In 2003, the arts units within The Ohio State University renewed their commitment to collaborating and partnering with established community arts organizations and artists. In particular, the departments of Dance, Theatre, and the School of Music began using downtown venues such as the Capital Theater and Southern Theater for student performances, and bringing community artists to campus. All of the arts units began to explore ways in which they could better prepare students, especially those in art, design and art education for their chosen careers, while forging a link to downtown Columbus and the larger non-profit community. As first steps for a permanent off-campus home for the university’s arts in downtown, a search began for available spaces both in the Short North and downtown to create an “Urban Arts Space.” Urban Arts Space would be an open and public environment that featured the work of students in visual and performing arts and collaborative projects from disciplines across the university. Urban Arts Space made its home in the newly renovated, LEED gold certified, historic Lazarus Building through an initiative launched by Ohio State University and the Batelle Memorial Institute, Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, and City of Columbus. 10,000 sq. ft. organized along the Town Street portion of the Lazarus building includes exhibition space, non-traditional performance and installation space, as well as the conference and office space that make up Urban Arts Space. Urban Arts Space is Ohio State University’s tangible commitment to the state in downtown Columbus.

Urban Arts Space opened in 2008 and by its five-year anniversary was absorbed into the overall organization of The Arts Initiative in 2011. It operates with two Committees, which are the Exhibition and Program Advisory Committee and the Town and Gown Advisory Committee for the Arts. The Exhibition and Program Advisory Committee directs the exhibitions and programs at Urban Arts Space and Hopkins Hall Gallery, and the Town and Gown Committee brings together leaders at the university and area arts organizations to create partnerships and collaborate for a stronger arts and arts educational environment in Columbus. Urban Arts Space increased its patronage from on average 9,500 visitors to 20,000 annually. In our first seven years, we have hosted over 159 exhibitions and 2,276 artists, including 1,321 student artists. We have employed over 100 students to work in the space, and orchestrate dozens of projects directly from their minds and hands. The space has become a hub for exhibitions, performances, lectures, discussion groups, and serves as a laboratory space for students to develop management skills to sustain their careers in the arts.

The Arts Initiative at Ohio State includes Hopkins Hall Gallery on campus, Urban Arts Space downtown, a seven-year partnership with The Royal Shakespeare Company through August 2016, and the fully formed and recognized Town and Gown Advisory Committee for the Arts. The Arts Initiative is proud to have partnerships with the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus College of Art and Design, the Wexner Center for the Arts, Thurber House, Associate for
Developmental Disabilities (ADD) Ohio, Ohio Arts Council, Greater Columbus Arts Council, the City of Columbus, CAPA (Columbus Association for the Performing Arts), Opera Columbus, and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, among others. We continue to serve the Columbus community by opening a window to the university, providing a home for community exhibitions and programming, and offering inspiring and educational experiences free of charge.

Context for The Arts Initiative: Mission, Vision, Purpose

The Arts Initiative
Vision - The Ohio State University Arts Initiative supports a global community of arts educators through collaborative alliances with state, national, and international organizations advancing the daily impact of the arts on the city of Columbus.

Mission - The Arts Initiative at Ohio State serves as an umbrella for multiple aspects of the arts on and off campus and facilitates opportunities for faculty and students to exhibit and perform beyond the university community.

Purpose - The Arts Initiative positions The Ohio State University as a leader through connections with local, national, and international arts organizations, arts-supportive companies, educational institutions, and established creative professionals in many fields.

Urban Arts Space
Vision - Urban Arts Space challenges ways of thinking about the visual and performing arts and their role in everyday life through conversation, art making, and experimentation. Urban Arts Space encourages transformative experiences that expand worldviews, offers hands-on practical opportunities in the arts and education, and enables students to gain career skills that reflect an entrepreneurial culture.

Mission - Located in the heart of downtown Columbus, Urban Arts Space joins The Ohio State University with the state of Ohio and the world, functioning as an arts laboratory for faculty and artists and serving as a professional launching pad for Ohio State students.

Purpose - Urban Arts Space provides a venue for reciprocal learning for Ohio State University students, faculty, and staff and the surrounding communities by hosting exhibitions, performances, educational programs, and lectures that promote downtown as a destination for the arts and that fulfill a mission of service through community engagement. Urban Arts Space guides students to
pragmatically develop the skills necessary for life-long practice in, not only the arts, but also in not-for-profit pursuits.

**Hopkins Hall Gallery**
Vision - Hopkins Hall Gallery functions as a dynamic learning space for students, faculty, and visiting artists, where outstanding exhibition and curatorial development take place.

Mission - Hopkins Hall Gallery presents diverse exhibitions that highlight the work of Ohio State's students and faculty in the visual arts.

Purpose - Hopkins Hall Gallery provides accessible professional exhibitions for the entire Ohio State University community, and provides professional exhibition and exhibition design opportunities for students in the visual arts. Hopkins Hall Gallery's location in the heart of the Ohio State campus, and in the main lobby of Hopkins Hall, opens the doors for peer inspiration, collaboration, and growth.

**Town and Gown Committee for the Arts**
Vision - The Town and Gown Advisory Committee for the Arts builds relationships that create opportunities for cooperation, partnership, and educational exchanges around the world.

Mission - The Town and Gown Advisory Committee for the Arts develops connections between The Ohio State University, the City of Columbus, businesses, arts organizations and local residents.

Purpose - The Town and Gown Advisory Committee for the Arts establishes The Ohio State University as a facilitator of significant discussion on the arts and culture within the Columbus community. Town and Gown brings city and arts leaders together to collaborate in the spirit of advancing the arts and the creative growth of the citizens of Columbus.

**OSU/RSC Partnership**
Mission - The collaborative partnership supports Ohio State's aspiration to be a destination for the innovative teaching, research, and performance of Shakespeare

Purpose - The Ohio State University increase efforts to bring Shakespeare to schoolchildren across the state in boosting efforts to promote the RSC Shakespeare productions around the world

**Context for The Arts Initiative: Achieved Goals 2008-2014**

- Be student centered.
Our student employees and interns experience professional development opportunities similar to residency teaching models in hospitals or teacher training licensure programs.

All Ohio State students are provided accessible, free exhibition and alternative performance space with faculty and staff mentorship.

- Pledge to our communities.
  - University and community members attend and create together performances, exhibitions, receptions, classes, forums, social events, lectures, and dialogue.
  - Activities in the space are designed to expand and promote established arts and cultural opportunities.
  - The space is a cultural destination in a revitalizing downtown.
  - A range and variety of arts experiences are offered that are accessible to all members of the community.

- Storefront for faculty scholarship and exploration.
  - Urban Arts Space provides exhibition and alternative performance space for our world-class faculty, where faculty can experiment in a laboratory setting.

- Enhance Ohio State’s visual and performing arts reputation and rankings.
  - Since the opening of Urban Arts Space, The Department of Art is ranked 6th in the Nation, and the Department of Design is ranked 4th in the Nation.
  - Other universities including, University of Georgia, Virginia Commonwealth University, and University of Illinois have modeled programs after the Structure of our Town and Gown Committee for the Arts and Arts Initiative.

Aspirational Goals for 2015 – 2020 Goals

- Engaging Constituents
  - Ohio State community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni
  - Professional artists and curators
  - Community, national, and international organizations

- Envisioning an Interwoven Arts District for Columbus and The Ohio State University
  - Building connections with non-profit, for-profit, civic, and arts organizations
  - Permanent presence on and off campus through multidisciplinary galleries
- Enhancing Experiential Learning
  - Hosting free, public educational programming
  - Bringing national and international programs to audiences of all ages
  - Collaborating across disciplines to create exhibitions that respond to and lead conversation
  - Focused curriculum building on the legacy of exhibitions past and present

**Programs and Activities to achieve 2015-2020 Goals**

- "Engaging Constituents/Partnerships
  - Committing half of the year to exhibitions or curated projects by Ohio State students, faculty, staff, and alumni
  - Hosting exhibitions and performances of professional artists and touring companies
  - Nurturing the professional lives of faculty, staff and students through the Town and Gown Committee for the Arts with partnerships such as Opera Columbus, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus Symphony Orchestra: Subject Matter Series, and resident company status with Columbus Association for the Performing Arts

- International Partnerships
  - Educational partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company, including the following First Encounters (Shakespeare plays adapted for a young audience) tours: King Lear in 2011; Taming of the Shrew in 2014; The Tempest in 2014; and the Famous Victories of Henry V in 2016.
    - Educational partnership trained 92 area schoolteachers alongside graduate students in English, Theatre, Arts Education, and School of Teaching and Learning.
  - Presenting partnership with Royal Shakespeare Company has brought an all black production of Julius Caesar in partnership with CAPA, Larry James, and the Lincoln Theater to Columbus. In 2016 the presenting partnership with Royal Shakespeare Company will bring performances to the Brooklyn Academy of Music Residency for the history cycle of Shakespeare plays. Plays/performances will include: Richard II; Henry IV, Part I; Henry IV, Part II; and Henry V.

- National Partnerships
  - Opera Columbus school tours in conjunction with The Ohio State University School of Music
  - Columbus Symphony Orchestra: over 1,000 students a year attend symphony concerts at reduced cost.
  - Pinchuk Endowment in support of Ohio State arts projects presented in the community
Ohio State Scholars students attend CAPA Series national tours and performances
Connect students with alumni and donors through trips to Los Angeles, New York City, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.

- State and Government Partnerships
  - Organizational leadership for Ohio Arts Council's and the University Campus Art and Memorials Committee in conjunction with the State of Ohio's Percent for Art Program

- Community Partnerships
  - Free public programming includes workshops, lectures, tours, walk-throughs, dialogues, demos, films, receptions, and more from disciplines throughout the university and local community.
  - K-12 continued learning partnerships include: The Columbus School for Girls, St. Josephs Montessori, The Columbus Commons, The Graham School, After School Arts Group, The King Arts Complex, Columbus Parks and Recreation, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and the City of Upper Arlington. These have produced interdisciplinary projects and learning experiences for students studying Art Education and Arts Management.
  - Personalized, interactive, and in depth tours that meet the Ohio Academic Content Standards and can include guided art making, writing exercises, and other interdisciplinary activities. In addition we offer preparatory educational materials for teachers to help establish a dialogue with their curriculum prior to the gallery visit as well follow up activities that teachers can use back in the classroom.

- Accessibility Partnerships
  - Urban Arts Space is Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliant and provides additional services and programming to the communities with disabilities including: available sign language interpreters and audio description guides through Ohio State University; touch and audio tours for non-visual learners, very personalized programming for adults with developmental disabilities.
  - Urban Arts Space seeks to be accessible by offering bilingual interpreters through Ohio State University, Carryout programming to seniors and other groups, free admission to exhibitions and programming with all supplies included, and camp hours that follow a working family's schedule.
  - Urban Arts Space is available for community event rentals, and we encourage use of our space for programs that are free and open to the public, with discounted rates.

Envisioning an Interwoven Arts District for Columbus and The Ohio State University
Town and Gown Advisory Committee for the Arts works with key city and state leaders who partner with Ohio State leaders to work collectively with leading arts organizations in Columbus to make the Columbus arts community as vibrant and successful as possible
  o Cultivating shared support for the foundation for partnerships in the arts; building a coalition
  o Recognizing how academic programs and professional organizations can complement student and community audience learning and engagement

Combining resources to make Columbus a place where artists live and thrive

Programs complement, rather than compete with, other community venues, such as the Ohio Arts Council Riffe Gallery, the Columbus Cultural Arts Center, Columbus Museum or Art, and Angela Meleca Gallery.

Experiential Learning

Curricular Classroom for visual and performing arts courses to utilize exhibitions throughout the semester
  o Exhibitions and performances with curriculum ties are encouraged
  o Urban Arts Space and Hopkins Hall Gallery offer space for ongoing courses that allow faculty to experiment with alternative ways to deliver curriculum.

Selection for reciprocal learning is advised by multiple experts in the fields of visual and performing arts with both academic and professional artists who serve as mentors for artists and students
  o Projects are selected by a community and faculty committee and solicited from Ohio State students, faculty, and staff and the local, state, and international community.
  o Student Assistants serve as caretakers for the space, exhibition docents and administrative help while also gaining real world arts management experiences, and networking with partnering organizations and leaders.
  o Urban Arts Space introduces emerging artists to collectors in the Columbus community and beyond.
  o City Center Gallery, serves as a laboratory so that our students can operate and run a gallery with mentorships from Arts Initiative staff. City Center Gallery exists at the entrance of Urban Arts Space, gives students curatorial and administrative experience managing the creating direction of a gallery space.
  o Urban Arts Space and Hopkins Hall Gallery offer a safe learning space for student projects including lectures on political and important topics, experimental installations and performances in the Hopkins Hall Gallery Summer Series, and visual and performance based works from students in Theatre, Music and Dance.