



GRCC Mission:

It is the mission of Grand Rapids Community College to provide the community with learning opportunities that enable people to achieve their goals.

GRCC Vision:

Grand Rapids Community College is a vibrant institution of higher education dedicated to enriching people's lives and contributing to the vitality of the community.

VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

PURPOSE STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Visual Arts Department to support the College's mission by:

1. Enabling our students from diverse backgrounds to achieve their goals by fostering their artistic growth, development of specific skills, personal expression, and appreciation for art.
2. Contributing to the continuing vitality of the arts in our community and beyond through the creative work and service of our students and faculty.

Driving our mission, we believe that arts impact demonstratively the following personal and community values:

1. Intellectual enrichment, ethical perception, and overall quality of life.
2. Success in education and specifically youths at risk by balancing academic breadth with skills training, providing alternative learning opportunities, encouraging self expression, and nurturing self-esteem.
3. Business, tourism, and economic development by making communities more attractive and desirable.
4. Critical and creative thinking, problem-solving and communication skills, visual and spatial skills, collaboration and teamwork, and a curiosity and desire for learning
5. Respect for and appreciation of individual and cultural diversity (past and present).

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

To achieve our mission, all aspects of our department and staff are dedicated to student success and program excellence through continuous improvement.

1. SERVING STUDENTS (degree and transfer, personal interest, and developmental learners).

We serve our students by providing the following:

- a. Curricular programs that foster academic breadth and skills training for success in arts/general employment and/or transfer to baccalaureate degree programs.
- b. Learning opportunities that are flexible and support alternative learning rates and styles, and an openness to other learning possibilities.
- c. One-to-one student mentoring and advising with art faculty.
- d. Training in safety and health hazards and procedures appropriate to use of art materials and equipment.
- e. Opportunities for internships, portfolio reviews, exhibitions, publications, and community service.

2. IMPROVING CURRICULAR PROGRAMS by the following:

- a. Offering A.A. Liberal Arts degrees and A.F.A. Pre-Professional degrees in Fine Arts and Photography.
- b. Offering sequential classes in art history, basic studio in art/design, and emphases in ceramics, drawing, painting, and photography.
- c. Collaborating with Teacher Education at GRCC and other curricular programs.
- d. Offering art history classes that also fulfill Humanities requirements for all GRCC degree/certificate programs and MACRAO transfer agreements.
- e. Seeking new and updating existing transfer agreements with 4-year institutions
- f. Ensuring that our programs and policies comply with the standards and guidelines of national accrediting organizations and national professional arts associations.
- g. Selecting and including multicultural and global references into art history and studio curricula.

3. IMPROVING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS by the following:

- a. Providing space facilities, equipment, and technology appropriate to support curricular offerings.
- b. Promoting the health and safety of our students and the environment by responsible risk management of our studios, fine arts materials, and photographic chemicals.
- c. Managing instructional resources (slides, videos, disks), student works archive, and art gallery collections.
- d. Ensuring program and policy effectiveness by ongoing strategic planning, evaluation reviews, and projection studies.
- e. Promoting positive ways of social interaction, self-confidence in ability to exchange ideas and opinions with others, capacity to deal with multi-ethnic, multiracial backgrounds, and confidence that one can be of value to the community and in turn learn from it.

4. IMPROVING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT by the following:

- a. Assessing teaching strategies, alternative pedagogies, and program offerings to meet current and future student/community needs.
- b. Ensuring professional currency of faculty knowledge and skills by participating in new technology training, studio workshop or research opportunities, and professional national art organizations.
- c. Ensuring professional credential standards of faculty by requiring terminal degrees (M.F.A./Ph.D.) and/or appropriate professional expertise.

5. SERVING THE COMMUNITY by the following:

- a. Promoting student service-learning and internship opportunities.
- b. Promoting GRCC Art Gallery with its mission dedicated to providing diverse, high-quality exhibitions for the education and inspiration of the college and community.
- c. Encouraging active faculty collaboration with our transfer and business partners (e.g. as exhibiting artists, guest lecturers, advisory committee members, as exhibition jurors, and workshop organizers).