

April 27, 2021

MacEwan University builds on its strength with a new Bachelor of Fine Arts

MacEwan's new Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) will provide depth, experience, and work-integrated learning for graduates to take on the challenge of a rapidly changing arts sector. The new degree, offered through the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications, builds on MacEwan's 40 year history of offering diplomas in these disciplines. Students will be able to major in one of four disciplines: arts and cultural management, music theatre performance, studio arts, and theatre production.

"This degree builds on MacEwan's strong history of contribution to the arts community," says Dr. Annette Trimbee, president and vice-chancellor of MacEwan University. "As a downtown university we see the effect our grads have on the vibrancy of Edmonton's arts community. This new degree will only strengthen our graduates' ability to rebuild and re-envision this key economic sector."

Media are invited to attend the announcement of the new degree April 27 at noon. Presenters will discuss the details of new BFA and the potential it presents for students and the arts sector.

The degree offers several unique opportunities for students. Currently MacEwan is the only post-secondary institution in Alberta to offer arts and cultural management at the undergraduate level and this will make it the first bachelor level degree program. Arts and cultural management education will be provided across the three majors of the program. This unique aspect distinguishes the degree as one that prepares students not just for the depth of creative practise, but thriving in the challenging economic landscape of the arts sector.

"We are thrilled to announce the Bachelor of Fine Arts. This unique degree gives our Theatre, Fine Art and Arts and Cultural Management students the opportunity to complete their degree at MacEwan," says Allan Gilliland, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications. "It also provides them with two more years to hone their skills in our world-class facility, Allard Hall, before embarking on a career in the arts."

As part of Alberta's Stabilize Program, specific funding is being directed to support the re-opening of live performance venues, including arts spaces. The province aims to grow the cultural sector by 25 per cent, recognizing that Alberta's creative and cultural industries are key to the province's economic recovery and diversification efforts.

“Based on MacEwan University’s strong record, I am confident that this new Bachelor of Fine Arts will prepare students for career success in the fine arts,” says Minister of Advanced Education Demetrios Nicolaides. “The inclusion of work-integrated learning will ensure students learn the technical and practical skills they need to succeed.”

Currently MacEwan graduates can be found as performers, entrepreneurs, theatre technicians, and managers at major arts organizations across the city and the province, such as the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival, Edmonton Folk Music Festival and Citadel Theatre. In consultation with arts organizations across the country there was much excitement about the advanced learning a bachelor’s degree could provide graduates. BFA graduates will be well prepared to move into the sector to help rebuild and thrive in a dynamic arts sector.

"The breadth, depth and advanced learning of a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree elevates the arts education of Edmonton’s artists and arts professionals of the future,” says Sanjay Shahani, executive director of the Edmonton Arts Council.” The BFA is also a vital building block in the growth and renewal of Edmonton’s arts ecology, and contributes to the Edmonton Arts Council’s implementation of [Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan To Transform Arts and Heritage In Edmonton](#)."

The panel discussion will include Allan Gilliland, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications, Sanjay Shahani, executive director of the Edmonton Arts Council, and faculty representatives from each major.

BFA Announcement

April 27, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Link:

<https://macewan.webex.com/macewan/j.php?MTID=m1c74e830f7ffc26d79bf40a1e3db9139>

MacEwan has recently grown its fine and performing arts offerings and facilities with the opening of Allard Hall in 2017, which provides state of the art performance space, and work and residency opportunities. Applications for the BFA open October 1, 2021. More information can be found at MacEwan.ca/BFA.

For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact media relations advisor Samantha Power, powers16@macewan.ca.