nexus for positive and lasting impact in Los Angeles, across the nation, and around the world.

In this context, UCLA Arts seeks a dean who will advance the school's standing as a preeminent leader in arts and architecture scholarship and practice during a time of transition and increased dynamism in higher education. To ensure the success and sustainability of the school, the dean will lead UCLA Arts in addressing the following opportunities and challenges, outlined in greater detail on page four of this document:

- Craft an ambitious, shared, and cohesive vision and identity to guide the school forward;
- Further develop strategic collaborative efforts between the school and its public units;
- Serve as an effective advocate, develop new resources, and creatively steward existing resources;
- Recruit, develop, and inspire a dynamic and world-class faculty and staff;

- Strengthen and expand inclusive excellence initiatives across the school;
- Build and strengthen connections to the other schools and units across UCLA; and
- Cultivate and deepen the school's connections within Los Angeles.

A full list of desired qualifications and characteristics of the dean can be found at the conclusion of this document, which was prepared by the search committee with the assistance of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm. All applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed in confidence to the parties listed at the conclusion of this document.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Widely recognized as one of [the top public universities](#) in the country and one of the world's top research institutions, UCLA is an international leader in breadth and quality of academic, research, health care, wellness, cultural, continuing education, and athletic programs, with more than 6,550 faculty members who teach approximately 48,000 students in [the UCLA College and 12 professional schools](#). This vibrant community comprises world-renowned faculty, scholarship, and resources, including 17 Nobel Laureates and 15 MacArthur Fellows, a preeminent medical center, and a Division I athletics program that boasts 120 NCAA championships. An effective engine for social mobility, UCLA ranked first among the top 25 national universities for social mobility in 2024, and nearly one-third of UCLA undergraduates are first-generation students. The university also consistently ranks among the top institutions for research funding, having generated nearly \$1.6 billion in research grants and contracts in the last fiscal year alone.

With a 419-acre campus in Westwood and recent site acquisitions in Downtown and West Los Angeles, UCLA is enriched by the cultural diversity of the dynamic greater Los Angeles area and the geographic advantages of Southern California. Civic engagement is fundamental to the university's mission as a public university. Located on the Pacific Rim in one of the world's most vibrant cities, UCLA reaches beyond campus boundaries to establish partnerships locally and globally. The university seeks to serve society through both teaching and scholarship, to educate successive generations of leaders, and to pass on to students a renewable set of skills and commitment to social engagement. UCLA endeavors to integrate education, research, and service so that each enriches and extends the others. This integration promotes academic excellence and nurtures innovation and scholarly development.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE

As the premier public arts school in the nation, UCLA Arts plays a vital role in the cultural and artistic life of the campus and the broader community. Guiding the school's mission is the belief that the arts are not only an essential part of the cognitive, critical, and inquisitive life of a public research university, but the practice and presence of the arts are a cornerstone of the creative, innovative, and collaborative approaches that the 21st century demands.

One of 12 prestigious professional schools at the university, UCLA Arts offers leading programs in four degree-granting departments—[Architecture and Urban Design](#); [Art](#); [Design | Media Arts](#); and [World Arts](#)

[and Cultures/Dance](#)—and houses nine [faculty-led research centers and labs](#) that foster groundbreaking interdisciplinary creativity and research to address issues such as global health, climate change, urbanism, and other critical societal challenges. The school has approximately 155 full-time and part-time faculty (of whom 55 are tenure-track) who teach approximately 800 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in liberal arts programs (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.), professional degree programs (M.F.A., M.Arch., MSAUD, and M.A. in Architecture), and a [K-12-focused arts education minor](#).

[***The Department of Architecture and Urban Design***](#) is a champion of ideas and their articulate expression. The role of research within the department is to produce new forms of knowledge which can be expressed in a variety of ways: from the design of spaces, objects, buildings, urban environments, urban strategy, and images, to a carefully curated exhibition or the writing of a compelling story or scholarly text. Its internationally-renowned faculty teach students to engage the world around them, to see ideas as productive forms of response, and to leverage design and writing as expressions of newly curated perspectives. At the heart of student life within the department is its studio culture. The department's studio-based curriculum fosters collaborative and supportive relationships between students and faculty and models how to be respectful of differences of opinion and how to work collectively on a set of questions. Each year, the Department of Architecture and Urban Design convenes a series of public lectures, conferences, and other events that enrich the student experience and offer a cultural outlet for design-curious audiences.

[***The Department of Art***](#), housed in the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Center on the UCLA campus and the newly renovated, award-winning Margo Leavin Graduate Art Studios in Culver City, offers an environment that fosters creativity, autonomy, and experimentation. Working with a faculty of internationally recognized artists and distinguished visiting lecturers, students are exposed to a broad range of approaches to making and interpreting art, as well as perspectives on the role of art and artists in society. The rigorous studio courses at the program's core provide students with the tools, facilities, and curriculum to develop skills in the areas of ceramics, painting and drawing, photography, sculpture, and the wide range of innovative mediums and methods covered by interdisciplinary studio and new genres. Students are encouraged to work intensively within and across these areas of study to find their own voices and craft their own practices. Intensive making is augmented by courses in art history and critical theory, as well as liberal arts studies in other academic fields across the UCLA campus. Beyond the UCLA campus, supervised independent research and internships in the greater Los Angeles area provide opportunities for students to develop as artists in one of the world's leading art centers. As a result, the UCLA Department of Art is consistently recognized as a top-ranked graduate studio art program nationally, with a distinguished list of graduates who have played leading roles in the development of the visual arts.

[***The Department of Design | Media Arts***](#), or DMA, offers a multidisciplinary education that fosters individual thinking, encourages experimentation, and works with students to develop truly contemporary practices. Those practices can include typography, graphic design, branding, digital fabrication and printing, photography and video, video games and 3D modeling, virtual and augmented reality, art and science, social and environmental practice, public arts, media archeology and theory, creative coding, interaction, electronics and interface design. DMA's renowned faculty is committed to educating

conscientious designers and media artists, and its community strives to create socially and culturally relevant objects, experiences, and spaces. The department makes its work public in galleries and laboratories, as social media, on large screens, smart phones and game consoles, in media installations, performances and public spaces, as websites, posters, books, and magazines.

[**The Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance**](#), or WACD, was born from the 1995 merger of UCLA's interdepartmental program in World Arts and Cultures and the Dance Department, with the addition in 2001 of resources, faculty, and staff from the interdepartmental program in Folklore. Now, the faculty of UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance (WACD) is comprised of scholars and artists dedicated to developing interdisciplinary, cross-cultural modes of investigation to address complex social, political, cultural and artistic questions inherent in the contemporary world. By engaging deeply in multiple artistic and scholarly disciplines, methods, genres and areas of expertise, WACD's faculty forges curricula out of thematic connections that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Students at UCLA Arts have unparalleled opportunities to learn from and interact with distinguished faculty who rank among the most accomplished artists, designers, architects, performers, ethnographers, and scholars in the world. Grounded in an understanding of the profound interdependence between creativity and academic research, the school's innovative and rigorous programs combine studio-based practice with critical studies and liberal arts scholarship, all within the context of a leading research university. In advancing this holistic approach to arts education, UCLA Arts strives to motivate and empower its students to serve as cultural leaders of the 21st century.

Located in the Westwood neighborhood of Los Angeles, UCLA Arts offers a cosmopolitan arena for study and experimentation that reflects the diversity of its students and faculty. While the heart of the school remains on the Westwood campus, its soul extends beyond the campus borders to the greater Los Angeles community with a wide variety of outreach programs designed by students, faculty, staff, and alumni that include workshops, concerts, exhibitions, symposia, and dance productions. These programs are often presented in collaboration with groups throughout Los Angeles.

The school's internationally acclaimed museums, the Fowler and the Hammer, and groundbreaking performing arts program, UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance, offer students, faculty, and the broader community rich access to leading anthropological, historical, and contemporary exhibitions and collections, performances, lectures, and workshops by established and emerging artists from Los Angeles and around the world. Many of these programs are presented in two iconic venues: [**Royce Hall**](#), a cornerstone of UCLA's cultural and architectural legacy, and the [**Nimoy Theater**](#), a dynamic new space for innovative performance and community engagement.

[**UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance**](#) (CAP UCLA) is dedicated to the advancement of contemporary performing arts: dance, music, spoken word, theater, and emerging digital, collaborative, and cross-art platforms inspired by today's leading artists and creators. CAP UCLA supports the creation, presentation, and critical dialogues vital to the innovation and expressive potential of artists who inform the dynamic and evolving heritage of contemporary performance. Through an annual season of performing arts and

extensive community engagement initiatives and events, CAP UCLA advances the importance of art in society by celebrating and deepening the connection between artist and audience.

[The Fowler Museum](#) explores global arts, both past and present, with an emphasis on works from Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and the indigenous Americas. Informed by interdisciplinary approaches and the perspectives of the cultures represented, the Fowler enhances understanding and appreciation of the diverse peoples, cultures, and religions of the world through dynamic exhibitions, publications, and public programs. The museum's mission has expanded in recent years to include a strong focus on contemporary artistic production; one of the museum's goals is to show how artistic creativity is flourishing in the postcolonial, transnational contexts in which artists find themselves today.

[The Hammer Museum](#) offers collections, exhibitions, and programs that span the classic to the contemporary in art, architecture, and design. The Hammer's international exhibition program focuses on wide-ranging thematic and monographic exhibitions, highlighting contemporary art since the 1960s and the work of emerging artists through Hammer Projects and the Hammer's biennial, Made in L.A. As a cultural center, the Hammer offers nearly 300 free public programs a year, including lectures, readings, symposia, film screenings, and music performances.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

As the chief executive and academic officer for UCLA Arts, the dean provides strategic vision for and operational leadership of the school, which has an annual operating budget of approximately \$70 million. Reporting to the executive vice chancellor and provost, the dean will serve on the Deans Council, the Council of Professional School Deans, and the Chancellor's Council on the Arts, and will collaborate with leadership across UCLA and the University of California system as well as local, national, and international leaders in the arts and architecture. The dean will have oversight of 155 faculty (of whom 55 are tenure-track) and approximately 600 staff (including the public units). The dean and school are supported by a dedicated and experienced administrative [leadership team](#) including UCLA Arts' four department chairs; three associate deans; directors of the public units; assistant dean for communications; executive director for development; and the executive assistant to the dean.

The dean will advance scholarship, creative and artistic accomplishment, and education and civic engagement; encourage distinctive programmatic innovation; enhance inclusive excellence in educational programs and faculty and student recruitment; and link the work of the school's faculty and students to other disciplines, communities, and interests within and outside of the academy. Supporting the university's research mission, the dean will advance the faculty's scholarly activities, including opportunities afforded by interdisciplinary approaches. The dean will serve as the school's public voice, articulating its contributions to local, state, regional, national, and international communities, and pursuing an ambitious development program to build the school's resources.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

Craft an ambitious, shared, and cohesive vision and identity to guide the school forward

While UCLA Arts comprises a broad and diverse constellation of academic disciplines, creative practices, and public units that aren't typically co-located in one school, there is a shared belief that the arts are an essential part of a public university, and the practice and presence of the arts are a cornerstone of the creativity, innovative thinking, and collaborative approaches that the 21st century demands. As shifts in the broader sociopolitical and financial landscapes continue to disrupt both higher education and cultural institutions, the dean will have the distinct opportunity to collaboratively craft a cohesive sense of identity that embraces the full array of perspectives that are present within the school, as well as an ambitious vision that charts a path forward through the current period of disruption. This moment calls for visionary leadership, grounded in the realities of today but with a focus on the future. This individual will be an expert in their own area but will also bring a curiosity and appreciation for the full breadth of disciplines and practices represented in the school, as well as an ability to inspire the full UCLA Arts community.

Further develop strategic collaborative efforts between the school and the public units

In addition to its top-ranked academic programs, UCLA Arts also houses three public facing units: the Fowler Museum, the Hammer Museum, and the Center for the Art of Performance. Collectively, these units represent a resource of significant value for the university and the broader creative and scholarly fields, and are a public face of UCLA Arts. Each of these units has a strong and distinct sense of identity. Owing in part to their geographical distribution across campus and varied organizational structures, collaborations between the public units and the rest of the school have tended to be more opportunistic than strategic. An enterprising dean will pursue strategic collaborative efforts between the public units and the school that encourage scholarship and creative practice; increase the school's visibility, reach, and reputation; and create new access and opportunities for faculty, students, staff, and the broader LA community. In doing so, the dean should both strengthen the position of the school as a whole, while respecting the identities of the individual units.

Serve as an effective advocate, develop new resources, and creatively steward existing resources

The school requires resources beyond those provided by the state and tuition to realize its ambitions. Located in the heart of Los Angeles, UCLA Arts operates in a dynamic and resource-rich environment, with access to the city's thriving industries, philanthropic opportunities, and a growing alumni network. The dean must navigate this environment creatively and effectively, leading direct fundraising efforts with alumni and industry leaders and developing entrepreneurial programs and partnerships that have the potential to generate new revenue streams. Within the university, the dean will advocate to senior leadership for ongoing support and resources. The dean will communicate the vision for UCLA Arts widely to inspire support and will be a careful steward of resources, ensuring a healthy and sustainable future for the school.

Recruit, develop, and inspire a dynamic and world-class faculty and staff

UCLA Arts faculty and staff are among the most distinguished in their fields and indispensable to the school's mission. The faculty standards are clearly defined: scholarly prominence, artistic accomplishment, teaching excellence, and valued service. The school has successfully recruited many new faculty members over the past five years, and the dean will oversee continued recruitment, retention, and development efforts. Equally important, the dean will oversee the recruitment, retention, and professional development of staff, who are instrumental in supporting the school and its goals. This individual will display exceptional interpersonal and management skills and will be an accessible, visible, and engaged leader for the UCLA Arts community. The dean will be committed to ensuring a healthy workplace environment and will foster a culture of shared governance, transparency, team building, and collaboration in which the world-class faculty and staff are eager to teach, research, create, and work.

Strengthen and expand inclusive excellence initiatives across the school

The dean plays a key role in promoting the school's commitment to inclusive excellence for all of its members and in its engagement with external constituencies. The dean will allocate resources, support initiatives, and further programs that create opportunities for growth and success for people of all social and economic backgrounds. In addition to advancing the school's goal of expanding access to arts education, the dean will also promote the school's ongoing efforts to recruit and retain a world-class faculty and staff who bring different perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds, and who can teach and support a global student population. It will be an ongoing process to proactively advance a healthy climate for all members of the UCLA Arts community, and the dean will encourage active dialogue and engagement around ways the school can further become a welcoming community for all.

Build and strengthen connections to the other schools and units across UCLA

As an integral component of a top-tier public research institution, UCLA Arts has already established a reputation for being at the leading edge of research and creative activities. One of the school's greatest assets is its position within UCLA, with access to the full range of academic, artistic, and programmatic resources the university offers. These assets span the full range of the arts—including the [School of Theater, Film, and Television](#), the [Herb Alpert School of Music](#), and the Chancellor's Council on the Arts—and beyond. The dean will serve as the face of UCLA Arts and will be a vocal champion, ambassador, and bridge builder for the school across the full UCLA community, encouraging transdisciplinary partnerships and cross-unit collaborations that yield new opportunities for scholarship, creative activity, teaching, and service. More broadly, the dean will strengthen the position of the arts and architecture on their own merits and will also ensure they are fully woven into the fabric of the university.

Cultivate and deepen the school's connections within Los Angeles

A core pillar of UCLA's campus-wide strategic plan is to strengthen the university's engagement with the city of Los Angeles. UCLA Arts is uniquely positioned to leverage the university's world-class resources to create meaningful impact beyond campus.

As one of the most diverse and dynamic cultural centers in the world, Los Angeles offers unparalleled opportunities for partnership, innovation, and civic engagement. UCLA Arts contributes to this vitality by collaborating with the city's thriving arts communities and supporting its creative economy. These deep ties to Los Angeles are a defining strength that sets UCLA Arts apart from peer institutions.

The incoming dean will have a tremendous opportunity to further integrate the school's work into the fabric of Los Angeles and beyond, addressing some of society's most pressing challenges through the arts. This leader will strengthen existing relationships and build new partnerships with industry leaders, cultural organizations, and other key stakeholders across the region. They will foster collaborations among UCLA Arts' public units and the broader arts community to expand the school's visibility, reach, and impact.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The search committee enthusiastically welcomes applicants from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Ideal candidates will be nationally and/or internationally recognized for scholarly and/or professional achievement, with demonstrated leadership and administrative experience in a creative environment and in academia, and a strong commitment to arts and architecture education, scholarship, and practice. Minimum requirements include a record of distinguished intellectual leadership and scholarly accomplishment and/or practice in a discipline represented in the school; relevant organizational leadership and administrative responsibility; an established record of advancing inclusive excellence; and credentials that merit appointment at the rank of full professor. In addition, the successful candidate will possess many, if not all, of the following characteristics and experiences:

- A firm understanding of higher education and the dynamic arts and architecture landscape;
- A record of developing professional relationships and partnerships across a variety of disciplines;
- Experience overseeing public-facing units such as museums and performing arts programs;
- The ability to deepen an institution's engagement with its surrounding communities;
- Experience managing large budgets in a complex organization;
- Demonstrated success in external relations and fundraising, particularly with alumni;
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills;
- Strong interpersonal skills, including collegiality and collaboration;
- High standards of professional integrity and a strong sense of professional ethics;
- A strong commitment to academic and artistic norms, including shared governance.

LOCATION

Los Angeles is the epicenter for the global entertainment industry and one of the major economic centers of the State of California, which boasts one of the largest economies in the world. Los Angeles County has the largest population of any county in the United States and is one of the most populous metropolitan areas in the world. Its nearly 10 million residents represent more than 140 cultures and speak an estimated 224 languages. Located five miles from Santa Monica beach, UCLA enjoys an average of 292 sunny days each year. Home to one of the largest city parks in the country, countless hiking trails, and

some of the nation's most renowned museums, Los Angeles is internationally recognized as one of the most livable cities in the world. Learn more at www.discoverlosangeles.com.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Confidential review of applications, nominations, and expressions of interest will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made. Submit applications, inquiries, and nominations through the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/ucla-school-arts-architecture/dean>. To be ensured full consideration, please submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae by January 9, 2026. Electronic submission of materials is required.

The anticipated salary range for this position is \$412,000 – \$505,000 and is commensurate with experience.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity Employer advancing inclusive excellence. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected categories covered by the UC nondiscrimination policy –
<https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/DiscHarassAffirmAction>.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by UCLA. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by UCLA would supersede any conflicting information in this document.