

INTEGRATED ARTS PROGRAM, RECORDS OF THE, 1986-1999

Series 11/3/42/1

Box 1

History

First introduced in the fall of 1988, Northwestern University's Integrated Arts Program was a multidisciplinary certificate program offered through the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (WCAS). The program gave students the opportunity to explore the creative process from the perspective of the artist, across disciplinary lines in the fields of theatre, visual arts, music, dance, and media arts. Faculty members participating in the program included artists and scholars from WCAS, the School of Music, and the School of Communication.

The idea for the Integrated Arts Program originated in the spring of 1986, when President Arnold Weber appointed an ad hoc committee to begin developing a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum integrating the fine and performing arts. Carol Simpson Stern, Chairperson of the Department of Performance Studies in the School of Communication, chaired the committee. Stern was able to secure a \$75,000 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation to help establish the Integrated Arts Program. A grant of \$450,000 from the Ford Foundation was given to the Program from February of 1987 to August of 1991, and President Weber also committed \$250,000 in University funds.

The Integrated Arts Program offered between nine and twelve courses to be completed over one year. The introductory class, A90, was taught by six faculty members and acquainted students with common concerns in the arts, utilizing the analytic paradigm of artist/media/art work/audience to understand the creative process. Two B-level courses were selected from B91 *Modes of Theatre*, *Modes of Art*, or *Modes of Music*, and two C-level courses were selected from a wide range of classes incorporating the three foundational arts: Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts.

During October 6-8, 1995, aided by a \$50,000 grant from the Ford Foundation, the Integrated Arts Program held a successful national symposium at Northwestern. The three-day symposium explored the issues involved in the design and implementation of undergraduate interdisciplinary art education, discussed strategies for curricular reform in the arts, and examined the problematic role of the artist/scholar in academia.

The Integrated Arts Program was successful in allowing non-art majors to seek a unified course of study across the arts, while art majors were able to gain further cross-disciplinary experience. The Program ceased to be offered as of the 2004 academic year.

Description of the Series

The records of the Integrated Arts Program fill one box and span the years 1986 to 1999, with the bulk of the papers dating between 1986 and 1991. The records document the planning, funding, and organization of the Program, as well as its activities, and course offerings.

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The Program background and introductory bulletins files are arranged chronologically and span the dates 1986 to 1998. They contain several summaries of the Program including background, curriculum, proposed course syllabus guides, and participating faculty. Of interest in the Program background file is a brief biography of the professors teaching courses in the Program from the years 1987 to 1988.

Perhaps the most useful and comprehensive item in the series is a Program Notebook containing background, foundation, and implementation documents. The notebook, originally housed in a binder, is divided into two sections—Notebook One and Notebook Two—with each having two parts. Materials in the notebooks are arranged in reverse chronological order and date between 1986. Notebook One, part I contains correspondence with the Ford Foundation concerning their approval of a \$450,000 grant for the Integrated Arts Program. Of significance are the financial and budget reports for the years 1989 to 2002. Part II contains correspondence with the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation concerning their \$75,000 grant and several letters from WCAS, Undergraduate Affairs, Academic Affairs, and General Studies offering suggestions about the Program's curriculum. Of importance is a 28-page overview of the Integrated Arts Program dated 1988.

Notebook Two, part I contains the meeting minutes of the Integrated Arts curriculum committee, including a list of its members. Part II contains letters to Carol Simpson Stern from different art departments concerning the procedures for approving new courses for the Program. Of special interest are a mission statement of the Integrated Arts Program drafted in April of 1987 and a profile of Northwestern dated April of 1986.

The correspondence file consists of Carol Simpson Stern's letters concerning recruitment and announcements of the Program. Press releases and clippings include newspaper articles and an announcement of the Ford Foundation Grant.

Flyers and announcements, mostly dating 1998, include informational postings about the Integrated Arts Program.

The course descriptions file consists of syllabi and course descriptions of classes offered between 1987 and 1998. Of significance is the file A90 containing a complete syllabus, including required readings, for the introductory class, and the file C90 containing the complete syllabus for the performance seminar and includes student's assignments.

Two undated exit surveys give an idea of student reaction to the Program. Student papers include four dated 1999, one of the final years of the Program.

Provenance: The Records of the Integrated Arts Program were transferred to the University Archives by Alan Shefsky on April 8, 2004, as Accession Number 04-53.

Restrictions: None.

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Separations: A small amount of duplicate material was discarded.

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Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Program Background	1986-1990
	2	Introductory Bulletins	1990-1998
	3	Notebook One (I)	ca. 2002-1986
	4	Notebook One (II)	ca. 1991-1986
	5	Notebook Two (I)	ca. 1987
	6	Notebook Two (II)	ca. 1987-1986
	7	Correspondence	1989
	8	Press Releases	1987-1994
	9	Flyers and Announcements	1988-1998
	10	Course Descriptions	1987-1998
	11	Introductory Class A90	1989-1990
	12	Seminar Class C90	1992
	13	Exit Surveys	n.d
	14	Symposium	1987-1997
	15	Student Papers	1999