

# Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology

[www.artscenter.vt.edu/icat](http://www.artscenter.vt.edu/icat)

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*Focused on the intersection of the arts, creative technologies, and learning, the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology will contribute to society through programs that promote creativity, critical thinking, and life-long learning. It will provide an innovative environment within which to conduct and apply trans-disciplinary, collaborative research that will enhance learning in pre-kindergarten through high school (PK-12) and higher education environments. Targeted research and scholarship areas will include:*

- Creative and critical thinking skills
- Learning advancement, especially in math, science, social studies, and language arts
- Innovation of trans-disciplinary educational experiences

## Background

The Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) developed from an initial concept for a Center for Creative Technologies and the Arts. With the development and adoption of Virginia Tech's Arts Strategic Plan in fall 2010, and at the recommendation of the Virginia Tech Arts Policy Board, chaired by Senior Vice President and Provost Mark McNamee, the enterprise was officially designated as a university-level institute in late 2010.

ICAT will be housed within and be a part of the Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech when it opens in late 2013. The mission of the Center for the Arts is to transform lives through exploration and engagement with the arts and creative process. As the cornerstone of Virginia Tech's comprehensive arts initiative, the Center for the Arts is dedicated to learning, discovery, and engagement. At the center's core is the belief that the arts can improve the human experience; and that through a diverse range of programs, audiences, artists, faculty, staff, students of all ages, and communities can experience significant growth and development.



*Artist's rendering of the Center for the Arts, which is due to open in 2013.*

## Goal Accomplishments for FY 2011

Primary efforts during 2010–2011 focused on the establishment of the institute, and crafting the broad strategic vision that will guide its continued development.

### Build government support.

#### Goal accomplishments:

At the invitation of the Virginia Secretary of Education, on October 27, 2010, representatives from Virginia Tech were invited to participate in the Governor's Education Summit: Innovate to Educate, in Richmond. The summit was hosted by Virginia Secretary of Education Gerard Robinson, and featured U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan as the keynote speaker. Virginia Tech representatives Ruth Waalkes, executive director of the Center for the Arts, Kihong Ku, assistant professor of building construction, and Alice Hardin, fifth-grade teacher at Floyd Elementary School, discussed ICAT during the session "Connecting Academia and K-12 Education."

State funding in excess of \$26 million for the capital project costs associated with the ICAT-related spaces in the new Center for the Arts, committed in 2010, demonstrates Virginia's strong commitment to the institute and belief in its potential impact on the region and the commonwealth, and as a national leader in innovation and educational excellence.

### Conduct a director search.

#### Goal accomplishment:

A national search for a director, initiated in late December 2010, was completed in July 2011. The search committee, chaired by Waalkes, included:

- Dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies Jack Davis
- University Distinguished Professor of Political Science Timothy Luke
- Director of the School of Education and Associate Dean for Professional Education Susan Magliaro
- Associate Vice President of Learning Technologies Anne More
- University Distinguished Professor of Psychology Thomas Ollendick
- Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Sue Ott Rowlands
- Department Head and Professor of Computer Science Barbara Ryder
- Assistant Professor and Area Coordinator for Creative Technologies in the School of Visual Arts Dane Webster

### Create an ICAT stakeholders group.

#### Goal accomplishment:

In late spring 2011, McNamee appointed the ICAT stakeholders group, which will oversee and provide direction to ICAT leadership. Chaired by Waalkes, the group is composed of:

- Dean of the College of Engineering Richard Benson
- Dean of the College of Sciences Lay Nam Chang
- Jack Davis
- Dean of the Graduate School Karen DePauw
- Sue Ott Rowlands
- Vice President for Research Robert Walters

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY 2012

*Provide statewide and national leadership in research at the intersection of arts, technology, and learning by initiating proof-of-concept project(s).*

*Build strong collaborative efforts with faculty members across multiple departments and colleges, arts and cultural organizations, PK-12 school systems, and industry.*

*Become the national model for the merger and application of the arts and technology as a catalyst for educational excellence.*

*Continue to build the organizational infrastructure and pursue base budget and project-based funding resources.*



*Prototyping in Architectural Robotics for Technology-enriched Education is a project of the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology. Kihong Ku, assistant professor in building construction, and graduate students from architecture and computer science created a model that children can interact with to learn about the potential impact various conditions can have on architectural design. The students explore how sensors can work to make buildings react to the environment.*