



May 17, 2022

SAIC Full-Time Faculty Letter of Support for AICWU Faculty Organizing

As full-time, tenured and tenure-track faculty at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, we support our non-tenure-track faculty colleagues — lecturers and ranked adjuncts — who are seeking to form a union with Art Institute of Chicago Workers United as part of AFSCME Council 31. The organizing effort represents faculty from every academic and studio department at the School. Our letter, too, includes faculty from all departments.

The School will not run without our non-tenure-track colleagues, as outlined in the [SAIC Faculty union announcement letter](#). These faculty constitute 75% of teaching staff, and are active — often leading — creators of our renowned and innovative curriculum. Part-time faculty provide key curricular coverage and make up the most diverse segment of the SAIC faculty. In addition to teaching at both graduate and undergraduate levels, part-time faculty also serve as program coordinators and elected representatives in faculty governance, and they represent the school in admissions, exhibitions, and connections to Chicago communities. This does not include the hours that part-time faculty put toward unpaid student mentorship and advising, especially during the challenging last two years of pandemic response. Moreover, faculty appointed as Lecturers (who constitute up to 45% of all SAIC faculty in a given year) are not eligible for employer-supported health insurance while also being more likely to work in person during the pandemic. As full-time faculty we acknowledge the challenges to morale that have resulted from this lack of job security and institutional support.

We recognize the significant, invaluable, and substantial contributions our non-tenure track colleagues make to teaching excellence, curricular development, student success, institutional service, and creative practice. They are an important reason why SAIC is internationally known as the leading American art and design school.

We support the right of our faculty colleagues to organize and represent themselves, and make their own decisions about their collective representation. We urge our President and Provost to continue to meet in good faith with part-time faculty. After a challenging two years of pandemic work, we ask our senior administration to foster a community of active listening to restore trust and allow us to work together in shared commitment to the School and our students.

Sincerely,

Abigail Glaum-Lathbury, Associate Professor, Fashion Design
Adam J Greteman, Associate Professor, Art Education
Adam Mack, Associate Professor, Liberal Arts

Adrian Wong, Associate Professor, Sculpture
Alison Ruttan, Associate Professor, Contemporary Practices
Amy Vogel, Associate Professor, Contemporary Practices
Andy Hall, Associate Professor, Contemporary Practices
Anke Loh, Associate Professor, Fashion
Anonymous, Assistant Professor
Anonymous, Assistant Professor
Anna Martine Whitehead, Assistant Professor, Contemporary Practices
Anne Harris, Associate Professor, Painting and Drawing
Anne T. Sullivan, Associate Professor, Historic Preservation
Anne Wilson, Professor Emeritus, Fiber and Material Studies
Annie Bourneuf, Associate Professor, Art History, Theory, and Criticism
Arnold J. Kemp, Professor, Painting and Drawing
Benjamin Larose, Assistant Professor, Fashion Design
Bess Williamson, Professor, Art History, Theory, and Criticism
Brian P. Sikes, Associate Professor, Contemporary Practices
Christina Gomez, Professor and Chair of Liberal Arts
Claire Pentecost, Professor, Photography
Claudia Hart, Professor, Film, Video, New Media, and Animation
Daniel Eisenberg, Professor, Film, Video, New Media, and Animation
Danielle Andress, Assistant Professor, Fiber and Material Studies
Dan Price, Associate Professor, Sculpture
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Dawit L. Petros, Associate Professor, Photography
Dushko Petrovich, Associate Professor, New Arts Journalism
Ellen Grimes, Associate Professor, AIADO
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Jennifer Lee, Assistant Professor, Art History, Theory, and Criticism
Jeremy Biles, Associate Professor, Department of Liberal Arts
jina valentine, Associate Professor, Printmedia
Jonas nt Becker, Assistant Professor, Photography
Jonathan Solomon, Associate Professor
Joseph Grigely, Professor, Visual and Critical Studies
Judd Morrissey, Associate Professor, Art & Technology Studies
Karen Morris, Associate Professor, Visual and Critical Studies
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Kirin Wachter-Grene, Assistant Professor, Liberal Arts
Kirsten Leenaars, Professor, interim co-director, Contemporary Practices
Kristin McWharter, Assistant Professor, Art & Technology Studies

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Leah Gipson, Associate Professor, Art Therapy and Counseling
Lin Hixson, Professor, Performance
Lisa Vinebaum, Associate Professor and Chair of Fiber and Material Studies, faculty co-chair of Curriculum Committee
Lou Mallozzi, Associate Professor, Sound
Maura Frana, Assistant Professor, Visual Communication Design
Maria Gaspar, Associate Professor, Contemporary Practices
Marie Hermann, Assistant Professor, Ceramics
Mark Booth, Associate Professor, Writing; Chair, Sound
mark jeffery, Professor, Performance
Mary Patten, Professor, Film, Video, New Media, and Animation
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Mika Tosca, Associate Professor, Liberal Arts
Nicholas Lowe, Professor, Historic Preservation
Nick Cave, Professor, Fashion
Nicole Marroquin, Associate Professor, Chair of Art Education, Senator
Oliver Shao, Assistant Professor, Liberal Arts
Oli Watt, Associate Professor, Printmedia
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Pablo Garcia, Associate Professor, Contemporary Practices
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