University of Oklahoma
Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts

2018-2019 Diversity Report

After analyzing data from the College of Fine Arts and meeting with our dean and all five directors from our schools (School of Dance, School of Drama, School of Music, School of Musical Theatre and School of Visual Arts) we realized that, although we do have a diverse student body and we do host events supporting and celebrating diversity, we still have a long way to go.

Looking at enrollment numbers for the past three years we realized that our enrollment for black/African American, international, hispanic, and students that identify with two or more races has gone up (Fig. 1). On the other hand our enrollment of American Indian/Alaska Natives and Asian has seen a decline. As a College we are proud of the progress made in some areas, but wish to continue this increase in enrollment by minority students by continuing to focus our recruitment efforts in Metro centers and other areas with populations in the declining demographics. We are also looking into having a bigger presence at on campus events such as TREE conference, Latinos Without Borders, International Student Orientation. We realize that in some cases the challenge we face with minority students is that some might be members of the first generation in their family to go to college. Because of this a career in the arts might not seem like a viable one, or might have not even been considered as a possibility at all.

One of our more challenging areas is the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and staff. After a quick assessment of the staff and faculty in the college it was clear that it is lacking in diversity. One of the major challenges we face is the perception of Oklahoma as not being a welcoming and diverse venue for the arts. We simply do not get diverse applicants when we have job openings. One possibility we looked at is creating a fund to help in targeting more diverse faculty and staff hires. As our student body continues to become more diverse so should our faculty and staff. Our students have been very vocal about wanting someone they can identify with.

One area in which we can be very proud of is the diversity of gender, gender identity and sexual identity within our college. The LGBTQ+ community is very important and present in our student body, faculty and staff, and contributes to a diverse and inclusive environment that we aim for.

One of the areas in which we are thriving is student organizations. The college of fine arts is very lucky to have a caring a diverse group of students that help promote diversity. Some of these organizations are: Fine Arts Diversity Council, School of Music: Student Diversity Council, LatinArte, and Student Theatre Initiative.
Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts Diversity and Inclusion Framework

Goals:
- Continue to recruit and foster a diverse student body
- Increase recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and staff
- Promote diversity through our programming and events

Strategies:
- Increase presence in recruitment and orientation events on campus
- Target metro areas for recruitment purposes
- Continue to implement inclusion and diversity in our curriculums
- Continue to implement inclusion and diversity in our performances and exhibitions

Action Plans:
- Look into the possibility of targeting for future faculty and staff hires
- Explore the possibility of securing a fund for minority hires
- Pull of funding and scholarships for student minorities (undergrad and graduate)
- Looking at bringing guest workshop “Undoing Racism”, by the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond.

Activities:

School of Dance:
- August 2018 - commissioned African-American choreographer Amy Hall Garner to create a new dance work to honor the 40th anniversary of Maya Angelou’s book “And Still I Rise”. The ballet (or excerpts from it) will have been performed about 10 times by the end of the current academic year and is now part of the School of Dance repertoire. (Fig. 2)
- September 2018 - held a Panel discussion free to the public about Maya Angelou and her impact on American culture and society. This panel was comprised of all African-American Women.
- October 2018 - hosted dancers and faculty from Beijing Normal University and presented a collaborative performance for the community.
- October 2018 - brought in Dance Theatre of Harlem Artistic Director, Virginia Johnson as our Brackett Distinguished Visiting Artist.
- October 2018 - brought in artists from the LGBTQ community when we presented New York based dance company “10 Hairy Legs”

School of Drama:
- Funding for Guest Artists through OU 2000 Diversity Fund, established in the 1990s to promote artistic achievement by students of color.
- Marjory Turpen-Shahan Endowed Drama Scholarship for minority students
- October 2017 - staged reading of Seven, a documentary play written by seven women playwrights based on interviews with seven women around the world who have fought for the rights and well-being of women and girls.
- December 2017 - produced Baltimore by Kristen Greenidge, a timely drama about racism on college campuses.
• February 2018 - Mosaic Theatre Residency: Israeli/Palestinian issues week-long residency that included 2 stage productions and one film, audience talk-backs with actors and director, plus classroom visits by artists. (Fig. 3)
• March 2018 - guest artist Kym Moore (Associate Professor, Brown University) brought in for a three day residency workshop: “Acting Outside the Box” Respecting Diversity through Acting Process.
• March-April 2018 - six week residency, guest artist Anita Gonzales (Professor of Theatre, University of Michigan) to direct We are Proud to Present (…) (Fig. 4)
• April 2018 - Produced We are Proud to Present (…) by Jackie Sibblies Drury, in which a group of actors gather to tell the largely forgotten Herero and Namaqua genocide which took place in Namibia between 1904 and 1907.
• September 2018 - produced Hooded, Or Being Black for Dummies by Tearrance Arvelle Chisholm, a timely, irreverent examination of growing up black in America. (Fig. 5)
• August 2018 - faculty and students designed sets, costumes, projections and lighting, and stage managed “And Still I Rise” as part of Oklahoma Festival Ballet 2018. (Fig. 2)
• October 2018 - produced Day of the Dead: A One-Act Real Life and Death Play by Dr. Robert Con Davis-Undiano, which explored the Da of the Dead’s cultural and religious origins.
• Spring 2019 - special studies on Latinx playwrights, taught by Dr. Judith M. Pender.
• 2019-2020 season - will be producing Blood Wedding by Federico García Lorca, folk tragedy in three acts in which Lorca explores subjects which fascinated him: desire, repression, ritual, and the constraints and commitments of the rural Spanish community in which the play is rooted. A Latinx guest artist will be invited to direct the show.

School of Music:
• The Masala World Series and the Ruggles Native American Music Series at the University of Oklahoma are dedicated to enriching the university community by bringing diverse cultural expressions to our campus. The Masala Series presents concerts and workshops featuring a cross section of music and dance from all around the globe, while the Ruggles Native American Music Series focuses on Native American music and dance of the First Peoples of North America. Nearly every Masala or Ruggles concert event includes a workshop that offers our OU students insightful hands-on experiences in embracing a wide array of cultural expression.
• Fall 2017 - Oklahoma Fancy Dancers: a presentation of Nothern and Southern Plains Powwow Music and Dance.
• Fall 2017 - Lone Pinon: New Mexican String Band, who play a mixture of New Mexico and borderland genres and sing in English, Spanish and Nahuatl languages.
• Fall 2017 - Mediterranean Ensemble: Armenian guitarist Iakovos Kolonian joined with OU professor Larry Hammett and Zoe Sherinian in a concert of folk and classical pieces from Spain and the Balkans.

• Spring 2018 - A Day In Santa Fe: the 1931 silent film A Day in Santa Fe was performed with live experimental music by violinist Laura Ortman (White Mountain Apache) and Emmy-awarding winning composer Jarod Tate (Chickasaw)

• Spring 2018 - Native American Rock and Blues with Similin’ Vic: performed Rock n’ Roll and Blues songs that were originally written and recorded by Native American artists and discussed their importance to the History of Rock n’ Roll

• Spring 2018 - North Indian Kathak Dance and Classical Music: Sarah Morelli and Friends. Kathak dancer and ethnomusicologist Dr Sarah Morelli brought her ensemble of Hindustani Sitar, tabla, and vocals to present a classical dance and music performance.

• Spring 2018 - Nowruz Persian Music Festival: five musicians consisting of vocalist Ghazaleh Fayli, three stringed instruments and percussion.

• Fall 2018 - Cherokee Music Through the Ages: A performance on Cherokee history, social dances, and the influence of Christian hymns on Cherokee music, featuring performances by the Girty Family Singers and Corey Still.

• Fall 2018 - North Indian Hindustani and Jazz Fusion with Vivek Varani and Phil Scarf: Jazz and Hindustani soprano Saxophonist Phil Scarf (known for his work with the fusion group Natraj) combined with UNT ethnomusicologist Vivek Varani on tabla to present a classical Hindustani concert with a tinge of jazz.

• Fall 2018 - Africa Sanke Drumming and Dance with Aboubacar Camara: Senegalese master drummer and dancer Aboubacar Camara, brought his Oklahoma based ensemble of 11 dancers and drummers to do an extensive workshop with over 100 students and a terrific performance based on an African epic tale.

• January 2019 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert- OU Choirs & Norman Philharmonic.

• Spring 2019 - An Evening of Haudenosaunee Social Dances: Tony Gonzales will teach about the history of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) music and dance and discusses how The Longhouse (their confederacy) was the inspiration behind the relationship of individual states and the United States government.


• African Drummin - After a two-year absence, we are happy to report that we are reinstituting our MUNM 1022 African Drumming course this fall, with the previously mentioned Senegalese master drummer and dancer Aboubacar Camara as instructor.
• Balkan Ensemble - Late last fall, the School of Music instituted a new ensemble dedicated to the performance of world music. This is the first such ensemble of its type in the School of Music, and we are excited about its potential and the possibilities it offers for students to engage in the performance of music from all across the globe.

School of Visual Arts:
• OU SoVA has formed a partnership with the Institute for American Indian Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico to form a “pipeline” to encourage and facilitate the application of undergraduates to our PhD program in Native American Art. This has been funded by a grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation.
• Recent “profiles of success”: our Chilean-American grad student just received a prestigious graduate fellowship from the national College Art Association for Professional Development; a native graduate student in our PhD program received last summer a grant for summer research/travel from the Center for the Advanced Study of the Visual Arts in Washington, D.C.; last year our Japanese-American grad student won a nationally competitive award from the National Council for Education in Ceramic Arts
• Diversity: one-third of SoVA full-time, permanent faculty are women; one faculty member is native; one faculty member is Croatian-American; the Director is a woman (one of five directors in the college)
• Diversity in our Graduate Student population: 4 Native Americans, 1 South African, 1 Japanese-American, 1 Chilean-American
• Recent Alumni who have initiated successful careers in Visual Communication:
  • Morgan Sneed (African American), Graphic Designer — Revision Skincare, Dallas-Ft. Worth
  • Cosby Clark (African American), Art Director - LegalShield, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Area
  • Michael Al-Jarbari (African American), owns his own design firm (previously at Bartok, NYC), Denver
  • Michael Wilson (African American), Designer Ogilvy and Mathers, Chicago
• Current exhibition: Jared Thorne (African-American) (Fig. 7)
• Future exhibitions scheduled during this semester: Tammy Nguyen (Vietnamese-American); Gerald Clark (Native American). Mr. Clark has also accepted our invitation to be the Guest Juror who will curate the Annual Student Exhibition this spring
• Past exhibitions: *Fictive Selves of Color*, curated by Jane Hsi (Chinese-American student), *Character Play: Art of Writing in Contemporary China* curated by Dr. Shaogian Zhang, *Capas* curated by Morgan Page (Irish and Mexican American artist), *Head Space* curated by two of our Master of Fine Arts Students, Camilla Linaweaver (Chilean-American) and Sean Mueller. (Fig. 8)
Student Associations:

- November 2017 - Fine Arts Diversity Council hosted “Diversity and the arts” (Fig. 9)
- February 2018 - School of Music: Student Diversity Council hosted KALEIDOSCOPE: an event celebrating Black History and culture - in honor of Black History month. (Fig. 10)
- October 2018 - LatinArte hosted their first art show (Fig. 11)
- November 2018 - Fine Arts Diversity Council hosted #MeToo, a panel discussion on sexual harassment, discrimination and sexism in the entertainment industry. (Fig. 12)
- November 2018 - Student Theatre Initiative hosted Miss STI a drag pageant to raise funds for The Women’s Resource Center of Norman.

Uldarico Sarmiento
Assistant Professor of Design and Digital Media
Helmerich School of Drama
Diversity Officer, Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts
University of Oklahoma
### NORMAN CAMPUS STUDENTS

**Enrollment by College, IPEDS Race/Ethnicity, and Sex**

Students in multiple degree programs are counted in each college.

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Fig. 2
Choreographed by Amy Hall Garner, Set Design by Jon Young, Costume Design by Benjamin Burton, Lighting and Digital Media Design by Olivia DeLuca.
The Mosaic Theater Company of D.C. presents

Voices from a Changing Middle East Festival

Hosted at the University of Oklahoma in conjunction with President David L. Boren

I Shall Not Hate  February 2nd + 3rd at 8 PM in the Weitzenhoffer Theatre

This play tells the story of a Gazan doctor, Izzeldin Abuelaish, and his struggle with loss after tragedy strikes his family. Rather than succumbing to a vengeful outlook, Abuelaish continues to speak out in the pursuit of peace between Israelis and Palestinians, refusing to relinquish his commitment to coexistence.

Friday, Feb. 2nd: Post-show discussion with Palestinian and Jewish students led by Associate Producer, Hannah Grillot.
Saturday, Feb. 3rd: Post-show Peace Cafe led by Mosaic’s Founding Artistic Director, Ari Roth.

Wrestling Jerusalem  February 3rd at 3 PM in Meacham Auditorium

A feature film, based on Aaron Davidman’s acclaimed solo theatrical performance, following one man’s journey into the heart of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Giving voice to seventeen different characters, Davidman paints a portrait of the complex humanity that lives inside this conflict and reveals his own fragility and strength in the midst of trying to make sense of it all.

Post-show discussion led by performer/writer, Aaron Davidman, and Artistic Director, Ari Roth.

Via Dolorosa  February 4th at 3 PM in the Weitzenhoffer Theatre

British playwright David Hare traveled to Israel and Palestine to confront the disparate ideals of those of the “holy land.” Upon his return, Hare penned his conversations with politicians, artists, settlers, and historians about the region and then set them against his own ideals and beliefs similar to those of Western civilization.

Post-show discussion with performers Jonathan Tindle, Gassan Abbas, Aaron Davidman, and Artistic Director, Ari Roth.
Fig. 4
Directed by Anita Gonzales, Set Design by Grayson Merchant, Costume Design by Erin Lavespere, Lighting Design by Joshua Robbins, Digital Media Design by Maria Doutey

The Helmerich School of Drama Gilson Lab Theatre presents

WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT
a presentation about
THE HERERO OF NAMIBIA
formerly known as
SOUTHWEST AFRICA
from the german sudwestafrika
BETWEEN THE YEARS
1884-1915

"Inevitable... Inventive... Impressively navigates the tricky boundaries that separate art and life, the haunted present and the haunting historical past" - The New York Times

Written by Jackie Sibblies Drury
Directed by Anita Gonzales

Old Science Hall, Gilson Lab Theatre
April 17th-21st at 7:30 pm
April 22nd at 3 pm
students $5 adults $10

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution, www.ou.edu/eoo
Tickets can be purchased at the Box Office (405) 325-4001
Fig. 5
Directed by Susan Shaughnessy, Set Design by Kalani Lewis, Costume Design by Ciara Smith, Lighting Design by Lydia Brinkmann.
DAY OF THE DEAD

A One-Act Real Life and Death Play

By Robert González-Undiano

See Norma Lilia Ruiz Cruz in this tour de force role. Day of the Dead is so much more than you thought.

Directed by Diego de la Espriella

Reynolds Performing Arts Center

8 P.M. OCT 25th 2018

Free Admission

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. www.ou.edu/eoo.
For accommodations, please call (405) 325-4001.
As a black artist investigating the culture of his own people, Jared Thorne seeks to challenge hegemonic as well as self-imposed constructs of Black identity in America and beyond. Thorne’s work centers on issues of race, social class and gender. He engages questions of authenticity, representation, and history, challenging the viewer to redefine his or her relationship to modernity.

This series, “Every Day Contains All Of History,” continues his longstanding work exploring American cultural and structural responses to black bodies—blackness not as a construct or an idea but as a literal and physical presence in our national life. Specifically, how do reflections of black history shape our culture? How does the act of archiving that history inform how Black identity is perceived and received?

Jared Thorne
Every Day Contains All Of History

Jan. 15 - Feb. 8
Closing reception:
Feb. 5, 2019
5 - 7 p.m.
Artist gallery talk: 5:30pm
Free and open to the public

art.ou.edu

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution. www.ou.edu/acc.
For accommodations, call (405) 325-2691.
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THE WEITZENHOFFER FINE ARTS
DIVERSITY COUNCIL PRESENTS:
DIVERSITY AND THE ARTS FEATURING THE ESTEEMED
DR. GEORGE HENDERSON
NOVEMBER 17TH @ 5 PM IN THE FINE ARTS CENTER: WEITZENHOFFER THEATER
FREE FOOD

SGA
CONGRESS
SGA
KALEIDOSCOPE:
an event celebrating
black music & culture

FEBRUARY 18, 2018: 6PM
WITH RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
PITMAN RECITAL HALL
CATLETT PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER
Fig. 11
#METOO

combating inequality in the entertainment industry

Nov. 15
5 – 6 p.m.
Weitzenhoffer Theatre, Fine Arts Center

Sponsor: Fine Arts Diversity Council
Co-Sponsors: Center for Social Justice and Gender + Equality Center

Join us for a conversation about sexual harassment, discrimination, and sexism in the entertainment industry.

Panelists:
Heather Sess - Regional Working Actress
Rita Brown - Gender + Equality Center
Toni Marie - Dept. Head of Makeup & Special Effects on Film Sets
Dr. Ralph Beliveau - Creative Media Production
Dr. Lisa Purnell - Women’s and Gender Studies

This event is free & open to the public. For accommodations, contact the College of Fine Arts at 405-325-2025 or visderic@ou.edu. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution; www.ou.edu/eqa