

**University of Kansas  
Fine Arts Dean  
Position Description**

**OVERVIEW**

Founded in 1865, The University of Kansas (KU) is both a Carnegie doctoral/research-extensive university and a member of the Association of American Universities. KU has 28 graduate programs ranked 30<sup>th</sup> or higher by *U.S. News & World Report*. Included in this group are two graduate programs within the School of Fine Arts. The university enrolls 29,000 students across 14 academic schools and more than 175 academic fields of study, and employs a 2,300-member faculty.

The Dean is the chief academic and administrative officer of the School of Fine Arts, established in 1891 and one of the first in the nation to offer professional degrees in the arts. The school has a current operating budget of \$14.6 million. It is the academic home to over 100 faculty, 50 staff, and about 1400 undergraduate and graduate students. Students have access to over 70 degree programs within three departments: Art (with divisions of Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking, and other genres), Design (with divisions of Ceramics, Design Theory, Visual Communications, Industrial Design, Interior design, Metalsmithing/Jewelry, Textile Design, Theatre Design, Scenography and Visual Arts Education), and Music and Dance (with divisions of Music Education and Music Therapy, Piano, Voice, Organ and Church Music, Strings, Brass and Percussion, Woodwinds, Music Theory and Composition, Music History, Dance, Chorus, Band, and Orchestra). The Dean also has administrative responsibility for the Lied Center for the Performing Arts, a major venue for music, dance, and theatre events.

The Dean is appointed by and reports to the Provost. The appointment is renewable annually, assuming satisfactory performance and mutual agreement to continue. The Dean's performance and support among School faculty and students will be reviewed in depth every five years.

The School of Fine Arts is located on the main campus of the University of Kansas in Lawrence, a thriving community of nearly 80,000 in northeast Kansas, about 35 miles west of Kansas City and 25 miles east of Topeka, the state capital. Located in the Kansas City area are the Edwards Campus, which serves professionals in the region with a growing number of undergraduate and graduate/professional degree offerings, and the Medical Center, providing health-related degree programs and services. KU is the largest of six public universities governed by the Kansas Board of Regents. The University of Kansas has one of the oldest and largest endowments among public institutions, with current assets of over \$1 billion.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Dean, as chief academic and administrative officer of the School of Fine Arts, is responsible for providing imaginative, effective, dynamic and transformational leadership to the School. The dean should be someone who is visionary and has the ability to recognize, inspire, and be inspired by the diverse forms of human expression reflected in the visual and performing arts. The Dean's responsibilities include:

- Fostering academic excellence in all programs and encouraging innovation in program development, curriculum, and organization.
- Facilitating the recruitment, development and retention of an outstanding and diverse faculty and student body.
- Fostering a climate in which quality teaching is expected, encouraged and rewarded.
- Providing leadership in maintaining the excellence of faculty research and creative activity, with active support for efforts to secure both internal and external resources for research and creative activity in the arts.
- Seeking new solutions and links between ideas, people and art forms.
- Developing and managing effectively the budget of the School.
- Providing leadership in fund-raising and alumni relations.
- Encouraging productive interactions between academic programs in the School and those offered by other academic and research units within the university.
- Promoting public awareness of the academic/research/creative mission and accomplishments of the School.
- Serving as a forceful advocate for the role of the fine arts in the formulation of institutional and public policy.
- Recruiting, organizing and directing an effective administrative staff (associate deans, department chairs, etc.) who can assist the dean in the accomplishment of these responsibilities.

### **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Evidence of commitment to fostering research and creative activity by faculty and students that bridges diverse artistic interests and fosters synergy among visual, applied, and performing arts.
2. Demonstrated commitment to the value of diversity in the faculty, staff and student body.
3. Evidence of commitment to fine arts education.
4. Substantial administrative and budgetary experience, as demonstrated by a minimum of five years significant service in an administrative position.
5. Terminal degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution.
6. Demonstration of outstanding professional achievement equivalent to eligibility for faculty appointment as a full professor with tenure in one of the School's departments.

### **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Evidence of successful fund-raising.
2. Evidence of innovation in curriculum development.
3. Evidence of commitment to student development, support, and recruitment.
4. Experience in effective recruitment, development, utilization and retention of faculty and staff.
5. Demonstrated network of professional colleagues in national and international affiliations.

## **EFFECTIVE DATE – SALARY – APPLICATIONS**

The position is available beginning July 1, 2008. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications.

Nominations are due November 5, 2007, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Review of applications will begin on November 26, 2007 and will continue until a selection is made. Applications must include curriculum vita, a statement of interest addressing the position qualifications, and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three references who may be contacted. No further reference checks will be made without approval of the applicant. Applications, nominations, and inquiries should be submitted electronically to John Gaunt, Chair, Fine Arts Dean Search Committee, c/o Debra Bia ([dbia@ku.edu](mailto:dbia@ku.edu)) office of the Provost 250 Strong Hall, 1450 Jayhawk Blvd. Lawrence, KS 66045

**The University of Kansas is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. The University encourages applications from underrepresented group members. Federal and state legislation prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability, and veteran status. In addition, University policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, marital status, and parental status. To learn more about diversity at KU, see [www.diversity.ku.edu](http://www.diversity.ku.edu).**