

## THE PRESIDENCY AT MASSART

**DR. LYSSA PALU-AY '01**  
**INTERIM PROVOST**

In the past few months, David Nelson has presented to our community a model of leadership that he believes reflects the identity, work, and values of the MassArt community. I feel this model has given me a healthy perspective from which to approach our work in all areas of Academic Affairs and simultaneously reach across to other areas of the college to center the public mission of the college in collaborate ways.

This model is rooted in sense-making, consensus building, and shared governance. It is rooted in the various relationships that make up our learning and living community, and honors the various responsibilities held by not only our president, but our Board of Trustees, our faculty, staff, students, and alumni. These relationships guide and mark the path of this endeavor we call MassArt.

While we have a president who “presides” over the institution, we have faculty who preside over classrooms, other administrators who preside over their units, students, staff, and alumni who preside over their various responsibilities. The “presidency,” as our president puts it, involves the shared stewardship of school in service to its mission and its people. It locates explicitly the community our MassArt community-all of us-as integral members of the “presidency”.

This is why our program today is called “The Inauguration of the 12th Presidency and the Investiture of the 12th President of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.” We’re not just here today to celebrate that David has joined us, but to celebrate what we together may accomplish while he is here with us. Today we signify the inauguration - the ushering in - of a time of new leadership and new possibilities.

Later in this ceremony our president will be sworn in and he will deliver an address to us. Before that, though, you will see symbols and hear words that display what we believe about our school from various members of our community.

One of those symbols is the MassArt mace, carried in our procession today by Bob Gerst, Professor of Liberal Arts, who has taught at MassArt since 1977. I invite him and David to join me at the podium.