New Spaces for Artistic Endeavors

Today at Middlebury College, student energy and enthusiasm for creative work exceed our supply of art studios, practice rooms, and dance floors. We work hard to find and create spaces for students to rehearse, perform, and display their art, but the high demand for appropriate space is at a critical level. There are a number of ways that donors can help alleviate the shortage of space. Funding for lighting and equipment upgrades can increase the number of usable theatre and dance performance spaces as well as improve museum exhibition and curation. Donor opportunities exist for endowing, enhancing, and naming such existing art spaces as our concert hall, dance theatre, music library, museum galleries, dance studio, music classrooms, theatre scene shop, costume shop, and practice rooms. A recent gift to purchase the Old Mill, adjacent to Frog Hollow, has created new opportunities for creative space. Funds are needed to renovate the mill to make it appropriate for student use. Support for arts facilities means support for making art.

Selected Arts Funding Opportunities

Ensuring Access and Opportunity
Providing financial support to students studying the arts at Middlebury

- Scholarship provides full grant support to a student for one year (annual) $40,000
- Endowed scholarship provides full grant support to a student each year (ongoing) $800,000
- Named, endowed scholarship provides a portion of annual grant support (ongoing) $100,000
- Internship in the arts (annual) $5,000

Fostering Teaching and Mentoring
Ensuring small classes, excellent advising, and meaningful mentoring for Middlebury students

- Endowed professorship in the arts (ongoing) $2,500,000
- Supports salary and benefits, research and teaching stipends
- Visiting artist fund (annual) $10,000–$50,000
- Brings artists to campus to work side by side with students. Cost depends on length of visit

Enhancing Programs and Infrastructure
Creating an environment that encourages students to experiment and take intellectual risks

- Museum Exhibition and Publications Fund $100,000
- Performing Arts Series Fund $150,000

The Arts: Making Local and Global Connections

The arts at Middlebury create powerful intersections between the liberal arts and the wider world. For some students, the arts open doors to lifelong appreciation, as well as insights into a complex world. For others, they serve as a stepping stone to professional pursuits and a chance to make an important creative imprint on that world.

The arts infuse the very fabric of the college community with an intense spirit of creativity and innovation.

Under the tutelage of an accomplished and engaged faculty, students can pursue academic programs in music, theatre, dance, history of art, studio art, music studies, architectural studies, and film and media culture. The academic programs are supplemented by film series, guest lecturers, performers, and artists.

The arts infuse the very fabric of the college community with a spirit of creativity and innovation. Some two dozen theatre productions each year, designed and directed by students, faculty, alumni, and visiting artists, draw their casts from across the College’s disciplines. Students form their own musical and dance groups and acting troupes. They make art and display it. They perform improvisational comedy, write and produce their own plays, and compose and perform their own music.

Facilities for the Arts
Middlebury’s Mahaney Center for the Arts has served as the hub for artistic experiences since 1992. Its concert hall, dance and studio theatres, and art museum showcase student and faculty productions and host locally, nationally, and internationally recognized artists.

Wright Memorial Theatre is a 350-seat prosce- nium theatre with a full fly system, lighting grid, and removable forestage. Hepburn Zoo has been created new opportunities for creative space. Funds are needed to renovate the mill to make it appropriate for student use.

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visits and courses built around exhibitions encourage direct engagement with art of diverse cultures. Through its Museum Assistants’ Program the museum trains future arts educators and reaches out to schools in the community. Its lecture programs tie the exhibitions to the broader intellectual life of the College and the region.

**Expanding Opportunities**

Gifts to arts enrichment funds can enhance and expand such life-changing opportunities for students. They can underwrite the cost of expensive theatre and musical productions, such as Cabaret, that the College would otherwise not be able to mount. Gifts make it possible for students and faculty to experiment with new musical forms and to showcase student and faculty compositions. They cover the costs of sets, costumes, musical instruments, and studio supplies. Gifts also offset the cost of technical assistance, such as a technician to assist film and media culture students with complex equipment and editing software.

As vibrant as the Middlebury arts community is, students in Vermont need opportunities to travel to museums, concert halls, theatres, and urban centers. Such trips are expensive, and gifts enable students to take advantage of them. Thesis assistance funds enable students to do original research around the world.

**While studying at the Middlebury School in Spain, students get a very personal look at Picasso’s Guernica in Reina Sofia National Museum in Madrid.**

Students find internships in major cities and art centers around the country and abroad, benefiting from a faculty and alumni network of world-class artists. Whether it is through a museum internship in China, an opportunity to participate in an archaeological dig in Greece, or a chance to work with film industry leaders in Los Angeles, Middlebury students experience the world of art firsthand.

**Bringing the World to Middlebury**

Middlebury College combines highly regarded programs and talented students with a spectacular rural Vermont setting that is attractive to visiting artists. Travel costs have increased dramatically, however, as have booking fees, and gifts are needed to enable the performance and film series to maintain their current high level. Gifts can also support residencies by guest artists, who work side by side with students. By helping us to bring leading musical groups, theatre and dance troupes, writers, architects, painters, sculptors, and filmmakers to campus for lectures, performances, and residencies, gifts for arts enrichment bring the wider world to our students’ classrooms, studios, and stages.

Costs of art exhibitions continue to soar, but it is vital that they too be brought to Middlebury to stimulate fresh insights and to keep students current with the art scene beyond the Green Mountains. To be fully effective, major exhibitions—whether in photography, painting, decorative arts, or sculpture—need to have academic programs and public programming built around them. The recent Royal Tombs of Ur exhibit was a great success, and the museum struggled to cover the higher costs incurred by larger crowds and additional events.

Gifts can enhance the acquisitions of the Middlebury College Museum of Art or the program for art in public places, expanding the visual resources of the campus. Gifts for up-to-date technology can enhance the music library resources for analysis and composition, the slide library’s capacity to digitize its material, or the production and editing facilities for film and media studies.

I don’t know if I’d be a playwright without Professor Doug Spiegel; I came to Middlebury with a strong sense that I wanted to be a writer of some kind, but I’d had very little experience acting. I was taking a freshman seminar with Doug, a class that required both writing and acting, when I began to fall in love with acting and the theatre in general and to think about writing plays for the first time.

**Dan O’Brien ’96 Award-winning playwright**

**Supporting Innovation and Creativity**

Middlebury’s faculty and students also require financial level can work with internationally renowned artists in the United States or abroad. Internships in the arts are expensive; however, students benefit immeasurably from the chance to learn more about what a career in the arts entails.

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**Life in the Arts after Middlebury**

**Devin Arrington ’01**
Composer, violinist
First Music 2014 Chamber Music Winner

**Adam Battelstein ’85**
Dance and choreographer
Pikahoku and Mimos dance companies

**Anna Bierknap ’94**
Actress, The Handler; Medical Investigation, Law and Order

**William Burden ’86**
Tenor, performing leading roles in opera houses throughout Europe and North America

**David Collard ’94**
Writer, Family Guy, Fox TV; Assassins, Out of Time

**Eve Ensler ’75**
Playwright, The Vagina Monologues, The Good Body

**Robert Gober ’76**
Internationally renowned artist and sculptor, U.S. representative to the 49th Venice Biennale

**Timothy Ruff ’74**
Director and CEO, Cleveland Museum of Art

**Sean Ryan ’88**
Television executive producer, The Shield, The Unit

**John Tinker ’81**
Producer and writer, Chicago Hope, L.A. Law

**Michael Tokrin ’74**
Screenwriter, novelist, director—Changing Lanes, The Player, Deep Impact

**Damian Washington ’03**
Actor, associate producer, The West Side winner; 2008 Webby Award for best Internet drama

**Jaye Weber ’86**
Actor, star of the NBC series The Middle