

Message from our Vice-Chancellor

As we celebrate Singapore's 60th year of independence, the University of the Arts Singapore is privileged to play a vital role in shaping the nation's cultural life and creative sector. The achievements of our founding members, LASALLE and NAFA, give substance to the University's larger mission: to nurture the next generation of artists, designers, educators, and cultural leaders who will meet the challenges of our time.

In tandem with the nation looking ahead, our university leaders and colleagues came together to chart the growth of the UAS alliance over the next decade. In shaping the UAS Strategic Plan, we aim to build a strong foundation for transforming higher arts education, contribute to the growth of the creative economy, and strengthen our role as a collaborative hub nationally, regionally and globally. Guided by these objectives, we engaged in many university-wide discussions, focusing on ways to leverage the distinctive and complementary strengths of our members.

Academic quality is a key priority in our shared academic governance framework. Following robust deliberation, members of the University Academic Board approved two UAS-awarded degree programmes: LASALLE's Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Music Business programme and the joint Royal College of Music-UAS Bachelor of Music (Honours) programme offered by NAFA.

In addition, the University launched two major academic initiatives. The UAS Board approved the university-level Professorial Conferment Framework, which recognises the outstanding contributions and achievements of faculty in teaching, research, and service. The University Academic Quality Assurance Committee convened the inaugural panel of external examiners to review the assessment standards and programme outcomes of the Master's programmes offered by LASALLE and NAFA.

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Professor Kwok Kian Woon
UAS Vice-Chancellor



The University also brought together artists, designers, teachers and researchers for the second edition of the UAS Arts Education Symposium in April 2025. The keynotes and panel discussions explored evolving practices and pedagogies in Southeast Asia. We are again reminded of our role in the region and the importance of reflection and collaboration in an era of change and uncertainty.

Indeed, arts and design graduates are building creative vocations in a world shaped by technological disruption—so too must curricula and pedagogies be informed by industry developments. Hence, our career services and industry team has reached out to a wide range of companies, inviting industry leaders to share their experiences and insights with students at the inaugural UAS Career Fair and Portfolio Night. At the same time, internship opportunities in the creative and commercial sectors have expanded significantly over the year.

It is also gratifying to note that UAS has been steadily building its international profile as a university alliance. Our collective academic leadership was warmly welcomed by our peers when we visited eminent Asian institutions, forging new partnerships with Peking University, Tsinghua University, the Beijing Dance Academy and the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts.

The year's progress was made possible by the joint efforts of faculty and administrators across the University. Our Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Professor Steve Dixon, President of LASALLE and Mrs Tan-Soh Wai Lan, President of NAFA, join me in expressing our appreciation to all colleagues for their hard work and dedication. We are also deeply grateful to the Chairman and Trustees of the UAS Board for their guidance and all our stakeholders—including the students we serve—for their contributions to strengthening our University community.

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