

YEAR-END NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

June 30, 2022

Dear MassArt Community,

With beautiful summer weather and the July 4th weekend ahead, as we all enjoy much-needed rest and relaxation, I want to share a few thoughts on the year we just finished together.

When I became MassArt's President last July, I looked forward to working with all of you to make MassArt a stronger institution, a more welcoming community, and a more vibrant place as we all returned to campus. I knew that MassArt, as part of the creative sector, would continue to provide inspirational leadership, heart, and humanity as we moved forward and through the pandemic.

To our Students: You are at the center of all we do as leadership, faculty, and staff. We do not make any decision without considering its impact on you. Whether you talked with me in your studio about your work, met with me at an SGA meeting to discuss important issues, or just smiled and waved passing in the hallways, thank you for helping to introduce me to MassArt and showing just how brilliant, welcoming, and inspiring a group of artists you are. If you graduated this year, please keep in touch, and for the rest of you coming back in the fall, I'm eager to welcome you back and hear about your summers.

To our Faculty and Staff: It has been a joy to get to know you, to learn about what makes MassArt a place of such creativity and inspiration, expertise and innovation. Your tremendous dedication to our students has been evident to me throughout this academic year. I'm grateful to all of you for sharing your perspectives and insights into the curriculum, the community, and everything we at MassArt do to inspire, educate and support our students throughout their time with us.

In thinking about our community, I have a brief follow-up to my message this week about the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. A few of our community members responded to that message with an important reminder about gender inclusiveness - pointing out that the issue is not one exclusively of women's reproductive rights, rather it is about human rights. As a gender-diverse campus that embraces all members of the LGBTQIA+ community, we must always be paying attention to and be intentional in upholding these values and these rights. I am so very grateful to those who reached out to help us improve our communications in the future.

I have reflected many times on our wonderfully diverse community, and all the incredible people who share a commitment to the MassArt mission and our students, standing with the leadership, faculty and staff of this remarkable institution: the members of our Board of Trustees, the MassArt Foundation, and the Alumni Leadership Council, who have all stayed the course in guiding and supporting our work, advocating for and demonstrating their belief in the importance of the art and design education we provide at MassArt.

Even as we reflect on the past year, we have so much to look forward to!

Across the campus this summer, there is great energy with students attending graduate programs in architecture, art education, and fine arts/low residency, the new cohort of Artward Bound high school students, and youth programs for grades 7 through 12. The [MassArt Art Museum \(MAAM\)](#) is offering free summer programming for

families, and the [MassArt x SoWa](#) gallery will feature exhibitions of alumni work throughout the summer. We will also host "Women2Women," a 10-day leadership program with 100 student attendees ages 15-19 from around the world, in just a few weeks. Student Development is already looking ahead to orientation and across the campus our hard working facilities team is already preparing spaces and places for the next academic year. This is only a bit of what is happening!

In July, we will welcome [Dr. Brenda Molife](#) as our new Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and she will have remarkable colleagues to work with: James Mason as Associate Provost and Dean of Faculty, and Lucinda Bliss as Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate, Professional and Continuing Education, along with all the experienced, talented, and dedicated members of the Academic Affairs team. I know that Brenda is as eager as I was to get to know and work with all of you!

The MassArt 150th Anniversary year-long celebration will kick off in January 2023, and you will hear more about that when we all return to campus and planning continues.

There is so much to energize and inspire us. Our shared purpose and humanity help to keep us grounded, and inspires us to continue working passionately to make a difference in our communities and our world. I am grateful to be a part of MassArt and to know that no matter what the challenges, this community of artists, designers and educators will always navigate those challenges and work toward a more just and humane world together.

Thank you for all that we have accomplished together, for all that you do every day, and the difference you make in each other's lives and beyond.

Have a restful, happy, and healthy summer!

My Best,



Mary K. Grant, PhD
President
Massachusetts College of Art and Design

MassArt is a public, independent institution that prepares artists, designers, and educators from diverse backgrounds to shape communities, economies, and cultures for the common good.