

November 10, 2023

Beckham Dossett
Director, School of Art
University of Houston
4188 Elgin Street, Room 100
Houston, TX 77204

Dear Director Dossett:

Thank you for submitting your application for review by the NASAD Commission on Accreditation. The Commission, at its October 2023 meetings, took action on the institution's application.

Please find enclosed a Commission Action Report describing this action in detail. This report contains information of note and, if applicable, any requests for further information from the Commission. Please note the Association's policy regarding *Disclosure and Confidentiality*, a copy of which has been enclosed.

This action is taken based upon a review of the University of Houston according to the NASAD accreditation standards in effect in October 2023.

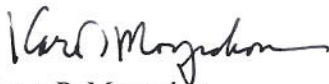
The institution, seeking accreditation with NASAD, is asked to participate in reviews and revisions to the NASAD *Handbook*, and is reminded to maintain its operations and programs current with NASAD standards as these are developed and approved.

The Commission on Accreditation and the Association appreciate the institution's efforts with regard to its application, and its careful consideration of and attention to NASAD accreditation standards and guidelines. Further, the Commission and Association appreciate the work accomplished by the institution on behalf of the visual arts and design and higher education.

Please contact the NASAD National Office staff if you have questions or need assistance with regard to this action or any other aspect of the work of the Association.

We offer congratulations on your achievements and best wishes for the continuing success of the institution. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Karen P. Moynahan
Executive Director
KPM:jrk
Enclosure

cc: Renu Khator, President/Chancellor
University of Houston

National Association of Schools of Art and Design
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21
Reston, Virginia 20190-5248

COMMISSION ACTION REPORT

This document provides the official action of the Commission as indicated in the cover letter of the same date.

November 10, 2023

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
School of Art

Actions:

Action 1 of 2: Application for Membership – Original

The Commission voted to grant Associate Membership with the degree listing indicated below.

The Commission requests a Progress Report addressing the issues cited below.

NASAD Degree Listing:

Bachelor of Arts-4 years: Art; Art History.

Bachelor of Science-4 years: Digital Media; Industrial Design; Interior Architecture.

Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Graphic Design; Painting; Photography/Digital Media; Sculpture.

Master of Arts-2 years: Art History.

Master of Science-2 years: Industrial Design.

Master of Fine Arts-2 years: Art (Graphic Design, Interdisciplinary Forms and Emerging Practices, Painting, Photography/Digital Media, Sculpture).

Master of Education-2 years: Curriculum and Instruction (Art Education).

Doctor of Philosophy-4 years: Curriculum and Instruction (Art Education).

Next Full Review:

2028-2029 Academic Year

Preface:

The Commission greatly appreciates the comprehensiveness of the institution's Optional Response and the additional information presented regarding finances, administration, and governance. The Commission recognizes the many adjustments that have been made to faculty distributions and programs in an effort to reconcile concerns pertaining to size and scope, particularly in Digital Media.

The Commission also recognizes that a director has been hired for the Keeland Digital Exploration Lab, as well as a full-time lab manager, and that the Digital Media program employs two well-credentialed



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full-time instructional lab managers. The repair and replacement of equipment, along with the establishment of a repair and replacement schedule appears to address the concerns regarding adequate facilities, equipment, and technologies to support curricular offerings.

A significant concern during the site visit was the faculty-to-student ratio in the art and design unit, and the allocation of faculty and graduate students to accomplish the program's purpose. The Commission notes that three new full-time faculty have been hired to support the Digital Media program. It also appears that the hires made in 2020 in the College of Architecture and Design address the concerns regarding gender diversity in the college.

The Commission notes and appreciates the clarification provided regarding the articulation agreement with the Wharton County Junior College.

Noting the above, the institution is asked to provide a Progress Report addressing the following items.

Items for Progress Report:

1. The Commission recognizes that the Bachelor of Fine Arts-4 years: Photography/Digital Media degree is in transition, but as stated in the Visitors' Report (p. 19) and confirmed by the Commission's review, it is noted that the program appears to be in compliance with NASAD standards. Noting the transitional aspect of the degree program, the institution is asked to develop and articulate its future vision for the degree outlining both short- and long-term goals. The institution is asked to provide a concise set of outcomes and learning objectives for each media area offered within the program. Should significant changes be made to this degree, the institution is asked to provide an updated curricular table in the NASAD format and a discussion of the degree's ongoing compliance with NASAD standards.
2. Regarding the Bachelor of Science-4 years: Digital Media degree program, the Commission requests an update regarding the concern cited in the Visitors' Report (p. 25, paragraph 1) regarding degree expectations. Information found on the program's published website suggests that "the Digital Media Program is committed to student success and works with students to graduate in no longer than six years from their initial college enrollment, to get good jobs, and to earn good salaries. In 2018, Digital Media students were the most likely undergraduates to be employed on graduation day" (see http://catalog.uh.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=49&poid=16773&returnto=18376).

The institution is asked to review the accuracy of its published materials regarding employment outcomes. The institution is guided to ensure that program descriptions found in institutional publications refrain from implying that students are guaranteed specific employment outcomes. The institution is reminded that any claims regarding employment shall be supported by readily available documentation (see NASAD *Handbook 2022-23*, Standards for Accreditation II.I.1.a. and j.). The institution is asked to provide the outcome of its review, and should modifications be made, the institution is asked to provide copy for Commission review.

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Action 2 of 2: Applications for Plan Approval – Original

The Commission voted to grant Plan Approval for the following degrees:

- Master of Education-2 years: Curriculum and Instruction (Art Education).
- Doctor of Philosophy-4 years: Curriculum and Instruction (Art Education).

When two transcripts are available for these degrees, the institution should submit applications for Final Approval for Listing. Instructions for submitting Final Approval for Listing applications may be found in the NASAD documents *Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula* and *Instructions for Preparing Curricular Tables in the NASAD Format*, which may be downloaded from the NASAD website at <https://nasad.arts-accredit.org> (see “Accreditation,” beneath that “Accreditation Materials,” beneath that “Procedures,” and beneath that “New Curricula”).

Due Date:

March 1 for consideration at the Commission meetings of April 2024.

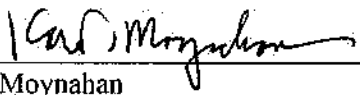
The procedures for submitting Responses and Progress Reports may be downloaded from the NASAD website at <https://nasad.arts-accredit.org> (see “Accreditation,” beneath that “Accreditation Materials,” and beneath that “Procedures”).

Notes:

1. NASAD welcomes the institution as a newly accredited institutional member and asks that the institution review carefully the Association’s policy pertaining to the printed recognition of membership (see *NASAD Handbook 2022-23*, Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article XI).
2. With regard to Action 1, item #2 above, the institution is strongly advised to review the NASAD Advisory on federal regulations regarding misrepresentation, which is available online at <https://nasad.arts-accredit.org> (see “Publications,” beneath that “Brochures and Advisory Papers,” and beneath that “Compendium: NASAD Advisories on Federal Issues”).

Commendation:

The Commission commends the institution for its thorough and well-crafted Self-Study and Optional Response and congratulates the institution for its successful efforts to achieve accreditation.



 Karen P. Moynahan
 Executive Director