

INVESTITURE OF THE 12TH PRESIDENT

DR. CARLOS E. SANTIAGO
COMMISSIONER, MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Good afternoon. I'm honored to be here for President Nelson's Inauguration. I'm pleased to say that he was the first president appointed during my tenure as Commissioner. That's just one of the firsts I associate with MassArt. It was the first art college in the United States to grant an artistic degree. MassArt is a jewel in our state's crown of universities and colleges - one of twenty-nine publicly funded institutions.

That matters to me, and I know it matters to President Nelson. And I hope it matters to you. It's part of what makes this institution so special - having a strong public identity, and public mission. MassArt thrives here, on the Avenue of the Arts because being the nation's only public art school enables it to open its doors to everyone. Not just the sons and daughters of the privileged few. And its public programs for youth in the city, some of which my office has been delighted to fund, bring access and opportunity to students who might not otherwise have a chance to develop their artistry.

For some, the word "public" means "common." But when I look at this campus, and the excitement generated by new leadership, I see an institution as unique as the art that its students create. Open, engaging, and committed to serving our common good and our Commonwealth.

We need art to engage us, to disturb us, to make us think and feel, and sometimes we need art to help make the world go away. Which is to say, I believe MassArt's public role has never mattered more. Please join me in thanking David Nelson and the MassArt community, and welcome him success as the new era opens.

I will now administer the Inaugural Oath.

Please repeat after me:

Commissioner Santiago: I, state your name

President David Nelson: I, David Nelson

Commissioner Santiago: Do solemnly swear

President David Nelson: Do solemnly swear

Commissioner Santiago: That I will bear true faith and allegiance

President David Nelson: That I will bear true faith and allegiance

Commissioner Santiago: To the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

President David Nelson: To the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Commissioner Santiago: And will support the Constitution thereof

President David Nelson: And will support the Constitution thereof

Commissioner Santiago: So help me, God

President David Nelson: So help me, God

Commissioner Santiago: I, state your name

President David Nelson: I, David Nelson

Commissioner Santiago: Do solemnly swear and affirm

President David Nelson: Do solemnly swear and affirm

Commissioner Santiago: That I will faithfully and impartially

President David Nelson: That I will faithfully and impartially

Commissioner Santiago: Discharge and perform all the duties

President David Nelson: Discharge and perform all the duties

Commissioner Santiago: Incumbent upon me

President David Nelson: Incumbent upon me

Commissioner Santiago: As President of Massachusetts College of Art and Design

President David Nelson: As President of Massachusetts College of Art and Design

Commissioner Santiago: According to the best of my abilities

President David Nelson: According to the best of my abilities

Commissioner Santiago: And understanding

President David Nelson: And understanding

Commissioner Santiago: According the the rules and regulations

President David Nelson: According the the rules and regulations

Commissioner Santiago: Of the Constitution

President David Nelson: Of the Constitution

Commissioner Santiago: And the laws of this Commonwealth

President David Nelson: And the laws of this Commonwealth

Commissioner Santiago: So help me, God

President David Nelson: So help me, God

Commissioner Santiago: I

President David Nelson: I, David Nelson

Commissioner Santiago: Do solemnly swear

President David Nelson: Do solemnly swear

Commissioner Santiago: That I will support the Constitution of the United States

President David Nelson: That I will support the Constitution of the United States

Commissioner Santiago: Congratulations